

CITY 3
DEMONIC TENDENCIES MAKING
SOCIETY HOLLOW, SAYS CM**OPINION 6**
GEN CHAUHAN: THE
RIGHT MAN AS CDS**WORLD 10**
NORTH KOREA SENDS MISSILE SOARING
OVER JAPAN IN ESCALATION

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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BAIRSTOW
WILL NOT PLAY
AGAIN IN 2022
12 SPORT

10 killed, many trapped in Uttarkashi avalanche

4 bodies found;
8 of 41-member
mountaineering
team rescued

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Ten mountaineers were killed as a 41-member team from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) in Uttarkashi was hit by an avalanche at Mount Draupadi Ka Danda-II peak on Tuesday.

A team of 34 trainee mountaineers and seven instructors from the NIM was caught in an avalanche around 8.45am while returning, NIM Principal Colonel Amit Bisht said, adding that ten bodies were spotted and four bodies have been recovered. The bodies have been kept at NIM-based camp in Dokrani.

Undergoing an advanced training course at NIM, the team of mountaineering trainees along with their instructors had gone to the peak for high altitude navigation, Col Bisht said.

The toll from the avalanche is expected to rise. According to information provided by the State Emergency Operations Centre, the 41-



SDRF teams leave from Sahastradhara helipad to rescue the trainees trapped in an avalanche in Draupadi's Danda-2 mountain peak, in Dehradun district

PTI

member team was trekking from the high altitude camp-I to Draupadi Ka Danda-02 mountain.

About 8.45 am when the team was descending, an avalanche struck it at an altitude of 17,000 feet. Many of the team members were trapped in crevasses due to the avalanche. The trapped members of the team were being rescued by their team members.

Uttarkashi Disaster Management Officer Devendra Patwal said eight of those

trapped were rescued by their team members.

A private helicopter was used to drop a five-member State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team and three NIM trainers at Dokrani Bamak glacier. Two helicopters from the IAF station in Sarsawa, Uttar Pradesh, were used to reconnoiter the site. Aerial sighting has confirmed that those affected by the avalanche were stranded at about 17,000 feet.

An Army ALH helicopter from Air Force Station in

Bareilly is also waiting at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) helipad in Matli to join the search and rescue operation on Wednesday morning.

According to officials, the affected areas have been witnessing continued snowfall and very low visibility which has hampered rescue efforts which have been halted for the night.

Fresh snow, massive crevasses and accessibility are also posing a major challenge to the rescue operations.

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Gujjar, Bakerwal, Pahari in J&K to get job quota

**Amit Shah's gift
defuses tension
over ST status**

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday managed to defuse growing tensions among members of the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities in Jammu & Kashmir by promising job reservation to all of them. If implemented, this quota will be the first instance of a linguistic group earning reservation in India.

The Central Government will have to amend the Reservations Act in Parliament for it.

Addressing a mammoth rally in the frontier district of Rajouri, Shah said that the Centre would implement reservations for the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Pahari communities, as recommended by the GD Sharma committee set up to examine quota benefits.

Striking an emotional chord with the cheerful audience in the huge pandal, raised in the new bus stand area of Rajouri, Shah said, "If the reservation was granted to the Pahari community, it will not affect the reservation for Gujjar and Bakerwal communities under the Scheduled Tribes category. The GD Sharma commission set up by the Government has sent the report and recommended



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a public rally for the inauguration and foundation laying of various projects related to health and education, in Rajouri district on Tuesday

PTI

reservation for Gujjar, Bakarwal and Pahari communities. It will be given soon."

He claimed such reservation became possible only after the special status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 was struck down. "Now, minorities, Dalits, tribals, Paharis here will get their rights."

Hopes were running high among the members of the Pahari community who were expecting some statement from the Union Home Minister over the issue of granting them the Scheduled Tribe status, thus bringing them at par with the Gujjar, Bakerwal and others.

Explaining the circumstances behind the long delay in extending these benefits to them, Shah said there were political parties that never wanted the Paharis to get their rights.

"There are political leaders who want to suppress the rights of the Paharis. Now is the time that Paharis get their rights," he said.

The Gujjars, who already have reservation under the ST category, had apprehensions that granting of the ST status to the Paharis would dilute their quota.

"Believe me, there will be no effect on the reservation of Gujjars even by one per cent," Shah said.

Attacking those who were against the abrogation of Article 370, Shah said, "In today's rally, you can hear slogans praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is the answer to those who used to say that if Article 370 is removed, there would be fire in Jammu and Kashmir, rivers of blood would flow."

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Parties must tell voters about financial viability of promises, says EC

**Asks parties
to respond to
pro-forma
proposal in MCC**

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As the freebies or "revadi" debate rages ahead of the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls, the Election Commission (EC) wants political parties to inform voters about the financial feasibility of election promises in manifestos and also whether they are sustainable within the financial space of the State or the Union Government.

In a letter to all recognised national and State political parties, the EC also has proposed standardised pro forma to be added to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), by way of amendment to bring clarity to

the process of declaration.

The proposed pro forma seeks details of revenue generation ways (through additional tax, if any), rationalising expenditure (cutting some schemes, if so required), impact on committed liabilities and/or raising of further debt and its impact on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) limits.

By proposing the reform, the EC aims to inform voters about the financial feasibility of election promises in manifestos and also whether they are sustainable within the financial space of the State or the Union government.

"Disclosure pro forma mandates declaration of quantification of physical coverage, financial implications of the promises and availability of the financial resources," the EC said.

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LG orders probe into power DBT goof-up, AAP cries 'Guj fear'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to conduct an enquiry into non-implementation of power subsidy payment through direct benefit transfer (DBT) as was ordered by the DERC in 2018.

Delhi Chief Secretary has been asked to submit a report within a week. Saxena's action followed a complaint filed at the L-G Secretariat which raised issues of "impropriety and discrepancies" in the power subsidy scheme of the Kejriwal Government, the sources said.

Slamming the L-G's move, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal linked it to the Gujarat polls and claimed it was aimed at stalling the free electricity initiative. Kejriwal in a tweet in Hindi said, "Gujarat is liking AAP's guarantee of giving free electricity. That's why the BJP wants to stop it in Delhi."

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on

Tuesday wrote to L-G, accusing him of bypassing the elected Government and ordering enquiries into its works in a "politically motivated and unconstitutional" manner. This is the latest matter in which the L-G has intervened amid the AAP-Centre standoff.

The LG ordered the enquiry after the Raj Niwas received a complaint flagging several issues of impropriety and discrepancies in the power subsidy matter.

According to sources at the L-G office, the complainants, including eminent lawyers and jurists, have alleged that a massive scam took place after the Delhi Government appointed Jasmine Shah, and Naveen Gupta, as the directors of the private discoms.

Jasmine is spokesperson of the AAP and Vice Chairman, Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) whereas Naveen Gupta is son of AAP MP ND Gupta.

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No terror angle in J&K DG Prisons' murder, says DGP

**Suspect domestic
help arrested**

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The initial investigation into the murder of Jammu & Kashmir Director General (Prisons) Hemant Kumar Lohia did not lead towards the terror angle, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh told reporters in Jammu.

A domestic help, Yasir Lohar (23), has emerged as the main suspect. He was arrested from a field in the Kanahachak area. Yasir is a resident of Halla-Dhandrath village in Ramban district.

Lohia, one of the top cops of the Jammu & Kashmir Police, holding the charge of Director General Prisons Department, was found murdered under mysterious circumstances with his throat slit open inside one of the rooms



Yasir, domestic help of Jammu & Kashmir's Director General (Prisons) Hemant K Lohia, who was found murdered at his residence, in the Udaiwala area on the outskirts of Jammu, late on Monday

of the house of a close friend in Udaiwala area of Jammu late Monday night. Marks of even burn injuries were present on his body, police said.

The incident came to light barely hours after the Union Home Minister Amit Shah landed in Jammu amid tight security arrangements.

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Modi speaks to Zelenskyy, calls for talks, diplomacy to end war with Russia

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and reiterated his call for an earliest cessation of hostilities with Russia and the need to follow the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Incidentally, in a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin in mid-September, Modi had called for an end to violence. The two leaders had met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan. It was the first meeting between Modi and Putin since Russian military action against Ukraine in late February.

Earlier, Modi had held telephonic conversations with Putin and Zelenskyy in the initial stage of the conflict and urged them to hold one to one talks to sort issues.

Giving details of the latest

talks with the Ukrainian President, the Ministry of External Affairs said Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his call for an earliest cessation of hostilities with Russia. The PM also conveyed India's readiness to contribute to any peace process between the two countries.

Modi also laid stress on the UN Charter, International Law, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

The Prime Minister emphasised the importance India attaches to the safety and security of nuclear installations, including in Ukraine.

He underlined the endangerment of nuclear facilities that could have far-reaching and catastrophic impact on public health and the environment.

The two leaders also touched upon important areas of bilateral cooperation, following up on their last meeting in Glasgow in November 2021.

Collegium divided on CJI's letter method to elevate judges to SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Differences have cropped up in the Supreme Court Collegium over the procedure adopted by the Chief Justice of India, UU Lalit, for appointment of four judges to the apex court.

Two judges of the SC Collegium have objected to a letter circulated by the CJI seeking their consent to appoint four judges to the apex court.

It is learned that the two judges in the Collegium have not differed on the choice of the shortlisted judges, but to the unprecedented way of circulation of letters instead of physical meeting of the Collegiums

consisting Chief Justice and four senior most judges.

As per the usual convention, the Collegium holds physical meetings to discuss names for elevation, at which consensus of the five judges is sought.

As judges in the Collegium were out of Delhi due to Dussehra holidays, CJI Lalit through a letter sent to them suggested four new names — High Court Chief Justices Ravi Shankar Jha (Punjab & Haryana HC), Sanjay Karol (Patna HC), PV Sanjay Kumar (Manipal HC) and senior Advocate KV Viswanathan — for the appointment in the apex court.

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Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performing Kanya Pujan in Gorakhpur on Tuesday

PTI

Russian remanded in 2-days CBI custody for JEE-Mains hacking

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday sent a Russian national, arrested for alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains) examination last year, to two days' CBI custody. Duty Magistrate Vaibhav Mehta sent the accused, Mikhail Shargin, to CBI custody till October 6 after he was produced before the court and the agency requested for his remand to unravel the conspiracy.

"This court is of the view that for the purpose of carrying out investigation PC (police custody) remand of the accused is necessary and so this court partly allows the application moved by the IO and grants police custody remand of the



accused for two days only," the judge said.

In its application seeking a five-day remand of the accused, the CBI told the court he was to be quizzed about the data present in his phone, laptop and external hard disk.

The central agency had issued a 'Look Out Circular' against Shargin, suspected to be a main hacker, for alleged manipulation of the prestigious examination, the CBI said.

The CBI said it was alerted by the Bureau of Immigration when Shargin

arrived at the airport from Almaty, Kazakhstan, adding he was immediately detained by the agency on his arrival here on Monday.

"During investigation, it came to light that some foreign nationals were involved in compromising many online examinations, including JEE (Mains), colluding with other accused in the instant case," the CBI said.

The investigation indicated Shargin tampered with the iLeon software, the platform on which the JEE (Main)-2021 examination was conducted, and also helped other accused in hacking the computer systems of suspect candidates during the examination, it said.

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Abducted pvt co owner rescued, four arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of four persons in the early hours of Tuesday, the Lucknow police claimed to have solved the case in which the owner of a private company was abducted for a ransom of Rs 12 lakh by abductors dressed as policemen on Saturday.

The accused were identified as Nitesh Srivastava and Rajesh Kumar, both of Aliganj, and Ravi Dixit and Satish, both of Madehganj.

Ankur Tiwari, said to be the mastermind of the abduction, is being hunted.

Ankur works as a sales associate with a bank while Ravi Dixit is preparing for the army exam and is a BA second year student.

ADCP (West) Chiranjeev Nath Sinha said that the victim,

Sumit Kumar Sharma, who is owner of a private firm, was abducted from near Baradari around 8 pm on Saturday.

"The abductors posed as cops of the crime branch and stopped Sharma who was on his motorcycle for checking. As soon as Sharma stopped, they abducted him and took him in a car. The abductors took him to a house in Madaion and then used Sharma's phone to call his wife, Puja, and demanded a ransom of Rs 12 lakh for his release," the ADCP (West) said.

He added that the police swung into action soon after Puja filed a complaint with Madeyganj police and also told the cops about the ransom.

Ankur Tiwari knew Sharma for the last two years and had knowledge about his business and he chalked out a plan to abduct him. He roped

in Vipul, Rajeev, Shera, Satish, Rohit, Ravi, Rajesh and Nitin in the plan.

While the police claimed to have used its surveillance skills in reaching the abductors, the cops got the lead when some residents in Madaion called UP 112 in the wee hours of Tuesday and informed them that they had noticed activities in a house which was locked from outside for the last two days. The UP 112 sent a PRV along with Ghaila outpost in-charge Shivmangal Singh to the spot. When the abductors heard the siren of the PRV, two of them tried to escape by jumping from the roof of the house but the cops nabbed them.

Subsequently, the cops rescued Sharma and arrested two more abductors hiding in the house.



Governor Anandiben Patel at the 'Bhiksha se Shiksha' programme run by Smile project of Ummed for rehabilitation of beggars, at Gandhi auditorium of Raj Bhawan in Lucknow on Tuesday

BJP making bid to win back non-Yadav OBC leaders

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Bharatiya Janata Party has launched serious efforts to win back the non-Yadav OBC Backward Classes (OBC) leaders into the party fold.

Several non-Yadav OBCs leaders had left the BJP ahead of the UP Assembly election earlier this year and joined the Samajwadi Party. Efforts by the state BJP leaders are underway as per the direction of the party's central leadership.

The move is aimed at bolstering the social coalition of the party before the 2024 general elections and regaining the non-Yadav OBC vote bank.

Sources in the BJP said that channels of communication had been opened with several of these leaders and also leaders of parties which had been allies of the BJP in the past and represented specific caste groups.

Leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan, Dharam Singh Saini, Madhuri Verma, Vinay Shakya and others had left the BJP in the run-

up to the 2022 Uttar Pradesh polls and crossed over to the SP. The Samajwadi Party had realised that the BJP's capture of non-Yadav OBC votes in the 2014, 2017 and 2019 polls had left the Akhilesh Yadav-led party with only Yadavs and Muslims, denting its strength in the state.

Though the desertion of the non-Yadav OBCs leaders did not impact the electoral fortunes of the BJP, it did help create a political narrative that helped the Samajwadi Party to take its tally from 47 in 2017 assembly polls to 125 along with its allies in 2022 UP Assembly elections.

Swami Prasad Maurya, the tallest OBC leader to desert the BJP, lost the last assembly election from Fazilnagar assembly seat in Deoria district.

The defection of the OBC leaders ahead of UP Assembly election compelled the BJP to drop the idea of denying ticket to many sitting party MLAs. In several assembly constituencies the BJP had to really work hard to pacify angry party cadres who had wanted a change of the candidate in

their constituency.

"Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the party wants all the communities from whom we gained support in 2019 to be back in its fold," said a BJP leader.

The sources said the central leaders were also involved in this mission. The party leaders are in constant touch with Om Prakash Rajbhar, president of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), who has parted company with his alliance partner Samajwadi Party.

OBCs comprise nearly 40 per cent of the vote in Uttar Pradesh and the BJP's success in the state has been attributed to the way it has been able to shore up support among non-Yadav OBCs and non-Jatav Dalits in the state.

With alliances with the Apna Dal (Sonelal) led by Union minister Anupriya Patel and previously with the SBSP, the 2019 polls saw the National Democratic Alliance poll 51.19 per cent of the votes and register a big victory despite the alliance between the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

Contractor kills wife for her long phone conversations, ends life

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Peed over her long phone conversations with a friend, a contractor allegedly battered his wife to death and committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence in Talkatora on Tuesday.

Police identified the deceased as Kulwant Singh (50) and his wife Pushpa Singh (38) of Ketan Vihar in Talkatora. They were staying with their two sons. The elder son, who is 17-year-old, had gone to school while the younger one, who is 13 year-old, was sent by his father for a walk.

The couple was found dead by their younger son. The police were informed of the incident by Kulwant's sister Anju who lives in Jankipuram Extension police station area.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Zone) Chiranjeev Nath Sinha said Pushpa was lying in a pool of blood with her smashed by some heavy object while Kulwant was hanging from an iron grill spread over the courtyard at the back side of the house.

"A blood stained grinding stone was found lying on the floor. Both the bodies have been sent for autopsy. No suicide note has found as yet," the ADCP said.

He said family members told the police that the couple used to fight regularly over Pushpa's long telephonic conversations with a friend as Kulwant did not like it.

The younger son of Kulwant said his parents used to fight regularly but he never imagined they would end their lives this way.

"I left the house at around 10 am to play at a friend's place and came back at noon. Upon entering the bedroom, I found Papa hanging from a noose and my mother lying in a pool of blood. I informed my aunt who called the police," he said.

Police suspect that Kulwant decided to end the tussle with Pushpa forever and sent his younger son outside.

Further investigations are underway.

Mastermind of gang duping jobseekers arrested by STF

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Special Task Force team has nabbed the mastermind of the gang which duped several jobseekers of several crore rupees by promising government jobs.

The mastermind, identified as Chandra Bhushan Dubey of Indira Nagar, was arrested from Polytechnic crossing on a tip-off on Monday.

The STF recovered two mobile phones, two fake appointment letters, two fake identity cards of Food Corporation of India and CM Helpline Centre, two affidavits, five bank cheques of Rs 22 lakh, ATM, SIM and PAN cards and Rs 620 in cash from him.

Dubey owned up his crime and disclosed that he and his accomplices duped the victims by promising jobs in FCI, Mandi Parishad, Rural Postal Service, 108 Ambulance Service and in Jharkhand police service. Dubey admitted that he and his men had duped several persons of Rs 300 crore during the past few years and his well-organised gang was operating in several states of the country, including Uttar Pradesh.

The arrest was made while following up a fraud case registered on the complaint of one

Punit Singh at Mahanagar police station on August 14, 2022.

Punit had told police that he met Chandra Bhushan Dubey in court premises in 2019 through some acquaintance and later he and other five had given Rs 3 lakh each to him for jobs in FCI.

Dubey had also tricked several others by promising jobs in Rural Postal Services and charging Rs 1.5 lakh from each and Rs 1.6 lakh each for a job in Ambulance Services and this way he had collected over Rs 28 lakh from several jobseekers. Dubey later gave fake appointment letters to the victims and disappeared.

After his fraud was figured out, the victims lodged reports with the police and the case was later assigned to the STF.

It surfaced that Chandra Bhushan Dubey ran unsuccessfully security guard service in Vikas Nagar in 2008 and indulged in property dealing work in 2016. Later he came in contact with one Abhilash who duped youths in the name of jobs in the postal department. He thereafter formed a gang in which he added Manoj and Haribansh. They opened their office at Wireless crossing and duped over 300 people before the gang was busted.

Woman threatened by 'proposer'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A marriage proposal turned scary for an unmarried working woman who not only was bullied by the proposer but was also issued life threat if she dared to choose another partner in his place in Ghazipur police station area.

The victim has lodged a report with the police.

As per the report, the woman got a call from an unidentified mobile number about a month back and the caller told her that he was looking for a match for his son and so he had contacted her. The caller told the woman that he got her mobile phone number from one of her acquaintances and asked her to give her father's mobile phone number.

Around 11 pm on the same day, the woman got another call from a different mobile phone number and the caller introduced himself as Anoop Chaudhary. He told her about the conversation she had with his father in the evening and proposed to her.

In due course of time, the woman suspected the credentials of Anoop and declined to accept the proposal.

