

## CITY 2

YOGI TO LAUNCH MATRIBHUMI  
YOJANA ON OCT 2

## OPINION 6

INDIANS MAKING IT BIG  
IN AUSTRALIA

## WORLD 10

NINE KILLED AS IRAN PROTESTS  
SPREAD OVER WOMAN'S DEATH

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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INDIA BEAT ENG  
BY 88 RUNS IN  
SECOND ODI  
11 SPORTNIA, ED swoop on 93  
PFI spots in 15 StatesRaids on charges  
of terror funding,  
radicalisation,  
supporting ISIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in coordination with the respective State police forces on Thursday conducted coordinated searches at 93 locations in 15 States against top leadership and cadres of Popular Front of India (PFI).

The Centre may impose a ban on PFI after evaluating the finds of the raid.

The raids were carried out in connection with ongoing probes in five separate cases related to alleged terror funding, radicalisation, and organisation of armed training camps besides supporting the international terror group Islamic State (ISIS).

The PFI has been under the radar of security agencies for its role in violent protests in different parts of the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, alleged forced conversions, radicalisation of Muslim youths, money



PFI general secretary Anis Ahmed (second, right) being produced to Patiala Courts, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

laundering and links with banned groups, informed officials said.

The NIA arrested at least 15 top PFI leaders, including Kerala State president CP Muhammad Basheer, national president OMA Salam, national general secretary Nasirudeen Elamaram, national executive member P Koya and State Committee Yahiya Thangal among others.

The agency produced at least one person arrested from Thiruvananthapuram, A

Ashraf, at the NIA Special Court in Kochi and got his police custody. About 106 PFI leaders/activists were arrested so far, including 45 arrests by the NIA.

During the searches, many incriminating documents and digital evidence related to terror funding and radicalisation activities were seized by the agencies. The PFI on Thursday called for a State-wide hartal in Kerala on September 23 to protest against the raids.

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Shah discusses action  
on PFI, terror suspects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday held a meeting of top officials, including National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and is believed to have discussed the searches at premises linked to the PPFI and action against terror suspects, officials said.

Punjab calls House  
session, to move SC  
against Guv order

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Punjab Governor withdrew his consent to summon a special one day Vidhan Sabha session to take up the "trust vote" citing legal reasons, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have come face to face in Punjab.

On offensive, AAP-led Punjab Government on Thursday decided to convene a "regular" session on September 27 "to discuss important issues like the power situation and burning of stubble" besides holding a "shanti march" against the Governor's move to cancel the Thursday special Assembly Session.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has also announced to move the Supreme Court against the Governor's "arbitrary and anti-democratic"

decision to cancel the permission of holding the Assembly's Special Session, after giving permission for the same.

All this came after the Chief Minister held back-to-back meetings with all party MLAs; and later that of the Cabinet.

On the other hand, Punjab BJP too launched a protest against the AAP over its allegations of attempts to topple the AAP Government by offering money to its MLAs or threatening them with ED and CBI probes.

The leaders and party workers, led by Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma, gave arrests after they were made to face water cannons and lathis on their march towards the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh's Sector-2.

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Fortis ex-promoters  
get 6-month jail term  
for share salePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday awarded six months jail term to former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd, Malvinder Singh, and Shivinder Singh, in a case related to the sale of shares of Fortis to Malaysia-based IHH Healthcare.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit also awarded six months jail term to the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare who were earlier held guilty of contempt. The top court also ordered a foren-

sic audit of the share sale in Fortis Healthcare Ltd. "Everything goes back to the executing court," the CJI said.

The former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd were facing the court battle after a Japanese firm, Daiichi Sankyo, had challenged the Fortis-IHH share deal to recover the Rs 3,600 crore arbitration award that it had won before a Singapore tribunal against the Singh brothers. The IHH-Fortis deal is stuck due to the legal fight between Daiichi and the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare.

In 2018, when some Indian lenders sold the pledged shares of Fortis Healthcare to the Malaysia-based firm, Daiichi went to court alleging that the former promoters of Fortis had assured them that their shares in the Indian hospital chain will cover the arbitral award amount.

Yogi sets tone for historic Assembly  
session dedicated to women MLAs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, set the tone for a special session of the UP Assembly dedicated to women members. He said this session should have been held long ago but it took 75 years for women to assert their voice in the House.

The chief minister said the 47 women members of the UP Assembly represented half of the state's population of 25 crore and their suggestions would help the government take concrete steps. The chief minister said that the session in the country's largest legislature would set an example.

He initiated the day-long session during which only women members participated in the proceedings. Out of the total 47 woman MLAs, 40 were present in the House.

"Today (Thursday), the largest legislature of the coun-



try is moving towards creating a new history. After 75 years of Independence, the voices of half the population will reach 25 crore people of the state through this House. At the same time, they will get an opportunity to put forward the problems and achievements of the state and other important issues in this House. In fact, this work should have been done long ago," Yogi Adityanath said.

The chief minister said this session would be an example for the country on what women members want to say, adding that any positive sug-

gestions from them regarding the present, future and self-reliance of the state would help the government take steps in that direction.

The 403-member Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has 47 woman MLAs, including 22 first-timers.

Advocating that a member representing half the population should be given a chance to conduct the proceedings as presiding officer, even for a short time, Yogi Adityanath said this would help create the right atmosphere.

The chief minister also recited a few lines of Maharishi Ved Vyas dedicated to woman power.

"This is not the first time that an effort is being made to give equal status to women. After Independence, a lot of good efforts were made in this direction. ... The Constitution makers of India had given the right to vote to men and women from the beginning. In

England and many other countries, women got this right later," he said.

In a lighter vein, Yogi told the male members of the House, "I will say to the male members that on normal days, women's voices here get buried by your noise. If you come to know of any of your mistakes, apologise by holding both ears in your house and help bring improvement to help run the House better."

The comment evoked laughter from both the treasury and opposition benches with leader of opposition Akhilesh Yadav asking in jest how the leader of the House (Yogi Adityanath who is a bachelor) knew these things.

Recalling the contribution of women during the Vedic period and their sacrifices during the freedom struggle, the chief minister highlighted his government's schemes dedicated to women.

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RSS chief visits  
mosque, madrasa in  
Muslim outreach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In his ongoing outreach to the Muslim community, Rashtriya Swyamsevaka Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday visited a mosque and a madrasa, a step described by the RSS as part of the "continuous general 'Samvad' process".

The visits by the head of the BJP's ideological mentor came on a day multiple probe agencies conducted raids across the country and arrested more than 100 activists of the Popular Front of India (PFI) for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

The visit invited mixed reactions with the chief of the All India Imam Organisation Dr Umer Ahmed Ilyasi termed Bhagwat as "rashtra pita", while AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said these elites who are meeting Bhagwat have nothing to do with ground reality.

The RSS chief has been holding discussions with Muslim intellectuals for strengthening communal harmony over the last few weeks.

Senior RSS members, including Dr Krishna Gopal, Indresh Kumar, Ramlal, and Karish Kumar, accompanied Bhagwat.

"Bhagwat visited on my invitation today. He's 'Rashtra-

pita' & 'Rashtra-Rishi'. A good message will go out from his visit. Our ways of worshipping God are different, but the biggest religion is humanity. We believe country comes first," tweeted Dr Ilyasi.

The All India Imam Organisation is the representative voice of the community of Indian imams and claims to be the largest imam organisation in the world.

Bhagwat first visited a masjid at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and then went to the Azad Market madrasa Tajweedul Quran in Old Delhi.

This is the first time Bhagwat visited a madrasa. The visit came at a time when a controversy is brewing over the survey of madrasas in Uttar Pradesh and the demolition of several madrasa in Assam.

During his visit to the madrasa, Bhagwat interacted with children and heard them reciting the Quran. Children raised the slogans of "Vande Mataram" and "Jai Hind", a Sangh functionary accompanying him said.

He said the RSS chief also spoke to the children about the need to know more about the nation and stressed that while the modes of worship could be different, all religions must be respected.

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If picked as Congress  
chief, Gehlot to make  
way for Pilot as CM

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and others during the 15th day of party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Ernakulam, Kerala, on Thursday

PTI

One man, one  
post, says RahulPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI/KOCHI

The Congress may be soon headed by a non-Gandhi president after Rahul Gandhi again ruled himself out of the race, paving the way for a contest in which Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot looks a clear favourite against his possible contender Shashi Tharoor, Thiruvananthapuram MP.

With the Congress high command "officially" backing the Rajasthan CM, a contest will be a mere formality. The elevation of Gehlot will also pave the way for the appointment of Sachin Pilot as Rajasthan Chief Minister after Rahul upheld the "one-man,

one-post" stand in line with the Udaipur Declaration.

"What we decided in Udaipur was Congress party's commitment. I expect that commitment of one man one post will be maintained," Rahul said talking to the media while taking a break from his padyatra.

So far, Gehlot and Tharoor seemed to be headed for a straight fight. However, names of senior Congress Kamal Nath, Prithviraj Chavan, and Manish Tiwari too were doing the rounds as contenders.

The Congress on Thursday issued a notification for the party president poll, setting the ball rolling for electing the successor to the longest-serving chief Sonia Gandhi, with senior leaders Gehlot and Tharoor being seen as potential contenders.

Continued on Page 9

India's veiled attack on China at  
UNSC for shielding Pak ultras

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India said on Thursday that it is regrettable that in the UN Security Council, when it comes to sanctioning some of the world's most dreaded terrorists, impunity is being facilitated and politics providing cover to evade accountability, in a veiled jibe at China which has blocked blacklisting of Pakistan-based terrorists on many occasions.

"The fight against impunity is critical to the larger pursuit of securing peace and justice. The Security Council must send an unambiguous and unequivocal message on this count," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the 15-nation UN Security Council briefing on Ukraine "Fight against impunity".

The briefing, chaired by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna, was held Thursday as



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with other dignitaries during the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, in New York, USA

PTI

world leaders gathered in the UN headquarters for the 77th session of the UNGA.

Addressing the Council briefing were UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chinese Foreign

Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly and Foreign Ministers of other UNSC members.

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US reiterates support for India  
as UNSC permanent member

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden supports Germany, Japan and India as permanent members of a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC), a senior official of his administration has said.

At the same time, a lot of work needs to be done in this matter, the official told reports on Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

"We have historically and continue to stand behind the idea that Germany, Japan and India should be permanent members of the Security Council," the official said in response to a question.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Joe Biden in his address at the UN General Assembly reiterated his commitment to reforming the UN Security Council.

Biden said he believes the time has come for the institution to become more inclusive



so that it can better respond to the needs of today's world.

Members of the UN Security Council, including the United States, should consistently uphold and defend the United Nations Charter and refrain from the use of veto, except in rare and extraordinary

situations, to ensure that the Council remains credible and effective, he said.

"That is also why the United States supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the Council. This includes permanent seats

for those nations we've long supported," Biden said.

The US also praised India for its significant contributions as a member of the 15-membered apex decision making body of the UN.

India has been at the forefront of efforts at the UN to push for urgent long-pending reform of the Security Council, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.

At present, the UNSC comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent member countries which are elected for a two-year term by the UNGA.

The five permanent members are Russia, the UK, China, France and the United States and these countries can veto any substantive resolution. There has been growing demand to increase the number of permanent members to reflect the contemporary global reality.

## CAPSULE

6.8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE  
SHAKES MEXICO, 2 DEAD

**Mexico City:** A powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.8 struck Mexico early on Thursday, causing at least two deaths, damaging buildings and setting off landslides. The earthquake struck at 1.19 am near the epicentre of a magnitude 7.6 quake that hit three days earlier in the western state of Michoacan. It was also blamed for two deaths.

MUMBAI REPORTS 98  
COVID CASES, 2 DEATHS

**Mumbai:** Mumbai on Thursday reported 98 COVID-19 cases, the second time the addition to the tally was less than 100 this month, a civic official said. The metropolis also recorded two deaths, which took the toll to 19,728, he added.

RAIN LASHES DELHI: ROAD  
CAVES IN, TRAFFIC JAMS

**New Delhi:** A portion of a road caved in as incessant rains pounded Delhi leading to waterlogging and uprooting of trees that caused massive traffic snarls in many parts of the capital on Thursday.

# ATS statewide crackdown on PFI, over half-a-dozen activists held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/VARANASI

The sleuths of Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) conducted state-wide raids on the inputs of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and picked up over half a dozen alleged Popular Front of India (PFI) members and detained them for interrogation. However, no disclosure was made by the UP Police in this regard yet.

Sources said that the NIA arrested 106 people while conducting raids across the country in connection with running a training camp after terror funding.

According to sources,

Mohammad Wasim alias Babloo, a resident of Indira Nagar, Lucknow, has been taken into custody by the ATS during a raid in the state capital.

Wasim runs a tailoring shop and during the raids, digital documents have been recovered from him. Wasim's father, Salim, said that his son was second among his three sons. He lived with them in Malhaur four years ago and used to work in their tailor's shop but later he started running his own shop by staying in Indira Nagar.

Earlier also, Wasim was taken into custody by the police during the demonstrations

against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens. It was alleged that Wasim had played the important role in the violent demonstration in Lucknow on December 19, 2019.

Apart from Lucknow, the NIA also conducted raids in Barabanki, Varanasi and Bahraich. According to ATS sources, two activists of the Popular Front of India residing in Jaitpura and Adampur areas of Varanasi were taken into custody for questioning.

It may be mentioned that on September 12, the court of the district judge of Varanasi had ordered that the hearing of the Gyanvapi Shringar Gauri

case would continue. In this regard, OMA Salam, chairman of Popular Front of India, had issued a statement saying that the decision of the Varanasi district judge to uphold the petition of Hindu devotees given for daily worship inside the Gyanvapi Masjid would further increase the fascist attacks on the rights of the minority. "We stand by the decision of the Masjid Committee to challenge this order in the High Court," he had said.

In Bahraich, a person named Babbu alias Kamaruddin was taken into custody from Jarwal Road. His wife reached the Jarwal Road

police station and informed that around 4 in the morning the police reached their house and took her husband into custody. After this her house was also searched and Babbu's mobile was taken into custody.

Similarly, at around 3 am in Barabanki, the team detained Nadeem, a resident of Gauhar Majra Bahrauli village. The team suddenly reached there and surrounded the house and took Nadeem in custody. It may be mentioned here that Nadeem was jailed in the past for his connection with the Popular Front of India. He is said to be an agent of PFI.

Sources said that the ATS team also raided many places

in Meerut and Kairana in Shamli in connection with money laundering and other suspicious activities. The ATS team reached Sameer's house in Delhi Gate area of Meerut. Here the police were looking for one Munir, a resident of Muzaffarnagar. It is said that both Sameer and Munir are relatives.

According to the police officials, a few days ago, Munir had come and stayed at Sameer's house in Delhi Gate. However, Munir was not found during the raid. After this Sameer was taken to the police station for questioning.

The ATS arrested PFI worker Maulana Sajid in a

joint raid with the NIA team in Mamor village of Kotwali in Kairana. At present, Sajid is being questioned by the ATS and NIA teams.

Mamor village head Maulana Sajid is said to be a member of PFI. He is being questioned in connection with terror funding and running the camp. Maulana Sajid was also arrested in 2019 by Kairana police with provocative posters of PFI. A case was also registered against him at Kairana police station.

Meanwhile, the team of UP ATS conducted a raid in the Kalchina village under Bhojpur police station of Ghaziabad in the wee hours of Thursday.

There was a scuffle between the ATS team and the women of the raided house and the people of the neighborhood. The women protested against the ATS team entering the house. Taking advantage of this, Parvez managed to escape. Parvez has been in charge of PFI's Western UP office in Meerut. Police and the ATS team took Parvez's father and brothers Irfan and Furkan into custody and took them to Bhojpur police station. Parvez was the mastermind of the violence during anti-CAA/NRC protests and the violence in Muradnagar area of Meerut and in Ghaziabad was funded by him.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

Previously my name was Dhiraj Kumar Gopal ji Shah which I have changed as Dhiraj Kumar Shah. Hereinafter, I shall known and identified with this new name. Add 16/81, A-1, Civil Lines, Kanpur

### NOTICE

Previously my name was Ranjan Dhiraj Shah which I have changed as Ranjan Shah. Hereinafter, I shall known and identified with this new name. Add 16/81, A-1, Civil Lines, Kanpur

### NOTICE

Original Allotment letter and original possession letter of my property H No L-139 E-4 skeem Deendayal puram Kanpur has been lost some where use of same will be illegal. Siddharth Pandey S/O Saroj Pandey.

### सूचना

मैंने अपना नाम Naim Ali Sekh S/o Sekh Noor Ali से बदलकर SK Naim Ali S/o SK Noor Ali रख लिया है भविष्य मे मुझे इसी नाम से जाना पहचाना जाए Address- Krishnarampur Chuadanga Hooghly- 712705

### NOTICE

To be informed that in my daughter's high school document my name by mistake written M. Nafees Khan while my correct name is Mohd. Nafees Khan. M. Nafees Khan & Mohd. Nafees Khan both are same person. Mohd. Nafees Khan 529 Ka/547, Khurram Nagar. Lucknow- 226022 Affidavit date :- 17.09.2022 Notary by B.K. Khanna, Lucknow

### INFORMATION

This is to inform that in my high school and intermediate certificates, my name is Alamvillam Vijay Raghavan Harsha, but in my graduation, MBA marksheet and bank my name is written as A.V. Harsh also i am doing all my work with this name. So, Alamvillam Vijay Raghavan Harsha and A.V. Harsh are the names of same person, therefore in future my name should be known as A.V. Harsh S/o Vijay Raghavan Address: 11/265 Rajajipuram, Lucknow

### NOTICE

I hereby declare that in my government documents the name of my wife is wrongly registered as Renu which is incorrect while in my wife's Aadhaar Card and Pan Card her name is registered as Renu Devi which is correct.Hence,in future the name of my wife would be known and written as Renu Devi only. Kamlesh Kumar S/O Satendra Kumar House No. 380,Buttsganj Near Bandha, Tehsil and District-Sitapur (UP)

### AUCTION NOTICE

दिर्नौक 29.09.2022 मध्यान्ह 12:00 बजे कार्यालय संयुक्त आयकर आयुक्त, पश्चिमे-1(1), आयकर भवन, 16/69 सिविल लाइन्स, कानपुर में निष्प्राप्य अम्बेसडर कार यू०पी० 78 बी०जी०-०235 (2009) की नीलामी, सिक्वेरिटी रु० 5,000/- बैंक ड्राफ्ट "Zonal Account Officer, C.B.D.T., Kanpur" नामित, G.S.T. पंजीयन अनिवार्य /आई०पी० सिंह एण्ड सन्स

## WOMEN'S SPECIAL SESSION

# Mahana: Positive message sent across country

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana said that the women's session had made a new beginning and it had sent a very positive message across the country.

He said the focus on women's issues would not end with this session and this session had added to the dignity of the House.

"In future there will be no special session for women. From next session, the notice given by women members will get priority. We will develop such an institutional mechanism where without any preferential treatment to women members, they will themselves ensure their effective participation in the proceedings of the House," the speaker said.

"I am a member of the assembly for the last 32 years. It is the first time that the members are being identified on the basis of their professional skills. Some are doctors, some engineers and chartered accountants. Earlier MLAs were identified only on the basis of caste and their criminal background," Mahana said.

Without naming the members, the speaker said two MLAs had opposed the proposal for women's session, questioning the idea of devoting one day for women's session in the brief monsoon session of five days. He said during the last over five years of the Yogi Adityanath government, several initiatives were taken by the state assembly but today it was a historic day. The speaker expressed his gratitude to all the members of the assembly for the successful conclusion of the women's session of the House. He said the women's

## AKY welcomes special session for women MLAs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Sander leader of opposition in UP Assembly, Akhilesh Yadav, on Thursday, welcomed Vidhan Sabha Speaker Satish Mahana and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the special women's session of the House in which only women members participated in the proceedings of the House.

"Women related issues are so big that a one-day session of women members is not sufficient to address the issues related to women. The government and the opposition will have to close ranks to address this issue and several sessions need to be organised to address the women related issues," Akhilesh Yadav said in the state assembly on Thursday.

Lauding Speaker Satish Mahana for taking the initiative for the women's session, Akhilesh Yadav emphasised the need for the government and the opposition to work together for curbing the rising tide of crime against women across the state.

"I welcome the assembly speaker for this session.



However, the issues related to women are so big that a one-day session is not enough. Even if the whole session of the assembly is dedicated to women's issues it will not be adequate," Akhilesh Yadav said.

"We need to tackle the issue of crime against women in a non-partisan manner and rise above political affiliations. Even after the stringent laws legislated by Parliament, there is no let up in crime against women. Whether it be the

incident of Hathras or of Lakhimpur, such incidents should not happen in a civilised society," Yadav said and added, "If the opposition and government come on the same page then such heinous crime against women can be prevented."

Referring to the gang-rape incident in Moradabad on Wednesday, Akhilesh Yadav said, "I don't want to offend the government today and will not question the measures taken by the state government

for women's empowerment, the incident in Moradabad is a shame for the whole society."

Offering his suggestion for curbing crime against women, Akhilesh Yadav said, "The government should adopt zero tolerance policy against hate crimes and there should be 33 per cent reservation for women in state police."

He said education for women from primary to post-graduate level should be made free and an independent women's unit should be set up in state police.