"I refused the marriage proposal as it appeared to be fake and my suffering started from that point of time," she said.

The woman said the miscreant started sending her obscene messages and pictures and making video calls late in the night. "I filed a complaint with the Women Power Line 1090 but it failed to deter him from sending obscene texts/messages and making phone calls during night hours," she said.

She said the miscreant sent her a message threatening to shoot her if she married another man.

"I lodged a report with the cyber crime cell of Lucknow police but have not got any help as yet. He continues to send obscene messages and make unwanted calls to me. I go to my office and I fear for my safety lest he shoots me some day," she said.

She added that she had doubts that the first call made to her was by the miscreant himself and he had posed as the 'father' of the groom.

The victim said she and her family members were living in fear after the threatening message.

Tension in Agra after idol of Goddess Durga vandalised

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tension prevailed after some unidentified miscreants, on Tuesday, damaged the idol of Goddess Durga at a temple in a village in the Agra district.

The idol inside the temple was installed 30 years ago.

The incident was reported from Dhanauli village under Malpura police station in Agra district on Tuesday, police said.

Tension prevailed in the area after the incident. On Monday, the devotees went home after rendering bhajans and kirtans as part of Navratri festival. But on Tuesday morning, the villagers found the idol of Goddess Durga broken. The villagers said that miscreants had been trying to vitiate the atmosphere in the area. Malpura police station

Inspector Tejveer Singh said, "Efforts are on to bring the situation under control. Whosoever did this mischievous act will be taken to task. They will be identified and arrested soon."

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client, Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd. intend to grant loan on the property scheduled below by of equitable mortgage by deposit of title deed. The property was acquired by Amitabh Bajpai S/o Rajendra Kumar Bajpai from his father Rajendra Kumar Bajpai S/o Late Jagdish Prasad Bajpai through Gift Deed dated 15.11.2021 vide Book No. 1, Volume No. 11446 at Pages No. 159 to 220 at Serial No. 10468 dated 15th November 2021. All persons having any claim in respect thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien or otherwise howsoever are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned within a period of 7days from the date of publication hereof, failing which, the claim of such persons will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Schedule

Part of plot admeasuring area 378.73 square metre Liv Kushi Nagar (Arzi Lashkar Bithoor) Bithoor Kanpur Nagar having demand registered number 2518 Nagar Panchayat Bithoor Kanpur Nagar bounded as below:- East:- 4.57 Meter Interlocking road and part of plot gifted to Chandra Bagaal West:- 6 feet road North:-Land of Ram Janai Bada Mandir South:- 4.57 Meter road and part of plot which is gifted to Dharmendra Bajpai (Shiva Kant Dixit) Advocate, Ph.: 09415403399

Youth killed by his lover's father in Meerut, 2 held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A case of honour killing has come to light in a village in Meerut district.

A 20-year-old youth was allegedly killed and beheaded by a man after the victim was caught in compromising position with his daughter.

The incident took place in village Khajuri under Parikshitgarh police station. The

youth and the girl came from different religions and were in a relationship.

The arrested accused were identified by police on Tuesday as Fameed and Asif. According to reports, the girl's father and an accomplice allegedly killed the youth and his beheaded body was dumped in a nearby sugarcane field.

case against both the accused under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and investigation is on."

Meanwhile, there is resentment among the villagers regarding the police theory of 'honour killing' in the above mentioned murder case.

Deepak's head from the mortuary reached his house in Khajuri on Monday evening. After this, people's anger was seen against the police and administrative officials. By keeping the head in deep freeze, the villagers blocked the Fort road. They continued the demonstration for the entire Monday night claiming that the local police were protecting the real culprits.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Akhilesh Yadav and Circle Officer Pooram Sirohi also tried to convince the protesters to clear the road blockade, saying the case would be probed from all angles.

On Tuesday morning, SSP Rohit Sajwan also reached the spot for talks with the villagers. However, even after his persuasion, the villagers remained adamant on their demands, after which the SSP had to return. Representatives of some local political parties also tried to pacify the family but they kept on demanding

Two drown in Madaion

Lucknow (PNS): Two men drowned while immersing an idol in river Gomti at Ghaila bridge in Madaion. DCP (North) Qasim Abdi said the victims were from a small group of devotees who had come for immersion of the idol of Goddess Durga.

The DCP said the places designated for immersion of idols had adequate police force and divers. The victims were identified as Santram Yadav and Aman Sahu, both of Lalabagh in Thakurganj police station area.



Lucknow Commissioner Roshan Jacob reviewing preparations for the India-South Africa cricket match to be played in Lucknow on Thursday

Tractor trolley mishaps continue to claim lives

PTI ■ BANDA

A child was killed and 20 others injured on Tuesday when a tractor-trolley overturned in Naraini area here, police said.

Circle Officer (CO) Nitin Kumar said the one-year-old child died on the spot.

There were 25 people in the tractor-trolley at the time of the accident.

The injured have been taken to hospital, where condition of nine of them is stated to be critical, the CO said.

Meanwhile, two women were killed and

18 others injured when a tractor-trolley overturned in Bharatkoop area here, police said on Tuesday.

The vehicle overturned at Kolwa-Manpur turn on Monday evening when its occupants were returning from Satna in Madhya Pradesh after attending a religious function, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Chakrapani Tripathi said.

Shivkumari (65) and Maina Devi (45) died on the spot while the injured were rushed to hospital, where the condition of three of them was serious, police said.

Demonic tendencies making society hollow, says CM

Gorakhpur: The war between Ram and Ravana is a perennial battle that takes place in every era. Unjust and tyrannical forces arise in different forms in different times, sometimes as *Adharma*, sometimes as *Ravana* and sometimes as *Kansa*, *Duryodhana*, terrorism, Naxalism and corruption, said Gorakshpeethadhishwar and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday.

Speaking after the grand procession of Vijayadashami at Ramlila Maidan, Yogi said that “These are all demonic tendencies, which are making the society hollow and promoting anarchy.

Yogi said that the festival of Vijayadashami inspires Sanatan Hinduism to walk on the path of truth, justice and religion under every circumstances. “If we practice truth and walk on the path of justice and righteousness, the victory will surely be ours”, he pointed out, adding that Vijayadashami is one festival that has been making people realise this since time immemorial.

He said that an important aspect of any welfare government, system and society is that it connects with the problems and sufferings of the society and acts to resolve and end it.

He added: “We have been told here that Ramo Vighrahan Dharma: That is, if one wants to know about religion, then one must know about the character of Lord Rama. We worship Lord Shri Ram because, he presents an ideal way of life.”

The chief minister said that this festival holds more importance for Gorakhpur and



Eastern Uttar Pradesh, which have witnessed a demon in the form of encephalitis.

Today, UP has taken steps to get rid of the disease. “Five years ago, meningitis caused thousands of deaths. Today these deaths have almost come close to zero. It shows that our efforts are going in the right direction. It is the result of collectivism. When we make collective efforts, then we also have results in the ‘Satvik’ form.

Government, administra-

tion, general public as well as voluntary organisations united and implemented the schemes of the central and state government honestly and it yielded positive outcomes.” CM said that though the health experts believed that it should be notified as an epidemic, no effort was made to find the causes of the disease.

Adityanath said that the festival of *Vijaydashami* comes after worshipping the nine forms of Mother Bhagwati, the mother of the

world, on nine days of *Sharadiya Navratri*. “The festival of *Vijaydashami* is not just about religion and truth, but also about honouring the mother power. If *Ravana* had not invited his death by kidnapping *Maa Sita*, he might have been entitled to live for a few more days, but his sins reached its culmination after the incident and he had to die at the hands of Lord Rama.”

Yogi Adityanath also congratulated people on the occasion of *Vijayadashami*.

Yogi leads Shobhayatra amid pomp and splendour in Gorakhpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/GORAKHPUR

To mark the occasion of Vijayadashami, the holy festival of victory of truth, justice and righteousness over evil, Chief Minister and Gorakshpeethadhishwar Yogi Adityanath led the traditional Shobhayatra (victory procession) from Gorakhnath temple amid pomp and splendour on Tuesday evening.

Steeped deep in the rich Sanatan traditions and riding on the waves of unshakable faith and enthusiasm, the spectacular Shobhayatra was greeted with flowers all the way and welcomed enthusiastically by all the people, including members of the minority communities, sending a strong message of communal harmony.

Gorakshpeethadhishwar, who was leading the procession in the traditional dress of the Mahant of Gorakhnath temple on a chariot decorated with flowers, celebrating Sanatan traditions, was accorded a grand welcome by all the people, including the Muslim and Sindhi communities. Peethadhishwar Yogi Adityanath blessed them with a happy life and offered ‘prasad’ for the nine-day long Navratri ritual.

Gorakshpeeth of the Nath sect has some amazing and spectacular rituals, one of which is the procession of

Vijayadashami. The grand procession of Gorakshpeethadhishwar was taken out at 4:30 pm after Yogi Adityanath offered his prayers to Guru Gorakhnath and rode the chariot built in an open jeep.

The Shobhayatra proceeded with the playing of Nath panth’s special instruments such as hawthorn, trumpet, drums etc. in the background and astonishing feats of Hanuman Dal’s children amid high security.

All the way, on both sides, people full of reverence were eager to get a glimpse of the Gorakshpeethadhishwar.

As the procession led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath proceeded from the Gorakhnath temple, Muslims and weavers from the community welcomed it by showering flowers.

Chaudhary Kaifulwara, president of Urdu Academy, garlanded the Gorakshpeethadhishwar. Gorakshpeethadhishwar accepted his greetings with a smile and offered him and his community members the ‘prasad’ of the nine-day Navratri rituals held at Gorakhnath temple. The people of the minority community expressed their gratitude to the Gorakshpeethadhishwar by applying the ‘prasad’ to their foreheads.

A large number of Muslim

women and children kept taking pictures of Yogi Adityanath in their smartphones from the houses built on both sides of the road throughout the chief minister’s exchange of greetings with members of the Muslim community.

Chaudhary Kaifulwara said that his family has been welcoming the procession of Gorakshpeethadhishwar for generations. He said that Gorakshpeeth treated everyone equally without discriminating on basis of religion.

As the chariot of Gorakshpeethadhishwar moved forward, the people of Sindhi community present in large numbers near the under construction Shri Jhulelal temple gave him a rousing welcome and greeted him and the procession with flowers. The process of welcoming the procession continued throughout the way till Mansarovar temple.

When the victory procession of Gorakshpeethadhishwar Yogi Adityanath reached Mansarovar temple, Gorakshpeethadhishwar worshipped Devadhidev Mahadev and other deities amid Vedic chants. Mahadev was also consecrated. Then, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s procession reached Mansarovar Ramlila Maidan where he performed the coronation and worshipped Lord Shri Ram along with offering his prayers to Mata

Janaki, Lakshman and Lord Hanuman and also performed aarti.

Later the procession returned to Gorakhnath temple where the traditional prasad was distributed in front of Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan.

“Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also settled disputes of saints at Gorkashpeeth. According to the tradition of Nath panth, every year, on the occasion of Vijayadashami, the disputes of saints are settled by the peethadheshwar in Gorakhnath temple,” a statement said.

Earlier, on the occasion of Navami, the ninth day of Navratri, Yogi Adityanath, who is also the head of Gorakshpeeth, performed Kanya pujan and offered prayers to Matrishakti (mother power) by washing the feet of maidens in Gorakhpur on Tuesday.

The chief minister also performed aarti, served food to girls and gave them ‘dakshina’ (donation) and gifts while seeking their blessings. Following the tradition, the chief minister also performed Batuk puja.

On occasion, the chief minister also interacted with the children while performing the puja. At the same time, the children also expressed their happiness and enthusiasm at being greeted by the chief minister himself.

Muslim family makes Ravan effigies for Agra Ramlila every year

PTI ■ AGRA

Every year, a month ahead of Dussehra, 75-year-old Jafer Ali along with his family gets down to the mammoth task of making effigies of Lanka king ‘Ravan’ and his brothers for the Ramlila here.

Ali, who belongs to the fifth generation of a family of artisans, said “We are invited by the committee members of Agra’s Ramlila to make effigies and for about a month we stay at Ramlila ground to complete effigies of different sizes.”

At the culmination of Ramlila, the committee also felicitate Ali and his family.

Talking about his skills, Ali, the eldest among the artisans told PTI, “I have been in this profession since my childhood. Now the fifth generation of our family is working in this profession. I used to come with my grandfather and father and now I am leading other family members and workers.”

He has a family of 18 members and all are skilled in making effigies, he said.

“In this year’s Ramlila, which is taking place after a hiatus of two years due to COVID-19, Ravan’s effigy is about 100 feet tall and that of



An effigy of Ravana being given final touches in Lucknow on Tuesday

his brothers Kumbhakaran and Meghnath are 65 and 60 feet tall, respectively. The size of other effigies depends on the demand of the committee members,” he said, adding that every year the size of the effigies differs.

“It takes about one month to complete the effigies, which are made up of colourful paper, twine rope and adhesive made up of white flour and bamboo sticks,” Ali said.

He said his family is happy to come again after COVID-19, which affected the entire world. “This year there is a wave

of joy, because we are able to showcase our skills,” he added.

Fortyfive-year-old Auli, another family member who helps Ali in making effigies, said, “The wages are different for each worker and varies from Rs 500-Rs 700 a day. During this month-long event, more than 15 effigies and other designs are made by us as per the scene in the Ramayan.”

Ali and his nephew Amir Ahmad (50) claimed to have never faced any kind of discrimination because of their religion.

“Nobody here treats us like

we belong to a different religion. We work as if it is our home. Even children of our families come to watch the Dussehra celebration.”

“The locals here love us. That is why my grandfather, father and I along with other family members have been coming here to make these effigies every year,” he added.

The district Ramlila which began about a century ago attracts visitors not only from Agra but also from its nearby Mathura and Firozabad districts as well.

Speaking about the annual function, the president of the Ramlila Committee and present Member of Legislative from Agra north seat, Purushottam Khandelwal told PTI,

“It is a century old annual event and was begun by Lala Kokamal at Rawatpara in Agra. After that it was shifted to Ramlila ground near Agra Fort. It is a much awaited annual event of Agra and continues for a month.”

“Ramleela, Ram Barat and Janakpuri events are the biggest events organised in North India and are quite popular among the people of Agra and nearby districts,” he added.



Samajwadi Party leaders and workers performed havan for speedy recovery and long life of party patron Mulayam Singh Yadav at Hanuman Temple in Hazratganj, Lucknow on Tuesday

Pioneer

UP Assembly takes another innovative step

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In yet another innovation, UP Assembly will hold a special session for those MLAs who have not spoken in the House or have not got the opportunity since their election to state assembly in March this year.

In the present 18th UP Assembly, around 100 MLAs from both the treasury and opposition benches have either failed to get an opportunity to speak or they have made no effort to raise their issue in the House.

UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana said that detailed information about the members of the House who have not participated in the proceedings was being compiled.

The special session for such MLAs would be held during the budget session in early 2023.

The UP Assembly recently created history by reserving a day for a special women’s session of the assembly during the monsoon session of the House which concluded on September 23.

Out of the total 47 women MLAs in UP Assembly, 41 members present in the House had participated in the proceedings. Many women members had spoken for the first in the House after their election in March this year.

Govt to appoint retired doctors to meet out shortage: Pathak

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To deal with the shortage of doctors in the state, the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to appoint retired doctors on contractual basis via the National Health Mission.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said that the patients should not face any kind of problem due to the shortage of doctors.

He said there were more than 13,700 health and wellness centres in Uttar Pradesh and CHOs (community health officers) were being deployed in them.

Pathak, who also holds the Health portfolio, said,

“Hospitals that are short of doctors should list those departments. Doctors can be deployed on a contractual basis via the National Health Mission.”

Medicines not available in the hospitals should be procured by purchasing them locally by the hospitals, he added.

“For local purchase of medicines, the government is allocating a budget to hospitals. There is no dearth of budget for the welfare schemes for the patients,” Pathak said.

While sharing statistics, he said an exam for selecting community health officers (CHOs) was being conducted

several times a year and 9,680 CHOs had been trained since 2017.

“The government has set a record in the direction of training CHOs. Since 2017, 9,680 CHOs have been selected and trained. The process of deployment of more than 5,000 CHOs is going on,” Pathak said.

Dr Abhishek Shukla, secretary general of the Association of International Doctors, said, “Appointing retired doctors on a contractual basis will help in two ways. First, their experience will help patients, particularly in the diagnosis of chronic ailments and secondly, the availability of doctors will also increase.”

Mau hospital sealed for ambulance link to Mukhtar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A hospital in Mau district that provided an ambulance to gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari and was running allegedly on fake documents has been sealed, police said on Tuesday.

Police also said Mau-based doctor Alka Rai, who was accused of helping Ansari get an ambulance, along with her brother Sheshnath Rai had been

booked under the Gangsters Act.

Both of them co-own Shyam Sanjeevani Hospital in Mau district, which has been sealed, the police added.

The vehicle was registered with a fake address in Barabanki district. On September 29, the Barabanki district magistrate had ordered police officials to seal the hospital.

Mau Circle Officer Dhananjay Mishra along with a large contingent of police

personnel reached the nursing home and produced the sealing orders before Rai, who was present in the hospital.

“Shyam Sanjeevani Hospital has been sealed on the orders of the Barabanki district magistrate,” Mishra said.

In April 2021, the Barabanki police had lodged an FIR against Ansari and his associates in connection with the use of fake papers for registering an ambulance.

UP getting uninterrupted power supply: Tomar

PNS ■ KANPUR

UP Minister of State for Energy and Additional Sources of Energy Somendra Tomar while addressing presspersons informed that today Uttar Pradesh is getting adequate and uninterrupted power supply and the credit for this went to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He said today Uttar Pradesh had a record breaking power supply. He said however in areas where the power supply had to be improved the government had decided to increase number of transformers to meet the uninterrupted power needs. He said once

this was accomplished a review will again be carried out and a feedback for improvement will be taken.

He said in UP there were 22 areas which were on top ranks in the state and said today the views of the common man had changed and UP had emerged as one of the second strongest economy in the country. He said he is area of sports or investments UP was marching forward under the leadership of CM. He said the UP government was marching ahead in thermal power. He added that UP government will soon set up solar energy plant in association with the Centre. He said very soon the

government will also work in the direction of wind energy.

He said once the plant was set up it will energise the sector and said it was a fact that nothing had been done in the field of wind energy. He said new turbines have arrived and very soon further momentum will be given to this area. He said today UP government was making headway in thermal, wind and above all solar energy and due to abundance of three natural resources very soon UP will be self-reliant in power supply and this will in turn lead to all round economic progress. He said in another decade UP will be the most prosperous state of India.

Woman, daughter killed in mishap

PNS ■ KANPUR

A woman and her daughter were killed while a youth was seriously injured when their uncontrolled bike collided with a tractor-trolley in Dhanirampur village on Rura-Jhinhak Road in Kanpur Dehat on Tuesday morning. Reshma (32), wife of Ajmer of Ajitmal Atasu, Auraiya, was unwell for the past few months. Therefore, her parents thought of consulting a person engaged in mystical activities. On Tuesday Reshma along with mother Kathoon (55) of Asaini, Dabiyapur, and brother Naushad proceeded for Rura on the bike.

When they were return-

ing through Rura-Jhinhak road, Naushad wanted to overtake a tractor-trolley near Dhanrampur village. Suddenly while overtaking the tractor-trolley they were knocked down by it and came under its wheels which led to killing of Reshma and Khatoon. Naushad was seriously injured.

Tractor driver escaped after leaving the vehicle on the spot. Passersby took the injured to a hospital.

SHO Rura (Kanur dehat) Pravin Kumar rushed to the hospital and quizzed the injured.

He said on receipt of complaint an FIR would be lodged. The tractor-trolley had been impounded, he said.

Murder case worked out

PNS ■ VARANASI

The rural police on Tuesday claimed to have worked out the murder case of a youth and arrested two criminals with firearms and motorcycle used in the crime. Talking to the presspersons at his office here, the SP, Rural Suryakant Tripathi informed that the police got a tip-off about the presence of criminals at Jaunpur border in Barahi Nevada and acting on the information, the cops of Phulpur police raided the place and succeeded in arresting two criminals identified as Nikhil Yadav and Prince Rai (both of Jaunpur district).

A youth, Tej Bahadur Payel (19), resident of Dallipur village under the Badagaon police station was shot dead, while his friend Kishan Patel



Criminals wanted in a murder case were produced before the mediapersons during the press conference.

sustained bullet injury and is taking treatment at trauma centre in BHU. The crime took place near Manapur village under the Phulpur police station when both were going to somewhere by bike in the evening on October 1 last.

With the help of electron-

ic surveillance and intelligence inputs, the motorcycle-borne criminals were identified and were arrested in the morning on Tuesday.

Tripathi informed. Tripathi informed that during the interrogation, arrested criminals confessed their crime.

Youth drowns in Ganga

PNS ■ KANPUR

A youth drowned in the Ganga while five others, including four adolescent girls, were missing in the water at Kothi ghat of Araul under Bilhaur Kotwali police station on Tuesday morning. Police have launched the rescue operation to search for the missing children. A large number of people along with officials of the district administration and police were present. Six ambulances of the Health department were also available on the spot.



Huge crowd assembled at Kothi ghat during the rescue operation being carried out on Tuesday.

Sandeep Katiyar of Baranda, Araul (Bilhaur) had opened a readymade cloth shop on Makanpur road. To attend the inaugural ceremony of the shop on Sunday, his relatives from Kanpur and Farrukhabad had also reached there. On Tuesday morning, eight relatives, including Anushka alias Divya (15) daughter of Vinay Kumar of Kalyanpur Bairi, Kanpur and her sister Anshika, Saurabh (20) son of Ram Singh of Panki, Kanpur, Abhay (20), son of Ram Babu of Habbapur, Farrukhabad, Tanushka (17) daughter of Pradip and her sisters Anushka (13), Shrishti and Gauri had gone to Kothi ghat to take a bath in the Ganga. Except Shrishti and Gauri all of them went into water. They informed that when Tanushka began to drown, other five children also drowned in a bid to rescue her. On seeing them drowning, Shrishti and Gauri raised an alarm following which some local residents also jumped into the Ganga. Thereafter,

they informed their family members about the incident. Immediately, local police and family members rushed to the spot. Police pressed the divers into service to trace the missing children. After some time, they recovered Saurabh and sent him to the Community Health Centre (CHC) where he was declared dead. Circle Officer (CO) Rajesh Kumar along with trainee CO Ranjit Kumar and inspector Atul Kumar Singh were present to oversee the rescue operation. Meanwhile, officials of district administration and police also reached the spot. Six ambulances of 108 and 102 services of the Health department were also available at the ghat. Efforts were on to recover the five children, including four adolescent girls, still missing in the water.

TWO ARRESTED: Naubasta police On a tip off arrested two criminals from Hanspuram locality late ON Monday night and recovered stolen cash of worth over Rs 1

lakh and jewellery worth around Rs 15 lakh from them. The accused confessed their involvement in 10 thefts committed by them. Police was tracing the criminal history of the accused.

The house of Ajay Singh of Avas Vikas, Hanspuram, was burgled on September 27 night when cash and jewellery worth over Rs 8 lakh were stolen. Police identified the criminals through the CCTV footages and launched raids to nab them.

On a tip off, police caught both the criminals near a guest house in Hanspuram late on Monday night and recovered stolen cash and jewellery.

They were identified as Raju Gautam of Chetpurwa village, Uttaripur, Bilhaur and Dinesh alias Rakesh Sonkar, a native of Kaushambi presently living in Lavkush Nagar, Kalyanpur.

They confessed their involvement in eight thefts in Naubasta and two in Hanuman Vihar police area.

Ministers inspect multi-sports complex

PNS ■ KANPUR

UP Minister of State for Energy Somendra Tomar and UP Minister of State for Minority Welfare Minister, Danish Azad while jointly inspecting the Super Speciality Multi-Sports Indoor Complex said it was worth praise that the whole project was completed before time and that too without any compromise on quality and standards. He said this indoor sports complex was built to international standards and can conduct 22 Olympic level sport events.

Addressing presspersons, both the ministers expressed happiness over the work being accomplished on time and said for this the Kanpur Smart City and Kanpur Nagar Nagam needed word of praise as well. Tomar said this stadium was constructed at a whopping cost of Rs 42 crore and comprised badminton

court, table tennis court, swimming pool and modern gymnasium. He said together this will enhance the sports quality to a great extent. He said this was the maiden project which was ready well before time.

Danish said Khelo India and Smart City had jointly ensured the stadium was constructed and in future every year 100 children will be trained free in different sports.

He said poor and underprivileged children who had immense talent will also be given an opportunity to display their talents.

He said parents and kids loved sports and it was easy to get caught up in a game and become focused on winning yet there was much more to be gained from the sports experience than a win.

He said when children and teens were involved in sports they were able to learn



UP Minister of State for Energy Somendra Tomar inspecting the Super Speciality Multi-Sports Indoor Complex on Tuesday.

and put into practice values that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

He added that good sportsmanship was one of the life lessons that children can learn from sports and parents can help children understand

and value good sportsmanship while making sure they had a safe and fun sports experience.

He advised that one needs to teach sports enthusiasts to play fair and respect the other team whether one's team wins

or loses it's important to show respect for the effort of the other team.

Giving a piece of advice to sportsmen he said a good sportsman enjoyed sports and knew how to end a game on a positive note.

NITI Aayog officer reviews works done in Sewapuri block

PNS ■ VARANASI

A meeting was held to review the works done in model block Sewapuri under Phase-1 and Phase-2 by the Joint Secretary of NITI Aayog Shilendra Dwivedi at Vikas Bhawan here on Monday. In the meeting, the officers of various departments of the district were informed about the work done by their departments.

In the meeting, it was told by the Joint Secretary that all the departments have done a good job and all have almost achieved their targets but we have to continue this. He said that this work will have to be done not

only in Sewapuri but also in the other seven blocks of the district so that we can achieve the goal of sustainable development. Emphasising on collectivism, he said that schemes have their limits, we have to think not on that limit but on the level of sociality.

According to him, it is good to achieve the target but it is not our goal. "Our aim is to see what environment is created by achieving that goal so that we can increase the efforts of participation, then only our real goal will be achieved," he said.

Regarding achieving the goal of sustainable development by 2030, he

said that we have eight years now so that we can make our strong claim in the United Nations.

"If the goal of Antyodaya is to be achieved, then we have to move towards self-management and self-reliant" he said. Directing all the officers present in the meeting, he said that we have come for public service, this means that we have to think according to the public. "We have to give them an environment and basic necessities so that we can raise them" he said.

He also talked about the self-generated idea and a lifestyle for the environment which was discussed by the

Prime Minister in front of all the heads of countries during the United States Climate Change Conference (COP-26) organised in Glasgow. He also expected from the officials to think about how to have a clean environment.

The Joint Secretary appreciated the work done so far, especially in the area of malnutrition.

Various officers including VDA Vice Chairman Abhishek Goyal, Chief Development Officer Himanshu Nagpal, DC NRLM Dilip Kumar Sonkar, DC MNREGA Karunakar Adib and many others were also present in the meeting.

Cerebral palsy caused by abnormal brain development

PNS ■ KANPUR

Neurologist, Panacea Hospital, Dr Vikas Shukla while addressing presspersons after a special camp for check-up of paediatric neurology patients on Tuesday said cerebral palsy (CP) was caused by abnormal brain development or damage to the developing brain. He said this normally happened before a child was born, but it can occur at birth or in early infancy. He said however there were umpteen factors which can lead to problems with brain development.

He said CP was caused by abnormal development of the brain or damage to the developing brain that affected a child's ability to control his or her muscles. He said there were several possible causes of abnormal development or damage. He said there was a general belief that CP was mainly caused by lack of oxygen during the birth process but now scientists think that this caused only a very small number of CP cases.

Dr Shukla said abnormal development of the brain or damage that led to CP can happen before birth, during birth, within a month after birth or during the first years of a child's life, while the brain was still developing. He said CP related to abnormal development of the brain or damage that happened before or during birth was called congenital CP and the majority of CP was (85 per cent to 90 per cent). He said low birth weight where children who weigh less than 2,500 grams at birth and especially

those who weigh less than (1,500 grams) had a greater chance of having CP.

He added that children born before the 37th week of pregnancy, especially if they were born before the 32nd week of pregnancy, had a greater chance of having CP. He said the intensive care for premature infants had improved a lot over the past several decades. He said babies born very early were more likely to live now, but many have medical problems that can put them at risk for CP. He said in case of twins, triplets and other multiple births had a higher risk for CP, especially if a baby's twin or triplet died before birth or shortly after birth. Dr Shukla said Assisted reproductive technology (ART) infertility treatments where children born from pregnancies resulting from the use of some infertility treatments had a greater chance of having CP. He said most of increased risk was explained by preterm delivery or multiple births, or both; both preterm delivery and multiple births were increased among children conceived with ART infertility treatments. He said medical conditions of the mother with thyroid problems, intellectual disability or seizures had a slightly higher risk of having a child with CP. He said taking steps to help ensure a healthy pregnancy can help prevent developmental problems, including CP.

He appealed to the parents to avail themselves of the facility being provided free at the camp till October 6.

CSJMU V-C Vinay Pathak lauds NSI's contribution

PNS ■ KANPUR

Vice-Chancellor, CSJM University, Kanpur, Prof Vinay Pathak, while addressing the 87th foundation day function of National Sugar Institute (NSI) on Tuesday lauded the contribution made by NSI, Kanpur in growth and development of Indian sugar industry and very recently in the Ethanol Blending Programme. He stressed on the need for developing low cost user friendly technologies for exploiting the untapped potential of the sugarcane value chain which will result in new investments, employment generation and prosperity in rural areas.

Addressing the function the guest of honour, Dr Sushil Solomon, former V-C, Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAUA&T) while congratulating the NSI for its rapid and quality achievements said millers and



Vice-Chancellor of CSJM University, Prof Vinay Pathak and former V-C CSAUA&T, Dr Sushil Solomon, felicitating farmers on Tuesday.

farmers were the two sides of the same coin and thus a better cohesion between the two was required to attain higher productivities at farm and factory level.

He said value chains had

become increasingly prevalent instruments through which smallholder farmers link to markets and potentially overcome market failures and government deficiencies that constrain their competi-

tiveness.

He said coordination can be facilitated by development agents and enhanced by increased payoffs from coordination and increased beliefs in coordination behaviour. He

said it can be achieved through lead agents in the value chain either top-down by large commercial firms or bottom-up by producer organisations. He said it can also be achieved by multi-stakeholder platforms, either self-sustaining or prodded by public agencies and NGOs.

In his keynote address, NSI Director Narendra Mohan, while congratulating sugarcane farmers and ex-institute officials highlighted the policy interventions made by the Government of India like financial assistance for setting up new ethanol units or expansion of existing, differential pricing policy for ethanol and minimum selling price of sugar etc. which had resulted in ethanol capacity building, achieving 10 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol, stable sugar prices and quicker payment to sugarcane farmers.

He said it would be no exaggeration to state that farmers belonging to Hardoi,

Sitapur, Shahjahanpur, Gonda and Balrampur districts were achieving continuously sugarcane yield of 150 MT/hectare or even more which was almost double to the state and national average.

On this occasion institute also felicitated retired faculty members and other officials who made significant contribution in the development of the institute making its presence felt globally and attracting students from many countries from South East Asia and Africa.

Earlier, Prof D Swain, Professor of Sugar Engineering delivered the welcome address. Assistant Professor of Sugar Technology SK Trivedi made a presentation about journey of Indian sugar industry and NSI, Kanpur from a meagre 1.0 MMT sugar production and dependent on sugar imports, today the country was producing over 35 MMT sugar with exports of more than 10 MMT.

Appeal not to use transport vehicle to carry passengers

PNS ■ VARANASI

In the wake of major road mishap in Kanpur which claimed more than two dozen lives, the rural police of Varanasi will launch a drive to generate consciousness regarding not to use the transport vehicles to carry passengers and for the action of its execution as well. The SP, Rural Suryakant Tripathi has appealed to the people to inform the Dial-112 number, local police station and twitter account of the rural police-@VaranasiRural if any is found violating the rules regarding this. It is learnt that a total of 26 people, most of them were women and children, were killed and several critically injured when a tractor-trolley overturned and

fell into a pond near a village in Kanpur district on October 1. The tractor-trolley, carrying more than four dozen people, was on its way to Ghatampur after the passengers attended a "mundan" ceremony at the Chandrika Devi temple in Fatehpur. In the wake of the Kanpur tragic incident, the Superintendent of Police, Rural Suryakant Tripathi has directed the SHO's of police stations of the rural areas of the district to launch an intense drive to generate consciousness that the transport vehicles could not be used to carry the passengers as it is against the law. He also directed to ascertain action in executing the directive. The transport vehicles such as tractor-trolley, loader, truck, pick-up and

dumper should not be used to carry the passengers and ascertain action on the violation of it after generating awareness first, he directed. Tripathi appealed to the owners of transport vehicles not to use the vehicles to carry the passengers and cautioned for the action as per the rules if the directive is violated. He also appealed to the people to inform the Dial-112 number, local police station and twitter account of Varanasi Rural Police-@VaranasiRural if any is found violating the rules.

As per the section 192(A) of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, whosoever use vehicle violating any term and condition of permit, will have to pay a fine of Rs 10,000 on each offense, the SP, RA stated in his directive to his subordinates.

It is noteworthy that this section of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 mentions, "Whoever drives a motor vehicle or causes or allows a motor vehicle to be used in contravention of the provisions of section 39 shall be punishable for the first offence with a fine which may extend to Rs 5,000 but shall not be less than Rs 2,000 for a second or subsequent offence with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to Rs 10,000 but shall not be less than Rs 5,000 or with both: Provided that the Court may, for reasons to be recorded, impose a lesser punishment." And the section 66(1) of the Act says, "No owner of a motor vehicle shall use or permit the use of the vehicle as a transport vehicle in any

public place whether or not such vehicle is actually carrying any passengers or goods save in accordance with the conditions of a permit granted or countersigned by a Regional or State Transport Authority or any prescribed authority authorising him the use of the vehicle in that place in the manner in which the vehicle is being used: Provided that a stage carriage permit shall, subject to any conditions that may be specified in the permit, authorise the use of the vehicle as a contract carriage: Provided further that a stage carriage permit may, subject to any conditions that may be specified in the permit, authorize the use of the vehicle as a goods carriage either when carrying passengers or not.

Rush at Durga Puja pandals on last day of Navratri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In wake of Bhadohi Durga Puja pandal tragedy in which six persons were killed and over five dozen injured, tight security arrangements were made to ensure peaceful completion of Durga Puja in this holy city which is famous for its grandeur of this festival and is known as 'Mini Kolkata'. Heavy rush of people was seen at 200-odd Durga Puja pandals in different parts of the city on the last day of Shardiya Navratra here on Tuesday.

After two years, such a big rush was seen though throughout the day there was heavy weather condition and the city witnessed brief spells of rains also which restricted the rush to some extent.

However, the rush was much bigger than last year when despite the installation of pandals, there were some COVID-19 restrictions. To avoid the rush, several families preferred to visit these pandals during the day time but the real rush was seen in the evening hours when the city was glittered with attractive lighting arrangements. In view of the heavy rush of visitors, elaborate security and other arrangements have been made. The activities of trouble makers



Durga Puja being held at a pandal in Bhelupur area in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

and anti-social elements were watched through CCTV cameras installed at almost all the big pandals. Several traffic restrictions were also imposed.

The rush was mainly seen in Lahurabir, Sibra, Luxa, Godowlia, Sonarpura,

Bhelupur, Maidagin, and many areas in trans-Varuna area including Shiwpur, Pandeypur, Orderly Bazar, Pahadhiya and some others where several idols of Goddess Durga were installed within a short distance. Various traditional rituals were performed at different

pandals and a good rush of people was seen throughout the day at almost all the pandals of Bangiya Samaj including Ramkrishna Mission and Bharat Sewa Sangh where the people performed rituals with traditional gaiety and religious fervour.

Devotees throng Siddhidatri temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hundreds of devotees thronged Siddhidatri Devi temple at Golghar in Bulanal area on the auspicious occasion of Navmi, the last day of the Shardiya Navratra here on Tuesday. Right from the morning, the devotees started thronging the temple to offer prayers. This holy city has nine temples each of all the Devis and Gauris where the devotees offer prayers on different days during Shardiya and Basantik Navratra respectively.

Besides, heavy rush was also seen throughout the day at Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. Rush of devotees was also seen at all other temples of goddesses including the old Durga Mandir in trans-Ganga Ramnagar and Maa Sheela Mata Mandir at Adalpur near Varanasi-Mirzapur borders. Hundreds of people also went



Devotees offering prayers at Siddhidatri Devi temple in Varanasi on occasion of Navmi in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district. On the last day of Navratra, rush was seen at almost all temples of goddesses in different parts of the city.

Navratri ends with Kanya puja

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Traditional Kanya Puja marked the end of the Shardiya Navratra at Baba Kinaram Ashram, Krinkund near Shivala here on Tuesday. As the worship of girls is of special importance in Shardiya Navratra, the girls were worshipped at this famous religious place by its chief Baba Siddhartha Gautam Ram. On the occasion, as per the tradition, Bhairav Puja programme was also held at the ashram.

On the occasion, a large number of devotees reached Kinaram Sthal premises, maintaining social distance and took blessings by worshipping the Kanyas (girls) and Bhairav. Prior to this, the feet of the girls were painted with mahavar (red colours) for auspiciousness and they were given new clothes, bindi, kumkum and chunnis followed by offering of satvik (vegetarian) food containing puris, vegetables, kheer,



Kanya Puja being held at Kinaram Ashram in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

curd, sweets and seasonal fruits. Nine goddess forms of Maa Durga and Bhairav blessed the devotees and the prayers to them were performed by Acharya Prakash. For the suc-

cessful organisation of the programme, the administrator of the ashram Arun Singh and members Anup Kumar Singh 'Mantu', CN Ojha, DK Singh, Vinay Singh and others

made commendable contributions. Similarly, Kanya Puja programmes were also organised at several other places apart from thousands of houses.

Traffic restrictions imposed in Kashi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Traffic department has imposed traffic restrictions on some routes from 2 pm to 11 pm in view of the festival of Dussehra and immersion of idols of Goddess Durga and other deities. The traffic diversion will remain in effect till October 6. As per the traffic restriction, no vehicle would be allowed to ply on Nai Sadak-Lahurabir, Maidagin-Godowlia and Luxa-Ramapura routes. Only two-wheelers would be allowed to ply on Sonarpura-Godoulia-Gurubagh route. There will be restriction on the plying of three-wheelers and

four-wheelers on Teliabagh-Lahurabir, Maldahiya-Lahurabir and Ramapura-Lahurabir routes. The three-wheelers and four-wheelers would be allowed to go to Gogadda from Piyari through Kabirchaura and Maidagin.