He said the government should organise self-defence training programmes across the state at village, block and tehsil level for imparting training to young girls in self defence.

The leader of opposition also suggested that gender sensitivity index be introduced in the annual character roll of the police officers. He regretted that the samajwadi pension scheme launched by the Samajwadi Party government in 2017, which benefitted 50 lakh women, was scrapped by the Yogi Adityanath government.

session had sent a very positive message across the country and the UP Assembly, the largest state assembly of India, had set an example before the nation.

Mahana said he had discussed the proposal with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who appreciated the idea. The speaker also praised leader of opposition Akhilesh Yadav for supporting the initiative. He said

Akhilesh Yadav also welcomed the idea of women's session, saying the UP Assembly had taken a lead in the country by holding women's session. The speaker announced that after the session all members would be given a tablet and those not present today would get it during the budget session next year in February. In the over seven-hour debate, all women members present in the House made

statements. Though no woman MLA is a member of the panel of presiding officers in the House, two women MLAs, Saeeda Khatun of Samajwadi Party and Manju Sivach of the Bharatiya Janata Party, acted as presiding officers of the House during the seven-hour-long proceeding. All the women members made their statements as per their political affiliations. The SP women members

criticised the government for stopping them from entering the House on September 19 and on law and order and crime against women but they refrained from making accusations against the government. All the women BJP members took the opportunity to praise Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for their policies for women empowerment.

## Mayawati takes to Twitter to raise public issues

**Lucknow (PNS):** With Bahujan Samaj Party having only one MLA in the state assembly, party chief Mayawati has taken to Twitter to raise issues during the on-going monsoon session of the UP legislature.

Continuing her tweets, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, has drawn the attention of the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath government to farmers and agriculture with three tweets on Thursday.

The BSP supremo said that despite

India being an agrarian country, the government's very little attention towards agriculture and farmers' interest had always been a cause of great concern.

She said that now not getting a fair price for their produce, huge arrears of sugarcane farmers and loss of livestock etc. are plaguing rural India and the government should pay immediate attention to this.

The BSP chief said as the Uttar Pradesh government had accepted in

the assembly that the sugarcane farmers of the state had huge arrears, hence the government should take strict steps to ensure payment of these arrears as soon as possible, while fulfilling its responsibility.

She said the death of innumerable domestic animals in the grip of lumpy virus disease in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had put poor rural India in a new trouble.

The BSP chief said livestock was the backbone of self-sufficient rural life and

for this reason the governments of other states along with the government of Uttar Pradesh must provide proper financial help to the affected people.

Mayawati had earlier targeted the Samajwadi Party, the main opposition party in Uttar Pradesh. She said that the secular forces of UP voted for the Samajwadi Party and made it the main opposition party against the extreme casteist, communal and anti-public policies of the BJP, but this party had failed to give a tough fight to the BJP.

## Yogi to launch Matribhumi Yojana on Oct 2

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government will launch the Matribhumi Yojana on October 2 to help people connect with their roots.

Under this scheme, if a person wants to construct a community building, hospital, school, common service centre in the name of his or her ancestor in the village, he/she will have to pay 60 per cent of the total cost while the rest will be invested by the government. The said building would be in the name of the person's ancestor, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said.

While virtually addressing the opening ceremony of Kisan Mela and Rural Development Exhibition organised by Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Mahotsav Samiti in Mathura, the chief minister said that the Bharatiya Janata Party was celebrating seva pakhwa as September 17



was the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, September 25 was the birthday of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay and October 2 of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Keeping this in mind, many programmes have been designed. High speed internet and free Wi-Fi services will be introduced in many villages. We are going to connect every gram panchayat with better

internet service. Once done, the villagers will get 243 types of services related to banks, police stations and tehsils," he said.

The chief minister said the economy of India was rural based and therefore the introduction of new technology in the farm sector was mandatory. He said the emphasis should be on increasing production and reducing the cost of cultivation.

"Farmers are getting the benefit of PM Bima Yojana, PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana, and minimum support price (MSP). For the first time the farmers did not take loans from moneylenders as an arrangement was made to give Rs 6,000 annually to the farmers from PM Kisan Samman Nidhi," he said.

In UP, 2.60 crore farmers are getting its benefit.

Yogi said that the double-engine government was working to bring a change in the lives of farmers as the BJP governments at the Centre and in state were fulfilling the vision of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay.

"The BJP governments are providing roof to every poor through PM Awas Yojana. Toilet is a symbol of women's dignity. Providing drinking water to every household through Har Ghar Nal Yojana is also an undertaking to enhance the resolutions of Pt Upadhyay," he said.

## Maharani pleads for release of husband Gayatri Prajapati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Maharani Prajapati, the Samajwadi Party MLA from Amethi and wife of jailed SP leader Gayatri Prajapati, pleaded for the release of her husband from jail in the assembly on Thursday. Gayatri Prajapati, former minister in the Akhilesh Yadav government, has been in jail since 2017.

"I am illiterate. I am thankful to Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav as he gave me the party ticket in the 2022 UP Assembly election from Amethi and I won the election. My husband is in jail for over five years and justice has been denied to him," Maharani Prajapati said.

"My husband was granted bail but the state government got it cancelled from the Supreme Court. My husband is sick and needs medical treat-

ment. I am also not keeping well and I have to marry my three children," the SP MLA said. Manju Sivach, presiding over the House, suggested to the SP MLA to approach the chief minister's office saying the office would act accordingly. Gayatri Prajapati is locked up in Lucknow prison serving life term in a 2017 rape case. The SP had fielded Gayatri's wife Maharani Prajapati from the Amethi assembly seat and she won with over 46 per cent votes. Gayatri Prajapati became mining minister in the Akhilesh Yadav government (2012-2017) in 2013. In 2014 and 2015, Prajapati was accused of corruption by various persons, including former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur and his wife Nutan, an activist. The allegations ranged from disproportionate assets to offering protection to illegal

mining in the state. While other complainants withdrew their complaints, Nutan Thakur moved the Lokayukta for the second time in 2015, alleging that Prajapati was leading a mining syndicate, and gave details of companies allegedly floated by him after getting ministership.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is given about loss of Original sale deed dtd. 16.06.2010 in respect of Plot No. 101, aarajee no. 71, Purwa Nankari, Kanpur Nagar area 100 sq.yards. registered in the name of Smt. Bitana W/o Manohar Pal at said 5618 pages 241/264 No. 3814 in the office of Sub Registrar, Kanpur. For which Police report has been lodged.

Housing Loan over said property is under consideration by the LIC HFL. If any one has any objection/claim over said property, same can represented before B.N. Bajpai Advocate (Mob.No. 09450514381) within 15 days of publication of this Notice. (B.N. Bajpai) Advocate Civil Court Kanpur Nagar.

# Driver of car in min’s fleet found dead

# Youth impersonating CO lands in police net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Driver of a car, said to be attached with the fleet of a cabinet minister in the UP government, was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside the vehicle in Dilkusha locality under Cantonment police station area on Thursday morning. His wife alleged murder and lodged a complaint against unidentified accused.

As per reports, Rajesh Dwivedi of New Gudaaura Colony in Bijnor police station area of Lucknow left his house around for the airport 3 pm on Wednesday to receive someone. When his wife Sheela Dwivedi called him around 7:30 pm, Rajesh told her that he would return within an hour and a half. However, he did not return till 9 pm, Sheela called him again but the call went unanswered and later, the phone was switched off.

As Sheela and other members in the family were clueless about Rajesh's location, they waited for the dawn to search for him. On Thursday morning, the family members were informed about recovery of a body from a car. Sheela and others reached the scene and identified the body.

In her complaint, she said Rajesh was lying dead under the seat adjacent to that of the

## Body of banker's brother admitted in hospital recovered from road

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A banker's brother admitted at a private hospital in Ashiyana was found dead under mysterious circumstances close to a road divider in Saleh Nagar locality on Thursday morning. Police claimed that he had gone for a morning walk during which he turned unconscious and died later. As per reports, some morning walkers spotted the body around 7:30 am and dialled the police control room.

Kartikeya Singh of LDA Colony (Sector D1) identified the deceased as Rajesh Jain (45) of the same colony. Kartikeya told the police that Rajesh was the brother of Rakesh Jain, who is the AGM of SBI and posted in

driver. "His shoes were kept on the driver's seat while his wallet and driving licence on the seat under which he was lying dead. However, his mobile phone was missing. When the body was taken out of the car, I noticed that Rajesh's trousers were torn and there were wounds on his

Gorakhpur. Investigating officer Vipin Kumar (S-1) said Rajesh had been suffering from some lung disease for a long time and was under treatment at Madhuvan Hospital in Ashiyana for the last 6-7 months. "Rajesh left the hospital for a morning walk on Thursday and fell down as he became unconscious. He suffered injuries and succumbed later," the Kumar said, ruling out the possibility of a road mishap. He said the body was sent for autopsy and the the family of the deceased were informed about the incident. The police were tightlipped when asked if Rajesh left for a morning walk after seeking permission from the hospi-

tal authorities.

Meanwhile, a man was electrocuted in a bid to save his buffalo at his house in Sairpur police station area on Wednesday afternoon. As per reports, Deshraj Yadav of Basawanpurwa village found his buffalo writhing in pain after it came in contact with a live wire. As he tried to rescue the buffalo, he also suffered an electric shock and died. The buffalo also died later. His wife Poonam said the buffalo was tied with a peg in the courtyard when it was raining around 3 pm on Wednesday. "The buffalo came in contact with a live wire. My husband tried to save the bovine and also suffered a fatal electric shock," she said.

and cabin, she said. She said the field unit collected all the details related to the incident and the body was sent for autopsy. "The family suspected foul play and a case was registered under the relevant IPC section," she added.

Police sources said Rajesh that in all likelihood, Rajesh

died in a road mishap. "He probably suffered injuries in his private parts and succumbed later," one source said. The car belongs to a travel agency presently attached to the fleet of the minister.

Rajesh was a native of Bachchrawan in Rae Bareilly and worked as the driver of the car in the fleet of Sports Minister Girish Chandra Yadav. The police found that the car (Marazzo, UP32KS6258), was registered in the name of one Ram Saijan Yadav.

The autopsy report confirmed that the victim had no ante-mortem injuries and doctors recommended that the viscera and heart be preserved for forensic test. It also surfaced that the man worked with a travel agency which provided cars to different political leaders, including the said minister. "He was not directly attached with the minister's convoy. He used to be sent to the fleet by the travel agency depending upon the need," sources said.

They said it seemed that the man was being accompanied by another person who either fled the scene after the mishap or got down before the accident. "A CCTV footage has been obtained but it is from a location which is far away from the crime scene," the sources said.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth masquerading as a circle officer of UP Police and his aide pretending to be his driver roamed around the city in a car fitted with blue/red beacon until a team suspected his credentials during a checking drive on Wednesday night and blew the lid off his mischief. The imposter and his aide were arrested for bullying unsuspecting people for no reason and for pretending to hold the particular office as a public servant and using car fitted with a blue/red beacon by a team of Ghazipur police.

The youth was identified as Priyanshu Yadav (25) of South City locality in PGI while his aide as Javed Alam of Telibagh. The duo, who had been roaming freely for a long time, were nabbed following a tip-off.

Police said Priyanshu hired the car and got the blue/red beacon fitted atop.

"Priyanshu used to bully roadside vendors, businessmen and contractors in PGI and other localities. He was found roaming in a private car (Swift Dzire) on Wednesday. When he was stopped, his driver told us that his boss was a police officer. However, since Priyanshu was young, his credentials were doubted. He could not tell us



The imposter and his aide in police custody

about his batch and the name of his colleagues," the police said. Priyanshu and Javed were booked under Section 170 of IPC for impersonating government officials. Inspector, Ghazipur, Manoj Mishra said the accused was in civvies.

Meanwhile, a stalker tried to get fresh with a woman near a school in Hazratganj on Wednesday. The woman had gone to the school to drop her child. As per reports, the

Alambagh resident was being stalked for a month but she avoided the antics of the stalker. "I had warned him on a number of occasions in the past," she said. On Wednesday, the woman confronted the accused following which several passersby flocked to the scene. However, he fled the scene taking advantage of the crowd. Police said that CCTV footage was being scanned to identify the accused.

## Schools to be checked for admissions under RTE

**Lucknow (PNS):** Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Circle Roshan Jacob said here on Thursday that 25% of the schools should be checked randomly under Section-12 (1) (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 to ascertain the number of children eligible for free admission studying in unaided recognised private schools in the academic session 2022-23. "Cooperation of the local magistrate should also be taken in this process. Under the RTE scheme, the first 10 schools which take good interest in the admission process should be selected and be given citations," Jacob said. Jacob said that for free admissions to non-aided recognised private schools in the academic session 2022-23 were ensured through lottery in three phases.

Meanwhile, under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob and District Magistrate Suryapal Gangwar, a meeting of the Divisional Transport Authority was held on Thursday. The divisional commissioner directed officials concerned to determine routes under the master plan to prevent traffic congestion. The DM said the vehicles whose registration is pending should be registered online by October 1. He also discussed the routes of autorickshaws and tempos with the association.

Earlier on Wednesday, Jacob had said that on the direction of CM Yogi Adityanath, some useful works were being carried out for the city by the joint committee of Lucknow Development Authority, Lucknow Municipal Corporation and district administration.

She said the works included purchase of necessary equipment like super-sucking jetting machines for drainage, cleaning and capacity enhancement of the existing pumping house, Smart Road Phase-II, furniture for government schools and development of smart classes etc. She said under Lucknow Smart City, works related to development of heritage corridor, facade improvement and lighting, landscaping, theme park for family entertainment, food courts, tourist information kiosk, bio-toilets, drinking water, street lighting and beautification work would be taken up. She said the work of providing better facilities to the players and spectators of KD Singh Babu Stadium was also being taken up.

Other works include dynamic facade lighting work in Lok Bhawan, development of the zonal office of LMC as a model office, installation of fuel sensors in vehicles engaged for municipal services and identification and GIS mapping of 88 new villages included in LMC and lands already under municipal corporation.

## ID cards issued to 63 transgenders

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has made a grand beginning in its commitment to giving equal rights to every caste, class and section as it has issued identity cards to transgenders. A government spokesman said here on Thursday that 249 transgenders had applied for identity cards out of which 63 had been issued cards and the process of issuing identity cards to the remaining 186 was in process.

"A committee, comprising two transgenders, has been formed in every district for making identity cards of transgenders. This is expediting the process as the district magistrates are relying on the verification by this committee for issuing required cards," the government official said.

The Central government has created a portal (<https://transgender.dosje.gov.in>) for the identity cards of transgenders. As many as 249 transgenders of Uttar Pradesh have filled the application

form on this portal.

The state government has already constituted the Transgender Kinnar Welfare Board, which is headed by Social Welfare, Scheduled Castes and Tribes Welfare Minister Aseem Arun. Sonam Kinnar is the vice-chairman of the Kinnar Welfare Board.

In 2020, the Central government had issued identity certificates to transgenders under the provisions of the Transgender Rules.

Sonam Kinnar said that more and more registrations

were being made on the portal by setting up camps at the district level. Sonam said those who were unable to get registered were approached for registration through door-to-door campaigns.

He said that the colonies of the transgender community had been identified and the eunuchs of below poverty line (BPL) category living there were being benefited by the schemes of the government.

Transgenders will get many benefits through the identity card.

## Woman commits suicide after harassment by youth

**Lucknow (PNS):** A 26-year-old married woman allegedly committed suicide after being harassed by a youth and his two friends in Muzaffarnagar, police said on Thursday.

Puja was found hanging from the ceiling of her room in Janakpur locality on Wednesday. DSP Kuldeep Kumar told reporters that police had registered a case against the main accused, Sonu, who was allegedly harassing her for marriage, and his two friends -- Vijaypal and Rahul -- who were absconding.

According to the complaint filed by her family, Sonu used to harass the woman for

marriage and it continued even after she got married to Deepak this year. The accused had threatened to kill the woman's mother-in-law and husband if she did not accept his proposal, so she took the extreme step, it said.

Meanwhile, a mechanic, Vijay Kumar, died when the compressor of an air-conditioner exploded during charging of the electric bus during its service in Bareilly on Thursday. Service engineer Bablu and technician Narendra were also injured. The incident took place on Thursday at the electric bus charging station in Bareilly.

## Durga Puja pandal in form of grand temple

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Jail Road Durga Puja pandal is in the form of a grand temple. Tapash Kant Ghosh from the puja committee said that Bengali artists are preparing the pandal. He said they have completed 62 years at the same venue.

"It is not any particular temple that is being highlighted in the pandal, but a temple in general. The 6.5-feet idol of Goddess Durga is very beautiful. Normally, 1,000 people visit the pandal and we will be having 'bhog' for three days. Several competitions will be held for children during the

celebrations," he said.

Ghosh said they have invited 'dhaki' players from Malda in West Bengal. "Our pandal attracts devotees not only from across UP but also West Bengal," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Gautam Mitra from Gomti Nagar Durga Puja said they would be organising a full-fledged programme after Covid. "Last year, we performed puja in a restricted manner and no other activities were held. This time, we will have a specific area for cultural programmes and there will be commercial stalls too," he said.

### CITYBRIEFS



#### GOLD MEDAL

Sundaram Singh, a student of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, won the gold medal in a shooting championship held in Mussoorie. He bagged the gold medal in the U-17 category 'Peep Sight Rifle Shooting' competition. The championship was organised under the aegis of Association of Schools for Indian School Certificate (ASISC) in which the young shooters from various noted schools of UP participated.

#### PHARMACOVIGILANCE WEEK AT RMLIMS

National Pharmacovigilance Week is being celebrated at the ADR Monitoring Centre of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences. Various sessions regarding adverse drug reactions were organised by the department of pharmacology,

RMLIMS, for creating awareness among all healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and other paramedical staff. Head of the department and AMC coordinator for this national programme Dr Atul Jain spoke about the importance of reporting ADRs. Healthcare staff members were also felicitated for reporting significant number of ADRs and also an awareness walk was organised which was flagged off by RMLIMS director Dr Soniya Nityanand.

#### FOOD FEST

Under the National Nutrition Month - 2022, a food fest was organised by the School of Home Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University. The chief guest was Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Singh. All the research students and students of the department of home science contributed to the fest. The main attraction was the 'Naivedyam' thali. The students put up stalls of self-prepared pani-puri, bhel-puri and other items.

#### KGMU BREAST UPDATE

The department of endocrine surgery, KGMU, is organising the annual 'KGMU Breast Update' on September 23 and 24 in association with Indian Anti-Cancer Trust (IACT), New Delhi, under the aegis of Association of Breast surgeons of India (ABSI) and Uttar Pradesh Chapter of Association of Surgeons in India (UPASI). "The incidence

of breast cancer is increasing worldwide. With increased awareness, more and more breast cancers are being picked up in early stages. Neo-adjuvant chemotherapy occasionally makes patients with advanced stages also amenable to breast conservation," a senior faculty member said.

#### SCHOLARSHIP



Deakin University of Australia has offered a US\$ 75,750 scholarship to Priyanshi Singh, a student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, for pursuing higher education. The scholarship will be provided to her for the four-year undergraduate course. Priyanshi credited her teachers at CMS and school's educational environment for the achievement. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi congratulated her and wished her success.

## LDA to take stock firefighting measures in buildings

**Lucknow (PNS):** The exercise to check and replaced obsolete firefighting equipment will begin from October 1, an executive engineer of Lucknow Development Authority said here on Thursday.

The engineer, who did not wish to be named, said it would be the duty of the office-bearers of residents' welfare associations to cooperate with the officials in finding out faults and upgrading the firefighting set-up for their own safety and that of others.

The engineer said the maintenance work would be executed by the engineering department. "After the change, no one can solely blame the LDA administration in case of a major fire incident," he added.

Regarding the action taken against hotels, guest houses, nursing homes and banquet halls on which the notices were served, he said there are 140 such premises in the city but no action has been taken so far. He said all the premises would be checked by special teams to ensure installation of latest firefighting equipment.

Currently, the LDA administration's biggest problem is safety measures in multi-storey apartments. Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi said the LDA administration is also planning to consult architecture experts and civil engineers to remove the anomalies to ensure safety of residents.

## SGPGI working for elimination of measles, rubella under national programme

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The microbiology department of Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences is working for the elimination of measles under the National Measles and Rubella Programme, Dr Ujjala Ghoshal said. The National Measles Laboratory of SGPGI has been providing valuable support to this programme in India since 2014.

"WHO representatives had visited SGPGI earlier this month along with those from 11 South-East Asian countries and the data of the cases in all these countries was actively compared," he said.

He said they detected the disease from the samples which came to them and it was observed that measles had decreased to a certain extent because of all the vaccination programmes carried out in the country. "Case detection is very important in the control strategy and the meeting was held in this regard. This laboratory is the first one in the Global Polio Laboratory Network in terms of the largest number of serum, urine and throat samples processed each year. Approximately 9,000 samples were processed last year. Since 2014, our laboratory has achieved 100% in all the external proficiency panels and

maintained a very high level of reporting efficacy," she said.

She said though the polio eradication journey was exhilarating, it taught several lessons that would keep them in good stead in future disease control and elimination efforts.

"Millions of polio field and lab workers in UP and Bihar were crucial to the successful interruption of polio transmission in India. With the experience gathered from the polio eradication programme, we now aspire to put in our best efforts in measles and rubella elimination," she added.