No heavy vehicle would be allowed to ply on Kabirchaura-Lahurabir route and similarly, there would be complete restriction on the plying of all types of vehicle from Piplani Katra to Lahurabir and the vehicles would be diverted towards the VC lodge gate of the SSU. There will also be traffic restrictions from the Sibra-Nai Sadak route through

Pishachmochan. Similarly, there will be complete traffic restriction from Sajon tri-junction to Lahurabir. The traffic restriction will remain in effect from 2 pm to 11 pm till October 6. In the meantime, the police erected barricades at various places to stop the vehicles particularly during the evening hours when the devotees started turning up at the Durga Puja pandals in large numbers. It is learnt that there is huge rush of the people to see the Durga Puja pandals particularly in Hathua market and Jagatganj.

FELICITATION FUNCTION: Shri Vishwakarma

Sabha on Monday honoured some personalities of Vishwakarma community for the outstanding works in their respective fields. Shri Vishwakarma Sabha organised a programme at Vishwakarma Panchayati Bagh here and honoured some personalities of the Vishwakarma community for the excellent works in their respective fields. Ram Shiromani, Ganesh Prasad, Nakhadu, Krishna Chandra and Ram Narayan were honoured for their works in the field of social works, while Arvind Vishwakarma was honoured for his work in the field of journalism.

Cash collection agent shot at in Pratapgarh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Some miscreants shot at a Sman on Tuesday afternoon in Pratapgarh district of UP. He used to work as a cash collection agent in a company. While returning back after collecting cash the miscreants shot at him with the intention of robbery. On hearing the gunshots the villagers gathered at the spot, but the miscreants fled leaving behind a bag full of money. The injured agent has been admitted to the hospital. Police are trying to nab the miscreants who are still at large.

45-year-old Suraj Singh son of Hausla Prasad Singh, resident of Vishalgarh of Neeganj police station area, is a recovery agent in Setting Credit Care Network Limited. On Tuesday morning, he went to Kopa and Dawood Pur village of Devsara area to recover money. Suraj was going from Dawoodpur towards

Devsara by bike at around 12 noon.

On the way, three miscreants on a bike tried to stop him at Kewatli Gate. When he did not stop, the miscreants fired bullets on him. The bullet hit the paw of Suraj Singh's left hand and went through. Hearing the sound of bullets, people working in the nearby fields rushed to the spot. Seeing the villagers coming towards them, the bike riders ran towards Devsara.

Seeing Suraj in a bleeding condition, the villagers informed the police. The police, who reached there shortly, took the injured Suraj to the community health center Amargarh. After first aid, the doctors referred him to Pratap Bahadur District Medical College.

The police combed the surrounding areas to catch the bike-riding miscreants, but failed to nab the miscreants.

FOOTBALL TOURNA-

MENT ORGANISED: Sam Higginbottom District Football 2022 Tournament was organised by Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology And Sciences. The final match was played at University Football Ground between SHUATS-A and Allahabad Tigers in which SHUATS-A won the match and bagged the trophy.

On this occasion Vinod B. Lal, Director Administration was the Chief Guest who encouraged the players to play the game with true spirit of sportsmanship and passion, he also congratulated everybody for their contribution in sports activities. He said that the game is big and not the player. Dr C John Wesley (Joint Registrar and Chairman, Athletics Committee), Dr Sunita B John, (Head - Dept. of Physical Education and secretary of Athletic Committee), Dr Ashish S Noel (Director FPM), Prof PJ George

(Director CHRD), Mohd Majid, Dr Gourav Yadav, Satyam Kesari and All Staff, Students of Physical Education Department were present on the occasion.

Former football players Rais Ahmad (Ex Captain of Uttar Pradesh Football Team), Jalaludin (Ex National Player), Mohan Kanojia (Ex National Player), Krishna Kumar Mishra (Ex National Player) were honoured with "Shawls" by Chief Guest Vinod B Lal.

The contest of the final match was very tough and thrilling, SHUATS A won the match 4-3 over Allahabad Tigers with the help of tiebreaker. Haiwachu was awarded the best player of the tournament. Organising secretary was Ajai Kumar, Assistant Professor Physical education department. Main match Referee was Yogesh Chandra, while Assistant Referee was Santosh Kumar, Sharad Kumar, Kabir and Jack.

MLN Medical College bags first rank in five categories

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Moti Lal Nehru (MLN) Medical College of Prayagraj has bagged the first rank after securing 82 out of 100 score in a performance survey being conducted by the state government.

Pointedly, the performance survey was conducted among six medical colleges including MLN Medical College (Prayagraj), LLRM Medical college (Meerut), SN Medical College (Agra), BRD Medical college (Gorakhpur), GSVM Medical college (Kanpur) and MLB medical college (Jhansi) on 5 specific categories including monthly OPD (Out Patient department), IPD (In Patient department), LSCS (Lower (uterine) segment Caesarean section), and average monthly surgeries and monthly LAMA (Leaving Against Medical Advice).

Interestingly, MLN Medical College has a better

score in 3 main categories including average monthly OPD, monthly IPD and average monthly surgeries. MLN Medical College is closely followed by Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial (LLRM) Medical college, Meerut, and SN (Sarojini Naidu) Medical college, Agra who secured second and third rank respectively.

MENTALLY CHALLENGED YOUTH CLIMBS ATOP PAWAN EXPRESS: The Railway Protection Force (RPF), Naini not only saved the life of a mentally challenged youth who had climbed atop a railway engine, but also averted a major mishap by timely cutting the power supply to the overhead equipment (OHE). As soon as the power supply was cut, the RPF personnel safely brought down the youth from the engine.

RPF said the youth climbed the engine of the Pawan Express (11061-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to Jaynagar)

when it stopped at the junction on Tuesday morning.

RPF sub-inspector VK Tiwari, who handled the emergency situation, said: "On Tuesday morning, during the stoppage of Pawan Express at platform number four of Naini Junction, a youth who is said to be mentally challenged, climbed on the engine of the train. Identified as Lorit, 19, the youth was going from Pune to Rasda, Ballia along with his elder brother Santosh."

Seeing the youth climb atop the engine, RPF and GRP personnel on duty rushed to the spot. They first cut the power of the OHE wire following which attempts were made to convince Lorit to come down. When he did not agree, the security personnel brought him down, forcibly.

It was learnt that Lorit was travelling along with his elder brother Santosh Yadav, a native of Rasda, Ballia. Both of them stay and work in Pune and

Santosh was taking his brother for a medical check-up he (Lorit) was mentally challenged.

Santosh said, "My brother is mentally ill and is being treated by a doctor of Rasra. On Tuesday, as the train number 11061 Pawan Express stopped at Naini station, Lorit climbed on top of the engine and took off his clothes. However, taking timely action the RPF personnel on duty saved my brother."

RPF sources said he even tried to touch the OHE by lifting the pento (used to supply power to the train engine). After a lot of effort, some people caught Lorit from behind, after which the RPF and vendors brought him down by climbing on the engine from all sides. During this, the train stood at Naini station for about 22 minutes.

RPF Naini said that the youth was questioned but after seeing his medical records, they were allowed to go.

AU student leader alleges receiving death threats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Ajay Yadav Samrat, the student leader of Allahabad University and the convener of the Sanyukt Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti, has received death threats. He alleged that the students, posing as the inmates of Holland Hall hostel, threatened him by calling him several times from different mobile numbers. Ajay Yadav said that he had closed all the three gates to catch the youths running away after snatching money

from a student. After that he started receiving threats.

Student leader Ajay Yadav Samrat said that on Monday night, some youths snatched money from a student of Allahabad University by pretending to be an inmate of Holland Hall. When the student informed him about this, he closed all the three gates of the university so that the money snatchers could not run away. However, even after a lot of search, the students who snatched the money could not

be found.

Meanwhile, at around 12 o'clock in the night, Ajay Yadav Samrat received three calls one after the other. In this, he was threatened to close the gate and also threatened with death. Ajay Yadav Samrat said that many calls were made claiming them to be inmates of Holland Hall. A complaint has been given to the police in this connection.

On the other hand, students of Allahabad University have become agitated after

learning about the death threat given to student leader Ajay Yadav Samrat. The students said that this matter will be kept during the talks with the Vice Chancellor.

It may be pointed out here that the students' movement has been going on for almost a month in protest against the fee hike in Allahabad University. In this, Ajay Yadav Samrat, the student leader and the convener of the Sanyukt Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti, is also opposing the fee hike.

Muslim woman performs Kanya puja

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): Breaking all the taboos of Muslim religion, Rehana Khatoon of Muslim Rashtriya Manch has presented an example of respect for Sanatan tradition. On Tuesday she performed the 'kanya puja' and also gave them gifts and also took blessings from them.

Rehana, a resident of Katra Bakhtiyari, is a graduate. She has been active in the field of social service for almost seven years. It is said that while following the customs of Muslim religion, she also respects the Sanatan tradition. She has also been involved with the people of Hindu society in other events like Durga Puja, Navratra.

Seeing everyone, she also got the inspiration to do kanya poojan during navratra. This is the reason why she gathered 11 girls at his brother's residence in Manmohan Park and washed their feet. After that, everyone was served food by covering them with chunri with their own hands.

After the poojan and food, every girl child was also motivated to attend school regularly. In the gift, a copy, pencil, rubber, bag etc. were also given. She said, daughters should be respected by all. This festival



Rehana Khatoon of Muslim Rashtriya Manch performing kanya puja on ninth day of Shardiya Navratra.

teaches the respect of women. By doing this we all will be able to make our society virtuous.

Meanwhile, the ninth day of the shardiya Navratra, the Mahanavami, was celebrated with great religious fervour in the city here on Tuesday. A queue of devotees was lined up outside the temples of Alopi Devi, Kalyani and Lalita Devi to pay obeisance since morning.

Devotees also thronged the Puja Pandal in large numbers to get darshan of goddess Siddhatri, the ninth incarnation of goddess Durga.

Apart from the daily shringaar, havan and poor-nahuti were also performed in

different temples where visitors gathered in large numbers to seek the darshan of goddess Durga.

It may be pointed out here that the festival of Navami is the celebration of the last day of shardiya navratra. On this auspicious day devotees observed fasting, visited temples to offer special prayers, took religious processions and the special readings of Ramayana were also held, said a prominent priest Pandit Kailash Tripathi.

Explaining the importance of fasting on Navami he said that a devotee also keeps fast on Navami, because the Navami vrata was

considered to be one of the five most important vratas in ancient times. According to the ancient religious texts, it is imperative for every devotee to observe Navami vrat, as it was the only easy means of gaining happiness in the material world and achieved salvation at the same time, he added.

Devotees offered coconuts, flowers and chunaris to the deity and offered prayers. Special prayers, bhajans, shringars and ratri jagran were also held at the temples.

Chanting slogans of 'Jai Mata Di', holding coconut, bangles and red 'chunnis' (shrouds) in their hands, devotees thronged city temples and formed a beeline outside famous temples of the Sangam city, including Kalyani Devi temple, Alopiabagh, Lalita Devi-which is one of the 51 Shakti Peeths-along with many other small temples.

The temple authorities have made wide preparations required to meet the heavy rush of devotees that come to these temples for all the nine days.

Cultural programmes were also organized at different places. With the end of Navmi, the festival of Vijay Dashmi will be celebrated on Wednesday.

FIRST COLUMN

MENTAL HEALTH MUST BE A GLOBAL PRIORITY

Mental health issues must be dealt with honesty



DR JYOTI KAPOOR

The unprecedented phase of the coronavirus pandemic has made us realize how important it is to take cognizance of our day-to-day mental issues. Our perception of rampant mental health issues entailing depression and anxiety has transformed.

But we need to walk a long way to make it a health priority. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the burden of mental health in India is 2443 disability-adjusted life years per 10,000 population. The age-adjusted suicide rate in the same figure is 21.1. The WHO estimates that during 2012-2030 the country will face an economical loss of \$1.03 trillion due to mental health issues.

Mental health can affect an individual's thoughts, behaviours, and feelings. It has been observed that depression has a stronger effect on the body than any physical injury. Even science has proved this in various studies. Anything holding the capability to disturb an individual's routine and potential to achieve things in life is not worth it.

Our body, mind, and spirit depend on our mental stability. If not taken proper care, it can affect career and physical health. To make yourself a priority with chaos in the head is a challenging task but aren't we good at slaying weird situations? Letting a situation control your life performance makes no sense and will make no difference to the people around you. Your skills need to be polished, your career needs a ladder, and your well-being needs a break from everything.

Enhancing mental health is crucial because a depressed and anxious mind can cause hindrance in taking out the best version of us. Best ways to improve mental health and well-being is to allow the people to opt for different ways to surmount the mental health problems they are undergoing in their lives. For some, it works the tra-



ditional method of shutting inside the room till things seem normal and for some, it goes the excessive exercise way.

However, such escape routes are not recommended by mental health experts. It needs to be dealt with from the base. Take a journal and note down how your days are and what you feel. Examine your thoughts written after a week and then after a month. Soon, you'll notice the graph of your thoughts and understand which direction it leads. Every weird situation has goodness hidden in it. Finding that would make your mental health a priority!

Get out of closed walls. A walk to the nearest park or spending time enjoying sunrise and sunsets will put your mind at ease. It might be difficult in the beginning but patience is the key. Spend time helping others and trying new activities. Plan a hike, go on adventures, and explore activities that get you back to your happy self. Sleep is very important, especially when you are experiencing mental issues. Try belly breathing or yoga. It will help you loosen your muscles, put your body at ease and have quality sleep.

The government and even influencers on social media have done a commendable job in spreading awareness about mental health. It starts from home. Mental health can be a global priority when we have patience and understanding in cooperating with our loved ones going through it. Talking is always the first step to understanding their situation and getting into their shoes. Lend them your ears without any judgment or confrontation. Giving them the confidence that they can trust you is the best thing one can do to help people with mental issues.

(The author is Founder, Manasthali)

Pakistan promotes anti-Hindu violence

Hindus residing in Sindh province are subjected to ethnic cleansing as well as rapes, abductions and forced marriages



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

Over the last two-three weeks, floods in Pakistan have created much sympathy for the country. It has been the most reported natural calamity in the world. Most prominently, it has been able to re-kindle its relations with the US, with Washington announcing \$2 million for flood relief funds. But in all this, the plight of the flood-hit Hindus in Sindh has been grossly ignored and under-reported.

Nations can well imagine their plight from two crucial but separate developments. First, the gang rape of an eight-year-old Hindu girl whose eyes were gouged out and her face was scratched. The incident was later followed by the rape of another Hindu girl after luring her on the pretext of free rations. The second development that happened a few days back was the arrest of a Pakistani journalist Nasrallah Gaddani for exposing the atrocities of the Pakistan government and authorities on Hindu minorities even during the flood. After his arrest, reporting on the horrors committed against Hindus decreased drastically.

Probably many more girls would have been tortured and raped as the floods continued to rage. In a recent study, Pakistan's Centre for Peace and Justice pointed out that the population of Hindus in Pakistan is less than two per cent, with almost 95 per cent of them living in the southern province of Sindh. Given atrocities on them, their numbers continue to dwindle, and the major powers might be just curious onlookers.

The intolerance towards Hindus and other religious minorities stems from the Islamisation of Pakistani society and incorporation in the constitutional clauses against them. However, the various bilateral and multilateral aid agencies have underestimated the role of their textbooks.

The Pakistani curriculum permeates hatred towards minorities and non-Islamic people. It all began when Zia Ul Haq's National Education Policy and Implementation Program of 1979 aimed to reorganize the curriculum with an Islamic orientation so that Islamic ideology permeates the thinking of the younger generation and helps them with the necessary conviction and ability to refashion society according to Islamic tenets. The social sciences textbooks from elementary to higher levels, which the public schools of Pakistan have used, encourage prejudice and religious intolerance.

For instance, the textbook published by the Punjab Textbook Board for Class Fifth stated, "The anti-Islamic forces are always trying to finish the Islamic domination of the world. This can cause danger for the very existence of Islam. Today, the defence of Pakistan and Islam is very much in need". Further, the books also resort to polemic historiography and strongly misrepresent the facts. Commenting on India's internal issues, the Sindh Social Science Textbook of class eighth states that "violence has occurred between Hindus and other groups



RECENTLY, A SIKH TEACHER IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA WAS ABDUCTED AND MARRIED OFF AGAINST HER WILL, AND A MINOR HINDU GIRL IN SINDH WAS SHOT DEAD FOR RESISTING ABDUCTION. MINORITY WOMEN IN PAKISTAN CONTINUE TO LIVE A LIFE OF FEAR

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)



living in Pakistan, which resulted in the destruction of Babri mosque and Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat".

Nevertheless, the "beginning of the civilisation" in the South Asian subcontinent as per the textbook has been attributed to the conquest of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim and Ghaznavi's 17 invasions of India. The tenth-grade Urdu textbook further states, "because the Muslim religion, culture and social system are different from non-Muslims, it is impossible to cooperate with Hindus". Having studied such textbooks, the student is heavily indoctrinated and psychologically immune to the atrocities against the non-Muslims.

Additionally, the role of Pakistani teachers adds fuel to the fire. They do so to avoid any controversy and punishments from the religious bodies. Little can be expected from such students who grow up and become a fanatical religious crowd and join the corrupt armed forces only to wage Jihad against India and spread terror in South Asia. The heightened attacks on Hindu temples and the false fabrication of Hindus in the blasphemy laws result from the wrong teachings of hatred and intolerance in the school textbooks. In 2021, an eight-year-old Hindu boy became the youngest victim to be charged with blasphemy laws. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2020 report on blasphemy states that Pakistan is one of those four countries apart from Bangladesh, Nigeria and Egypt that account for nearly 80 per cent of all reported incidents of mob-related violence which coincided with instances of state officials

committing acts of violence, including torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, against accused blasphemers. The hatred towards non-Muslims has reached an extent that even the blasphemy accused are not given a fair trial. Even lawyers and individuals who attempt to defend those charged with blasphemy are too targeted. The case of Pakistani lawyer Saif ul Malook is an important one.

Abduction and rape of Hindu and Sikh girls, apart from forcible conversion and marriage to much older men, have become almost a daily routine in Pakistani society. Recently, a Sikh teacher in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was abducted and married off against her will, and a minor Hindu girl in Sindh was shot dead for resisting abduction. The minority women throughout Pakistan continue to live a life of fear. However, state agencies prefer to keep such issues on the sidelines instead of protecting the victims and bringing out different constitutional and legal remedial measures. Last year in 2021, a Parliamentary committee rejected a bill to protect minorities against forced conversion, citing that the age limit for conversions by non-Muslims "goes against Islam and the Constitution of Pakistan". Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs also opposed the bill. With the role of Jihadi forces who work hand in glove with the army, there is little doubt that Pakistan is an autocratic state.

Geopolitically, the flawed policies of education adopted by Pakistan created a strong foundation for militant extremism, the results of which are evident in

Afghanistan and India. The overall political idea that the identity of Islam is directly correlated with Pakistan also gave birth to its geopolitically impaired vision that Pakistan is the "leader" of the Islamic countries, and hence its views and opinions ideally be reflected in the foreign and security policies of the Middle East countries. Thus, its support for Jihad in Kashmir and its state-crafted turmoil in Afghanistan is well understood.

The 2022 report of the US International Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that Pakistan be redesignated as a "country of particular concern" or CPC, for "engaging in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom" reforming the "educational textbooks, curricula, and teacher training materials to ensure content is inclusive of and not discriminatory toward religious minorities".