Dr Ghoshal said measles cases declined at SGPGI in 2020-2021 to only 425 as compared to 1,950 in 2018-2019.

"In the year 2021, a total of 9,103 samples were tested at the SGPGI lab for both serology and virology and out of them, only 6% positivity was found in serology, although it was 55% out of 3,585 in both serology and virology in 2018. This data indicates that positivity has declined," she added.

Dr Ujjala said that countries in the WHO South-East Asia region have extended their targets to eliminate vaccine-preventable infections, measles and rubella, by 2023.

"These infections lead to substantial childhood morbidity and mortality. Measles mortality is particularly high in malnourished children residing

in areas with poor healthcare systems and rubella infection contracted during pregnancy can lead to miscarriage and congenital rubella syndrome. India is facing multiple challenges to meet these elimination targets," she said.

She added that in 2019, the Indian government reported 10,430 measles and 3,404 rubella cases to WHO.

"Active field surveillance, along with a strong laboratory network, is pivotal to the success of disease elimination programmes. In view of this requirement, field surveillance in India was strengthened and expanded, switching from outbreak to case-based surveillance, and all states had completed the transition by 2019. An effective disease surveillance system is essential to detect measles and rubella outbreaks quickly before they cost lives and become more difficult to control," she added.

Dr Ghoshal pointed out that effective surveillance systems also allow timely understanding of measles epidemiology and estimation of the underlying true incidence.

"In the new surveillance approach, health workers collect serum and throat or nasopharyngeal swab or urine samples from individuals with suspected measles for laboratory confirmation and virus genotyping," she added.

## CPI-ML criticises Allahabad Univ fee increase

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) criticised the fee hike by Allahabad University saying it was a whimsical decision that would mar the future of students. In a statement, CPI-ML state secretary Sudhakar Yadav justified the agitation of the students against the hike in the fee which has been increased four times of the existing fee.

Expressing concern over the incident in which a student ended his life at the university hostel in protest against the fee hike, Yadav said education was a fundamental right. "The Bharatiya Janata Party government's new education policy has caused the students to suffer the most. The government has made education an article of trade and poor students are unable to afford studying at government educational institutions while private institutes are out of their reach already. So an agitation against fee hike is the demand of the hour," he said.

Yadav said due to the novel coronavirus pandemic several people had lost their jobs and businesses and inflation was soaring high. "The fourfold hike in the fee will break the bones of the families who are getting their sons/daughters educated at the Allahabad University and the decision should be taken back," he said.

# DC expresses concern over increasing road mishaps

PNS ■ KANPUR

Expressing concern over the ever increasing road accidents every day on the Farrukhabad and Etawah route, Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar while addressing a Road Safety Committee meeting directed the police and district officials to ensure that a thorough review be carried out on the route and report be put up within next 15 days without fail. He said in addition all preventive measures need to be taken to ensure that accident rate on those routes can be brought down at the earliest.

He said road safety is top priority of both the Central and state governments. He said a recent survey stated that in the last three years these areas, especially in the districts, were unable to get help through people who can help save life in road trauma if timely help was provided. He said this was a major cause of concern. He said it had been decided that help from the print media should be taken and advertisements need to be put up in newspapers inviting applications for good



Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar chairing the Road Safety Committee meeting at the Commissionerate.

samaritans so that they will be given a sum of Rs 5,000 and a certificate of appreciation for their humanitarian works. He said there was a long pending issue of accidents and road jams on the elevated highway of 22 km on Rama Devi route. Dr Shekhar said another prominent issue was the unavailability of crane to help remove the damaged and mangled vehicles after the accident. He directed the officials to deploy two big cranes at the two points as identified by the traffic police so that after the

accident road jam due to the it can be cleared and traffic resumed at the earliest. The DC directed the District Magistrate Visakh G Iyer and Commissioner Police and other police officials to identify new black spots if any, based on the accident data of last three years and to plan accordingly for preventive measures to be taken accordingly. He said the substandard road speed breakers and manholes with protruding crests were also a potent reason for road accidents especially in the city

limits. He said it was a matter of concern that a big number of manhole covers were protruding crests were the cause of accidents within the city limits and need to be addressed on top priority.

He directed the Kanpur Municipal Commissioner and officials of PWD, Awas Vikas, NH division etc to identify such hurdles in the middle of the roads and ensure its construction as per the norms and with no compromise in quality.

He said in the next 10 days all the protruding crests of manholes be reconstructed as per the guidelines. Ensure that the sunken manhole covers were raised to the road surface level by November, he said. He cautioned the officials to ensure that the work was carried out as per the specifications and in the stipulated timeframe. SP Kanpur Outer, DCP, Secretary KDA, Chief Engineer PWD, JD Health, RTO Administration, RTO enforcement, all ARTOs of the division, Kanpur Nagar Nigam officials along with officials of NHAI, PWD and NH division took part in the meeting.

# Call to fight unitedly for fundamental rights



Sakhi Gharelu Kamgar Sangh and Alliance of Women holding a seminar at Lal Bangla on Thursday.

PNS ■ KANPUR

General secretary of Sakhi Gharelu Kamgar Sangh, Neelam Chaturvedi, while addressing a seminar on domestic workers' right at Lal Bangla said after a hard struggle for over 20 years the organisation had successfully made the government to pass an Act making minimum wages mandatory for women domestic help. She said the Uttar Pradesh Government was in the process of introducing it from October 2 this year. She said once this was introduced the domestic help will be

entitled for a wage of Rs 9,744 for an eight hour job. She made a fervent appeal to the members to unitedly fight for their fundamental rights. She said domestic workers, especially women, were often not recognised as workers, and faced discrimination as women, often from poor and marginalised groups were the worst hit. She said thousands of women across Uttar Pradesh were employed as domestic workers in private households and they clean, cook, care for children, look after elderly family members, and perform other essential tasks for their employers.

She said despite their important role, they were among the most exploited and abused workers in the world. She said they often worked 14 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week, for wages far below the minimum wage. She said they may be locked within their workplace and subjected to physical and sexual violence. She said children and migrant domestic workers were often the most vulnerable and thus there was a need for them to stand up unitedly for their fundamental rights. Over a dozen women expressed their views. The vote of thanks was proposed by Maya Kuril.

# AKSS hands over memorandum to govt

PNS ■ KANPUR

The members of Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti (AKSS) demanded implementation of the Adhivakta Pension Scheme for social security of elderly lawyers. They handed over a memorandum, addressed to chief minister, to the representative of the district magistrate Jang Bahadur, ACM (V) on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, convenor Pt Ravindra Sharma and general secretary of Kanpur Bar Association Anurag Srivastava said in the absence of any social security scheme, elderly lawyers were compelled to work to carry out their livelihood.

They said the government should allow a pension of Rs 15,000 per month to elderly lawyers on the condition of their retirement from



The lawyers handover memorandum to ACM (V) Jang Bahadur on Thursday

the profession by making a provision in the budget. After receiving the memorandum, ACM (V) Jang Bahadur said it will be sent to the chief minister's office for necessary action at his end.

# Kanpur team excels in deadlift championship

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur team excelled in the National Junior/Senior/Master Deadlift Championship (women/men) organised in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) from September 14 to 18.

The team won seven gold, four silver and two bronze medals. The winners of gold medal were Saurabh Kumar, Naman Gupta, Ravi Gupta, Khushi Rajput, Tamanna Yadav, Akriti Katiyar and Aditi Mishra while Manish

Mishra, Shobhit Yadav, Anuj Yadav and Anmol Pandey won silver medals. The bronze medal was bagged by Karan Kushwaha and Snigdha Jha.

On the occasion secretary of UP Powerlifting Association Rahul Shukla, secretary of Kanpur Powerlifting Association Saurabh Gaur, Rajesh Dixit, KS Chauhan, Shobhit Verma, Anil Kushwaha, Abhilekh Singh and other members of the association extended their greetings to the winners.



The winners of deadlift championship with their medals.

Online Tender Document for M.P. Police

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. PHQ/24/MT/5359-1/2022

Bhopal, Dated 20/09/2022

“ONLINE TENDER NOTICE”

Online tender are invited by Police Head Quarter, Bhopal for Police Modernization Plan on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

S. No	Item	Qty.	Warranty	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	Tender Fees (Rs.)
1	ANTI RIOT VEHICLE (Small)	22	2 Years	748000	10000

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. Critical Date Sheet:

Published Date	21/09/2022 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Document Download Start Date	21/09/2022 Time 18:00 PM
Pre Bid Meeting Date	26/09/2021 Time 15:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	03/10/2022 Time 11:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	10/10/2022 Time 16:30 PM
Bid Opening Date	11/10/2022 Time 16:30 PM

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/addendum/amendment.

6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

(Sanjeev Kanchan)

A.I.G. (Mod.)

G-17322/22

For: Director General of Police M.P.

Online Tender Document for M.P. Police

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

No. PHQ/24/MT/5358-1/2022

Bhopal, Dated 20/09/2022

“ONLINE TENDER NOTICE”

Online tender are invited by Police Head Quarter, Bhopal for Police Modernization Plan on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

S. No	Item	Qty.	Warranty	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	Tender Fees (Rs.)
1	ANTI RIOT VEHICLE (Medium)	10	2 Years	400000	10000

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. Critical Date Sheet:

Published Date	21/09/2022 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Document Download Start Date	21/09/2022 Time 18:00 PM
Pre Bid Meeting Date	26/09/2021 Time 15:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	03/10/2022 Time 11:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	10/10/2022 Time 16:30 PM
Bid Opening Date	11/10/2022 Time 16:30 PM

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/addendum/amendment.

6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

(Sanjeev Kanchan)

A.I.G. (Provisioning)

G-17319/22

For: Director General of Police M.P.

# Annual AOMSI conference from today

PNS ■ KANPUR

The 7th annual state conference of Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India (AOMSI) will be organised here at Hotel Royal Prince, Gurdeo Palace crossing, on September 23 and 24. Addressing mediapersons, convenor Dr Atish Kundu and media incharge Dr Shravan Kumar Singh said the conference aimed at apprising the fraternity of newer methods of oral surgery and sharing experience with senior experts in the field. They said apart from 40 senior experts of the country, around 300 delegates from different parts of the state will also take part in the two-day conference.

On Thursday four live surgeries were carried out by Dr Jagvir Singh, Dr Sardar Singh, Dr Shravan Kumar Singh and Dr Shushmati Dey. National President of AOMSI Dr Manju Nath Rai (Mangaluru) and general secretary Dr Girish Rau (Bengaluru) will also grace the occasion. Chief guest of the inaugural ceremony on Friday will be the DIG Suresh Kulkarni, they said.

# Need-based education required for building self-reliant nation: V-C

PNS ■ KANPUR

Writer Naseera Sharma called upon upcoming young writers for creating innovative literature imbibing Indian social and cultural values in the interest of posterity. Speaking at the prize distribution ceremony at the fifth National Hindi Essay writing competition organised by Dr Sujata Varma Smriti Samiti on Thursday, Naseera said that the path to success for creative writers was difficult but not unattainable. She advised them to have patience as they would succeed in their mission sooner or later. Vice-Chancellor (V-C), CSJM University, Professor Vinay Pathak who was the chief guest said that need-based education was required for building a self-reliant nation. The government has introduced the new education system to make India a completely self-reliant nation. Young writers Bhagwant Anmol (UP), Sai Meera Joshi (Chennai) and Sukarna Katiyar (UP) were felicitated. Niharika Kunwar, Kajal Chaudhari and Rachna Chetan (MP) were given cash prizes and Shyam Sunder Sachdeva Memorial gold and silver medals. Ankita Baghel,

# NSS foundation day celebration tomorrow

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Vice-Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Prof Vinay Pathak while addressing presspersons at the Centre for Academics on Thursday about the foundation day celebration of NSS on September 24, said this time it will be held on a massive scale and the chief guest at the function will be Member of Parliament, Dr Sudhanshu Trivedi and all those who had done outstanding services in this field will be felicitated with Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Puruskar and Karamvir Puruskar for their meritorious services. He said it had been planned that a documentary

will be shown on the meritorious services of the NSS and will also be uploaded on the website of the varsity. He said all the meritorious services carried out in the year 2021-22 will also be put up before the audience. He said it had also been decided that the meritorious work done during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav between August 12 and 15 in the villages will be shown to the august gathering. He said the Swayam Sewaks will also be given certificate of merit. Registrar of the varsity, Prof SK Awasthi, addressing the presspersons informed that a souvenir will also be released on the occasion. He said a special felicitation of Vedacharya, Dr Vandana

Pathak will be carried out and will be chaired by the VC at PSIT, Bhauti.

He said it had been decided by the NSS to collect clothes from families and later distribute them to the poor and the underprivileged people.

He said that this will start from October 2 onwards. He said dropbox will also be set up in the varsity premises and also a clothes bank will also be set up soon.

Dr Pravin Katiyar, Chief Proctor, Dr Manas Upadhyaya, Dr Pankaj Dwivedi, Dr Sneha Pandey, Dr Pushpa Mammoria, Dr Omkar Agrahari, Dr Vishal Sharma and several others were present.

Babita Pathak and Anuradha Srivastava were given Har Prakash Memorial gold and silver medals. Harsh Bhagat (WB) was given cash prize and Dr Sujata Varma silver medal. Niharika Kunwar, Kajal Chaudhari, Dipti and Sukarna Katiyar spoke about “Alfa, Beta, Gamma” a novel of Naseera

Agarwal, Dilip Dubey and Seema Varnika recited their verses. Priya Varma convened the function while Saran P Varma proposed the vote of thanks.

Earlier Dr Suresh Awasthi and Shubro Sen welcomed the guests. Rachna Sharma convened the programme.

# NCR Award function organised

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Principal Chief Commercial Manager NCR Award Function 2021-22 was organised on Wednesday at Aravali Hall, North Central Railway Headquarters Prayagraj.

On this occasion, 102 employees of the Headquarters and Divisions were felicitated by Mr Shashi Kant Singh, Principal Chief Commercial Manager with certificate and cash awards for their outstanding work. During the occasion, the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, while addressing the gathering, appreciated the tireless efforts made by staff for enhancing earning and improving passen-

ger services in 2021-22 as compared to the financial year 2020-21.

Mrs Anu Mani Tripathi, (Chief Commercial Manager/ FM), Jitendra Kumar (Deputy Chief Commercial Manager/ FM), Himanshu Shukla (Deputy Chief Commercial Manager/Claims), Vipin Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager / Prayagraj, Naveen Dixit, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager / Jhansi, and Virendra Singh (Assistant Commercial Manager / Agra) were present on this occasion. The function was conducted and vote of thanks was proposed by Shrikrishna Shukla, Chief Commercial Inspector.

# Mishra mourns Raju's death

PNS ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush, Food Safety and Drug Administration Daya Shankar Mishra “Dayaloo” has expressed his deep grief on the demise of the popular stand-up comedian Raju Srivastava who breathed last on Wednesday in AIIMS, New Delhi.

In a message, Dr Mishra said that the death of one of the best stand-up comedians of the country shocked him as Raju Srivastava gave the reasons to lakhs of people to laugh. There is a great loss to the film world with his departure, the minister said and prayed to the almighty to give a place to him in his feet and strength to his family mem-

**‘Raju was one of the best stand-up comedians of the country, he played a key role in maintaining the unity and harmony of the country by uniting people’**

bers to bear this great loss. Meanwhile, the office-bearers of social organisation Bhartiya Ekta Sadbhavana Mission paid their rich tributes to the popular actor of stand-up comic at a meeting held at CIMS in Parashurampur here and expressed their deep condo-

lence on his demise.

Raju Srivastava gave a new height to stand-up comedy and brightened the lives of people laughter with his mimicry, comedy and powerful personality, said the national general secretary of Mission Manoj Srivastava while paying his tributes to him.

Raju Srivastava was one of the best stand-up comedians of the country and his style of presentation was simple, he said, adding that he played a key role in maintaining the unity and harmony of the country by uniting the people and his death is irreparable loss to the country, Manoj expressed further.

Vinod Keshari, Tahsildar Pandey, Rajendra Srivastava, Neyaj Ansari and others were present in the meeting.

# Varanasi court starts regular hearing in Gyanvapi case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Varanasi court on Thursday started regular hearing in the civil suit filed by five Hindu women seeking permission for the unhindered daily worship of the Shringar Gauri and other visible and invisible deities located on Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque complex and posted the date of September 29 for the next hearing. The court dismissed the plea filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee seeking eight weeks time to appeal in the higher court against its order in which it had held that the civil suit is maintainable. The court also directed the committee to file its side on the plaintiff's plea seeking the survey and carbon dating of shivling, claimed to have been found in the wuzu khana of Gyanvapi Masjid complex during the next hearing.

It is learnt that the court of the District Judge, Varanasi Dr Ajay Kumar Vishvesha had on September 12 held that the civil suit filed by five Hindu women seeking permission for the unhindered daily worship of the Shringar Gauri and other visible and invisible deities located on Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque complex, was maintainable and dismissed the application filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee challenging the suit. The court had posted the date of September 22 for the next hearing in the case.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the management of



Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain with women plaintiffs in Shringar Gauri-Gyanvapi case coming out from the court after hearing.

Pioneer

Gyanvapi mosque, had filed a plea seeking eight weeks time to appeal in the higher court against the order. The court dismissed the plea of the committee and posted the date of September 29 for the next hearing. The plaintiffs in the civil suit had submitted an application seeking the survey and carbon dating of shivling, claimed to have been found in the wuzu khana Gyanvapi mosque complex during the commission survey and the court directed the committee to put its side on in during the next hearing. As many 16 persons had filed applications seeking permission to be a party in the case but out of them, only 9 were present in the court and one withdrew his

application.

The court directed eight present persons in the court to put the evidences and facts in their favours during the hearing on September 29 and dismissed the applications of absent applicants. The security arrangement has been made in the court premises during the hearing.

It is learnt that five women Lakshmi Devi, Sita Sahu, Rekha Pathak, Manju Vyas and Rakhi Singh had filed a civil suit in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar of Varanasi seeking the right to offer prayer of Goddess Shringar Gauri, located outer wall of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Masjid complex and other

deities located on the complex. On the order of the court, the advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra had conducted video-survey of the complex on May 6 and 7 last but he had been removed by the court later on the question of his fairness raised by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the management of Gyanvapi Masjid.

The court appointed Vishal Singh and Ajay Pratap Singh as special advocate commissioner and assistant court commissioner respectively for the survey. Both conducted surveys on May 14, 15 and 16 last and submitted their reports on May 19. The advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra also submitted his report.

# Ganga maintains rising trend

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The river Ganga continued rising on Thursday with 1 cm per hour and its water level increased to 66.46 m from 66.27 which was a day earlier. And, the threat in the areas along the rivers Ganga and Varuna has risen with a continuous rising trend for the last few days. There was a relief to the district administration and residents as well as the sky remained clear throughout the day but the Met department forecast of rainfall in one or two days to come.

As per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level of river Ganga continued rising on Thursday with a speed of 1 cm per hour which indicated no relief for now. Though it is still flowing much below from the danger level as it was recorded flowing at 66.46 point at 8 am on Thursday morning while the warning and danger marks of the river are 70.262 metres and 71.262 metres respectively.

It is learnt that the river Ganga had started rising again five days ago, giving an alarm to the district administration and city dwellers as well because it had declined to the normal level after crossing the danger mark in the beginning of this month. The silt of flood is still at many ghats and the



Ganga continues rising.

Pioneer

rising trend of Ganga badly affected the work to clean the ghats.

If the rising trend of the river continues in the days to come, it could pose a serious challenge before the authority in the district administration and the municipal corporation as the festivals of Ganga Dussehra and Dev Deepawali are not far away. Due to the rising trend of the river, the link among ghats has disconnected from each other causing incon-

veniences for the daily bathers, visitors and devotees. Due to rise in the water level of Ganga, the cremation place at Manikarnika Ghat had to be changed. It is learnt that many bodies are cremated at this ghat every day.

The continued rising trend of Ganga has made an alarm in the low-lying areas which are still struggling hard to bring their life to normal. At the same, the rise in water level of Ganga added to woes of the

residents living in the areas located along the river Varuna as the water of this river entered the areas.

The residents of these areas have once again started seriously thinking of going to safer places if such a trend continues in the coming one or two days. But at the same time, there was some relief as the sky remained clear throughout the day. Though, the Met department forecast the rain in the coming one or two days.

# SMS holds orientation programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

School of Management Sciences (SMS) organised a three-day orientation programme for the students of MBA and MCA, here.

Speaking as the chief guest in the closing session of the programme, the vice-president of NatWest Group Amit Singh Rajput emphasised on following seven habits-to be active, to begin any work keeping its possible end in mind, to set the priority in life, adopt the win-win point of view, develop understanding and always be ready to learn by a person to develop an effective personality. The changes are taking place at global level nowadays and to make coordination with these changes is the mantra of success, he said, adding that there was a need to follow a well-planned approach to face the changes in technologies and procedures. Dr Abhay Singh and Dr Sivendra Pathak jointly conducted the concluding session, while Dr Amit Kishore



A guest speaking in the orientation programme of MBA/MCA in SMS.

Pioneer

Sinha, Veer Pratap, Atish Khadse and DK Tripathi discussed various subjects with the students. Dr Amitabh Pandey, Shambhu Sharan Srivastava, Viresh Tripathi, Sunit Kumar Mishra, Ramgopal Gupta, Prof Rajkumar Singh, Prof Sandeep Singh informed the new entrants various programmes of MBA and MCA. Dr

Anamika Singh and Amit Kumar Bhanja jointly conducted the second day's sessions.

Earlier, the Director of SMS, Varanasi Prof PN Jha while addressing the inaugural session said that the institute is ready to implement the new National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and it has also started taking initiatives to

make the students prepare for it. The chief guest of inaugural session and General Manager (Human Resources) of Prism Johnson Ramdas Kambekar gave the mantras of patience, enthusiasm and objective-orientation to be professional. The head of National Commodities Management Services Limited B Haneef said that the success could be achieved only by following the multi-dimensional approach. The guest of honour and Managing Director of Utkarsh Co-Investment Limited Ashwani Kumar talked about the importance of moral success. Prof Avinash Chandra Supkar outlined the objective of the institute. Dr Pallvi Pathak conducted it and Dr Amitabh Pandey offered a formal vote of thanks. Dr Bhavana Singh and Dr Sofia Khan jointly conducted the technical sessions of first day. The executive secretary of SMS Dr MP Singh, director Prof PN Jha and secretary Sanjay Gupta were mainly present on the occasion.

# AU students take out symbolic funeral procession of V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Students' protest against fee hike in Allahabad University has now intensified. On Thursday also, a large number of students gathered in the university campus and took out a symbolic funeral procession of the Vice Chancellor. The security personnel of Allahabad University also manhandled some students. This enraged the students and they dragged the security guard. Seeing this the police ran and rescued the guards from the clutches of the students. Then the students launched a protest with shouting slogans against the AU administration. The university administration and police tried to convince the enraged students but they refused to budge.

Students took out symbolic funeral procession of Vice Chancellor in protest against fee hike in Allahabad University. While the police were ready to stop the funeral procession, the student leaders were adamant on taking out the funeral procession. A game of hide-and-seek continued between the university administration and the police administration regarding this. The students took out a funeral procession and the symbolic effigy was snatched by the university administration and police. It is worth mentioning that



Students and police came to blow while the former taking out symbolic funeral procession in AU campus.

the Allahabad University Administration has issued instructions to increase the fees from this session. The students have been agitating since this decision was taken. Strikes, hunger strikes, suicide attempts, sloganeering and protests in the campus have been continuing for the past several days. In such a situation, it can be said that now the students' movement has started taking violent form as well.

On the 17th day of the ongoing agitation against the fee hike, there has been a confrontation between the stu-

dents and the police administration. While the student prepares to take out a symbolic funeral procession, the university administration is determined to stop. In protest against the fee hike, the student leaders of Apna Dal have also started a sit-in protest at the student union building.

The fast unto death of the students continued on Thursday. During this, the Proctoral Board led by the Proctor started checking the ID cards of the students. The students protested against this. Within a short time, ADM City

Madan Kumar and CO Colonelganj reached University. Students were raising slogans against the fee hike. At the same time, the attitude of the police is more strict than other days. In some time the students can take out the funeral procession, while the police administration will try to stop them from doing so. This will lead to conflict situations. A large number of police forces were deployed on the campus to control the students. Police force had been deployed at all the gates of the university.

# Dalits now voting for BJP: Arya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Scheduled Front National President Lalji Singh Arya said in Prayagraj that in the elections held about six months back in Uttar Pradesh, the vote which was 13 per cent has increased to 34 per cent. He claimed that the BJP has got 50 per cent of the Scheduled Caste votes. The Dalit community used to come to power by taking the votes of the tribal community but never gave anything.

National President of BJP Scheduled Front Lalji Singh Arya said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given respect to the tribal, scheduled caste people by running poor welfare schemes. People of Dalit society are now taking benefits of the schemes without any discrimination. This is the reason why this class is getting associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He also claimed that BJP had got 70 percent tribal votes in Bengal elections held a year ago. On the other hand, the people of Trinamool Congress have done the work of burning more than three thousand



BJP Scheduled Front National President Lalji Singh Arya being given rousing reception by party workers.

houses of Dalit tribal society. There is no doubt that incidents of beating and rape of tribal Dalits were done in Bengal. Whereas BJP has supported SC ST across the country, this is the reason why the vote of the party is increasing.

BJP leader Lalji Singh Arya said that apart from BJP, other parties including Congress, Janata Dal U, SP, BSP conspired

with backward castes, which kept their shutter down. Those who are left will soon fall. Dalit is no one's bonded labor. The Dalit stands with the people who do the work for the Dalit.

Lal Singh Arya called upon the party workers and office bearers that Dalits should go among the backwards to listen and understand their prob-

lems will try to solve them. They will also know as to whether the light of government schemes is reaching them or not. State President Ramchandra Kanojia, Regional Vice President Ajit Rawat, State General Secretary Ram Laxhan Rawat, Jamunapar President Vibhav Bharti, State Treasurer Manoj Pasi etc. were present on this occasion.

# Mahakumbh 2025 preparations intensify

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Now the preparations for Mahakumbh 2025 have started intensifying. The exercise has increased, especially for long-term projects. Before the Mahakumbh, trauma centers will be built on almost all the highways leading to the city. With this, the injured in accidents on the highways will get proper treatment on time.

The government has approved the construction of five trauma centers in the district. Preparations are under-

way to set up a 30-bed trauma center at Chaka on Prayagraj-Rewa highway, Handia on Varanasi road, Phulpur on Gorakhpur route, Soraon on Ayodhya route and Kaudihar on Lucknow road.

Under this, a multi-storey building will be built, in which a lift will also be installed. In this, emergency service will be available 24 hours. Specialist doctors and staff will be deployed.

With this, all the CHCs in the district will be expanded. 20-20 beds will be increased in

these CHCs. For this, additional wards will also be made and other staff including doctors will be deployed separately. The responsibility of construction of Trauma Center has been entrusted to Nirman Nigam. The corporation itself is also preparing the estimate.

The proposal of Chaka Trauma Center in Yamunapar has been sent to the government. CMO Dr. Nanak Saran told that the center will be built in the CHC Chaka campus itself. The old building will be

demolished. If the space is less, then the land of the block will also be taken. First of all, the construction work of Chaka's Trauma Center will start. Sanjay Kumar Khatri, District Magistrate said preparations are on to increase health services for Maha Kumbh. Work is going on on many projects for better system of treatment. The process of construction of trauma centers on all the highways has now accelerated. Many other big hospitals will also be upgraded, added the DM.

# Divisional review meeting organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner DYR Mishra has issued adverse entry to PD DRDA Sonbhadra for tardy progress in work of Pradhan Mantri Awas Scheme. Such action was taken by him while holding the divisional review meeting regarding law and order, revenue collection and progress in different schemes on Wednesday.

The DC expressed discontent over progress in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Sonbhadra and said despite several reminders progress was not as it should have been. He issued the adverse entry to the PD DRDA. He took the official of NHA1 to task for pendency of a road for a year. Regarding construction of roads and

bridges the DC said it was not a good practice that all working agencies were remaining behind regarding target. Reviewing health services the DC asked CMOs to ensure availability of medicines and vaccines at all health centres. The revenue officials were directed to dispose of all the cases which were more than five years old. On law and order situation the DC asked the officials concerned to make all the arrangements at Vindhyachal Mela on priority. The entire proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Joint Development commissioner Suresh Chandra Mishra and it was attended by DIG RP Singh, all DMs, SPs, CDOs and ADMs of the division along with other officials concerned.

**TWO ARRESTED:** Lalganj police arrested two persons and recovered medicines having intoxicating ingredients worth around Rs 3 lakh in it on Wednesday. On being tipped off by an informer about a car carrying the intoxicating medicines, police swung into action and stopped it on the highway. During search police recovered 1,884 bottles of APCOREX. During interrogation the accused persons divulged that they were going to deliver the consignment in MP. After registering a case police seized the medicines and the vehicle and sent the accused identified as Ravi Shankar Yadav and Shyam Sundar Yadav of Kaiyarmau Meghipur village under Aurai police station in Bhadohi to jail.

The SP awarded SHO Ram Narain and his team a cash reward of Rs 10,000.

**ONE KILLED:** One person burnt alive and four persons burnt while electric current gripped the houses. The officials of Electricity department said that the accident took place due to lightning.

The inmates of a house located in Gidhanha village under Santnagar police station were taken aback while fire broke out in the house all of a sudden and fans, bulbs etc started burning. Dinesh (26) tried to disconnect the electricity but he himself came in the grip of the current and sustained the serious burns. He was brought to a hospital where the doctors declared him as brought dead.

## Curb hate speech

The SC has termed hate speech as ‘poison’ that is hurting the social fabric of the country

When public discourse gets perverted, as is the case in India, sloganeering is confused with eloquence and platitudes with wisdom—and now uncouth blabber as forceful argumentation. So, it is hardly surprising that the incidence of hate speech is on the rise. The Supreme Court is rightly worried about this unsavoury development. On Wednesday, it termed hate speech as “poison” that is hurting the social fabric of the country. The apex court also expressed dismay over the lack of a legal framework that could deter odious remarks in television debates. It directed the Centre to reply in two months whether it (the Centre) intends to bring a law to make hate speech a penal offence. TV news channels are using “hate and all such spicy things” to improve their ratings, the apex court pointed out. Wondering why the government is a “mute spectator,” the court asserted that it was the duty of TV anchors to stop the airing of hate speech. “Where is our nation headed to if



hate speech is what we are feeding on? Hate speech is completely poisoning our social fabric,” observed a Bench of justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy. They said this while hearing a number of petitions which sought guidelines to regulate hate speech.

A few days ago, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had also desired moderation in TV channel debates. He wanted to bring “back neutrality in news.” In fact, he went on to say that the biggest threat to the mainstream media is from mainstream media channels rather than new-age digital platforms. He was correct in his observation that if a news channel invites guests who are polarising, they would spread false narratives and who shout, thus damaging the credibility of the news channel. Unfortunately, the credibility of several news channels is very bad; they are widely regarded as sympathetic to one political party or the other. Debates on political topics suffer from not just the ill-mannered and semi-educated outbursts of various participants but also the irresponsible behaviour of anchors but also biases. Such TV programmes generate a lot of heat and dust but little light. Political parties, including that of Thakur’s, should act proactively to ensure that political debate doesn’t get further degraded. Action on the part of the media should also be oriented around self-regulation. News channels, the Press Club of India, the Press Council, and other organisations related to the media should come forward with guidelines to regulate the behaviour of news anchors and other media-persons. They should draw the red lines which journalists should never cross. There should also be interaction between the Government and the media for bringing sobriety and impartiality back to news. For the alternative, the rules set by the Government or the Supreme Court, is not very appealing. Such rules may curb hate speech but will also be detrimental for free speech. All stakeholders need to exercise caution.

### PICTALK



A one-horned rhino inside the Buraphar Range of Kaziranga National Park, on World Rhino Day

PTI

## Bye, Gajodhar Bhaiya!

Raju Srivastava is gone but will always be remembered for the laughter he spread

Raju Srivastava the king of comedy is no more. He breathed his last on September 21 in AIIMS Delhi. Raju had suffered a heart attack 41 days back when he was at a gym and ever since had been fighting but unfortunately, the death got the better of him. His untimely death has left his fans shocked and condolence messages have been pouring from across the country. Raju was a comedian with many firsts, he started his career by mimicking his idol Amitabh Bachchan and then graduated to small roles in Bollywood. His big break came when he appeared on a TV comedy show “Indian laughter challenge” in 2005. He didn’t win it but became an instant star. His jokes often involved common people from small towns in UP which were till then seen as ‘no no’ on mainstream television. His ‘Gajodhar bhaiya’ became a household name and his eastern UP colloquial language a rage. The USP of Raju was his knack to relate to the common man. He picked the incidents from the lives of the common man and narrated them in his inimitable style which made him larger than life comic star, the highest paid in the country.



Raju’s story is the story of many youths from humble backgrounds in small towns of north India who to chase their dreams reach Mumbai. Many are lost in oblivion while others struggle to make a mark. Raju belonged to the second category He took struggle in his stride and never gave up on his dreams. His laughter came from his understanding of human nature and dealing with the common man. And that is why he is so relatable to each one of us. Raju’s untimely death at 58, leaves a void that would be hard to fill. He was one of the faces of early standup comics who made it to everyone’s heart. Though now stand up comedy is well established in the country and has gone through a metamorphosis with a lot of young comics trying their hand at it and enriching it in their own way, they owe it to Raju as he was the one who took comedy to the masses in the time when this genre didn’t exist in the country. Raju never hesitated to crack a joke on the VVIPs in the audience. Raju is often criticised for joining politics which was not really his cup of tea. It divided his fans and took away his neutrality but he was quick to understand and tried to distance himself from it. Raju Srivastava rest in peace, your jokes will live on.

# Indians making it big in Australia

With its sheer determination and hard work, the Indian diaspora in Australia has carved a niche for itself in the Australian society



ASHUTOSH MISRA

They drive cabs in the wee hours, man 7/11 franchises, and gather scattered trolleys at supermarkets, amongst a long list of arduous tasks. But they also teach at schools and universities, lead mega engineering projects, save lives at hospitals and treat the sick at medical centres, manage the information technology in big companies, showcase the best of the cuisines at Indian restaurants, and own micro, medium, and large businesses in Australia. Indian diaspora has entered into business, politics, the judiciary, government, civil society, academia, science, the performing arts, and sporting codes. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 census 783,958 persons declared their ancestry as Indian constituting 3.1% of the Australian population. They constitute the second largest taxpayers and easily outnumber their Australian counterparts in stadiums during the Border-Gavaskar series.

20 years ago, not many may have anticipated their meteoric rise and role in ‘Advancing Australia Fair.’ A data-rich report prepared by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade entitled - ‘Australia’s Indian Diaspora: A National Asset: Mapping the Community’s Reach into the Australia-India Economic Relationship’—quite timely encapsulates the rise of the diaspora, especially when bilateral relations have hit a historic high.

Australia’s rapidly transforming demography wherein one in four Australian has been born overseas, the Indian diaspora is now turning heads. Calling the diaspora ‘aspirational’, the report shows that a comparatively younger diaspora is vital for meeting Australia’s skills shortage, technological development, and exports. Largely concentrated (70%) in the states of Victoria and New South Wales, the diaspora has moved interstate into Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. In any



developing suburb, the Indian family is a common sight. The DFAT report indicates the cumulative effect of a generally highly educated youthful, linguistically diverse, and growing community, plugged into networks of innovation, and well represented in business, across services and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sectors with strong export potential. It is a key contributor to not only bilateral trade and investment but Australia’s international competitiveness.

According to the 2021 Orbis database of company information collated by Bureau van Dijk, a Moody’s Analytics Company - people of Indian heritage are employed in at least 996 Australian organizations of which an estimated 2,840 (13%) as directors and managers (12.5% women), constituting 3% of the Australian population. The report says that 964 of these 2,840 could potentially drive bilateral business and trade engagements in health, tourism, ICT, and resources, across companies with a gross \$250 billion annual turnover.

Surprisingly, in the flagship sector of education, and

AS OF 2021, NUMBERING OVER 780,000, INDIAN MIGRANTS HAVE OVERTAKEN CHINESE AND NEW ZEALAND BORN IMMIGRANTS. THEIR NUMBERS DOUBLED DURING 1996-2006, AND QUADRUPLED DURING 2006-2020

in agribusiness their role remains below par. But that may change rapidly as international education and student migration drive bilateral relationships. Indians were the largest source of skilled migrants in 2019-20 and the second largest source of international students in 2019-20 Australia. The DFAT report estimates that the diaspora’s role in senior academic positions roles at the lecturer level and above has increased from 1.75 per cent in 2016 to 1.92 per cent in 2020. Of the 721,000 Indians (2016 census) approximately 88% are of working age and 61% are in full-time and 27% in part-time employment making them the second highest tax-paying migrant community after the UK-born migrants, contributing over \$12 billion to the Australian economy.

As of 2021, numbering over 780,000 Indian migrants have overtaken Chinese and New Zealand-born immigrants. Their numbers doubled during 1996-2006, quadrupled during 2006-2020, and were Australia’s fastest growing large diaspora community in 2020. Australia’s Department of Home Affairs has even established a Global Talent Officer

for South Asia, eying India as a source of global talent.

A 2013 path-breaking research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America entitled, “Genome-wide data substantiate Holocene gene flow from India to Australia” established that a substantial gene flow occurred between the Indian populations and Australia well before European contact, 4,230 years ago. The study links changes in tool technology, food processing, and the appearance of dingoes in the Australian archaeological record to migration from India.

In sum, over 4,000 years ago Indians made Australia their home and now they “toil with hearts and hands to make this Commonwealth of ours renowned of all the lands”. As India rises as a Vishwa Guru, Indians assume their long-due place in Australian society.

(The author is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement, Brisbane, National Sports Chair [Australia India Business Council] and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TIME FOR PEACE

Sir — It is not the time to war, world need peace and delight, these are the lines of PM Modi that are grabbing global headlines and repeated lip sipping from the leaders of the different nation. On the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in the bilateral dialogue with the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Narendra Modi has stated that we need we need global coordination not work for peaceful performance of this whole world.

It is good to see that even Russian President Vladimir V Putin, also agreed to the understanding of Indian PM, As we are in the Midst of tensed political narrative, thus we need corporation not war. We need dialogue not disturbances towards each other. Mr. Putin too understand the need of the hour, and tried to halt the tense situations by de-escalating the military forces to stop the war like situations. Ultimately we need global peace for happy world. But for that to happen we have to build pressure on our leaders to be more proactive for world peace and care about the issues like climate change, hunger and poverty rather than on the use of military to destroy peace and cause unimaginable sufferings on the humans. After all we are all humans and the planet is our only home where each one has equal right to live and flourish.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

### DUSSEHRA RALLY

Sir — The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has denied permission to both the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena as well as the Shinde’s faction for holding Dussehra rally at the iconic Shivaji Park on 5 October As the Mumbai Police raised law and order concerns.

The Shivaji Park police in their feedback said the permission for the rally to any of the two factions could lead to a “serious problem of law and order in

### Fair chance for guilty?



Supreme Court referred to a Constitution Bench the question of how to provide accused in death penalty cases a ‘meaningful, real and effective’ hearing of their mitigating circumstances before a trial judge. Instead of safeguarding human dignity and life of poor, marginalized, women and minorities and saving democracy from dictatorship, someone is pursuing unimportant tasks and creating work for themselves for nothing. Like in the West why they are thinking too much on human rights of the guilty and accused? What about the ones who died owing to the murderer’s recklessness, anger, ego etc? How many lives he destroyed? If there is no fear of one’s life and capital punishment, then crimes will surely increase. Rapists and murderers when they are released and garlanded, they are a threat to the society at large.

CK Subramony | Kozhikode

the sensitive Shivaji Park area”. The civic administration has sent letters to both factions of the parties about the decision. With this the open fight between Thackeray and Shinde faction getting bitter and bitter every day and may take ugly turn in coming days which will be very serious and dangerous for the citizens of the capital city Mumbai.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Sir — One of the long-standing challenges that India has been facing when it comes to safety and well-being of its people is the appalling fire safety standards prevalent in workplaces, public buildings and homes. The fire tragedy that occurred in a hotel in Telangana very recently and fire that broke out in a commercial building near the Mundka metro station in outer Delhi in May this year, are stark reminders of how fire safety norms are flouted by building owners with impunity. Buildings must be planned, designed and constructed to ensure that fire safety measures are in

place in strict accordance with National Building Code of India’s guidelines which regulate the building construction activities across the country.

Even though NBC makes these measures mandatory, the majority of multi-storey buildings continue to ignore and violate the safety norms, and often play with human lives. In fact, many buildings lack even basic fire safety systems, like fire extinguishers. Also, there is no statutory provision for regular verification of adherence to fire safety norms in multi-story buildings.

To reduce fire accidents, First Safety Audit should be made mandatory across the country, and it must be entrusted to third-party agencies, who have the expertise in it. A comprehensive fire safety audit can address the inherent fire hazards associated with the day-to-day activities in an occupancy and recommend measures to reduce the potential fire accidents.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

It would have been better had the Congress started its Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gujarat where elections are due later this year,



Election strategist —Prashant Kishor

If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will without doubt use all available means to protect Russia and our people — this is not a bluff.

Russian President —Vladimir Putin

He (Raju) was my friend for 30 years. Big loss to his family, daughters, wife. He was a good husband, good father and a good friend.



Actor —Ravi Kishan

Such an important role, the keepers. This is where MS was so good.

Former cricket coach —Ravi Shastri

These speeches in media are unregulated. It’s (the anchors’) duty to see that hate speech doesn’t continue.



Supreme Court judge —KM Joseph

FIRST COLUMN

BANKS AS GROWTH CATALYSTS

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Speaking at the 75th AGM of IBA on September 16, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that if India wishes to grow at a particular speed over the next 25 years, banks will have to play the role of a catalyst.

It is good that the importance of banks is recognised by the Finance Minister. But what is happening at the ground level is entirely different. The banks are made to bleed due to wrongful importance given to the borrowers at the cost of depositors who sacrifice their present consumption and enable banks to lend.

What is a catalyst? In chemistry, we call a catalyst a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. But banks' borrowers extract everything from the banks and try to finish the 'catalyst'. Initially, corporate borrowers want maximum finance from banks. They want it at concessional rates of interest too. Then they default and want the banks to reschedule the payment obligation. They want further credit by threatening that otherwise the previous loan cannot be recovered. Finally, they want waiver of interest, write off, one-time-settlement etc. This process goes on and on and to keep the banks viable, banks pass on this cost to the depositors by way of real negative interest.