Finally, it recommended "incorporating religious freedom concerns into its larger oversight of the US-Pakistan bilateral relationship" which has been ignored meaningfully in the recent sales of F-16 spare parts and the announcement of financial aid to Pakistan. Previously, in 2021, Pakistan was designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), but sanctions were deliberately avoided in lieu of the "important national interest of the United States". Peace in South Asia will remain an elusive dream, and despite economic assistance or whatever international support it can get, it is unlikely that Pakistan will ever become a normal state with a functional rule of law.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

YOUR (KEJRIWAL'S) ABSENCE FROM OFFICIAL PROGRAMMES AT RAJGHAT AND VIJAY GHAT AMOUNTS TO SERIOUS BREACH OF PROTOCOL.—DELHI LT GOVERNOR VK SAXENA



IN THE WAKE OF MASSIVE SUPPORT FOR KERJRIWAL, AFTER CHAIRS WERE EMPTY AT THE PM'S RALLY, THE LETTER HAS BEEN WRITTEN.—DELHI DY CHIEF MINISTER MANISH SISODIA

Gandhis will still control Cong sans accountability

Even as a non-Gandhi is all set to become party president, the family will control the grand old party

Now that Congress will have a non-Gandhi chief, what happens to the three Gandhis—Sonja, Rahul and Priyanka? Will they continue to dominate the affairs of the party? When a reporter asked about their future role, Sonja Gandhi said, "Of course, you have to ask the party, I suppose." But one can see a clear game plan. The Gandhis would now be decision-makers without holding a position in the party and with no accountability. Sonja Gandhi would become a Rajmata, and Priyanka would be another power centre. But Rahul will have the remote.

As senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said in an interview, "Congress president or not, Rahul will always have a pre-eminent place in



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

the party." He has nuanced it by explaining between 1921 and 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was the acknowledged leader of the Congress, and afterward, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. "There have been periods in Congress' history when the leader and the president were different persons. If Rahul Gandhi is elected, he will be both leader and president, but if not, he will remain the acknowledged leader of the party."

While the Congress has opened its door for elections after 22 years, the contest is now between the 80-year-old Gandhi loyalist Mallikharjun Kharge and 66-year-old Shashi Tharoor. Kharge, who

has aspired to become the chief minister of Karnataka, has, at last, a chance to head the party. Congress has had at least 13 presidents outside the Nehru-Gandhi clan. They include J B Kripalani, B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Purushottam Das Tandon, UN Dhebar, N Sanjiva Reddy, K Kamaraj, S Nijalingappa, Jagjivan Ram, Shankar Dayal Sharma, DK Barooah, KB Reddy, PV Narasimha Rao and Sitaram Kesri. It was DK Barooah who famously said, "Indira is India and India is Indira."

Contests in the Congress are also not new. It was way back in 1950 when Tandon and Kripalani contested. Tandon, a Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel loyalist, had won the contest, trumping Prime

Minister Nehru's choice.

The last time Congress held an election was in 2000 when the late Jitendra Prasada challenged Sonja Gandhi. As expected, she easily trounced Jitendra Prasada by bagging 7,448 votes against his paltry 94.

The Rahul phenomenon has become a liability as he is not a vote-catcher. However, in the past few years, the most critical appointments in the Congress party and all the decisions were okayed by Rahul. All these, of course, are without responsibility. As the Gandhis had decided on a loyalist as the candidate, trouble came from unexpected quarters. It was from the man Sonja Gandhi propped up to take over her position—Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Ghelot.

Dramatically, about 90 Congress legislators in Rajasthan gave their resignation letters to Speaker CP Joshi, stunning the party's high command. Ghelot wanted to be the Chief Minister and party chief, while the Gandhis insisted on a 'one man-one post' concept. Sonja summoned Ghelot, after which he backed out of the contest for the president of the party. Then began the search for a dummy president, and Kharge, the party's leader in Rajya Sabha, fitted the role.

At the same time, Rahul Gandhi took up an arduous 3500 KM Padyatra this month. Rahul's answer is "the Congress party has decided to do a Padayatra across the country. I am a member of the Congress party, and as a mem-

ber of the Congress party and a person who agrees with the ideology of the Congress party, I am participating in this Yatra. I don't see any contradiction in my participation in this Yatra."

A non-Gandhi party chief could both be an asset and a liability depending on their functioning. They come with no baggage. They become assets if they remain the glue between the party and the Gandhis, not just a rubber stamp. The new Congress chief should also be a vote catcher and unite the party. He should promote talent. Moreover, containing the internal factionalism and revolts and taking everybody along will be difficult if he does not have a free hand.

The next Congress presi-

dent would have an unenviable task on their hands — 'managing' the high command on the one hand and rejuvenating the dying party organization on the other. The new president will remain under the family's radar.

Rahul's advice to the new Congress president is "you represent a set of ideas, a belief system, and a vision of India". He elaborated, saying, "What we decided at Udaipur, we expect that commitment to be maintained", meaning the one man, one post concept.

The political leadership has always been with the Gandhis, and even non-Gandhi presidents have owed allegiance to them. So, what is clear is that the Gandhis will continue to dominate whether elected or not.

‘LAC stand-offs over but forces maintaining operational readiness’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As stand-offs at most friction points at the border in Ladakh have ended, IAF chief VR Chaudhari said here on Tuesday “best benchmark for normalcy” is the restoration of status quo ante. He also said the forces are maintaining operational readiness irrespective of Chinese belligerence.

The IAF chief’s remarks came days after Chinese envoy to New Delhi Sun Weidong said here the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is moving towards being “normalized.” He also called for India and China to work more closely together to resolve differences, in a speech marking the 73rd anniversary of the People’s Republic of China.

The Chinese Ambassador’s statement came weeks after the two sides agreed to disengage at Patrolling Point (PP) 15 at the LAC, one of several “friction points.” In a virtual address, the Chinese ambassador said “the current border situation is overall stable,” adding “the phase of emergency response since the



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari speaks during a press conference ahead of the 90th Air Force Day celebrations on Oct. 8, in New Delhi, on Tuesday
PTI Photo

Galwan Valley incident has basically come to an end, and the border situation is now switching to normalised management and control.” China was prepared to seek a solution to the LAC situation through further dialogue and consultation, but that he hoped India

would address China’s “core interests” that included the Taiwan question and Xizang (Tibet) related issues, he said. One the same day on September 28, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said India strives to have a relationship with China that is built

on mutual sensitivity, respect and interest. He made these assertions during his visit to Washington. Apparently calling for returning to the respective bases as they existed prior to May 2020 when the situation flared up at the LAC when stressing status quo ante, Chaudhari said the forces are continuously monitoring the situation after the disengagement from PP-15.

“The benchmark for normalisation at LAC in Ladakh best option would be to return to status quo” and completion of disengagement from all the friction points, the IAF chief said while addressing media conference on the occasion of the 90th Air Force Day on October 8.

For the first time, the Air Force Day parade is shifted for the national capital region and will take place in Chandigarh including a thrilling aerial display over the Sukhna lake there. More than 83 aircraft and helicopters will enthrall the spectators. Meanwhile, Chaudhari said the IAF has taken appropriate ‘non-escalatory’ measures to deal with Chinese activities along the border in eastern Ladakh.

Asked about recent incidents of Chinese fighter jets flying close to the LAC, he said appropriate non-escalatory measures have been taken and a message was sent to the neighbouring country. “Our overall preparation is a continuous process irrespective of Chinese belligerence,” the IAF chief said.

“Disengagement has taken place but we keep monitoring PLA Air Force. There has been rapid infrastructure development across LAC. We continuously enhance our capabilities, increased number of radars. We are able to signal our intent by taking action,” he said.

Stressing the point that both the sides are following the confidence building measures, he said the IAF is using the army hotline to address any urgent issues with China. Moreover, an IAF officer is now present during the military level talks at the LAC.

The recent air space violations by the Chinese air force when its jets came close to LAC on its side were flagged during the meeting, he added. As regards any disruption in the supply chain due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Chaudhari said there was no

impact on the IAF. He said more than 60,000 spare parts were supplied every year by the Indian manufacturers thereby

slowly decreasing dependence on Russian spares and related equipment, he informed. He also said the IAF will start

recruiting women as Agniveers from next year while first batch of Agniveers will start training from December this year.

IAF chief: Have reservations on some theatre commands aspects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan is likely to hasten up the process of a major reform of setting up theatre commands, IAF chief VR Chaudhari said here on Tuesday he is not against the concept but has reservations about certain structures.

Theatre command first mooted by late CDS General Bipin Rawat to forge synergy and optimum use of available assets envisage geographical specific commands. The IAF has expressed doubts about certain aspects of the concept.

Asserting that the IAF is not against the theatre command, Chaudhari listed three

or four issues. He said the commands have to be future ready and take into account space and cyber threats besides traditional challenges.

He also favoured reduced decision making chain and flexibility besides synergising core competencies of the three Services. Chaudhari also said each Service has its own doctrine and it cannot be compromised.

“We are not opposing integration or theatre commands. Certain reservations on structure. Structure should be future warfare oriented, include cyber and space domains.

Decision making chain should reduce. Supporting the integration process structures should be future ready,” he said. Asked about reduced

squadron strength, the IAF chief said given the vast nation and demand for security from Sir Creek to Siachen, 42 squadrons are sanctioned and there is no need to reduce it.

At present, the IAF has 30 squadrons and the current pace of inductions will ensure that 35 to 36 squadrons will be in place by the middle of next decade. One squadron has 18 to 20 fighter jets.

On the phasing out schedule of the ageing jets, Chaudhari said one squadron of MiG 21 has recently retired leaving the IAF with three that will be phased out in the next two to three years. Five to six squadrons of Jaguar will be phased out 2032-33 followed by three MiG 29 and three Mirage squadrons.

HP Govt withdraws ‘character certificate’ order

After facing backlash, State allows scribes to cover Prime Minister’s Dussehra visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After facing backlash, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has withdrawn a controversial notification seeking ‘certificate for character verification’ from journalists wanting to cover Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit on Wednesday to Bilaspur for Dussehra celebrations.

“I invite all journalists to cover PM’s visit to the State on October 5. We’ve withdrawn official order & sought expla-



nation from issuing official”, said the Chief Minister after Bilaspur. District Administration had earlier issued order demanding “certificate of character verification” from journalists covering Prime Minister’s event. On Wednesday, Modi will inaugurate a slew of developmental projects in the poll-bound Himachal Pradesh including AIIMS at Bilaspur and partic-

ipate in the famous Kullu Dussehra celebrations during his visit to Himachal Pradesh. The district administration of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh had ordered journalists looking to cover Modi’s visit to produce character certificates in order to obtain access passes. The order applied not only to privately-owned news publications, but also to public broadcasters All India Radio and Doordarshan as well.

The police, too, issued a notification on September 29 directing the District Public Relations Officer to provide a list of all “correspondents, photographers, videographers team of Doordarshan Kendra and AIR along with a certificate of their character verification” to the deputy superintendent of police, Criminal Investigation Department, Bilaspur, by

October 1. “Their access within the rally or meeting will be decided by this office,” the notification read. On Tuesday Himachal director general of police Sanjay Kundu, however, clarified in a tweet that all journalists are welcome to cover the event and that the state’s police will “facilitate their coverage.”

The Prime Minister will inaugurate the AIIMS at Bilaspur, the foundation of which was laid by him in October 2017. It had been established under the Centre’s Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

AIIMS, Bilaspur, constructed at a cost of more than Rs 1,470 crore, is a state-of-the-art hospital with 18 specialty and 17 super-specialty departments, 18 modular operation theatres and 750 beds, including 64 ICU beds.

16 held for cyber fraud in raids on 115 locations; 300 under CBI’s radar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another global operation, the CBI on Tuesday conducted ‘Operation Chakra’ and raided 115 locations in eight States/Union Territories leading to the arrest of 16 accused people for cyber fraud. The searches were conducted in coordination with the police forces of State/Union Territories, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of USA, Interpol, Royal Canadian police and Australian police.

During the nationwide searches, cash to the tune of Rs 1.8 crore and 1.5 Kg gold was also recovered besides seizure of electronic evidence. The searches were carried out with the participation of and in coordination with Police Forces



of eight States/Union Territories including Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Assam, Karnataka, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Chandigarh and Haryana, the CBI said in a statement.

“The operation intends to dismantle the infrastructure of these international cybercrime gangs in India and bring these perpetrators to justice, India’s fight against trans-national organized cybercrime has thus achieved a major milestone,” it said. Searches were conducted

at around 115 locations. Of these, CBI is conducting searches in 11 cases at about 87 locations including 16 States while other State/UT are conducting searches at around 28 locations including Assam Police in two places; Andaman & Nicobar Island Police in four places; Chandigarh Police in three places; Delhi Police in five places; Karnataka Police in 12 places and Punjab Police in two places, it said.

During searches so far, cash

of Rs 1.8 crore and 1.5 kg gold was recovered and two call centers in Pune and Ahmedabad were also busted by the CBI.

Bank accounts with balances of around Rs 1.89 crore have been frozen in Karnataka. Huge digital evidence including mobiles and laptops have also been recovered. Investigation is continuing, it added. As many as 300 suspects are under the scanner of the CBI and police forces. The cash and gold was recovered from just one location searched in Rajasthan. The two call centres in Pune and Ahmedabad were targeting gullible American citizens and the FBI has been apprised of the developments related to the searches and they are taking action, sources said.



On the last day of the Durga Puja, people crowd a community pandal installed by the Durga Puja Samiti at Chittaranjan Park in New Delhi on Tuesday.
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

India, UK discuss key Defence and security issues



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the UK reviewed the entire spectrum of their Defence ties during Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar’s talks with his counterparts in London. He co-chaired the India-UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting with his counterpart David Williams, UK Permanent Under Secretary of State for Defence there on Monday.

They reviewed the progress of various Service level bilateral groups and other Defence cooperation mechanisms, the Defence

Ministry said here on Tuesday. Kumar held discussion on a wide range of issues relating to the defence and industrial cooperation between India and UK.

Both sides considered new areas for defence industrial cooperation, explored emerging domains such as cyber and Artificial Intelligence, and committed to work together for strengthening the bilateral defence relationship.

Later, Kumar also held a bilateral meeting with UK National Security Advisor Tim Barrow. They discussed a number of key Defence and security issues.

Def Min green lights renaming of Faizabad Cantt as Ayodhya Cantonment



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved renaming the Faizabad Cantt as Ayodhya Cantonment. The renaming of the Cantonment comes ahead of Dussehra celebrations. The Faizabad Cantt will be known as Ayodhya Cantonment,” said official sources.

Singh is currently undertaking a two-day visit to Uttarakhnad. He will have a ‘Bada Khana’ with soldiers at Dehradun on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, he will perform ‘Shastra Puja’ in Chamoli on the occasion of Vijaya Dashmi. He will celebrate Dussehra with soldiers at Auli and Mana, and will offer prayers at Badrinath Dham.

ED attaches ₹6 cr worth assets of KN Marzook under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs. 6.03 crore on money laundering charges in the case against K N Marzook and others for illegally entering into agreement with Kerala Chamber of Commerce and Industry and selling building space to Kerala Trade Centre.

Attached assets include various movable and immovable properties in the form of bank accounts, land, residential and commercial space in Kerala Trade Centre (KTC) building situated in Ernakulam standing in Marzook’s name as well as in the name of Kerala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Cherupushpam Films Private Limited. The ED initiated a money laundering investigation against Marzook and others on the basis of an FIR filed by Central Police Station, Ernakulam, Kerala.

The ED probe revealed that K N Marzook misusing his official position, made KCCI enter into sale agreements with



buyers of KTC and received money from various buyers for selling the building space of Kerala Trade Centre in cash, the agency said in a statement.

The probe further revealed that Marzook received huge cash amounts from the prospective buyers and had diverted money received from the sale of KTC building space to start a private TV channel namely India Middle East Broadcasting Network (IMBN).

This TV channel was banned by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting due to the involvement of K N Marzook. Further, it was revealed that crores of rupees were diverted from KTC accounts to KCCI and IMBN accounts by KN Marzook, the agency added.

MHA adds LeT, HM’s J&K ultras in list under UAPA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday designated as terrorists a slew of Hizbul-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Tayabba ultras from Jammu and Kashmir under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for radicalization and recruitment activities in the Valley.

The Union Home Ministry designated Hizbul-ul-Mujahideen’s chief launching commander Showkat Sheikh besides Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo as terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on charges of spreading terror and violence

in Jammu and Kashmir and for “radicalising and motivating youths to join terrorist ranks to carry out terror activities in the Kashmir Valley”.

The Centre further designated launching commander of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen Bashir Ahmad Peer as a terrorist under UAPA for his role in terror activities and for providing logistics to the banned outfit’s terrorists for infiltration in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Centre also declared Lashkar-e-Tayabba member Habibullah Malik as a terrorist under UAPA for “radicalising Kashmiri youths and recruiting them into militancy through his network”.

NPPA fixes prices of 40 new drugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the retail price of 40 new drugs including generic fixed dose formulations of diabetes drugs dapagliflozin and sitagliptin, among others.

Some of these drugs include those used to treat high blood pressure, certain kinds of cancers, bacterial infection and bone pain and joint pain.

The Authority discussed retail price fixation of 42 new drugs and approved 40 of them, except for two formulations on which the marketers made representation on the retail price recommended by the Multidisciplinary



Committee of Experts. The products, for which the retail prices were fixed include dapagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride (extended release) tablets marketed by MSN Laboratories, Sun Pharma Laboratories, Macleods Pharmaceuticals, and Wockhardt Ltd have also been fixed. Out of the 42 formulations, pantaprazole powder for oral suspension (sodium bicar-

bonate as buffer) from Alkem Laboratories and lidocaine patch 5 per cent from Hetero Healthcare were not fixed by the Authority during the meeting, sources said.

Alkem Laboratories and Hetero Healthcare made representations to the Authority on the retail price recommended by the Multidisciplinary Committee of Experts (MDC) in its last meeting held on September 13, 2022, and the Authority deliberated upon the matter in detail and decided to refer the matter to the MDC for examination of the representation, said the sources.

The Authority meeting held on September 27, also fixed the retail price of dextrose injection 25% w/v in 100 ml in

specific container, mannitol injection 20 gm per 100 ml in 100 ml pack in special package, Metronidazole Injection IP 500 mg/100 ml in 100 ml pack with special packaging and from Axa Parenterals.

It has also extended the ceiling price of sodium chloride injection 0.9per cent in 500 ml with special feature packaging, glucose injections 5per cent in 500 ml non glass with special features with euro head, and ringer lactate injection in special packaging among others for Puerto Life Sciences Pvt Ltd, dextrose injection 5per cent in 500 ml pack with packaging in non glass with special features with brand ‘Safe Port’ from Sachin Parenteral, among others, during the meeting, said the sources.

IN SHORTS

SANJEEV KISHORE IS NEW DG ORDNANCE (C&S)

New Delhi: Sanjeev Kishore, a 1985 batch officer of the Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS), has taken over as the Director General Ordnance (C&S) upon the superannuation of M K Grag. Before taking over the charge of DGO (C&S), Kishore was the Additional Director General Ordnance at the Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services), Kolkata.

SC ALLOWS MUMBAI COASTAL ROAD PROJECT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has allowed the municipal corporation of Greater Mumbai to commence partial development work in the ongoing Mumbai Coastal Road Project while observing that sustainable development is an important ingredient in the protection of environment.

Maha ex-HM gets bail in PMLA case but he can't walk free

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

More than eleven months after he was arrested for alleged money laundering, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to Maharashtra's former Home Minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh in the much-discussed case in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), after indirectly holding that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had failed to prove two of its allegations against the former minister, while Deshmukh was given benefit under law in the third allegation.

However, Deshmukh will continue to be lodged in judicial custody at the Arthur Road Central Prison as he is

being investigated by the CBI in a corruption case.

In a development that came after the Supreme Court expressed its displeasure over the delay in hearing Deshmukh's bail application, a single-member HC bench of Justice NJ Jamadar – while granting bail to the state's former Home Minister – asked the former minister to furnish a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and sureties of the like amount. He also imposed conditions on him for attendance before the trial court and the ED.

The Judge ruled that the bail order would come into effect from October 13 to enable ED to file an appeal before the Supreme Court.