Recently, the RBI released a handbook on statistics on the Indian Economy. This contains a table showing Weighted Average Domestic Term Deposit Rate and it pertains to the end of the respective financial year. For the years from 2014-15 to 2020-21, the following are the WADTD Rates respectively in percentages 8.57, 7.73, 6.97, 6.67, 6.89, 6.38 and 5.28. The following are the annual consumer inflation rate during the same period, again in percentages: 4.91, 4.95, 3.30, 3.94, 3.73, 6.62 and 5.13. When we adjust for inflation the real interest the depositors got for their Term Deposit will be as follows: 3.66, 2.78, 3.67, 2.73, 3.16, 0.76 and 0.15 per cent of returns. This is the fate of persons who keep their savings with banks as fixed deposits. For persons who are leaving their surplus in a Savings Account, the real return will be negative. If this trend is not corrected, a day will come that the retail depositors will desert banks and there may not be any role of finance intermediation by banks.

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources. As per Financial Stability Report of RBI released in June 30, 2022, after reaching a high of 11.9 per cent in March 2021, aggregate deposit growth (y-o-y) of Scheduled Commercial Banks moderated gradually through 2021-22 reaching 9.9 per cent in March 2022 and further to 9.1 per cent by June 3, 2022. This should be a warning signal for policy makers. By paying pittance, you cannot expect depositors to patronise banks forever.

Banks have to mandatorily maintain a Cash Reserve Ratio of 4.5 per cent and Statutory Liquidity Ratio of 18 per cent of their deposits. When CRR can be in the form of cash holding or balance the RBI, it does not earn any interest for banks. The SLR is maintained by investment in permitted government securities, which earns low yield for the banks. In other words this is government borrowing from bank deposits and this in turn reduces the lending capacity of banks to others.

Banks are again mandated to lend to priority sectors like agriculture, small scale industries, etc., for which they charge a concessional rate of interest. Banks are targeted to provide 40 per cent of their credit to the priority sector with various sub targets for agriculture, etc.

(The author is a retired banker)

# Equality remains an elusive dream

The fundamental right to equality stays on paper, for there exist several reasons for negation of the abiding dream of the Constitution



ISHANEE SHARMA

The idea of equality in India goes back to the days of the Vedic wisdom, which treated every individual as an embodiment of the divine spark. Equality as a spiritual and philosophical precept was founded on this theory of the divinity of humans. The Upanishads and the Dharmastrasas insisted that every individual should be given an equal opportunity to pursue the Purusharthas (the four-fold legitimate goals of life) without any arbitrary interference from any external agency, including the state, in order to enable him or her to realise his or her full personality.

Perhaps the notion of legal equality can be traced back to the natural law doctrine of the Stoics, which, in the name of universal reason, postulates equality of individuals, races and nations. However, only on a spiritual and philosophical plane it may be said that all people are equal, but in the actual world of material and social life it may not appear to be so.

There may exist natural inequalities as well as artificially created social inequalities and economic disparities among people and groups of people in society. In such a society, to pursue the principle of formal or legal equality, which insists that all people are to be treated equally by law, would be only to perpetuate the existing inequalities, for the same law for the ox and the lion is oppression. Therefore, the concept of equality to be meaningful and intelligible should essentially be a dynamic and relative concept, capable of accommodating the necessary equalisation strategies as permissible means to remove the existing social and economic inequalities and to secure the goal of equality and social justice.

While we celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, there still remains glaring inequalities in the society around us. The beloved dream of the makers of the Constitution is far from materialisation.

The adoption of our Constitution was also a declaration of a desire for a society where everyone would enjoy equal access to education, good health, freedom of speech and dissent, employment, and political participation.

Some people experience inequity from the beginning, because they are born blind, physically impaired, or mentally ill. We must be given exactly equal opportunity, intelligence, strength, health, and money if we were to be born equally.

Legality became a synonym for justice in the Athenian republic because it was derived from the Greek/Latin word aequalis, which meant the sameness of two objects in amount or value or as in the Islamic algebra, which is still in use today. It later came to be used interchangeably with the concept of liberty, which was first articulated by influential thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries like John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Hegel, and later by Frenchmen like Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who



ANY VIBRANT SOCIETY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRE THAT ALL HUMANS ARE TREATED EQUAL AND WITH DIGNITY. SUCH A CONVICTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY WARRANT A WISE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY ON THE GROUNDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

(The author is a lawyer)



are known for the statement "Man is born free".

These concepts had a significant impact on our ancestors. It had a profound impact on the society, which was a colony of the British Empire. They battled against their oppressors after rising up in rebellion, won the war, and then went on to draft the clause that reads, "All men are created equal".

People who have lived in abject poverty are given hope when we say that there will be equality. However, if this hope is not realised, there will be strife between the "haves and have nots" in society. Additionally, according to Karl Marx, this disturbs society and may therefore spark a revolt. This is the fundamental idea of the disharmonic society that India has accepted, which implicitly includes the idea of conflict.

The overarching principle of equality is established in Article 14, which calls for equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws and forbids unjustified discrimination against individuals. It is acknowledged as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution. No discrimination should exist on any grounds. The phrase "equal protection of the law" is a good one. Simply put, it means that everyone in comparable situations should be accorded the same rights and obligations. In essence, it means that everyone should be treated equally.

Equals and unequals cannot coexist on an equal footing or get equal treatment. The concept of equality before law does not mean absolute equality among human

beings which is not possible to achieve. It is a concept implying absence of any special privilege by reason of birth, creed or the like in favour of any individual, and also the equal subject of all individuals and classes to the ordinary law of the land. Equal protection of the laws does not postulate equal treatment of all persons without distinctions. What it postulates is the application of the same laws alike and without discrimination to all persons similarly situated. It denotes equality of treatment in equal circumstances.

The rule of law, in Dicey's opinion, is equality before the law. It means that no one is above the law and that ordinary courts have jurisdiction over everyone, regardless of status or circumstance. All people with identical circumstances must be treated equally in terms of the rights granted and obligations imposed by the law. There shouldn't be any distinction between one individual and another, and everyone should be subject to the same laws in the same circumstances. The rule is that similar things should be handled similarly rather than dissimilar things similarly.

In the case of Stephen's College v. University of Delhi, the court determined that the phrase "Equal protection of the laws" is now understood to be a positive obligation on the state to ensure equal protection of the law by enacting the necessary social and economic changes to ensure that everyone can enjoy equal protection of the law and nobody is denied such protection. The state violates its obligation to offer everyone the

same protection under the law if it ignores the existing inequality. Citizens of India and those who are not will get equal protection from the state.

The US Constitution's 14th Amendment serves as the foundation for the concept of "equal protection of the law". It stipulates that everyone in India should receive equal legal protection so they can exercise their legal rights without any exceptions or favouritism. This is a good idea since it suggests that the State has a responsibility to take steps to guarantee this right to all citizens. It makes the State responsible for taking all necessary actions to ensure that the promise of equal treatment of everyone is upheld. This rule states that like individuals should be treated similarly, yet it also states that unlike people shouldn't be treated similarly.

It hardly needs any mention that any vibrant society would undoubtedly require that all humans are treated equal and with dignity and that all must be supported to the fullest possible development. Such a conviction would obviously warrant a wise affirmative action policy on the grounds of social justice and equity. Here, one needs to know that while access could be ensured in a variety of ways, it is the equality of opportunity which is much more important than anything else as it requires the support of whole range of antecedent variables commencing from curriculum to pedagogy, differential inputs, assessment, remediation, feedback, attitude, institutional care, etc.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE STUDENTS FACE THE WORLD, THEY WILL FACE THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY. SO THIS (HIJAB) CAN BE A CHANCE TO PREPARE THEM.  
—KARNATAKA HIGH COURT JUDGE  
SUDHANSHU DHULIA



IN A SCHOOL, HOW WILL YOU INCULCATE THE VALUES? THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE CLAIMS AND WHERE WILL YOU DRAW THE LINE?  
—ADVOCATE  
VENKATARAMANI

# New King of Britain has deep India connections

King Charles III understands the importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals

Prince Charles, who held this title for a long time, acceded to the British throne after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last week. He has a robust Indian connection and has been familiar with Indians for decades. After his accession, he became Head of the Commonwealth, a group of 56 independent countries, representing 2.4 billion people, including India. India was a "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire.

To go back in history, the East India Company came to India in 1600 for trade, and by the 1800s, it had generated almost half of England's commerce. Soon India became a British colony. So, it is not surprising that several members of the British



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

royal family visited India at various times.

Charles came to India 10 times as heir to the British throne, while his parents also visited thrice during the Queen's long reign. Charles indeed developed a warm relationship with India and its age-old traditions like Yoga, Ayurveda, and diversity. He once stated that "having had the pleasure of visiting India so many times, I've always been struck by her extraordinary diversity and the deep well of creativity, ingenuity and resilience upon which she draws. This is a source of great inspiration to me personally".

Charles has been a strong advocate for global environmental concerns and climate change. He understands the

importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals. Over the decades, Charles developed close relations with many cities in India. They include Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Puri, and Punjab, apart from Delhi and Agra. He was comfortable with the Jaipur and Patiala royal families, who hosted him during his visits.

There were some embarrassing moments when the 16-year-old Bollywood actress Padmini Kolhapure gave him a peck on his cheek when he visited a Bollywood studio in 1980. The same year Charles had visited Haripur village in the Puri district, going through the bumpy roads in the heat and dust. He showed interest in coconut

plucking, basket weaving, and paddy harvesting.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana's first visit to the country revealed a strained marriage. The unhappy Diana sat alone outside the Taj Mahal on a bench in February 1992, while Charles was in Hyderabad. King Charles and his present Queen Camilla have a Bengaluru connection. Dr Issac Mathai has been the holistic physician of the Royal couple for the past 15 years. Another memorable event was his interaction with Mumbai's 'Dabbawallahs' in 2003. He was curious about how they ride bicycles, lift crates full of tiffins and provide them to many people with punctuality. He invited them for his second marriage

to Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005, where they presented a nine-yard Paithani saree for the bride and a kurta lehenga for the groom.

Charles even celebrated his 71st birthday with school children at the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai in November 2019.

The Jullianwallah bagh carnage in Punjab has popped up often, even during one of the Queen's visits. Before his tenth visit, to mollify the Sikhs, Charles sent good wishes to them across Britain and the Commonwealth on the 550th Birth Anniversary of the religion's founder Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Long-time patrons of the Asian Elephant Alliance, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall wit-

nessed an official preview of the colourful elephant parade at the residence of the British High commissioner in Delhi in 2017. India has been changing since Independence with no fascination for colonialism. Colonial-era street names, redundant laws, and even flag symbols are changed. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the iconic Rajpath in Delhi to Kartavya path, claiming that "a new history has been created". The renovated avenue now has a statue of Subhash Chandra Bose in place of King George V.

Barely hours after the Queen's death, Indian social media made renewed calls to return the famous Koh-i-Noor, the 106-carat diamond discovered in India, which

has become part of the British crown jewels.

Charles hosted Modi in April 2018 at the Science Museum in London to establish a first-of-its-kind global network for evidence-based research on Yoga and Ayurveda. He spoke of his "great love for India" when he launched an emergency Covid appeal last year and helped raise millions for India.

Beyond his involvement with the Bharatiya Yuva Shakti trust, an NGO set up by Lakshmi Venkatesan, daughter of former President R. Venkataraman, he also helped farmers through his British Asian Trust and his encouragement of practitioners of Indian traditional medicine in India and the UK.

# ED attaches ₹2,747 cr assets of ABG Shipyard

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached assets worth Rs 2747.69 crore in the ABG Shipyard Limited money laundering case. "The attached assets include Shipyard at Surat and Dahej located in Gujarat, agricultural lands and plots, various commercial and residential premises in Gujarat and Maharashtra and bank accounts owned by ABG Shipyard Ltd., its group companies and other related entities," the ED said in a statement.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of a CBI FIR dated February 7 against ABG Shipyard Limited and others. The ED probe revealed that ABG Shipyard Ltd. and its Chairman and Managing Director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal availed various cred-



it facilities/loans from consortium of Banks led by ICICI Bank, Mumbai on pretext of meeting its capital requirements and other business expenses.

But ABG Shipyard Ltd. misappropriated the credit facilities availed from the consortium and diverted the funds for the purposes other than its actual cause in the garb of various loans /advances/ investments to various related entities incorporated in India and abroad, that eventually caused monetary loss to the tune of Rs 22,842 crore to the consortium.

The ED has traced movable and immovable assets worth Rs 2747.69 crore belonging to ABG Shipyard Ltd., its group companies, Bermaco Energy Systems Ltd., Dhananjay Datar, Savita Dhananjay Datar, Krishna Gopal Toshniwal, Viren Ahuja and attached them under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), it said.

Further investigation is in progress, it added. The CBI had on Wednesday arrested Agarwal in the ongoing probe against ABG Shipyard.

## Mandatory to install alarm system for rear seat belts, says MoRTH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With cases of fatalities rising due to their non-use in cars, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH) has issued draft rules to make it mandatory for car makers to install alarm system for rear seat belts.

As per the proposal, seat belt reminders or alarms will be mandatory in M and N category vehicles, with audio-video warning in case the seat belts, including the rear ones, are not worn. Besides, there will be a speed alert system to check over-speeding and manual override for the central locking system. "Safety-belt reminder" means a system dedicated to alerting the driver when the driver and all other front-facing seat occupant(s) do not use the safety-belt.

The system is constituted by a detection of an unfastened safety-belt and by a driver's alert which is a first level warning and a second level warning.



"First Level Warning" means a visual warning activated when the ignition switch is engaged (engine running or not) and the driver's and front-facing seat occupants' safety-belt is not fastened.

An audible warning can be added as an option, said the proposal. "Second Level Warning" means a visual and audible warning activated when a driver operates a vehicle without fastening of driver and front-facing seat occupants' safety-belt.

The last date for public comments on draft rules is Oct. 5, according to the notification.

The government has been considering enforcing the use of rear seatbelts after Cyrus Mistry, the former chairman of Indian conglomerate Tata Sons, died in a car crash recently.

He was sitting in the rear seat and did not have his seat belt on as per the investigations so far. In India, one person dies every four minutes in road accidents, the World Bank said last year.

While it is already mandatory for all occupants in a car in India, the world's fourth-biggest auto market, to wear a seat belt failing which they can be fined, passengers at the back seldom do and enforcement is also lax.

The draft rules also said that for M and N category vehicles, reverse parking alert system will be applicable. 'M' category vehicles are the ones with at least four wheels used for carrying passengers, while 'N' category vehicles also have four wheels, but are used to carry goods and may also carry passengers.

## MoD signs pact for more Brahmos missiles for Navy



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In order to further enhance the operational capabilities of the Navy, the Defence Ministry on Thursday inked a contract for acquiring additional Brahmos supersonic surface-to-surface missiles in a deal worth over Rs 1,700 crore.

The missiles will be supplied by the Brahmos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL), a joint venture between India and Russia to manufacture these missiles. Giving details here, Defence Ministry officials said the deal will provide

further impetus to Aatmanirbharta in defence production, Induction of these dual-role capable Missiles is going to significantly enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.

The BAPL is making a crucial contribution to augment the new generation Surface-to-Surface Missiles (SSMs) with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks. This contract is going to give a boost to indigenous production of critical weapon systems and ammunition with active participation of indigenous industry.

## SC junks plea seeking modification of 2017 order on compensation to Narmada oustees



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea seeking modification of its 2017 order directing payment of final compensation of Rs 60 lakh to each of the families affected by the Sardar Sarovar project on the Narmada River.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said once the final settlement package has been determined as Rs 60 lakh per family, the modification would not hold as it would be a substantive review of the order of this court.

"The directions issued by this court under Article 142 of the Constitution are not susceptible to clarification or modification in this applica-

tion. We find no merit in this application, accordingly, the application is dismissed," the bench said.

Advocate Sanjay Parikh, advancing the arguments on behalf of an oustee, submitted that in items of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal, the entitlement of the applicant should have been for 4.293 hectares of land.

Parikh submitted that a proper reading of the top court's order would show that the compensation would have to be pegged at 30 lakh per hectare and the actual compensation would come to be Rs 1.28 crore.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, stated that the 2017 order was passed under Article 142 and a modification or clarification order cannot be passed as that would be a substantive review of the court's decision.

The top court on February 8, 2017, cleared the decks for monetary compensation for the oustees of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) on river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh by ordering Rs 60 lakh for each of the families which are likely to be displaced.

Earlier, Narmada Bachao Andolan had told the apex court that 192 villages and one township would be affected in Madhya Pradesh alone and about 45,000 affected people are yet to be rehabilitated.

## Hijab ban: SC reserves verdict on pleas against K'taka HC's order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the Karnataka High Court judgment refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state.

On March 15, High Court had dismissed petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi seeking permission to wear hijab inside the classroom, saying it is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith.

The State Government had, by its order of February 5, 2022, banned wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and public order in schools and colleges.

Several pleas have been filed in the apex court challenging the High Court verdict. A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia reserved its verdict after nine days of hearing.

## Top Opp leaders to attend INLD rally in Haryana

New Delhi: Top Opposition leaders, including NCP's Sharad Pawar, Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray and DMK's Kanimozhi, will be attending the Indian National Lok Dal's rally in Haryana's Fatehabad on September 25.

JD(U) chief spokesperson K C Tyagi said RJD leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury and BJP leader Birender Singh have also given their consent to attend the rally to mark the birth anniversary of former deputy prime minister and INLD founder Devi Lal. The coming together of so many regional satraps is being seen as an effort

towards opposition unity, and Kumar and RJD president Lalu Prasad are also likely to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi after the rally to take the process forward. "It will be a historic meeting that will mark the consolidation of like-minded forces against the ruling BJP in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," Tyagi said.

The presence of so many opposition leaders, all heavyweights in their states, on one platform will be a fillip to the efforts for unity among the non-BJP forces.

Birender Singh's equation with the BJP leadership has soured for some time even though his son Brijendra Singh is Lok Sabha member of the party from Hisar. The rally is being seen as a show of

strength by the INLD, which is itself fighting for survival in Haryana following a split in its ranks after its patriarch Om Prakash Chautala's elder son Ajay Chautala formed Jannayak Janata Party, a BJP ally. The JJP had managed to secure most of the traditional INLD votes in the last assembly polls.

Lok Sabha member and Rashtriya Loktantrik Party's Hanuman Beniwal, a former BJP ally from Rajasthan, will also attend the rally besides former Haryana minister Venod Sharma, he said.

INLD leader and former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala has also sent invitations to several other regional bigwigs, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Telangana Chief Minister K

Chandrashekar Rao and TDP's Chandrababu Naidu, for attending the public meeting. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has also been invited.

Nitish Kumar has been stressing on the need for such a unity among the non-BJP parties, including the Congress, since he broke ties with the saffron party last month and came to Delhi to hold talks with a number of key leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Pawar and AAP's Arvind Kejriwal.

Though, the absence of the Congress, which has been a staunch adversary of the INLD in Haryana, and some regional bigwigs like Banerjee and Rao yet to confirm their participation also mean that a grand opposition unity remains a work in progress.



BJP national president JP Nadda addresses a consultative meeting of multidisciplinary experts, in Madurai on Thursday

PTI

## General category poor large segment, not covered under any existing quota scheme: Centre to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday vehemently defended in the Supreme Court the 103rd constitutional amendment, which provides a 10-per cent quota in jobs and education to those in the economically weaker section (EWS) category, saying this was "necessitated" to benefit the general category poor, a "large segment" of population not covered under any existing reservation scheme.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit took note of the submissions made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who said the 10-per cent quota for the EWS category has been provided without disturbing the 50-per cent reservation available to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The parliamentary wisdom, leading to a constitutional amendment, cannot be set aside without establishing that it violates the basic structure of the Constitution, Mehta told the bench that also comprised justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi and J B Pardiwala.

The top court, which was hearing submissions for the sixth day on a clutch of pleas challenging the validity of the scheme, was told by the law officer that the amendment is "based on the recommendation contained in the report sub-

mitted by the Sinho Commission". "The constitutional vision of equality and equal opportunity is dynamic and evolving -- not in substance, but surely in form. The present amendment is in tune with this dynamic and evolutionary nature, taking the next logical step and providing balance and reasonability to the operative realities of reservations as a whole.

"The present amendment provides for an additional form of affirmative action, without changing the substance of the equality code, while balancing the other anomalies that may arise from the pre-existing forms of affirmative action," Mehta said.

"The impugned amendment Act was necessitated to benefit the economically weaker sections of the society, who are not covered within the existing schemes of reservation and who, as per statistics, constitute a considerably large segment of the Indian population," he added.

The solicitor general argued in detail on the State's power to take affirmative action to elevate the poor among the general category and said the amendment further and strengthens the basic feature of the Constitution and its validity cannot be tested on the grounds of some statistics.

"While analysing the basic structure, the principle guide is the Preamble. Considering the Preamble to the Constitution, the amendment does not destroy the basic structure,

rather it strengthens it by giving justice -- economic justice -- to those who have not been the beneficiaries of affirmative action like reservation," the law officer said.

The parameters of judicial review while deciding the validity of a constitutional amendment are very well settled and in case of every constitutional amendment, a change happens in the text of the document itself, he added.

"It is for this precise reason that the doctrine of basic structure has developed.

As per this doctrine, when the Constitution is amended, the validity of the amendment is tested only on the question as to whether it fundamentally changes the basic structure of the Constitution," Mehta said.

Since a constitutional amendment brings in a new provision altogether, it is never permissible to argue that the amended provision is unconstitutional since it is either different from or not completely in tune with other constitutional provisions, he said.

The solicitor general told the bench that a breach of the basic structure of the Constitution should not be a "mere violation" but should be "a shocking, unconscionable or unscrupulous travesty of the quintessence of the Constitution".

"The purported limit of 50 per cent on reservations has always been a rule of thumb, which could be exceeded if circumstances so allowed.

## PM to attend Abe's state funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on September 27 in Tokyo. Abe was shot dead on July 8 while delivering a political

campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillor election on July 10.

The ministry of external affairs on Thursday announced that the Prime Minister will visit Japan on September 27 to attend the state funeral. He will also separately meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

during the visit.

Modi had a close relationship with Abe, the longest serving Japanese Prime Minister. He had consoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.



## Robotic kidney transplant done at Safdarjung Hospital, doctors claim first for a Govt facility

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A 39-year-old man underwent a robotic kidney transplant at Safdarjung hospital here, which doctors claimed to be the first such surgery to have been performed at a Central Government facility.

The patient, a native of Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, had a kidney failure and was awaiting a transplant for the past five years, said Dr Anup Kumar, head of the department of Urology, Robotics and Renal Transplant, who performed the surgery.

He was on hemodialysis, doctors said. The patient's 34-year-old wife wanted to donate her kidney and were trying to get surgery done in other hospitals. Dr Kumar said while they could not afford surgery at private hospitals, there was a long waiting list at government hospitals. They approached Safdarjung hospital three months ago. Both the donor and

the recipient were evaluated and after completing all the protocols, the patient was posted for kidney transplant, Dr Kumar said. "As the patient was obese, conducting a traditional open surgery would have been difficult and so we decided to go for the robotic kidney transplant," Dr Kumar explained.

The surgery took place on Wednesday. In an open surgery, a long incision measuring 12 to 14 cm is required which can cause post-operative pain, infection and hernia formation, he said.

"Doing the robotic surgery in this patient provided the best outcome. During the procedure, four 8 mm incisions were made and the robot was docked over the patient," he said.

During robotic surgeries, surgeon sits on console and movements of his fingers are transmitted to robotic arms which performs surgery, the doctor explained.

## Govt agencies evict 24 people every hour in India: HLRN study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A recent study has claimed that from January to July 2022 government agencies demolished as many as 25,800 houses affecting at least 124,450 people.

The study, titled 'Forced Eviction in India in 2021', was conducted by a NGO called the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN).

It claimed that Government authorities have evicted at least 567 people per day or 24 people every hour across India. "The eviction occurred despite the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic during January-March 2022," it said. Court orders and their implementation by state authorities resulted in the eviction of over 106,014 people in at least 11 incidents of demolitions in 2021, HLRN said.

The report said that the total number of people who faced evictions over the last five

years (between 2017 and 2021), exceeds one million. The study claimed nearly 15 million people across the country live under the threat of eviction.

According to the report, authorities evicted 207,106 people, including 13,750 during the peak of the COVID pandemic in April and May last year, from their homes citing reasons such as environment protection, infrastructure projects, encroachment removal, and beautification projects across the country in 2021. The report said the government has not resettled or compensated at least 59 percent of them.

The report said that as many as 57 percent were evicted for forest and environment protection, 27.13 percent for infrastructure projects, and 14.31 percent for encroachment removal and beautification projects. The demolition drives were carried out in at least 17 states and three Union Territories. The report said

government agencies demolished 62,330 houses and evicted over 331,560 people from January 1, 2021, to July 15, 2022. It added that over 25,800 homes have been demolished, affecting at least 124,450 people in India until July this year. It has cited incidents showing how demolitions were also used as "punitive measures".

The report said in Punjab Bagh, the railways demolished 250 homes, in February 2022, to vacate its land of 'encroachments'. The families have been living at the same site post-demolition as they have not been resettled.

"Following the communal violence during the celebrations for the Hindu festivals of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti in April 2022 in Madhya Pradesh, 16 houses and 29 shops of Muslim households were demolished in Khargone district, including a house built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) Scheme.

# Another jolt to Maha: Now PhonePe to shift to K'taka

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A little over a week after the Vedanta Group moved its semiconductor manufacturing plant involving an investment of ₹ 1.54 lakh crore from the State to neighbouring Gujarat, the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis Government suffered another setback on Thursday, as Fintech app PhonePe announced through a public notice that it had decided to shift its registered office from Maharashtra to Karnataka.

In the public notice published in local newspapers, the company said that it had applied to the Centre under section 12 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking permission to shift its registered office from Mumbai in Maharashtra to Karnataka.

The company had at a general meeting held on August 16, 2022 passed a special resolution seeking approval for necessary amendments in the Memorandum of Association



(MoA). The development comes nine days after the Vedanta group signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Bhupendrabhai Patel Government to set up a semiconductor fabrication unit, a display fabrication unit, and a semiconductor assembling and testing unit in Ahmedabad district of the neighbouring State.

As per the MOUs signed between Vedanta and Gujarat Government in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel and Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal, the Vedanta

Group-Foxconn Joint Venture envisages a total investment of Rs 1,54,000 crore, while it promises to provide employment to around 1 lakh people.

The proposed semiconductor manufacturing fab unit will operate on the 28nm technology nodes and the display manufacturing unit will produce Generation 8 displays catering to small, medium and large applications.

Vedanta will hold 60 per cent of the equity in the Joint Venture while Foxconn will own 40 per cent. The Joint Venture will look at setting up a semiconductor manufacturing plant in the next two years.

## Lekhi plays Mamata for taking credit for inclusion of Puja in UNESCO list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi on Thursday hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee saying it was "horrendous" that a State Government which "banned" Durga Puja and idol immersion was taking credit for inclusion of the festival in UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Lekhi, who is the Minister of State for Culture, said a proposal was sent by the Union Culture Ministry to include Durga Puja in UNESCO's list in 2019 which was accepted in December 2021. Addressing a press conference here, she said the Ministry of Culture has also sent a proposal to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to include Garba dance from Gujarat in its list of intangible cultural heritage of

humanity. Earlier this month, Banerjee had led a rally celebrating the inclusion of 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

"The West Bengal chief minister must be very busy and the advice she is receiving from her advisors is questionable. It is horrendous a state government that banned Durga Puja and idol immersion was taking credit for this feat," she said.



She said it was a matter of pride for entire India that Durga Puja was inscribed in UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage and "politics on it was improper".

She noted that all the traditions of the country should be appreciated in one voice, adding that Durga Puja was as much important in southern and western India as it was in eastern India.

# High Court's DA rap on Bengal Govt's knuckles

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Already under intense scrutiny of the ED and CBI in a plethora of corruption related cases the Mamata Banerjee Government received yet another jolt with a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court on Thursday rejecting a petition filed by the State seeking reconsideration of an earlier judgement by the same court to clear the unpaid Dearness Allowance (DA) of Government employees.

Not only the Court directed the Government to clear the arrears of the DA in three months' time but it also fixed November 7 as the date of next hearing when the Chief Secretary and Finance Secretary would be required to file their respective affidavits stating why contempt proceedings would not be started against them for violating the earlier Court order to clear DA.

The same Division Bench of Justices Harish Tandon and



Rabindranath Samanta had on May 20 directed the Government to clear the DA related arrears within the next three months. The State however preferred to file a review petition on the earlier order.

While the Court rejected the petition and directed the Government to clear the arrears within three months hearing a related contempt petition filed by the West Bengal Confederation of Government Employees the Court directed the two topmost bureaucrats to file their respective affidavits regarding why rule of contempt would not be passed against them for disobeying the Court order.

The State advocates however said that an 'appeal will be

preferred before the Honourable Supreme Court."

The High Court had on an earlier occasion upheld a State Administrative Tribunal judgement. Hearing a petition --- seeking 32 percent DA --- filed in 2016 by the State employees unions SAT had in 2020 directed the Government to clear the dearness allowance of the government staff.

Upholding the SAT order the High Court earlier said that "DA is a legal right of the Government employees," Firdous Shamim one of the advocates of the government employees unions said.

"If the Mamata Banerjee Government can give out doles of Rs 250 crore to the 43,000 clubs of Bengal organisation Durga Puja just to ensure that her election machinery remains intact ... then why cannot she clear the DA of the Government employees who are asking for it not as an alms but as a legal right," one of the functionaries of the employees' union said.

# Flagship schemes portal to help food processing units

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The convergence portal of the Government's three flagship schemes implemented by agriculture and food processing ministries will help micro units engaged in food processing, according to the Union Food Processing Ministry.

The convergence portal between the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing

Enterprises (PMFME) scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on September 21.

After the launch, both Food Processing Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had expressed confidence that this initiative will add a new chapter in the lives of micro units engaged in food processing.

According to the food processing ministry, through this

convergence, the eligible beneficiaries under PMFME and PMKSY schemes availing credit-linked subsidy would be able to avail an additional benefit of interest subvention at 3 per cent on the interest rate being charged by the banks over and above 35 per cent subsidy provided under the PMFME.

For the ease of approval of projects under both schemes, the AIF MIS portal has been modified for the acceptance of applications from the benefi-

ciaries under the PMFME and PMKSY scheme.

The PMFME beneficiaries would be able to apply directly for the benefit of interest subvention on the AIF portal with the detailed project report (DPR) approved under the PMFME, the ministry said in a statement.

Similarly, AIF beneficiaries eligible under the PMFME scheme can seek additional benefits of subsidy by applying in the PMFME MIS portal with the sanction letter under

AIF and DPR, it added.

AIF, implemented by the Agriculture Ministry, is a medium to long-term debt financing facility started in July 2020 for the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and building of community farming assets. Benefits under the scheme include 3 per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee support. The two other schemes PMFME and PMKSY are implemented by the Food Processing Ministry.

## 'Recent rain in Jharkhand, Bihar, & UP to salvage kharif paddy production loss to some extent'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Recent good rains in Jharkhand, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh will save the paddy crop and arrest to some extent the anticipated loss in India's rice output in this Kharif season, according to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Director A K Singh.

In its first estimate, the Agriculture Ministry has pegged a 6 per cent drop in the rice production at 104.99 million tonnes in the Kharif season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), from over the year-ago period.

Paddy is the main Kharif (summer) crop, sowing of which had begun with the onset of the Southwest Monsoon in June and harvesting starts next month. Speaking to PTI, IARI Director A K Singh said the lag in paddy sowing due to poor rains in a few states has been a cause of concern.

Fortunately in the last few days, there have been good rains in eastern UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. This has come as a great relief to farmers as at this particular time water is required for the long-duration paddy varieties crop, he said.

## FROM PAGE 1

### NIA, ED SWOOP ON 93 PFI SPOTS IN 15 STATES

The NIA searches were carried out 15 States of India -Kerala (39 locations), Tamil Nadu (16), Karnataka (12), Andhra Pradesh (7), Telengana (1), Uttar Pradesh (2), Rajasthan (4), Delhi (2), Assam (1), Madhya Pradesh (1), Maharashtra (4), Goa (1), West Bengal (1), Bihar (1) and Manipur (1).

However, the BJP State unit termed the proposed hartal as "unnecessary" and urged the State Government to take stringent action against observing it.

Alleging that all the previous hartals called by the PFI had ended in riots, BJP State chief K Surendran said the State authorities should be ready to ensure adequate security for people's life and property.

As many as 300 agency sleuths were engaged in the operation that began at 3.30 am and the entire operation was monitored by the NIA chief, NIA officials said.

"These searches were conducted at the houses and offices of the top PFI leaders and members in connection with five cases registered by the NIA following continued inputs and evidence that the PFI leaders and cadres were involved in funding of terrorism and terrorist activities, organising training camps for providing armed training and radicalising people to join banned organisations," a NIA spokesperson said.

The Nizamabad case (RC 3/2022/NIA/HYD), was initially registered as FIR No.141/2022 on July 4 at Nizamabad Police Station, Telangana against over 25 PFI cadres, after Telangana Police found that the accused were organising camps for imparting training to commit violent and terrorist acts with the objective of promoting enmity between different groups on the basis of religion, it said.

Likewise, a large number of criminal cases have been registered by different States over the last few years against the PFI and its leaders and members for their involvement in many violent acts.

"Criminal violent acts carried out by the PFI such as chopping off the hand of a college professor, cold blooded killings of persons associated with organisations espousing the other faiths, collection of explosives to target prominent people and places, support to Islamic State and destruction of public property have had a demonstrative effect of striking terror in the minds of the citizens," the NIA said.

During the searches, incriminating documents, cash, sharp edged weapons and a large number of digital devices have been seized. The NIA has made 45 arrests in these cases.

While 19 accused have been arrested from Kerala, 11 have been arrested from Tamil Nadu, seven from Karnataka, four from Andhra Pradesh, two from Rajasthan, one each from Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, it said.

As on date, the NIA is investigating a total of 19 PFI-related cases (including the five in which the searches were conducted on Thursday). As many as 46 PFI cadres have been convicted in NIA cases till so far and 355 persons have been chargesheeted by the agency.

The 19 persons arrested in the case RC 14/2022/NIA/DLI include eight from Kerala. The arrested persons from Kerala include top leaders of PFI. Salam alias OM Abdul Salam, Jaseer KP, V P Nazarudheen Elamaram alias Nazaruddin Elamaram, Mohammed Basheer, Shafer KP, E AbuBacker, Prof. P Koya alias Kaleem Koya and EM Abdul Rahiman alias EM.

In Karnataka, the arrested accused are Anis Ahmed, Afsar Pasha, Abdul Wahid Sait, Yasar Arafath Hasan, Mohammed Shakib alias Shakif, Muhammed Farooq Ur Rahman and Shahid Nasir.

In Tamil Nadu, the NIA arrested M Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Mohammed Yousuf and AS Ismail alias Appamma Ismail.

In Uttar Pradesh, the agency nabbed Waseem

Ahmad.

In another case RC 41/2022/NIA/DLI, the NIA arrested two accused from Rajasthan Mohammed Asif alias Asif and Sadiq Sarraf Talabpada.

In another case RC 42/2022/NIA/DLI, eight arrests made by the NIA from Tamil Nadu include Syed Ishaq, Advocate Khalid Mohammed, AM Ildris alias Ahmed Idris, Mohamed Abuthahir, S. Khaja Maideen, Yasar Arafat, Barakathullah and Fayaz Ahamed.

In RC 2/2022/NIA/Kochi, 11 arrests were made in Kerala, including Najumudeen, Sainuddeen T S, Yahiya Koya Thangal, K Muhammedali alias Kunhappo, CT Sulaiman, P K Usman alias Pallikkaranjali Kunjippu Usman, Karamana Ashraf Moulavi, Sadiq Ahmed, Shihas, Ansari P and M M Mujeeb.

In RC 3/2022/NIA/HYD, a total of five arrests were made including Abdul Rahim, Abdul Wahid Ali, Shaik Zafrulla, Riyaz Ahmed from Andhra Pradesh and one from Telangana Abdul Waris.

Further investigation in these cases is in progress, it added.

The NIA, according to the officials, has secured 45 convictions as part of the earlier investigations against the PFI and has chargesheeted 355 people in these cases.

### YOGI SETS TONE FOR HISTORIC ASSEMBLY SESSION DEDICATED TO WOMAN MLAS

Exhorting the opposition, he said, "I would like that good suggestions are made and positive discussions are held. There are always allegations and counter-allegations but today, the talks should be held rising above them."

"... the proceedings of the House today will become a document and people who see it after 50 years or 100 years will be inspired by it. This discussion will give a new identity to the state. I request that while relaxing the rules, women members should be allowed to discuss for as long as they want and it should also be published," the chief minister added.

"We should rise above political lines and let there be free debate as accusation and counter-accusations between the treasury bench and the opposition is a daily affair. This debate will be a document for posterity," the chief minister said and added, "I would suggest that the proceedings of this debate be printed as a book and sent to all the state assemblies of the country."

### IF PICKED AS CONGRESS CHIEF, GEHLOT TO MAKE WAY FOR PILOT AS CM

In a clear indication that Gehlot enjoys the backing of the high command, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh extended support to Gehlot and hit out at Tharoor saying his "only major contribution" to the party was to send letters to Sonia when she was hospitalised.

On one hand, there is Gehlot who has the experience of being a Union Minister, three times Chief Minister, five times MP, five times MLA, who defeated Modi-Shah in a direct contest in Rajasthan Assembly elections, and who has had 45 years of "spotless" political life, Vallabh said.

"On the other hand there is Tharoor who has only one major contribution to the party in the last 8 years -- sent letters to Sonia when she was hospitalised, this act caused pain to crores of party workers like me. The choice is very simple and clear," he said.

Rahul, who represents Wayanad in Kerala in Parliament, declined to answer queries on whether he would contest the presidential polls by saying, "I have made my position clear (on that) in the last Press conference. I have repeated it several times."

Rahul had said he has made his decision on whether he will take up party presidency but did not divulge his plans, asserting he will give his reasons if he does not contest the elections for the post.

He said questions on whether he would contest in the party's presidential poll were "aimed at distracting me from the yatra" which he is undertaking on the 3,500 km Kanyakumari-Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

On being asked what would be his advice to the presidential post candidates, Rahul said, "Congress president is not just an organisational post, it is also an ideological position and a belief system. Therefore, my advice would be that whosoever becomes the Congress president should remember that he represents a set of ideas, a belief system, and a vision of India."

When asked what would be his response to those criticising the yatra for spending very few days in Uttar Pradesh, Rahul responded, "Don't worry about that. We have a clear view on what needs to be done in UP."

He also said the yatra was from one end of the country to another and "frankly we cannot walk 10,000 km".

Regarding queries on what happened in Goa while the yatra was going on, on party MLAs joining the ruling BJP en masse, Rahul stated, "As I have said many times before, we are fighting a machine that has captured the institutional framework of this country." "We are fighting a machine that has unlimited money, unlimited ability to pressurise people, unlimited ability to buy people, threaten people and the outcome of that is what you have seen in Goa," he said.

On whether the yatra can maintain the same momentum in other States as it is doing in Kerala, he said it does not matter which state you go to, the effect of the yatra would be the same regardless of who is running the State.

When asked about his position regarding the Left Government in Kerala, Rahul said the evaluation of the LDF dispensation in the southern state would be better done by the Congress leaders here.

On queries regarding a unified Opposition against the BJP, Rahul said it is very important for all Opposition parties to come together as it "was required to fight the ideology and financial power and the institutional power" of the saffron party and the RSS. "So I think it is very important that opposition have a discussion and comes out with a strategy," he said.

### PUNJAB CALLS HOUSE SESSION, TO MOVE SC AGAINST GUV

Punjab Cabinet, in a meeting called on Thursday in the wake of Governor's withdrawal of consent, has decided to convene the session - this time to "discuss important issues like the power situation and burning of stubble", instead of moving the "confidence motion".

In an official statement, the spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said as per clause (1) of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is authorised to summon the State Legislature to meet at such time and place, as he thinks fit. However, there should not be a time gap of more than six months between two sessions of the State Legislative Assembly. "The second (Budget) Session of the 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha was concluded on June 30, 2022, so the Cabinet has recommended convening the third Session of the Assembly on September 27, 2022," added the spokesperson.

Mann, while informing about the decision, said the State Government has now decided to summon the Session of State Assembly on September 27 to discuss various issues pertaining to State.

A senior AAP leader, who did not wish to be named, told The Pioneer that this time, the Assembly Session would be a regular session. "As

the Governor has cancelled his consent for the special session, we have decided to hold a regular Session...it may be of two days...And there will be a Question Hour, Zero Hour, legislative business as usual. And, in the session, we will table the confidence motion as we had planned earlier," added the leader.

Punjab Government will approach the Supreme Court against the "arbitrary and anti-democratic" decision of the Governor to cancel the special session of the Legislative Assembly, said Mann a day after Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit had withdrawn his consent to convene the special one day session, called by Mann, to get a majority on the floor of the House.

Calling out the Governor for his "irrational decision", Mann said that the decision will be challenged in the Supreme Court to protect the democratic rights of the people and the federal rights of the states. Sources have also informed that the Chief Minister has already asked those concerned to prepare a case on the same. It has also been learnt that the state's Advocate-General's office has also started working on the same, and the State may move the Apex Court in a couple of days.

AAP's senior leader and Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that they will knock the doors of the Apex Court to oppose the decision of the Governor on not allowing the Special Session of the Legislative Assembly called by CM Mann. "It is unfortunate that Congress, the biggest victim of 'Operation Lotus', is supporting the BJP in this issue," he said.

Punjab BJP leaders, including its president Ashwani Sharma and Sunil Jakhar, among others, were detained on Thursday by the Chandigarh police when they tried to march towards the Chief Minister's official residence. The police also resorted to mild lathi-charge and water cannons to stop the protesting BJP workers as they tried to force their way through the barricading near the party office in Chandigarh Sector 37-A.

The BJP leaders and activists, protesting against the ruling AAP's "baseless" allegations of making an attempt to topple its Government in Punjab, were detained for about an hour and released later.