In observations that would have bearing on the

impending trial against Deshmukh, Justice Jamadar noted: "We have held that the first two components of credit in the Trust do not form proceeds of crime. Third component depends on the statement of (dismissed Mumbai cop) Sachin Waze which in the discussion falls in favour of the applicant (Deshmukh). Apart from this, the applicant is also given the benefit under the proviso under Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)".

After the high court granted bail to Deshmukh, the ED sought a stay on the operation of order for two weeks stating that the Supreme Court was shut for Dussehra holidays and would reopen October 10.

Opposing two weeks' time



sought by the CBI to move the Supreme Court, Deshmukh's lawyer told the high court that the investigating agency could file an appeal in the Supreme Court even during the vacation and it is not the case that the applicant is to come out on bail as he is in custody for a CBI case.

After hearing both the sides, the high court ruled that its bail order would come

into from October 13.

It may be recalled that based on a case of corruption registered by the CBI, the ED arrested Deshmukh on November 2, 2021 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office. Deshmukh has been in custody in judicial custody since then.

Deshmukh is being investigated by the CBI in connection with a First Information Report (FIR) registered by it on April 24 section 7 of the amended Prevention of Corruption Act and section 120-b (conspiracy) of IPC for an "attempt to obtain undue advantage for important and dishonest performance of the public duty".

Special Court extends Raut's judicial custody for 14 days

TN RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

A Special Court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Shiv Sena leader and MP Sanjay Raut for 14 days in a money laundering case linked to alleged Rs 1,034 crore Patra Chawl redevelopment scam.

After hearing Raut's bail plea, a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) extended the Shiv Sena MP's judicial custody till September 19.

Raut, who was detained by the ED on July 31 after a raid on his Bhandup residence and his questioning that lasted for



more than nine hours, was formally placed under by the investigating agency at 12.05 am on August 1 under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The PMLA court had earlier remanded Raut to ED custody till August 4. The ED is investigating the alleged irregulari-

ties in a money laundering case pertaining to the redevelopment of Patra Chawl by Guru Ashish Construction Pvt Ltd a subsidiary of Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL).

The ED's action against Raut came nearly two months after the investigating agency attached provisionally properties worth Rs 11.15 crore belonging to three persons, including Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's wife Varsha Raut, under the PMLA in a case relating to the alleged irregularities in the Patra Chawl redevelopment project.

Cong leaders want change and that's why I am contesting, says Tharoor

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■
KOCHI



In a show of bravado, Shashi Tharoor MP, who is a candidate for the election of the All India Congress Committee president said at Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday that hereafter the party cadre would not blindly go by the diktat of the leadership.

"The party leadership itself has declared that anyone could contest for the party president's post and that is why I am in the race. The party cadre and leaders across the country want a change in the Congress. The days of the party cadre blindly obeying

the leadership are over," said Shashi Tharoor while speaking to the media at the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram.

A section of party workers had organised a reception for the leader at the party office though no prominent faces of the KPCC were present. AK Antony, veteran

Congress leader and a close confidante of party chief Sonia Gandhi has made it clear without any ambiguity that Mallikarjun Kharge would be the candidate who has the endorsement of the party High Command. Other senior leaders of the State that include Oommen Chandi, V D Satheeshan, Ramesh Chennithala, K Muralaeddharan have declared that Kharge was the party's choice. K Sudhakaran MP, who is the KPCC president too declared on Monday that Kharge was the official candidate of the party.

If Tharoor wins the race, he would be the first person from Kerala to head the AICC

in modern times. In 1897, Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair had been elected as the AICC president. Though there are 300 votes from Kerala, it is doubtful whether Tharoor would be able to pull off a coup in the race.

"Mallikarjun Kharge is the party's choice for the presidency. Do you think he would have quit as Opposition Leader of Rajya Sabha without the green signal from High Command? Even veteran leaders like Ashok Gehlot and Dhivijay Singh withdrew from the race once it was known that Kharge was the candidate," Mohammed Shiyaz, the Ernakulam DCC chief told *The Pioneer*.

Novel Navaratri event attracts hundreds

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■
KOCHI

The northern-most district Kasaragod, a melting pot of the culture and traditions of Kerala and Karnataka celebrated the 2022 Navaratri festivities in a unique style. Concerned over the falling standards of hand writing, Saparya, a cultural organization in the district held "Nama Vaibhavam", a mission to inculcate among the people the significance of hand writing. Participants were asked to submit hand written copies of Lalitha Sahasra Namam (a sacred Hindu text from the Brahmanda Purana that lists thousand names of Goddess Lalitha Devi, a manifestation of Divine Mother Shakti). Those who could perform the task in good hand writing and

without mistakes were awarded prizes.

More than 800 participants from India and abroad submitted copies of Lalitha Sahasra Namam which were scrutinized by a jury consisting of Sukumaran Periyachur, a retired government higher secondary school principal who is a stickler for good and neat hand writing. Other members of the jury included Sanskrit scholars and proponents of Vedas.

"It was a grueling mission. The quality of hand writing has come down to an alarming level among the new generation. But the older generation still retain the quality and standard of hand writing. We have to educate and inspire the new generation about the significance of possessing good hand writing," said Sukumaran Periyachur.

Swami Muktananda, pontiff of the age old Anandashramam, said that competition like this one would draw more participants by next year. "We have to ensure that the diction as well as hand writing always maintain high standards to ensure the strengthening of the language," said the pontiff.

It was a blessing from Goddess Lalitha, said N S Seetha Lakshmi, a homemaker from Kodungalloor, who won the first prize for the best handwritten copy. "I have been reciting Lalitha Sahasra Namam daily for the last thirty years and the Goddess has been kind enough to me. Since I started reciting it, my life underwent a major change," said

Seetha Lakshmi, who completed the manuscript in four days.

According to Sukumaran, though there was a separate competition for school and college students, no prizes could be awarded as the quality of the handwriting was poor. "We have to convince our new generation about improving the standard of their hand writing. Too much interaction with computers has spoiled the quality of handwriting. The entries we received were full of mistakes and it was difficult to discern what they have written," he said. This is the first of its kind competition in Kerala, said Sukumaran. The fact that entries were sent from India and abroad shows that there are people who have taken handwriting seriously.

FROM PAGE 1

10 KILLED, MANY TRAPPED IN UTTARKASHI AVALANCHE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed grief at the loss of lives in the incident.

The PM said, "It is saddening that we have lost precious lives of those associated with a NIM Uttarkashi mountaineering expedition. Condolences to the bereaved families. Rescue operations are underway and the situation is being closely monitored by the authorities."

Shah, who is currently in Jammu and Kashmir, tweeted in Hindi, "The avalanche incident in Uttarkashi is very sad. I have spoken to officials in this regard. Local administration, SDRE, NDRE, ITBP and Army teams are promptly engaged in relief and rescue works."

Expressing grief at the loss of lives, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami reached the disaster control room in Dehradun during the evening to seek the latest update and monitor the situation.

NO TERROR ANGLE IN J&K DG PRISONS MURDER, SAYS DGP

The shocking incident not only exposed the vulnerability of the senior cops and the loopholes in the security apparatus it also brought to light the element of complacency that has set in the belt force that even the mandatory verification was not done before attaching a domestic servant with the top cop.

A lesser known terrorist outfit the People's Anti-Fascist Force (PAFF) has claimed the responsibility for the murder. "Our special squad carried out an intelligence based operation in Udaiwala, Jammu, eliminating DG of police, prisons department HK Lohia, a high value target," the PAFF said in a release. However, the police have rejected the claim.

The PAFF has also owned all recent terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, including the attacks on non-locals. Threatening to carry out more such high-profile operations, the terror group warned that it can strike anytime and anywhere with precision.

"This is a small gift to their visiting Home Minister amid such a security grid," the PAFF said, referring to Amit Shah who is on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

DGP Dilbag Singh said Yasir had even tried to set ablaze the body of 57-year-old Lohia, who was promoted and appointed as Director General of Prisons in the Union Territory in August. Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh, who visited the house of Lohia's friend at Udaiwala

on the outskirts of Jammu, said the 1992-batch IPS officer was found dead on Monday night, with burns on his body and his throat slit.

A preliminary examination of the crime scene indicated that Lohia must have been applying some oil on his foot which showed swelling. The killer suffocated Lohia to death and also used a broken ketchup bottle to slit his throat and later tried to set the body afire, he said.

The ADGP said the CCTV footage collected from the incident site showed the accused running away after committing the crime. "Yasir was working in the house for nearly six months. Initial investigation revealed that he was quite aggressive in his behaviour and was also under depression," he said.

"A thorough probe is on to rule out any possibility. The weapon has been seized besides some documentary evidence showing the domestic help's mental state," he said.

Officials said the body of the deceased officer was sent to Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu, for post-mortem.

According to the preliminary reports, Lohia was staying with his close friend along with his wife and a domestic help since Sunday. On Monday evening Lohia arrived there around 7.00 p.m and his escort vehicle left the venue after dropping him. Lohia chose to stay there as his own Government accommodation was receiving a facelift.

GUJJAR, BAKERWAL, PAHARI IN J&K TO GET JOB QUOTA

"It was only after the Government changed in the country and Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, that Modi ji first conducted panchayat elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Just three families used to rule Jammu and Kashmir, but now power is with 30,000 people elected to panchayats, district councils," Shah said.

He further added, "Today Modi ji is bearing the full cost of health up to five lakhs to 27 lakh families across Jammu and Kashmir... What did these three families give in 70 years?"

Speaking on stone pelting cases in the Union Territory, Shah said, "Earlier, news of stone pelting used to come from Jammu and Kashmir. Today there is no news of stone pelting. Modi ji has worked to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir."

The Home Minister said that now no one can suppress the rights of people as Prime Minister Modi has ensured that democracy is not restricted within three families, but 30 thousand people become part of it.

Shah said that after the abrogation of Article 370, Prime Minister Modi had promised that elections

would be held at the earliest and for this delimitation was necessary. The earlier delimitation was not done as per the rules of the commission, but to benefit only the three families. But now for the first time after Independence, a real delimitation has been completed and seats have been increased in the hill areas. By initiating the delimitation process, Prime Minister Modi has ensured justice to the people in Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar. He said that the three families left no stone unturned in indulging in corruption during their rule.

Shah also said that from Independence until 2019, investments worth Rs 15,000 crore had been made. He added, "In these three years from 2019 till now, industrial investment of Rs 56,000 crore has come in the whole of Jammu and Kashmir."

Before his speech in Rajouri, Shah visited the Vaishno Devi Temple in Jammu. Shah is set to fly to Srinagar, where he will hold a security review and address a rally in Baramulla on Wednesday.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh were also present on the occasion.

RUSSIAN REMANDED IN 2-DAYS CBI CUSTODY FOR JEE-MAINS HACKING

In September last year, the agency had booked Affinity Education Pvt Ltd and its three directors, Siddharth Krishna, Vishwambhar Mani Tripathi and Govind Varshney, besides other touts and associates for alleged manipulation of examination.

It was alleged that the three directors, in conspiracy with other associates and touts, were manipulating the online examination of JEE (Mains) and facilitating aspiring students to get admission in top National Institutes of Technology in exchange for huge amounts of money. They used to solve the questions through remote access from a chosen examination centre in Sonapat (Haryana).

"It was also alleged that the accused used to obtain class 10 and 12 mark sheets, user IDs, passwords, and post dated cheques of aspiring students in different parts of the country as security and once admission was done, they used to collect heavy amount ranging from 12-15 lakh (approx) per candidate," the CBI said.

PARTIES MUST TELL VOTERS ABOUT FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF PROMISES, SAYS EC

"The Commission desires to solicit the views of the political parties before proceeding with the proposed amendment in sub para 3(iii) of Part VIII of MCC, as mentioned in paragraph 10 above. Accordingly, it is requested to kindly convey the views of your party in this regard, by 19th October, 2022.

If no response is received by then it will be presumed that your party has nothing specific to say on the proposed amendment in the MCC," the EC wrote to political parties, soliciting views for proceeding with proposed amendment for bringing about a standardised disclosure pro-forma with the aim of "not only strengthening MCC guidance for political parties and candidates but also ensuring authentic information to the voters to assess financial viability of election promises made by political parties".

"While the existing guidelines under MCC require the political parties and candidates to explain the rationale for promises made therein as well as the possible ways and means to finance such promises, the commission found that the declarations are quite routine, ambiguous and do not provide adequate information to voters to exercise informed choice in an election," it said.

The election body has suggested an amendment in the MMC, so as to add an additional form that includes the declarations of the extent and expanse of coverage (example, individual, family, community, BPL or all population, etc.); quantification of physical coverage as in (i) above; quantification of financial implications of the promise (s) made; availability of the financial resources; ways and means of raising resources for meeting the additional expenditure to be incurred in fulfilling the promises; impact of the additional resource raising plan (for fulfilling promises) on fiscal sustainability of the State or the Union Government, as the case may be.

The EC said empty poll promises have far-reaching ramifications, and added it cannot overlook the undesirable impact inadequate disclosures on election promises have on financial sustainability. "The Commission notes that the consequences of inadequate disclosures by political parties get attenuated by the fact that elections are held frequently, providing opportunities for political parties to indulge in competitive electoral promises, particularly in multi-phase elections, without having to spell out their financial implications more particularly on committed expenditure," the letter said.

The poll panel said it is of the considered view that with adequate disclosures on the financial implications of the promises made, the Indian electorate will be able to exercise informed poll choices.

"Although implementation of election promises could have several ramifications, the Commission proposes to confine the disclosures to only the financial implications of the

promises in terms of the financial resources required..." the letter said.

The poll panel in a recent meeting led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and attended by Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey decided it cannot remain a "mute spectator" and overlook the undesirable impact of some of the promises and offers, on the conduct of free and fair elections and maintaining level playing field, sources said.

LG ORDERS PROBE INTO POWER DBT GOOF-UP, AAP CRIES 'GUJ FEAR'

The complainants have alleged the AAP Government, instead of recovering the dues of Rs 21,200 crore allegedly owed by the BSES discoms for power purchased by them from State generation companies, allowed them (discoms) to settle their outstanding through subsidy reimbursements, the sources said. It was also alleged the discoms were allowed to charge Late Payment Surcharge (LPSC) at a rate of 18 per cent from consumers while they themselves paid LPSC at 12 per cent to the Delhi Government owned power generation companies. "In the process, the discoms were provided a windfall gain of Rs 8,500 crore at the cost of the State exchequer," alleged the complainants.

Terming the Delhi Lt Governor's probe order into the free electricity scheme in the national Capital as "yet another conspiracy" of the BJP to stop Arvind Kejriwal's "victory chariot" in poll-bound Gujarat, the AAP said authorities can go ahead with the probe but the AAP government in Delhi and Punjab will not stop the implementation of the free electricity scheme.

COLLEGIUM DIVIDED ON CJI'S LETTER METHOD TO ELEVATE JUDGES TO SC

Collegium meetings are held physically and the meeting fixed on September 30 did not take place as Justice DY Chandrachud's court held the proceedings till 9.30 pm. Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Abdul Nazeer and KM Joseph are the other three members of the Collegium. The CJI's letter is dated on October 1.

A Bar & Bench quoted a source to claim that the CJI had sent the letter to all the judges of the Collegium on October 1, but two judges refused to grant consent. "This is an unprecedented act. There are reasons, merits and demerits why a judge is not elevated and putting them in writing is not proper. It was also declined as a matter of process. The solemnity of the process cannot be compromised," Bar & Bench said, citing the source close to the development.

Mumbai to witness two Sena Dussehra rallies today

TN RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

For the time in the 56-year-long history of Shiv Sena, Mumbai will witness two Dussehra rallies being organised by the party's rival factions headed by Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde respectively.

Billed as massive shows of strength put up by the

Thackeray and Shinde faction ahead of the crucial Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls scheduled to be held later this year, the two rallies are being seen as the first major showdown between the two parties ever since the rebel Shinde Sena group toppled the MVA government led by Uddhav and formed its government in alliance with the BJP on June 30 this year.

Durga Puja becomes melting pot for all religions

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hey Maa! ... Ya Allah! ... Why do you ask this question to me ... Is it just because I am in black robes and a Muslim ... do you think Maa Durga belongs to you only ... Is Motherhood not universal ... She is my mother as much she is yours, says Hasima Biwi a Hijab-clad Muslim woman --- her voice trembling. Her body shaking. Literally.

Hijab may have become a volatile issue in some parts of the country and with some sections in the social media but it is cool in the City of Joy where hundreds of Muslim and Christian men and women have set about pandal hopping --- the whole of night.

This year the City of Joy has not only been inundated by Hindu reveller but their Muslim and Christian brethren as well.

Ask Nauseen a Class XI student for that matter.

"I did not wait for the rush to build up I watched most of the idols by Maha Sashti (sixth day of the Pujas)," she says taking credit of watching more than a hundred Pujas.

Like her Hindu friends Afreen, another Class XII girl from an upmarket South Kolkata school takes pride in taking vegetarian foods on Maha Shashti and Maha Ashtami days. Not only this she will tell you the meaning of Durga Puja which is also called Akaal Bodhan or unseasonal Puja.

Quoting from Krittibasi Ramayana she says "the real

Puja takes place during the Vasant (Spring) season when it is called Basanti Puja ... but as Lord Rama performed special Puja in this season before his attack on Lanka to please Maa Durga --- who was protecting Ravana --- it is called Akaal Bodhan Durga Puja," even as her Father Ramzan Ali recalls how his great grandfather had fallen victim to the great Calcutta riots.

Jasimuddin a vendor of sweets tells you how no Puja in his locality at Kidderpore will be complete without his sweets. "I do not take non-vegetarian food ... neither my staff do so



all these days ... we know the value of Bhakti," says reminding how Ramakrishna Parmahansa Dev the spiritual guru of Swami Vivekananda had done his sadhana (meditation) in all religions before concluding Jato Mat ... Tato Path (all roads lead to Rome).

The participation of the Muslim community is not only limited to pandal-hopping so to say. There are many puja committees that are virtually run by the Muslims in many parts of Kolkata. Take for example the Durga Puja at Alimuddin Street which incidentally houses the CPI(M) State headquarters too.

North Korea sends missile soaring over Japan in escalation

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Tuesday fired a ballistic missile over Japan for the first time in five years, forcing Japan to issue evacuation notices and suspend trains during the flight of the nuclear-capable weapon that could reach the US territory of Guam and beyond.

The launch was the most provocative weapons demonstration by North Korea this year as it ramps up missile tests in its push to build a full-fledged nuclear arsenal that viably threatens US allies and the American homeland and earns the country recognition as a nuclear state.

The United States said it strongly condemns North Korea's "dangerous and reckless decision" to launch what it described as a "long-range ballistic missile" over Japan.

"This action is destabilising and shows (North Korea's) blatant disregard for United Nations Security

Council resolutions and international safety norms," it said.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol earlier said the missile had an intermediate range, while Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said it was believed to have an intermediate range or longer. If Tuesday's launch involves a long-range missile, that could be a test of a weapon targeting the US homeland, some experts say.

Japanese authorities alerted residents in northeastern regions to evacuate to shelters, in the first "J-alert" since 2017 when North Korea fired an intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile twice over Japan in a span of weeks during its previous torrid run of weapons tests.

Trains were suspended in the Hokkaido and Aomori regions until the government issued a subsequent notice that the North Korean missile appeared to have landed in the Pacific. In Sapporo city, the prefectural capital of Japan's northernmost



main island of Hokkaido, subways were also temporarily suspended, with stations packed with morning commuters.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters the latest firing "is a reckless act and I strongly condemn it."

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile was fired from the

inland north in North Korea. It warned the North's repeated missile launches would only deepen its international isolation and prompt Seoul and Washington to bolster their deterrence capabilities.