The saffron party had demanded evidence for the allegations while terming convening a session to seek trust vote as AAP's "political drama". Sharma, addressing the gathering, said, "The BJP won't allow the AAP Government to carry out a drama in the name of 'Operation Lotus.' At the same time, the party declared that it was open to probe into AAP's allegations by the High Court's sitting judge.

AAP's all MLAs on Thursday held a 'Shanti March' from Punjab Vidhan Sabha towards the Raj Bhavan - the Governor's house, to protest against the cancellation of the special assembly session summoned to bring a confidence motion. Holding the banners of 'killer of democracy' and 'Congress-BJP killing democracy', 'Stop Operation Lotus', AAP MLAs and workers raised slogans against the Opposition alleging it of trying to halt the progress of the State Government by working clandestinely against AAP in Punjab.

The MLAs dubbed the Governor's decision of withdrawing his earlier order calling the Special Session as a "mockery of democracy".

### RSS CHIEF VISITS MOSQUE, MADRASA IN MUSLIM OUTREACH

Ilyasi and Bhagwat held talks for about an hour at the mosque, which also houses the office of the All India Imam Organisation and the cleric's residence.

"He is a 'rashtra pitā'. We discussed several issues for strengthening the country," Ilyasi told PTI, adding that Bhagwat had visited the mosque as well as madrasa on his invitation.

"With this visit of Bhagwat, a message should

go that we all want to work towards strengthening India. For all of us, the nation comes first. Our DNA is the same, it is just that our religion and methods of worshipping god are different," Ilyasi said, echoing the RSS chief's words.

In a statement after the visits, RSS Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said, "Sarsanghachalak meets people from all walks of life. It is a part of the continuous general 'Samvad' process."

Two days ago Bhagwat met Delhi's former Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung, former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi, former Aligarh Muslim University vice chancellor Wameer Uddin Shah, former MP Shahid Siddiqui as well as businessman Saeed Shervani.

In the meeting, Bhagwat reportedly raised the issue of the usage of the word "kafir" for Hindus, which he said does not send out a good message. The group of Muslim intellectuals, on their part, objected to some right-wing activists calling Muslims "jihadi" and "Pakistani".

They also reportedly told Bhagwat that the real intent behind the word "kafir" was something different but it is now being used as an "abuse" in some quarters.

The RSS chief, it is learned, acknowledged the views of the intellectuals and underscored that the "DNA of all Hindus and Muslims are the same".

Responding to Bhagwat's meeting with Muslim intellectuals and clerics, Asaduddin told reporters, "Everybody knows the ideology of the Sangh and these Muslim elites are meeting Bhagwat. They have nothing to do with ground reality."

The RSS chief has been holding discussions with Muslim intellectuals for strengthening communal harmony over the last few weeks.

### INDIA'S VEILED ATTACK ON CHINA AT UNSC FOR SHIELDING PAK ULTRAS

"Politics should never ever provide cover to evade accountability. Nor indeed to facilitate impunity. Regrettably, we have seen this of late in this very Chamber, when it comes to sanctioning of some of the world's most dreaded terrorists," Jaishankar said, with China listening.

"If egregious attacks committed in broad daylight are left unpunished, this Council must reflect on the signals we are sending on impunity. There must be consistency if we are to ensure credibility," he said.

Bids by India, US and other western allies to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists under the Security Council's sanctions regime have been blocked and put on hold on various occasions by Islamabad's all-weather ally and veto wielding permanent member China in the 15-nation Council.

This month, China has put a hold on a proposal moved at the United Nations by the US and co-supported by India to designate Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Sajid Mir, wanted for his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks, as a global terrorist.

It is learnt that Beijing put a hold on the proposal moved by the US and co-designated by India to blacklist Mir under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council as a global terrorist and subject him to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

Last month, China had put a hold on a proposal by the US and India at the United Nations to blacklist Abdul Rauf Azhar, the brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and a senior leader of the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation. Abdul Rauf, born in 1974 in Pakistan, was sanctioned by the US in December 2010.

In June this year, China had put a hold, at the last moment, on a joint proposal by India and the US to list Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki under the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

# US House passes election law overhaul in response to Jan 6

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House has passed legislation to overhaul the rules for certifying the results of a presidential election as lawmakers accelerate their response to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and Donald Trump's failed attempt to remain in power.

The bill, which is similar to bipartisan legislation moving through the Senate, would overhaul an arcane 1800s-era statute known as the Electoral Count Act that governs, along with the US Constitution, how states and Congress certify electors and declare presidential election winners.

While that process has long been routine and ceremonial, Trump and a group of his aides and lawyers unsuccessfully tried to exploit loopholes in the law in an attempt to overturn his defeat to Joe Biden in the 2020 election. Democrats are pushing to pass the bill before the end of the year and ahead of the 2024 election cycle as Trump is considering another run.

While at least 10 GOP senators have signed on to the Senate version, the House vote fell mostly along party lines. House Republicans — most of whom are still aligned with Trump — argued that the legislation shouldn't be a priority and that it is a political vehicle for Democrats ahead of November's midterm elections.

The final vote was 229-203, with nine Republicans joining all Democrats in voting for the bill. None of the nine Republicans is returning to Congress next year.

The legislation would set new parameters around the Jan.



6 joint session of Congress that happens every four years after a presidential election.

The day turned violent last year after hundreds of Trump's supporters interrupted the proceedings, broke into the building and threatened the lives of then-Vice President Mike Pence and members of Congress. The rioters echoed Trump's false claims of widespread fraud and wanted Pence to block Biden's victory as he presided over the joint session.

The legislation intends to ensure that future Jan. 6 sessions are "as the constitution envisioned, a ministerial day," said Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a Republican who co-sponsored the legislation with House Administration Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. Both Cheney and Lofgren are also members of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack.

Ahead of the vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the legislation is necessary as there

have been attempts in states across the country to change election laws to make it easier to nullify future results.

"Now we have a solemn duty to ensure that future efforts to undermine our elections cannot succeed," Pelosi said.

The bill would clarify in the law that the vice president's role presiding over the count is only ceremonial and that he or she cannot change the results. It also sets out that each state can only send one certified set of electors after Trump's allies had unsuccessfully tried to put together alternate slates of illegitimate pro-Trump electors in swing states where Biden won. "This bill will make it harder to convince people that they have the right to overthrow an election," Lofgren said.

The legislation would increase the threshold for individual lawmakers' objections to any state's electoral votes, requiring a third of the House and a third of the Senate to

object to trigger votes on the results in both chambers.

Currently, only one lawmaker in the House and one lawmaker in the Senate has to object. The House bill would set out very narrow grounds for those objections, an attempt to thwart baseless or politically motivated challenges.

In addition, the bill would require courts to get involved if state or local officials want to delay a presidential vote or refuse to certify the results.

The House vote comes as the Senate is moving on a similar track with enough Republican support to virtually ensure passage before the end of the year. After months of talks, House Democrats introduced their legislation Monday and held the quick vote two days later in order to send the bill across the Capitol and start to resolve differences. A bipartisan group of senators introduced legislation this summer and a Senate committee is expected to vote on it next week.

# Nine killed as Iran protests spread over woman's death

AP ■ DUBAI

Clashes between Iranian security forces and protesters angry over the death of a 22-year-old woman in police custody have killed at least nine people since the violence erupted over the weekend, according to a tally on Thursday by The Associated Press.

Widespread outages of Instagram and WhatsApp, which protesters use to share information about the government's rolling crackdown on dissent, continued on Thursday.

Authorities also appeared to disrupt internet access to the outside world, a tactic that rights activists say the government often employs in times of unrest.

The demonstrations in Iran began as an emotional outpouring over the death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman held by the country's morality police for allegedly violating its strictly enforced dress code.

Her death has sparked sharp condemnation from the United States, the European Union and the United Nations. The police say she died of a heart attack and was not mistreated, but her family has cast doubt on that account.

The protests have grown in the last four days into an open challenge to the government, with women removing their state-mandated headscarves in the streets and Iranians setting trash bins ablaze and calling for the downfall of the Islamic Republic itself.

"Death to the dictator!" has been a common cry in the protests.

Demonstrations have also rocked university campuses in Tehran and far flung western cities such as Kermanshah.



Although widespread, the unrest appears distinct from earlier rounds of nationwide protests triggered by pocketbook issues as Iran's economy staggers under heavy US sanctions.

The unrest that erupted in 2019 over the government's abrupt gasoline price hike mobilised working class masses in small towns.

Hundreds were killed as security forces cracked down, according to human rights groups, the deadliest violence since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran's state-run media this week reported demonstrations in at least 13 cities, including the capital, Tehran, as protesters vent anger over social repression.

Videos online show security forces firing tear gas and water canons to disperse the protests. London-based Amnesty International reported that officers fired birdshot and beat protesters with batons.

At least nine people have died in the confrontations, according to an AP count based on statements from Iran's

state-run and semiofficial media.

Officials have blamed unnamed foreign countries, which they claim are trying to foment unrest.

In Amini's home province in the northwest, Kurdistan, the provincial police chief said four protesters were killed by live fire.

In Kermanshah, the prosecutor said two protesters were killed by opposition groups, insisting that the bullets were not fired by Iran's security forces.

Meanwhile, three men affiliated with the Basij, a volunteer force under the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, were also killed in clashes in the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz and Mashhad, semiofficial media reported, bringing the death toll on both sides to nine.

As the protests spread, authorities shut down the internet in parts of the country, according to NetBlocks, a London-based group that monitors internet access, describing the restrictions as the most severe since the mass protests of November 2019.



# Contested Jerusalem holy site: Hamas threatens violence

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Palestinian militant group Hamas on Thursday threatened hostile actions against Israel over what it called "violations against Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque" ahead of the upcoming Jewish High Holidays.

Hamas's threats came just ahead of Sunday's Jewish new year, and a day after a group of Jewish religious extremists visited a contested holy site revered by both Jews and Muslims and blew the shofar — a ram's horn that's trumpeted in the run-up to and during the Jewish High Holidays.

The Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah, begins at sundown on Sunday, and in the succeeding weeks thousands of Israelis are expected to visit Jerusalem.

Omer Barlev, Israel's minister in charge of police, told Kan public radio on Wednesday that Israeli authorities would not limit Jewish visits to the contested Jerusalem holy site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Visitations and prayers by hard-line Jewish radicals at the site have triggered previous rounds of violence between Israel and the Palestinians.

For Jews, the site is the holiest on earth, the location of two ancient Temples.

# Khmer Rouge tribunal ends work after 16 years, 3 judgments

AP ■ PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA)

The international court convened in Cambodia to judge the Khmer Rouge for its brutal 1970s rule ended its work on Thursday after spending USD 337 million and 16 years to convict just three men of crimes after the regime cause the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people.

In its final session, the UN-assisted tribunal rejected an appeal by Khieu Samphan, the last surviving leader of the Khmer Rouge government that ruled Cambodia from 1975-79.

It reaffirmed the life sentence he received after being convicted in 2018 of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Busloads of ordinary Cambodians turned up to watch the final proceedings of a tribunal that had sought to bring justice, accountability and explanations for the crimes.

Many of those attending Thursday's session lived through the Khmer Rouge

terror, including survivors Bou Meng and Chum Mey, who had given evidence at the tribunal over the years.

Khieu Samphan, sitting in a wheelchair and wearing a white windbreaker and a face mask, listened to the proceedings on headphones.

He was the group's nominal head of state but, in his trial defence, denied having real decision-making powers when the Khmer Rouge carried out a reign of terror to establish a utopian agrarian society, causing Cambodians' deaths from execution, starvation and inadequate medical care.

It was ousted from power in 1979 by an invasion from neighbouring communist state Vietnam.

"No matter what you decide, I will die in prison," Khieu Samphan said in his final statement of appeal to the court last year.

"I will die always remembering the suffering of my Cambodian people. I will die seeing that I am alone in front of you. I am judged symbolically rather



than by my actual deeds as an individual."

His appeal alleged the court made errors in legal procedures and interpretation and acted unfairly, making objections to more than 1,800 points.

But the court noted on Thursday that his appeal did not directly question the facts of the case as presented in

court.

It rejected almost all arguments raised by Khieu Samphan, acknowledging an error and reversing its ruling on one minor count.

The court said it found the vast majority of Khieu Samphan's arguments "unfounded," and that many were "alternative interpretations of the evidence."

Thursday's ruling makes little practical difference. Khieu Samphan is 91 and already serving another life sentence for his 2014 conviction for crimes against humanity connected with forced transfers and disappearances of masses of people.

The court ordered that Khieu Samphan, who was arrested in 2007, be returned to the specially constructed jail where he has been kept.

His co-defendant Nuon Chea, the Khmer Rouge's No. 2 leader and chief ideologist, was convicted twice and received the same life sentence. Nuon Chea died in 2019 at age 93.

# 6.8 magnitude earthquake shakes Mexico, 1 dead



AP ■ MEXICO CITY

A powerful magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Mexico early Thursday, causing at least two deaths, damaging buildings and setting off landslides.

The earthquake struck at 1:19 a.m. Near the epicenter of a magnitude 7.6 quake that hit three days earlier in the western state of Michoacan. It was also blamed for two deaths.

The US Geological Survey said Thursday's earthquake was centered 31 miles (50 kilometers) south-southwest of Aguillilla, Michoacan, at a depth of 15 miles (24.1 kilometers).

Michoacan's state government said the quake was felt throughout the state. It reported damage to a building in the city of Uruapan and some landslides on highways.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said via Twitter that it was an aftershock from Monday's quake and was also felt in the states of Colima, Jalisco and Guerrero.



AP ■ KAMPALA (UGANDA)

# Uganda confirms 7 Ebola cases, races to halt outbreak

Uganda confirmed seven Ebola infections on Thursday as authorities try to track down 43 contacts of known Ebola patients two days after authorities in the East African country announced an outbreak of the contagious disease.

A total of eight deaths, including one confirmed, are "attributable to the virus," said Dr. Henry Kyobe, a Ugandan military officer who is tracking Ebola cases.

He spoke of a "rapidly evolving" situation where "we think cases may rise in a few days."

The epicentre of the outbreak is the central Ugandan district of Mubende, whose main town lies along a highway into the capital, Kampala.

That travel link and several crowded artisanal gold mines there is concerning, Kyobe told the World Health Organisation.

Ugandan authorities have not yet found the source of the

outbreak, and neither have they discovered the key first case.

But they were able to confirm an Ebola outbreak of the Sudan type earlier this week after testing a sample from a 24-year-old man who had been initially treated for other illnesses, including malaria and pneumonia, when he sought care in his home town.

Six others in the same area, including three children, died earlier in September after suffering what local officials called a strange illness. There is no proven vaccine for the Sudan strain of Ebola, and "its very critical at this point that we treat this outbreak as serious, because we may not have the advantage that we have gained in terms of the advancement in medical countermeasures," said Dr. Patrick Otim, an epidemiologist with WHO in Africa.

Ebola, which is spread by contact with bodily fluids of an infected person or contaminated materials, manifests as a deadly hemorrhagic fever.

# UK Govt formally confirms lifting of fracking ban

AP ■ LONDON

The UK government formally confirmed on Thursday that it's lifting a ban on fracking in England, arguing that the move will help boost the country's energy security amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Liz Truss announced within days of taking office earlier this month that she would reverse a 2019 ban on hydraulic fracturing, a controversial technique used to extract oil and gas from shale rock.

Britain needs to "explore all avenues available to us through solar, wind, oil and gas production — so it's right that we've lifted the pause to realise any potential sources of domestic gas", business and energy secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg said on Thursday.

Truss said she "will not be going ahead with anything that carries a risk", but stressed that "energy security is vital".

The UK government suspended fracking in November 2019, saying it wasn't possible to accurately predict tremors associated with the drilling.

UKrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy suggested Wednesday that Russia's decision to mobilize some reservists showed that Moscow isn't serious about negotiating an end to its nearly seven-month-long war.

Speaking by video to the UN General Assembly meeting of world leaders hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement, Zelenskyy insisted his country would prevail in repelling Russia's attack and forcing its troops out. "We can return the Ukrainian flag to our entire territory. We can do it with the

force of arms," the president said. "But we need time."

Putin's decree Wednesday about the mobilization was sparse on details. Officials said as many as 3,000,000 reservists could be tapped. It was apparently an effort to seize momentum after a Ukrainian counteroffensive this month retook swaths of territory that Russians had held.

But the first such call-up in Russia since World War II also brings the fighting home in a new way for Russians and risks fanning domestic anxiety and antipathy toward the war. Shortly after Putin's announcement, flights out of the country rapidly filled up, and hun-

dreds of people were arrested at antiwar demonstrations across the country.

A day earlier, Russian-controlled parts of eastern and southern Ukraine announced plans for referendums on becoming parts of Russia. Ukrainian leaders and their Western allies consider the votes illegitimate.

Zelenskyy didn't discuss the developments in detail. But he suggested any Russian talk of negotiations is only a delaying tactic, and that Moscow's actions speak louder than its words.

"They talk about the talks but announce military mobilization. They talk about the

talks but announce pseudo-referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine," he said.

Russia hasn't yet had its turn to speak at the gathering.

Putin, who is not attending the event, has said he sent his armed forces into Ukraine because of risks to his country's security from what he considers a hostile government in Kyiv; to liberate Russians living in Ukraine — especially its eastern Donbas region — from what he views as the Ukrainian government's oppression; and to restore what he considers to be Russia's historical territorial claims on the country. Zelenskyy's speech was striking not only for its contents but

also its context. It took place after the extraordinary mobilization announcement. It was the first time he addressed the world's leaders gathered together since Russia invaded in February. It wasn't delivered at the august rostrum where other presidents, prime ministers and monarchs speak — but instead by video from a nation at war after Zelenskyy was granted special permission to not come in person. He appeared as he has in many previous video appearances — in an olive green T-shirt. He sat at a table with a Ukrainian flag behind his right shoulder and large image of the UN flag and Ukraine's behind his left shoulder.

# INDIA'S WAIT IS OVER

Captain Harmanpreet powers India women to first series win in England in 23 years

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

**S**kipper Harmanpreet Kaur smashed a scintillating unbeaten ton to power India to a comprehensive 88-run win in the second ODI, that sealed country's first series win against England since 1999.

A vintage Harmanpreet rekindled the memories of 2017 World Cup with a magnificent 143 not out which came off just 111 balls as India put on board a mammoth 333 for 5.

India bundled out England for 245 in 44.5 overs with medium pacer Renuka Singh (4/57) claiming four wickets on Wednesday night.

Danni Wyatt's 58-ball 65 was the lone bright spot, in an otherwise, dismal show by England batters.

The last time Indian women won an ODI series in England was in 1999 when they triumphed 2-1.

Chasing the imposing total, what England needed was a brisk start, but Renuka denied them by dismissing two top-order batter in Emma Lamb (15) and Sophia Dunkley (1).

Tammy Beaumont (6) was run out as the hosts were reduced to 47 for 3 by the end of the eighth over.

Alice Capsey (39) and Wyatt stitched 55 runs for the fourth wicket and then Wyatt shared another 65 runs with skipper Amy Jones (39) before the England's chase fell apart with Renuka cleaning up Wyatt in the 30th over.

Towards the end, Charlie Dean (37) and Kate Cross (14) tried their best but the



asking was too tall as India recorded a magnificent win.

Sent into bat, Harmanpreet smashed 18 fours and four sixes en route her 111-ball knock and also enjoyed a fine 112-run

stand for the fourth wicket with Harleen Deol (58 off 72 balls).

She also added 50 with Pooja Vastrakar (18) and another 71 runs in four overs with Deepti Sharma (15 not out) for

the unbroken sixth wicket stand.

However, it was in the last three overs in which Harmanpreet literally took the game away from England's grasp as the 334-run target in a WODI always looked

India eager to give befitting farewell to retiring Jhulan at Lord's: Harman

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

**T**he series already in the pocket, India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants to give a befitting farewell to veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami by winning the 'special' final ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday.

Goswami, 39, is set to bid adieu to the game after a glorious two decade-long career at the end of the ongoing tour of England, and Harmanpreet feels a series sweep would be the perfect gift to the fast bowler.

"The Lord's game is very special for us because it's Jhulan's retirement and we wanted to enjoy that game without any pressure and I'm really happy that we were able to win today and now we can just have fun in that game," the India skipper said after trouncing hosts England by 88 runs to win a series on their soil after 23 years.

The last time the Indian women

won an ODI series in England was in 1999 when they triumphed 2-1.

"It's very important (to win) because that will be her last game. It will be a very emotional moment for all of us and we definitely want to win that game," Harmanpreet said.

"Moreover, after winning the series now we just want to have fun because I know it's the last game for her."

The skipper said Goswami has been a true inspiration for all the players, including herself.

"She's someone who has taught us a lot," said Harmanpreet, who made her ODI debut at the 2009 World Cup under Goswami's leadership.

"When I debuted she was a leader and I learned a lot from her and now our young bowlers, like Renuka (Singh) and Meghna Singh, they are also learning from her. They are learning how she bowls and getting that rhythm from her. She's been a great inspiration for all of us and we've learned a lot from her."

improbable even though the pitch being a batting belt.

In the last three overs, the Indian team scored 62 runs, courtesy its skipper, who was in imperious touch while reaching her fifth hundred in WODIs.