Yoon said the North's "reckless nuclear provocations" would meet the stern response of the South and the broader international community.

According to South Korean and Japanese estimates, the missile traveled about 4,500-4,600 kilometers (2,800-2,860 miles) at a maximum altitude of 970-1,000 kilometers (600-620 miles). Hamada said the missile landed in the Pacific, about 3,200 kilometers (1,990 miles) off the northern Japanese coast and that there have been no reports of damage to Japanese aircraft and ships.

Both South Korea and Japan convened emergency national security council meetings to discuss the launch. The U.S. said national security adviser Jake Sullivan had consulted with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts on their appropriate and robust responses.

"The United States will continue its efforts to limit the DPRK's ability to advance its prohibited ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction programs, including with allies and UN partners," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement.

UK's Truss vows to listen as she reels from policy U-turns

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

British Prime Minister Liz Truss has insisted she is leading "a listening government" that learns from its mistakes, as she tries to restore her shaky authority and reassure financial markets spooked by her government's see-sawing economic pledges. Truss told the BBC in an interview broadcast Tuesday that she and her ministers were determined to "reflect on how we could have done things better."

"Is everything the government (has) done absolutely perfect? No it's not," she said. "I fully acknowledge that. And we have learned from the feedback we've received."

That "feedback" has been dramatic: Truss' four weeks in

office have seen the pound plunge to record lows against the dollar, the Bank of England take emergency action and the opposition Labour Party surge to record highs against her Conservatives in opinion polls.

Now Truss also faces a battle with her party over her economic plans, with some lawmakers warning they will oppose any attempt to slash welfare benefits to help pay for lower taxes. Truss is on a mission to reshape Britain's economy through tax cuts and deregulation in a bid to end years of sluggish growth.

But she is trying to ride out a series of U-turns over her first big policy: a stimulus package that includes 45 bn pounds (\$50 billion) in tax cuts, to be paid for by Govt borrowing.

Iran's president tries to assuage anger as protests continue

AP ■ DUBAI

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday appealed for national unity and tried to allay anger against the country's rulers, even as the anti-government protests that have engulfed the country for weeks continued to spread to universities and high schools.

Raisi acknowledged that the Islamic Republic had "weaknesses and shortcomings," but repeated the official line that the unrest sparked last month by the death of a woman in the custody of the country's morality police was nothing short of a plot by Iran's enemies.

"Today the country's determination is aimed at cooperation to reduce people's problems," he told a parliament session.

"Unity and national integrity are necessities that render our enemy hopeless."

His claims echoed those of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who blamed the United States and Israel, the country's adversaries, for inciting the unrest in his first remarks on the nationwide protests on Monday.

It's a familiar tactic for Iran's leaders, who have been mistrustful of Western influence since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and commonly blame domestic problems on foreign enemies without offering evidence.

Merkel wins UN refugee agency award over welcome of Syrians

AP ■ GENEVA

The UN refugee agency said on Tuesday it's giving its highest award to former German Chancellor Angela Merkel for her efforts to welcome more than 1 million refugees — mostly from Syria — into Germany, despite some criticism both at home and abroad.

Matthew Saltmarsh, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said Merkel had been

selected as the latest recipient for the Nansen award, which is handed out annually by the Geneva-based UN agency.

"Under the then-Federal Chancellor Merkel's leadership, Germany welcomed more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 2015 and 2016, which, as you will remember, was the height of the conflict in Syria, and there was deadly violence in other parts of the world," Saltmarsh told reporters. "Dr. Merkel

helped to highlight the plight of refugees globally."

Merkel's decision to let in so many migrants boosted the far-right Alternative for Germany party and resulted in protests by a vocal minority. She was also blasted by some governments for being too friendly to refugees, when some European Union partner states were closing borders to refugees and asylum-seekers.

The award includes a USD 150,000 prize.

US warns about foreign efforts to sway American voters

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Federal officials are warning ahead of the November midterms that Russia is working to amplify doubts about the integrity of US elections while China is interested in undermining American politicians it sees as threats to Beijing's interests.

An unclassified intelligence advisory, newly obtained by The Associated Press, says China is probably seeking to influence

select races to "hinder candidates perceived to be particularly adversarial to Beijing." In the advisory, sent to state and local officials in mid-September, intelligence officials said they believe Beijing sees a lower risk in meddling in the midterms versus a presidential election.

While officials said they've not identified any credible threats to election infrastructure in the U.S., the latest intelligence warning comes amid the peak of



a midterm campaign in which a rising number of candidates and voters openly express a lack of confidence in the nation's democratic processes.

Foreign countries have long sought to sway public

opinion in America, perhaps most notably in a covert Russian campaign that used social media to sow discord on hot-button social issues ahead of

the 2016 presidential election. The US government has been on high alert since, warning about efforts by Russia, China and Iran to meddle in American politics and shape how voters think.

Left and right battle for future of Brazil in runoff vote

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Jair Bolsonaro outperformed expectations with his reelection bid, proving that the right-wing wave he rode to the presidency remains a force in Brazil and giving him and opponent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva three weeks to pursue votes ahead of a winner-take-all runoff.

The two diametrically opposed candidates garnered more than 90% of the vote in Sunday's first round, leaving their competitors far behind. Da Silva came just 1.6 percentage points shy of outright victory.

Political analysts say Bolsonaro now will seek to capitalise on an unexpectedly strong showing by the right wing as a whole to win endorsements



from politicians seeking advantageous alliances, while da Silva reaches out to moderates to push him over the top.

Endorsements from the now-eliminated presidential candidates could also help the two survivors.

The election will determine whether a leftist returns to the helm of the world's fourth-largest democracy or whether Bolsonaro can advance his far-right agenda for another term.

Many polls had indicated leftist former President da Silva had a significant lead, with some suggesting he could even clinch a first-round victory. Most showed margins that neared or exceeded double digits. But Bolsonaro came within just five points of da Silva, forcing an October 30 runoff.

While da Silva's tally of 48.4% of the vote was within most polls' margins of error, Bolsonaro's 43.2% far exceeded most of them. The president's allies running for Congress and governorships also outperformed polls.

"The far-right has shown great resilience in the presidential and in the state races," said Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo.

Japan to expel Russia consul as ties worsen over Ukraine

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan on Tuesday ordered the Russian consul in the northern city of Sapporo to leave the country within six days in retaliation for Moscow's expulsion of a Japanese diplomat last month for alleged espionage.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said his ministry declared the consul a persona non grata, or an undesirable person, and ordered him to leave by next Monday.

The ministry did not release the consul's name, but said the step was "conducted as an appropriate measure in response to the measures taken by Russia."

Hayashi said Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori summoned Russian Ambassador to Japan Mikhail Galuzin to inform him of the decision.



Last month, Russia detained the Japanese consul in Vladivostok over espionage allegations and expelled him.

The consul, Tatsunori Motoki, returned to Japan last week.

Japanese officials say Motoki was blindfolded and physically restrained while he was detained and interrogated over alleged spying.

He was ordered to leave the country within 48 hours. Japan has denied the allegations.

Hayashi has called Russia's treatment of Motoki a clear violation of international law.

The dispute is the latest example of worsening ties between the two countries following Japan's imposition of sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

White House unveils artificial intelligence 'Bill of Rights'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration unveiled a set of far-reaching goals on Tuesday to align artificial intelligence-powered tools with what it called the values of Democracy and equity, including guidelines for how to protect people's personal data and limit surveillance.

The Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights notably does not set out specific enforcement actions, but instead is intended as a White House call to action for the US government to safeguard digital and civil rights in an AI-fuelled world, officials said.

"This is the Biden-Harris administration really saying that we need to work together, not only just across government, but across all sectors, to really put equity at the centre and civil rights at the centre of the ways that we make and use and govern technologies," said Alondra



Nelson, deputy director for science and society at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. "We can and should expect better and demand better from our technologies."

The office said the white paper represents a major advance in the administration's agenda to hold technology companies accountable, and highlighted various federal agencies' commitments to weighing new rules and studying the spe-

cific impacts of AI technologies.

The document emerged after a year-long consultation with more than two dozen different departments, and also incorporates feedback from technologists, civil society groups, businesses and industry researchers.

The resulting non-binding principles cite academic research, agency studies and news reports that have documented real-world harms from AI-powered tools, including facial recognition tools that contributed to wrongful arrests and an automated system that discriminated against loan seekers who attended a Historically Black College or University.

The white paper also said parents and social workers alike could benefit from knowing if child welfare agencies were using algorithms to help decide when families should be investigated for maltreatment.

Ecuador prison clash leaves at least 15 dead, 20 injured

AP ■ QUITO (ECUADOR)

A clash between inmates armed with guns and knives inside the Latacunga prison in central Ecuador on Monday left at least 15 people dead and 20 injured, authorities said.

Officials attributed the fighting to national and international drug trafficking groups which have turned the Andean nation's prisons into the scene of repeated massacres as the groups fight for power and drug distribution rights.

Ecuador's national penitentiary service confirmed the death toll in the Latacunga prison, located 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of the capital of Quito. Agents are still searching the prison's pavilions for bodies.

Videos in which gunfire and the screams of inmates can be heard were posted on social media.

Some 316 inmates were killed inside Ecuador's prisons last year, according to the penitentiary service. So far this year there have been 90 deaths.

The worst massacre took place in September of last year in the Litoral Penitentiary in Guayaquil, where 125 prisoners were killed.

Indonesia police: Stadium exit gates too small for escape

AP ■ MALANAG

Indonesian police said on Tuesday that the gates at the soccer stadium where police fired tear gas and set off a deadly crush were too small and could only accommodate two at a time when hundreds were trying to escape.

Photos from the Malang stadium where 125 people died and hundreds were injured on Saturday night in one of the sporting events worst disasters showed four



connecting doors forming one gate.

Police said the investiga-

tion was focused on six of the 14 gates where most of the spectators died in the crush.

Police spokesperson Dedi Prasetyo said that they were unlocked but only able to accommodate two people.

"For those six gates, they were not closed but they were too small. They had a capacity for two people but there were hundreds coming out. There was a crush there," Prasetyo told reporters.

He added that the gates were the responsibility of the

organisers.

On Monday, police announced they had removed one police chief and nine elite officers and 18 others were being investigated for responsibility in the firing of tear gas inside the stadium.

The match in East Java's Malang city was attended only by hometown Arema FC fans.

The organiser had banned supporters of the visiting team, Persebaya Surabaya, because of Indonesia's history of violent soccer rivalries.

UN, Pakistan launch fresh appeal seeking USD 800 mn for rehabilitation of flood victims

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The United Nations and Pakistan have jointly launched a fresh flash appeal seeking more than USD 800 million for the rehabilitation of millions of Pakistanis affected by the devastating floods that have so far claimed the lives of over 1,700 people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said.

Under the new appeal by the UN launched during a ceremony in Geneva on Monday, the global body revised up its humanitarian

appeal for Pakistan five-fold to USD 816 million from USD 160 million as it seeks to control a surge in water-borne diseases reported from various parts of the country still reeling under the floods.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman stressed the need for urgent medical assistance and timely efforts to save flood victims of Pakistan from the effects of cold weather soon approaching, the foreign ministry said. "The flood affected in Pakistan is facing



the real race against time as winter is coming," the minister said, adding that despite shelters made available for 598,000 people, up to 7.5 million affected population was still scrambling for dry land.

The devastating floods have so far affected 33 million people across the country, claimed over 1,700 lives and destroyed large farms, resulting in a crisis type situation due to shortage of essentials.

Rehman said that four million people are living in areas where temperatures reach zero and even in warm areas, the mercury drops below 10 degrees Celsius. She also said that historic rains caused floods that inundated more than one-third of Pakistan.

Rehman informed the

gathering that 34 districts are still crisis affected even after 16 weeks where many victims were still seeking land hubs for clean water, food and medical assistance and even dry lands in Sindh to bury their dead.

Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said the people of Pakistan were bearing the brunt of the world's inaction to face climate change or prepare for its consequences, a report by Radio Pakistan said.

The White House has warned of "catastrophic consequences for Russia" if Putin goes nuclear.

But whether that will stay Putin's hand is anyone's guess. Nervous Kremlin watchers acknowledge they can't be sure what he is thinking or even if he's rational and well-informed.

The former KGB agent has demonstrated an appetite for risk and brinkmanship. It's hard, even for Western intelligence agencies with spy satel-

lites, to tell if Putin is bluffing or truly intent on breaking the nuclear taboo. "We don't see any practical evidence today in the US intelligence community that he's moving closer to actual use, that there's an imminent threat of using tactical nuclear weapons," CIA Director William Burns told CBS News.

"What we have to do is take it very seriously, watch for signs of actual preparations," Burns said. Kremlin watchers are scratching their heads in part because they don't see how nuclear force could greatly help reverse Russia's military losses in Ukraine.

Ukrainian troops aren't using large concentrations of tanks to wrest back ground, and combat is sometimes for places as small as villages. So what could Russian nuclear forces aim for with winning effect? "Nuclear weapons are not a magic wand," said Andrey Baklitskiy, a senior researcher at the UN's Institute for Disarmament Research, who specialises in nuclear risk. "They are not something that you just employ and they solve all your problems." Analysts hope the taboo that surrounds the nuclear weapons is a disincentive. The horrific scale of human suffering in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the US destroyed the Japanese cities with atomic bombs on August

6 and August 9, 1945, was a powerful argument against a repeat use of such weapons. The attacks killed 210,000 people.

No country has since used a nuclear weapon.

Analysts guess that even Putin may find it difficult to become the first world leader since US President Harry Truman to rain down nuclear fire. "It is still a taboo in Russia to cross that threshold," said Dara Massicot, a senior policy researcher at RAND Corp. And a former analyst of Russian military capabilities at the US Defense Department. "One of the biggest decisions in the history of Earth," Baklitskiy said.

The backlash could turn Putin into a global pariah. "Breaking the nuclear taboo would impose, at a minimum, complete diplomatic and economic isolation on Russia," said Sidharth Kaushal, a researcher with the Royal United Services Institute in London that specializes in defense and security.

Long-range nuclear weapons that Russia could use in a direct conflict with the United States are battle-ready. But its stocks of warheads for shorter ranges — so-called tactical weapons that Putin might be tempted to use in Ukraine — are not, analysts say.

HAALAND PEERLESS AT JUST 22: GUARDIOLA



AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland's goalscoring achievements at the age of 22 are unmatched by any other player according to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola, who urged the Norwegian to keep improving.

Haaland has scored 17 goals in 10 competitive games for City since joining from Borussia Dortmund,

where he struck 86 times in 89 matches.

He has scored a hat-trick in each of City's past three home Premier League games and became the quickest player to reach 25 Champions League goals with an acrobatic winner against Dortmund three weeks ago.

"At his age no one can compete with him," Guardiola said on Tuesday, on the eve of his side's

home match against FC Copenhagen. "The numbers speak for themselves.

"Inside, on the pitch, in the locker room, we see things that are not in the stats that make us feel happy to have him here."

Another 22-year-old, Phil Foden, also scored a hat-trick as City put local rivals Manchester United to the sword in a 6-3 win on Sunday.

Maddison lifts Leicester as Forest hit rock bottom

AP ■ LEICESTER

James Maddison eased the pressure on Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers and pushed Nottingham Forest to the bottom of the Premier League as the midfielder's double inspired a vital 4-0 win on Monday.

Rodgers' side blew Forest away with three goals in the space of 10 minutes in the first half at the King Power Stadium.

Maddison struck either side of a superb finish from Harvey Barnes and Patson Daka netted in the second half as Leicester won for the first time this season at the eighth attempt.

Leicester had lost their previous six games to leave Rodgers fighting to avoid the sack following his criticism of the club's Thai owners for failing to back him in the transfer window.

Beating their East Midlands



rivals should give Rodgers at least a little breathing space, with Leicester moving one place above rock-bottom Forest on goal difference. Woeful Forest are now without a win in six games, losing five in a row and conceding 16 goals in their last four matches.

That dismal run has turned up the heat on Steve Cooper, who took charge when Forest were bottom of the Championship last season and led them back to the Premier League for the first time since 1999.

Foden is reportedly close to signing a new contract to tie his future to the club where he came through the academy.

"Due to his performance during these years, of course we want him to stay," said Guardiola.

"He's an exceptional player, he grew up a lot. Already he is many years with us, he's reliable in terms of his physical condition, he's so intense in everything, every three

days he is able play.

"Both (Haaland and Foden), they know they can do better and hopefully they can do it."

After beating Sevilla and Dortmund in their opening two group games, City can close in on the Champions League last 16 with another victory over Copenhagen on Wednesday.

But Guardiola is wary of taking the Danish champions lightly.

Stimac signs contract extension till AFC Asian Cup 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian men's football team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday signed an extension of his contract till the end of next year's AFC Asian Cup.

The decision to extend the contract was recommended by the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) technical committee last month, and was subsequently ratified by the executive committee in their respective meetings in Kolkata last month.

The executive committee also accepted the recommendations of the technical committee that should India make it to the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup, the coach's contract should be automatically renewed.

"I am extremely happy that the AIFF has placed the trust in the process that we have put in," said Stimac.

"We have had a very good run in the qualifiers, and we want to make sure that we keep building ourselves up till the Asian Cup and give a good account of ourselves in the continental stage."

The 55-year-old from Croatia has been in charge of the Blue Tigers since 2019, and has successfully guided the team through to its second successive AFC Asian Cup qualification earlier this year, when India topped Group D of the Third Round qualifiers.

"Now that we have ensured qualification, we must make sure that we keep improving and finding our best combination till the Asian Cup," he said.

"Again, it is not an easy process, and there will be plenty of pain on the way, but if we can stick to the proper procedure and not take shortcuts, we



can achieve our target of making it to the knockout rounds."

AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran said: "The new team in AIFF would like to see a forward momentum for the national team and we are determined to rebuild it with a fresh approach by developing a new plan exclusively for the senior national team." The secretary general informed that the federation will work closely with the head coach, the support staff and the players and the clubs as well in making sure a positive scenario is created for Indian football through the senior national team.

"Our best wishes to Igor Stimac and we are confident he will guide the Indian national team to a new level with his huge experience and hard work," Prabhakaran said.

Kyrgios cruises past Tseng in Japan opener as Ruud exits

AP ■ TOKYO

Nick Kyrgios said he "struggled to breathe" in the Tokyo air Tuesday before finding his feet and crushing Taiwan's Tseng Chun-hsin 6-3, 6-1 in his first match since the US Open.

Kyrgios dropped just seven points on his own service in his opening match at the Japan Open as he dismantled world number 87 Tseng in 1hr, 6min.

The maverick world number 20 was playing his first match since his "heartbreaking" quarter-final loss to Karen Khachanov at last month's US Open but he said he made a "solid" return despite a slow start.

"The first couple of games I struggled to breathe, I think just the humidity and getting back into competitive play," said Kyrgios.

"I came out a bit slow but I don't play many matches so it's hard to just get straight back into that competitive flow."

"But as soon as I held that first game, I found my form again and played really well."

The Tokyo crowd cheered Kyrgios' name and clamoured for the signed balls that he hit into the stands after the match.

RUUD SURPRISE

Earlier in the day, top seed Casper Ruud crashed out in the first round after a 6-3, 6-3 defeat to Spain's Jaume Munar.

The Norwegian lost to Carlos Alcaraz in the US Open final last month and he has hardly taken his foot off the gas since, playing in the Davis Cup and Laver Cup before heading to last week's Korea Open.

He finally hit the wall against world number 58 Munar, having his service broken



Alcaraz loses to Goffin in Astana opener

AP ■ ASTANA

World number one Carlos Alcaraz crashed out in the first round of the Astana Open on Tuesday, losing 7-5, 6-3 to Belgium's David Goffin.

US Open champion Alcaraz suffered his first

straight-sets defeat since November last year as Goffin made the most of his second chance as a lucky loser.

Goffin only earned a spot in the main draw after the withdrawal of Danish teenager Holger Rune. He will play Frenchman Adrian Mannarino in the last 16.

ken twice in the first set and dumping shot after shot into the net all match.

Australian number-six seed Alex de Minaur also made a first-round exit earlier in the day when he lost 6-3, 6-2 to South Korea's Kwon Soon-

woo.

Croatia's number-nine seed Borna Coric beat Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), while British number-eight seed Dan Evans beat Moldova's Radu Albot 6-7 (3/7), 6-1, 6-4.

Paris will not show WC matches on big screens

PARIS (AP): Paris will not show matches from the World Cup in Qatar on big screens in the French capital, partly due to the "conditions" of the tournament, the city's current deputy mayor for sports said on Monday.

Last year, a report said 50 migrant workers died in Qatar in 2020 and 500 others were seriously injured.

Several French cities have said they would not broadcast matches in public places, with the socialist mayor of Marseille Benoit Payan denouncing the competition as a "human and environmental disaster".

"For us, there was no question of setting up big screen areas for several reasons: the first is the conditions in which this World Cup has been organised, both in terms of the environment and the social aspect," said Pierre Rabadan.

"The second is the fact that it takes place in December."

India blank Maldives 5-0 in AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers

PTI ■ AL KHOBAR

India kicked off their AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers in style, thrashing Maldives 5-0 at the Prince Saud Bin Jalawi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Captain Vanlalpeka Guite, Lalhmimgchhuanga Fanai, Aman, Bobby Singh, Phoenix Oinam scored a goal each to make it a five-star performance for India.

India got off on the front foot, with Huzafah and Bobby orchestrating attacks down the left flank.

It did not take them too long to score the first though, as captain Guite ran on to a low cross from the right and slotted it home.

Fanai doubled the lead in the 24th minute, when he tried his luck from long range, as the ball took a deflection and sailed past the Maldives keeper.

India were completely dom-



inant in the second half, enjoying long bouts of possession, and it took them about 15 minutes to score again.

Forward Aman got himself to the end of an elaborate team move and finished it off to make it three in India's favour just one minute ahead of the

hour mark.

Eight minutes later, Huzafah Ahmad Dar was fouled inside the box, and the referee subsequently pointed to the spot. Bobby Singh stepped up and slotted it home to make it four.

Minutes later, Phoenix Oinam put the finishing touch-

es on the victory, as he fired home from around 25 yards, sending the ball into the bottom corner of the goal.

As the clock wore on, Aman came close to making it six for India, as his shot from outside the box ricocheted off the crossbar and went out of play.

Hazard still one of world's best: Martinez

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez says he believes Eden Hazard is still "one of the best in the world" at his position despite the forward's injury-plagued spell at Real Madrid.

Hazard has started just one game for Madrid this season but captained his country in their Nations League matches against Wales and the Netherlands last month.

His limited minutes at club level have sparked debate over his role at the World Cup next month, but Martinez insists the 31-year-old remains



a key component of the squad.

"Is Eden Hazard still an important player for the national team? Yes, 100 percent," Martinez told state broadcaster RTBF.

"I think his experience, the way he affects the opposition, the way he's still beating players, he's creating a real threat."

"For me it's a profile that is one of the best in the world in terms of being able to play."

Belgium finished third at the 2018 World Cup after losing to eventual champions France 1-0 in the semi-finals.

The Red Devils lost to Italy in the quarter-finals of Euro 2020 without the injured

Hazard, who has scored just seven times for Madrid since joining more than three years ago.

"Nobody is trying to look away from the reality. Eden hasn't played consistently for a long, long time," said Martinez.

"Another question is can he play for 90 minutes? Can he play seven games in a short period of time?"

"This is something that's very different and could change a lot in the next five weeks."

Belgium have been drawn alongside Canada, Morocco and 2018 runners-up Croatia in Group F in Qatar.

India's Mumtaz Khan named FIH women's rising player of year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India forward Mumtaz Khan was on Tuesday named the FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year on the back of her stellar role during the country's campaign at the Junior World Cup in South Africa earlier this year.

The 19-year-old Mumtaz, who hails from Lucknow, had scored eight goals in six matches, including a hat-trick, during India's fourth-place finishing campaign in Potchefstroom in April.

She finished in third place on the list of top scorers in the World Cup. She failed to score in just one game throughout the tournament, against Netherlands.

Mumtaz scored both the goals for India in the crucial 2-2 tie in the Bronze medal match against England, but the team couldn't get over the line in the ensuing shoot-out to end at fourth place.

"I cannot believe that I have won this award. It is the hard work of our entire team over the year that has paid off, and I dedicate the win to my team," Mumtaz said.

"I feel the award is a sign that the hard work that I have put over the past year on the training grounds has helped me improve a lot as a player. But this is just the beginning of my career. I wish to continue the learning process and will continue the hard work to improve upon my game."

Carvajal, Ancelotti insist Madrid's Champions League glory is deserved

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal believes his team fully deserve their glittering Champions League record and dismissed Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez's mention of unfairness.

Los Blancos, the reigning champions and record 14-time European Cup winners, have lifted the trophy five times in the last nine years.

Right-back Carvajal established himself in the team during the 2013-14 season, when Madrid ended an 11-season drought in the tournament to win La Decima, their 10th European Cup.

Xavi said at a press conference on Monday that the best team does not always win the Champions League and La Liga was a "fairer" competition.

"I think that when you've won five of the last nine Champions Leagues, you can't put that down to luck," Carvajal told a press conference on Tuesday, ahead of his team's clash with Shakhtar Donetsk.



Champions League, but we managed to win the cup.

"It seems to me that this debate about fairness and unfairness always comes up when Madrid win the Champions League. When others win it, it's meritocracy."

Madrid enjoyed a thrilling run to the final with comebacks against Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City en route to beating Liverpool in the final.

Their coach Carlo Ancelotti also highlighted the importance of the Champions League to the capital club and said winning was not related to luck.

"La Liga is very important but the Champions League is the most important competition in the football world," said the coach.

"Winning it means a lot. They are two different competitions, one with 38 games is different to one with far fewer."

"Sometimes it comes down to small details, but it's not luck, or bad luck. Talking about that hides the problems you have and the quality of your opponent."

Rossouw sets up big win for Proteas

PTI ■ INDORE

Rilee Rossouw's stroke-filled 100 not out off 48 balls set up a morale boosting 49-run win for South Africa in the inconsequential third T20 International here on Tuesday as concerns around a faltering Indian bowling attack grew ahead of the T20 World Cup.

A rampaging Rossouw and Quinton de Kock (68 off 43) fired South Africa to 227 for three against a profligate Indian pace attack including Harshal Patel, Mohammad Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Deepak Chahar, who all leaked in excess of 11 runs per over.

In a high scoring ground with small dimensions, no total is safe but India kept losing wickets regularly to end at 178 all out in 18.2 overs.

With Jasprit Bumrah ruled out of the ICC event, India have a lot of work to do in the bowling department before they play their T20 World Cup opener in Melbourne on October 23.

If the ball is not swinging, India are unable to take wickets in the powerplay and the bowlers were not able to get their lengths right in the unforgiving death overs. They were guilty of bowling too full in the last five overs on Tuesday.

While it was a disappointing defeat, Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik getting some much needed time in the middle was a positive for the Indian team.

Opening the innings in K L Rahul's absence, Pant looked



in ominous form in his 14-ball 27 which included two sumptuous straight drives and a couple of sixes. It was the first time Pant got to bat in the series.

With India playing only five specialist batters, Karthik got to bat at number four and he made good use of the opportunity.

His 21-ball 46 included

four sixes, one of them was a sensational scoop off Wayne Parnell. After smoking two sixes off Keshav Maharaj, he went for a reverse hit which led to his undoing.

Chahar once again showed his ability with the bat as he delayed the inevitable with an entertaining 31 off 17 balls.

Earlier, T20 World Cup-

bound Harshal (0/49) continued to leak a lot of runs in a forgettable night for all four Indian pacers.

Chahar, Siraj and Umesh Yadav too were put to sword by Rossouw and de Kock.

On a better of a pitch, South Africa made a strong start, reaching 48 for one in the powerplay with de Kock and Rossouw in destructive

Guwahati, was back to his best. He got his first six with a pick-up shot off Siraj who featured for the first time in the series.

The next six was even more delightful as he moved across the stumps to swat a wide length ball off Chahar over square leg.

Rossouw got into the act with a flat six off Siraj in the seventh over.

With two left handers in full swing, Rohit decided to hold Axar Patel till the 14th over.

R Ashwin, who was brought in the powerplay, was hit for two maximums in the ninth over. One was a spectacular reverse sweep from de Kock before Rossouw employed the conventional sweep to dispatch the spinner over deep backward square leg. Siraj could have caught the latter but fluffed it to over the fence.

India got de Kock run out against the run of play but South African batters kept aiming for the big hits.

Rossouw greeted Axar into the attack with a slog sweep that went all the way. It seemed Rossouw was hitting sixes for fun as he ended up with eight of them.

There was a light moment before the start of 16th over when Chahar saw Stubbs backing up at the non striker's end but did not take the bails off in what seemed a like gentle warning.

In the final over of the innings, the in-form David Miller sent a high full toss from Chahar out of the ground before collecting two more sixes. The over fetched 24 runs.



Menon among 16 umpires named for T20 WCup

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's Nitin Menon will be among the 16 umpires who will officiate in the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

Menon, the only Indian on the ICC Elite Panel, has already reached Australia.

The ICC has announced 20 match officials for the First Round and Super 12s stage of the tournament.

"In total, 16 umpires will officiate across the tournament with Richard Kettleborough, Nitin Menon, Kumara Dharmasena and Marais Erasmus having been the umpires in charge of the 2021 final which saw this year's hosts claim their first ICC Men's T20 World Cup title," the ICC said in a statement.

"It is an experienced group of umpires, with the same 16 selected as last year's tournament which was held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman."

Chief Referee of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, Ranjan Madugalle, is part of a quartet of former international cricketers who make up the match referees for the eighth edition of the T20 World Cup.

Sri Lankan Madugalle is joined by Andrew Pycroft of Zimbabwe, England's Christopher Broad and

Australian David Boon.

Pycroft will take charge of the tournament opener in Geelong on October 16 when Sri Lanka takes on Namibia in the First round with Joel Wilson and Rodney Tucker the umpires in the middle. Paul Reiffel will act as the TV umpire with Erasmus, occupying the role of the fourth umpire.

Erasmus, Tucker and Aleem Dar are all set to appear in their seventh ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with Langton Rusere umpiring in his second World Cup of the year having stood in the 2022 Women's ODI World Cup, including acting as reserve umpire for the final.

"Officials have been named for the entirety of the First Round and Super 12s, with the selections for the semi-finals and final of the tournament to be named in due course," the ICC added.

Match Referees: Andrew Pycroft, Christopher Broad, David Boon, Ranjan Madugalle
Umpires: Adrian Holdstock, Aleem Dar, Ahsan Raza, Christopher Brown, Christopher Gaffaney, Joel Wilson, Kumara Dharmasena, Langton Rusere, Marais Erasmus, Michael Gough, Nitin Menon, Paul Reiffel, Paul Wilson, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Rodney Tucker.

Gutted that I won't be part of T20 WC: Bumrah



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah is gutted that he will have to miss the T20 World Cup due to a back injury but the star India pacer will cheer for his team as he goes through his rehabilitation process.

"I am gutted that I won't be a part of the T20 World Cup this time, but thankful for the wishes, care and support I've received from my loved ones. As I recover, I'll be cheering on the team

through their campaign in Australia," Bumrah tweeted on Tuesday.

The BCCI on Monday ruled Bumrah out of the ICC event, dealing a massive setback to the Indian team.

Bumrah's absence will certainly affect India's chances in the marquee event in Australia as death bowling still remains a grey area.

The BCCI was awaiting medical reports while the pacer did his rehab at the National

West Indies dump Hetmyer for 2022 T20 World Cup

AP ■ MIAMI

West Indies dropped Shimron Hetmyer from the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia after the batter missed a rescheduled flight, Cricket West Indies announced.

The 25-year-old from Guyana was replaced on the roster by Shamarh Brooks in a decision by the Cricket West Indies selection panel after Hetmyer missed his flight to Australia, which had been moved due to family reasons.

After a seat was found on a Monday flight to New York, Hetmyer told CWI on Monday morning that he would be unable to get to the Guyana airport in time to make his flight

to New York.

"This afternoon we informed the CWI board of directors that the selection panel had unanimously decided to replace Shimron Hetmyer with Shamarh Brooks in our T20 World Cup squad," CWI director of cricket said.

Brooks will fly out later this week and miss T20 International matches against Australia on Wednesday at Gold Coast and Friday at Brisbane, instead joining the squad at Melbourne.

"Shamarh has been a part of our recent T20 International performances in the latter stages of the recently concluded CPL," Adams said.

replace him if he gains full fitness after recovering from COVID-19.

In case, Shami does not achieve the desired fitness standards, Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Siraj could be named in the World Cup squad.

The team is set to leave for Australia on Thursday.

The World Cup is starting October 16 with first round from where four teams will qualify for Super 12, which will begin from October 22.

Jemimah, Deepti do star turns as India crush UAE by 104 runs

PTI ■ SYLHET

Jemimah Rodrigues was at her ruthless best, smashing an unbeaten 75 off 45 balls as India out-batted an inexperienced United Arab Emirates by 104 runs in the Women's T20 Asia Cup, here on Tuesday.

Jemimah and Deepti Sharma (64 off 49 balls) added 128 runs in 13.3 overs after UAE had briefly sent some shivers down the Indians' spine, reducing the tournament favourites to 20 for 3 inside the fifth over.

However, the gulf in class between the two teams became more and more evident with India posting a challenging 178 for 5 in 20 overs.

The UAE team, which is also represented by 11 players of Indian origin, never even bothered to be competitive in its chase, finishing the quota of 20 overs at 74 for 4.

India have now won three matches on the trot and are firmly on their way to grab a semi-final berth although the big games against Bangladesh and Pakistan are yet to be played.

While Smriti Mandhana, S Meghana and an out of form Shafali Verma were back in the dug-out quickly, Jemimah and Deepti first steadied the ship till the 12th over and then upped the ante towards the end when the UAE bowlers found it difficult to control the run-flow.

While Jemimah hit 11 boundaries, Deepti had five fours and two sixes -- including one which was slog-swept behind '45' off a medium pacer.

Jemimah had two chief scoring zones -- one in the arc between square leg and deep mid-wicket and the other between cover and extra cover.



Jemimah enters top 10 in T20I rankings

Dubai: Enjoying a good run of form of late, India's Jemimah Rodrigues on Tuesday entered the top 10 in the ICC Women's T20I rankings for batters.

She is currently placed eighth, having scored two fifties in four innings.

Rodrigues jumped four places to grab the number eight position in the list headed by Australian star Beth

Mooney.

Rodrigues, 22, is now among three India players inside the top 10, with vice-captain Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma retaining their third and seventh positions respectively.

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur moved two spots up to 13th after the latest update.

PTI

second over.

Kavisha Egodage (30 not out, 54 balls) and Khushi Sharma (29, 50 balls) were engaged in a 59-run stand where all they did was avoid getting out.

No doubt, India stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana was pleased as punch after the win.

Bairstow confirms he won't play again in 2022

AP ■ LONDON

England batsman Jonny Bairstow has confirmed he won't play again this year after undergoing surgery on a broken leg following a "freak accident" playing golf.

Just hours after being named in England's T20 World Cup squad, Bairstow was forced to withdraw after suffering a broken leg when he slipped while walking to a tee box.

Bairstow, who turned 33 last week, has already been ruled out of the upcoming World Cup in Australia.

He confirmed Monday there was no prospect of him being fit enough for England's three-Test series in Pakistan in December.

Bairstow revealed he let out "uncontrollable screams" after slipping on the course.

"The actual injury was as such... a broken fibula in three places which required a plate, I dislocated my ankle which in turn meant I did my syndesmosis joint and lateral ligament along with a couple more bits," he posted on Instagram. "All in all I have done a proper job on it!"

He added: "Anyway... on the positive side the operation went well and I am now three weeks post surgery and my staples have been removed..."

"One thing is for sure and that is I shall not be partaking in anything more during 2022... however I cannot wait for what 2023 holds!"

Bairstow told the Daily Telegraph: "Normally when you slip you fall on your bum, which would have been fine as there's plenty of cushion in there.



"Except this time I tried to regain my balance, my left ankle turned right, dislocated and my weight went through my left lower leg. I heard it snap straight away."

"I took a couple of steps down then slipped. By the time I crumpled into a heap, I was three-quarters of the way down. It's all a blur, it happened so quickly."

"I yelped. Uncontrollable screams, the sort you hear on a rugby field. The adrenaline kicked in, and I knew I needed an ambulance. The next three hours without painkillers were not too fun."

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Kuldeep Sen blew away the last two batters with scorching pace and steep bounce to finish with a match haul of eight wickets as Rest of India won their 29th Irani Trophy with a walk-in-the-park eight wicket victory over Saurashtra here on Tuesday.

While Saurashtra gave a much better account of themselves in the second innings but a total of 380 meant Rest needed only 105 runs with almost two days of play left.

They knocked off the runs in little over a session and half with Abhimanyu Easwaran remaining unbeaten on 63 while adding 81 match winning runs for the unbroken third wicket stand with keeper Kona Bharat (27 not out).

However, it was young Kuldeep (5/94 in 19 overs) who quickly wrapped up the Saurashtra innings in the morning as he bowled one fast and full to trap Parth Bhut plumb in front.

Jaydev Unadkat, who played a captain's knock of 89 to carry



the fight till fourth morning, was finally dismissed when Kuldeep banged one short and extra bounce saw the batter slash hard but only to find the resultant edge carry to keeper Bharat.

With a match-haul of 8 wickets, Kuldeep showed why he is so highly rated at the national level and will be travelling with the Indian team to Perth as a net bowler for the T20 World Cup.

Easwaran, who has an average of 32 in his last 20 innings,

played some flowing strokes, including some great cover drives but to be fair, these weren't runs scored under pressure like what Sarfaraz Khan did when he came into bat at 18/3 in RoI's first innings.

Deservingly, Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar got the 'Player of the Match' award for his mesmerizing first morning spell when he got four top-order wickets to bowl Saurashtra out for 98 and literally pocket the game.

"There was some assistance early on and we tried to bowl them out as quickly as possible. I focus on my line and length," Mukesh said after the game.

His skipper Hanuma Vihari was all praise for Sarfaraz Khan, who bailed the team out with a brilliant hundred on the opening day.

"We were in a tough situation on a wicket which was helping for the bowlers, Sarfaraz batted beautifully. The 220-run partnership (him and Sarfaraz)

helped us to gain the momentum and we took the game away from them."

Vihari scored a cautious 82 off 184 balls, but wasn't disappointed on missing out on a hundred.

"I wanted to get the hundred because I worked hard. I batted long, but at the end of the day, the contribution helped the team and I am happy."

For Saurashtra captain Unadkat, the first day track was a very unlike Rajkot one and that made the difference.

"We crumbled under the conditions. It wasn't a typical Rajkot wicket. We had to be in the game in that session and we couldn't do it. It was about an extraordinary performance from someone who could have pulled out of that situation, didn't happen but we fought till the end."

Brief Scores: Saurashtra 98 and 380 (Jaydev Unadkat 89, Prerak Mankad 72, Sheldon Jackson 71, Kuldeep Sen 5/98). RoI: 374 & 105/2 (Abhimanyu Easwaran 63 not out). RoI won by 8 wickets.