The innings had Harmanpreet's trademark slog sweeps over cow corner which fetched him a couple of sixes while there were disdainful sixes over cover region.

With the pitch offering little help for bowlers, hitting through the line was very easy and England's bowling attack did suffer a bit with only off-spinner Charlie Dean (1/39) ending with respectable fig-

ures.

The worst sufferer was debutant left-arm seamer Freya Kemp, who did decently till the end of her seventh over in which she had conceded only 28 runs.

Such was Harmanpreet's dominance that Deepti Sharma, who still holds the individual record (188) by an Indian batter in WODIs, was more of a spectator during their sixth wicket stand.

**Brief Scores: India Women** 333/5 in 50 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 143\*, Harleen Deol 58, Freya Kemp 1/82). **England:** 245 all out in 44.2 overs (Danni Wyatt 65; Renuka Singh 4/57).

## Federer teams up with Nadal at Laver Cup for farewell match

AP ■ LONDON

**R**oger Federer will partner long-time rival Rafael Nadal in the final match of his glittering career at the Laver Cup in London on Friday.

The Swiss great has enjoyed a storied rivalry with the Spaniard over nearly two decades and together they have won 42 Grand Slam singles titles in a golden era for the men's game.

The two veterans, representing Team Europe at the Laver Cup, will face Team World doubles opponents Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock in Friday's evening session at the O2 arena.

The six-strong Team Europe also includes Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray -- the other two members of the so-called "Big Four".

Federer, whose most recent competitive match was a loss to Hubert Hurkacz in last year's Wimbledon quarter-finals, has been struggling with a knee problem and will not play singles at the Ryder Cup-style event in London.

"Of course, it's super special playing with Rafa," Federer said at a packed pre-tournament press conference on Thursday. "Feels really different, you know."

"Also just walking out on court and having the chance to play with the likes of Rafa or Novak also in the past has been an



amazing experience for me.

"So to be able to do that one more time, I'm sure it's going to be wonderful. I will try my very best. I hope to be good out there, and of course I will enjoy it but it will be hard."

Nadal, who first played Federer on the ATP Tour in 2004, said he was looking forward to an "unforgettable" match alongside the Swiss.

"After all the amazing things that we shared together on and off court, to be part of this historic moment is going to be something amazing, unforgettable for me," said the 36-year old.

## Osaka withdraws from Pan Pacific Open, Pliskova loses

AP ■ TOKYO

**D**efending champion Naomi Osaka withdrew from the Pan Pacific Open ahead of her second-round match due to illness on Thursday.

"I am really sorry that I am not able to compete today," Osaka said in a statement.

"It's an honor to be able to play at the Toray Pan Pacific Open in front of the amazing fans here in Japan. This has and always will be a special tournament for me and I wish I could have stepped on court, but my body won't let me. I will see you next year."

Osaka didn't specify the illness and said before the tournament she was fit and healthy. She was champion of the previous Pan Pacific in 2019 and advanced to the second round this week after Daria Saville retired with a knee injury in their first-round match.

Fifth-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil benefited by a walkover from Osaka's withdrawal and has a quarterfinal against fourth-seeded Veronika Kudermetova, who dominated



Mexican qualifier Fernanda Contreras Gomez 6-0, 6-1.

In other second-round matches, Petra Martic upset sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-4, and in a match of unseeded players,

Raducanu surges into quarter-finals at Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

**F**ormer US Open champion Emma Raducanu reached the quarter-finals of the Korea Open on Thursday, beating 396th-ranked Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium in straight sets.

Raducanu, who crashed out of the US Open in the first round last month, overcame a sluggish start and a late wobble to win 6-3, 7-5 in Seoul.

The 19-year-old Briton, the sixth seed, will face third seed Magda Linette of Poland next.

Liudmila Samsonova squeezed past China's Xinyu Wang 7-6 (5), 6-3.

In Friday's quarterfinals, Martic will play China's Zhang Shuai, Samsonova faces third-seeded Garbine Muguruz, and America's Claire Liu meets China's Qinwen Zheng.

## Aditi to lead Indian charge in Women's Indian Open golf

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**O**lympian Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar will lead a strong Indian field in the 14th edition of Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament, which will be held after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aditi is India's first and only Women's Indian Open winner and has since graduated to LPGA. She came tantalisingly close to winning a medal in Tokyo Olympics, finishing fourth.

Besides Aditi and Diksha, the Indian line-up also includes Tvesa Malik, Amandeep Drall, Vani Kapoor, Ridhima Dilawari, Gaurika Bishnoi and Neha Tripathi among others.

At least five former winners have already confirmed their participation, including defending champion Christine Wolf, 2018 winner Becky Morgan, Camisole Chevalier, Aditi and Caroline Hedwall.

Four-time Ladies European Tour winner Linn Grant will also be seen in action in the \$400,000 tournament, to be held at Gurgaon's DLF Golf and Country Club from October 20 to 23.

Regulars in domestic circuit, Pranab Urs, Hitachi Bakshi, Jahnvi Bakshi, Seher Atwal and Sneha Singh will also get a chance to rub shoulders with the best in the business.

This year the field has been curtailed to 114 golfers keeping in mind day light problem.

"We would like to have a much bigger field but we had to shorten the field due to limited number of day light hours in the month of October," said Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI) secretary general Champika Sayal during the launch of the event here on Thursday.



## Julius Baer Cup: Indian GMs Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa sail to quarterfinals

PTI ■ NEW YORK

**T**eenaged Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa moved to the quarterfinals after finishing second and fourth respectively in the preliminary phase of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament early on Thursday.

While World Champion Magnus Carlsen finished with 34 points, way ahead of the second-placed Erigaisi, who had 25

points, American Hans Niemann took the third spot with 24 points.

Praggnanandhaa, who made a strong start with three victories on day 1, ended up with 23 points. His tally included five wins, eight draws and two defeats.

Carlsen was in stupendous form, winning his last five games including three on the final day of the preliminaries to end with 10 victories.

His only loss was to Niemann, against whom he

resigned after making only one move.

The 19-year-old Erigaisi endured a poor final day, losing to Vincent Keymer (Germany) and Dutch GM Anish Giri after beginning with a draw against Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland.

But despite a forgettable day, the Indian GM managed to finish second. He scored seven wins along with four draws and four losses.

The 17-year old Praggnanandhaa, on the other

hand, started the day with a defeat at the hands of USA's Levon Aronian before settling for a draw against Giri. His win over Croatia's Ivan Saric in the 15th and final round enabled him to finish a point behind Niemann on 23 along with Keymer.

Baskaran Adhiban, the third Indian in the tournament, finished 16th and last with a solitary win to go with seven draws and an equal number of losses. He secured 10 points.

Since making his debut in 2014, Upadhyay has so far turned out for India in 133 matches and was also a member of the team's historic Bronze medal-winning side at the Tokyo Olympics.

But Upadhyay, who has 31 goals to his name, is in no mood to take his place in the team for granted.

"I feel very proud while donning the Indian jersey every time I step onto the pitch, always keeping in mind that this could very well be the last

Senior men's hockey team forward Salit Upadhyay wants to take advantage of the home conditions to end India's 48-year World Cup medal drought when the country hosts the game's showcase event next year.

India are set to host the men's hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time jointly in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year.

In the last edition of the event in 2018, India crashed out in the quarterfinals losing 1-2 to the Netherlands.

"Unfortunately, we conceded a goal in the dying minutes of the quarterfinal game in the previous World Cup in Bhubaneswar but since then the team has improved leaps and bounds, we are considered as serious

contenders for the title," Upadhyay said.

"Our aim now is to take advantage of the home crowd to showcase a scintillating performance and hopefully win a medal," he added.

India are placed in Group D in the World Cup alongside England, Spain and Wales.

Since making his debut in 2014, Upadhyay has so far turned out for India in 133 matches and was also a member of the team's historic Bronze medal-winning side at the Tokyo Olympics.

But Upadhyay, who has 31 goals to his name, is in no mood to take his place in the team for granted.

"I feel very proud while donning the Indian jersey every time I step onto the pitch, always keeping in mind that this could very well be the last



Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak inaugurating the 11th National Vovnam Championship at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Thursday. 562 players from 23 states are taking part in the event

## Mancini 'not worried' about injury crisis

AP ■ MILAN

**R**oberto Mancini on Thursday said that he is not letting Italy's injury crisis worry him before the Nations League visit of England, a team he says are one of the world's best.

Mancini lost midfielders Marco Verratti, Sandro Tonali, Lorenzo Pellegrini and Matteo Politano in the lead up to Friday's League A, Group 3 match at the San Siro, one of the European champions' last until next year, because they failed to qualify for the upcoming Word Cup in Qatar. He told reporters on Thursday that AC Milan's Tonali would miss the England match and Monday's trip to Budapest to face group leaders Hungary as he "wasn't in great condition" when he arrived at the Azzurri's Coverciano training centre. "I'm not worried. It's a match that we're taking on in a delicate period for us as we're missing a lot of players," said Mancini.

"Unfortunately, we have had problems for a long time. Not having lots of players playing in the league compared to the past

is a problem but we can't keep going on about it. We need to find solutions and we will, just as we did in the past."

England risk being relegated to League B. Gareth Southgate's team sit bottom of the group without a win.

England are five points behind Hungary and face Germany on Monday after taking on recent bogey team Italy. "They're a great team, they were at the Euro and they were a few years before that too. They're a team full of great young players and can still get better," said Mancini.

"I think they're one of the best teams in the world. They're bursting with talent, especially in attack. They have a lot of players starting with Kane who is extraordinary. Then all the young guys he has around him can also make the difference."

Gianluigi Donnarumma will return to the San Siro as an Italy player for the first time since March's Nations League finals, when he was booted and whistled by home supporters livid at his decision to move to PSG on a free transfer.

time I experience this.

"When I first joined, I worked really hard to make my place in the team and worked on my fitness to match the level of the team," he said.

"Over the last few years, I have gotten more consistency in my game and I'm proud that I'm considered one of the senior players in the team and embrace the added responsibilities that come along with it."

Prior to the World Cup, India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Odisha from October 28.

"We have positive momentum from the Commonwealth Games and Olympics. The awareness among the general public for hockey in the last few years is a real motivation for us to give our best at the camp and the World Cup," Upadhyay said.



# DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Jasprit Bumrah's fitness status will be a matter of attention when an out of sorts Indian team will look at course correction options against Australia in the second T20 International and strive to keep the three-match series alive, here Friday.

Bumrah, who has been out of action since the end of England tour, skipped the Asia Cup due to back injury.

However, to everyone's surprise, the team management didn't play him during the high-scoring first T20I in Mohali, raising doubts whether he has still attained peak fitness or not.

To compound the team's worries, the 'three-and-a-half' pronged pace attack, including Hardik Pandya, conceded 150 runs in 14 overs.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the seasoned pro, has already been taken to cleaners. He has leaked 49 runs in the three penultimate overs (19th) that he bowled against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

In this backdrop, a fit and fiery Bumrah is a pre-requisite for India as the home bowlers are increasingly being found out on batting belters.

The worst part about the team is that with five more official T20Is left before the opening T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on October 23, the Indian team looks highly unsettled.

If the approach of top three was a problem going into the Asia Cup, the bigger worry has been the bowling which has been exposed in good batting conditions.

Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been India's go-to spinner in all conditions, isn't looking menacing anymore. He has been expensive in the last few games and he will have to find a way to trouble the batters on wickets which doesn't offer much purchase.

However, all-rounder Axar Patel, who



was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement of injured Ravindra Jadeja, has once again proved his worth with a three-wicket haul on Tuesday.

India were also sloppy on the field, as they were guilty of dropping three catches, which drew criticism from former head coach Ravi Shastri.

In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team beyond the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

Designated finisher Dinesh Karthik didn't get much chance on Tuesday and is likely to be given extended game time with the management looking to keep all options open going into the world cup.

Australia, on the other hand, have looked like a well-oiled machine, despite the absence of key players such as David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Marsh.

All-rounder Cameron Green nicely slipped into the shoes of Warner with a sizzling fifty at the top in only his second T20I, while Steven Smith and debutant Tim David also gave the team the required impetus with crucial cameos.

The experienced Matthew Wade too lived up to the finisher's role with a stellar 45 not out off 21 and India will have to pull up their socks to stop Australia from going on a rampage.

Australia, however, would hope for a more disciplined show from their bowling unit after the pace trio of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Green bled runs in Mohali.

The wicket at VCA stadium, however, will be different than the Mohali track. It is expected to be on the slower side, which will make bowlers' role more prominent in this game.

With dew setting in the evening, teams will prefer to chase than defend totals.

## 4 injured in rush to buy tickets in Hyderabad

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Four people got injured when a stampede-like situation prevailed on Thursday at the Gymkhana Grounds in the city, where thousands of cricket-lovers gathered to buy tickets for the India-Australia T20 match scheduled here for September 25.

The injured people, including two women, were hospitalised and were fine, police said.

The stampede-like situation took place as a large crowd tried to get in at once when it rained, they said.

Police said they faced a tough time in managing the situation.

About 15,000 people gathered at the ground and some of them said they arrived there early on Thursday.

Some of them alleged that tickets were sold in black.

Telangana Sports Minister V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday said tough action would be taken against those selling tickets in black.

Media reports said the rush for tickets is because Hyderabad is hosting an international match after over two years.



## Experience of playing IPL in India helped to stay calm: Tim David

PTI ■ NAGPUR

inches tall."

The experience of playing in Indian conditions during his IPL stint helped him to stay calm under pressure during the opening T20I, said big-hitting Singapore-born Australian Tim David on Thursday.

The 26-year-old made his IPL debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore in Sharjah against Chennai Super Kings last year. He was then bought by Mumbai Indians and played eight matches for the franchise this year.

"I think having had the experience of playing in India before and playing a fair bit of T20 cricket recently, I felt calm the other night because I knew that we're in a good position to be able to chase those runs," said David during a virtual press conference.

"And the way the pitch was playing so I think to get over the line, you know, that still has to happen. It doesn't just happen straight away. And that was some brilliant performances from our batsman, the chase that score down."

David scored a 14-ball 18 on debut and added 62 with Matthew Wade (45) to guide Australia to a four-wicket win in the first T20 on Tuesday.

"Having some good experience playing in India, I think finishing off games and understanding how it can go and how the pitches can play or when it kind of lights up in front of you, so you know, there can be an advantage batting second in Indian conditions."

"That was a good experience - that IPL - to draw on to the other night out there in the middle," added David, who is 6 ft 5

Talking about his role in the Australian team, David said: "I think my role on the team here is to be batting in the middle order. So that means that I'm not going to be facing a lot of balls in matches."

"And I'm probably going to try and put the foot down with my batting first or if we're chasing, trying to finish off the game. So I've got to tick off my boxes of trying to play powerful shots, trying to clear the boundary and I think that's a big part of my training."

"So I try and get volume in the nets because, let's say, in a three-match series here I like face 20 balls...So I've got a lot of my work done in the nets. And be prepared to kind of be on for every ball."

"I think it's pretty straightforward. It's very similar to what I've been playing T20 cricket over the last year and 18 months so I guess I'm trying to bring my experiences that I've had so far and just take the game on and help the team win games."

Asked if he had ever thought that he would be playing the T20 World Cup for Australia, David said: "To be honest, I didn't get it very much thought. It's just it's kind of evolved naturally to be here at this stage. Yeah, I haven't thought about that too much."

"I just look to win a game which is in front of me and don't put any expectations on that."

"I just try and keep the game very simple. I don't look too far ahead of myself. I'm trying to stay pretty grounded and train harder than that and just improve as much as I can."

## Absolutely nothing to worry about, Bumrah is ready: Surya

PTI ■ NAGPUR

India batter Suryakumar Yadav on Thursday played down concerns regarding Jasprit Bumrah's fitness, saying there is "absolutely nothing to worry about" and the pace spearhead is ready to return after recovering from his back injury.

Bumrah didn't feature in the opening T20I against Australia with the team management deciding to give the pacer a little more time since he was returning after recovering from a back injury.

The India pacer has been out of action since the end of the England tour and also skipped the Asia Cup due to the injury.

"Actually I am not aware of any such communication, it is not my department, you should not ask me about it (laughs), these are for physios and team management to answer."

"But in the team, the environment is good and all are first-class fit and ready for second T20I," Suryakumar said when asked about Bumrah's match fitness and also where Umesh Yadav fit in the scheme of things.

When he was probed further on Bumrah, Suryakumar said: "Absolutely, he is ready, nothing to worry."

India, sans Bumrah, put up a shoddy performance as they failed to defend 208 in the series opener, with the pacers going for 150 runs.

However, Suryakumar came out in defence of the bowlers.

"Actually after the last game, we didn't have any discussion but as you have seen last day the match went on long and there was also dew, and you also have to give credit to them, they kept attacking, we are trying our best," he said.

In his comeback match, Harshal Patel conceded 49 runs for no wicket, which included a 22-run 18th over.

Asked if Harshal's variations are becoming predictable, Suryakumar said: "He is very deceptive. I don't bat in net sessions much, but as much as I have played him and also Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar) bhai is also difficult to decipher..."

"But Harshal's slower balls and his different variations are really deceptive and he has just come from an injury, so this much benefit of doubt should be allowed."



In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team across the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

"Assessing the pitch is very important. Everyone is playing their role, they know their responsibility, what they have to do in different situations."

"The openers know their role really well and then it comes down to middle order how we need to set up the game of what they have to do so, and it was set up well by the finishers, everything is going on really well and we will look to do it again and again," he said.

Asked if any particular role has been assigned to him to attack the spinners in middle orders, Suryakumar quipped: "I have hit two sixes against fast bowlers also, so I should get a little credit for that, what say?"

"I'm very flexible, no particular role. Actually plan myself for every situation. I am flexible to bat in anywhere, whichever number I'm asked to bat, I know I just have to do my role and I am happy to do it."



## Thakur, Sen star in India 'A' win in 1st ODI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A superb performance by medium-pacers Shardul Thakur (4 for 32) and Kuldeep Sen (3 for 30) helped set up a seven-wicket win for India 'A' against New Zealand 'A' in the first unofficial ODI here on Thursday.

Sent in to bat by India 'A' captain Sanju Samson, incisive bowling by Thakur and Sen had the visiting team in trouble from the start.

At one stage, the New Zealanders looked in danger of being bundled out for less than 100 but some rearguard action by Michael Rippon (61, 104 balls, 4 fours) and Joe Walker (36, 49 balls, 3 fours, 1 six) helped them post 167 in 40.2 overs.

The Sanju Samson-led team overhauled the target set by the Kiwis in 31.5 overs with the captain (31 not out, 1 four, 3 sixes) and Rajat Patidar (45, 41 balls, 7 fours) finishing the job.

There were also useful contributions from opener Rituraj Gaikwad (41, 54 balls 3 fours, 2 sixes) and Rahul Tripathi (31, 40

balls, 4 fours).

Earlier, on a pitch offering pace and bounce for the bowlers, Thakur struck the first blow by casting Chad Bowes (10) with NZ 'A' at 14 in the third over. In his next over, he had Dane Cleaver (4) caught by Sen.

Sen got into the act by dismissing Joe Carter (1) and Rachin Ravindra (10) in the space of three balls to leave the Kiwis at 26 for 4.

In his next over, Sen dismissed Tom Bruce for a duck to leave the opposition in shambles at 27 for 5.

Captain Robert O'Donnell and Sean Solia got down to the job of resurrecting the innings and took the score to 51 before the latter was run out by Rishi Dhawan.

O'Donnell batted for 39 balls for his 21 before nicking one to 'keeper Samson. Logan Van Beek (1) fell to Kuldeep Yadav and NZ 'A' slumped to 74 for 8.

Rippon was joined by off-spinner Walker and the duo slowly but surely mounted a fight. Rippon was the more cautious of the two and gathered

runs and reached 50 from 82 balls. No.10 batter Walker hit the first six of the match in the 29th over, sloggng Shahbaz Ahmed over mid-wicket.

The duo took the score past 150 and looked good for more before Rajat Patidar's throw from the cover caught Walker short of his crease. The Rippon-Walker partnership for the ninth wicket yielded 89 runs and gave respectively to the total.

Rippon fell to Thakur for a well-compiled 61 as the Kiwis folded for 167.

Speaking after the game, Thakur, the star performer, said he was surprised to see New Zealand lose five wicket in the Powerplay. "Because of 9 AM start, there was something in the air which we were able to exploit," he added.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 'A' 167 all out in 40.2 overs (Michael Rippon 61, Joe Walker 36, Robert O'Donnell 22, Shardul Thakur 4 for 32, Kuldeep Sen 3 for 30) lost to India 'A' 170 for 3 in 31.5 overs (Rajat Patidar 45 not out, Rituraj Gaikwad 41, Rahul Tripathi 31, Sanju Samson 29 not out).

## IPL to return to its old home and away format in 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will return to its original, pre-COVID-19 home-and-away format from the 2023 season, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly has conveyed to the board's affiliated state units.

The IPL has been held at only a few venues since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 as the lucrative league unfolded behind close doors across three venues in UAE -- Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

In 2021 too, the tournament was held across four venues -- Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Chennai.

However, with the pandemic under control, the cash-rich league will return to its old format

in which each team plays one home and one away match.

"The next season of men's IPL will also go back to the home and away format with all ten teams playing their home matches at their designated venues," read a Ganguly's note to state units.

The note gave them a "snapshot" of the ongoing domestic season.

### WOMEN IPL

The BCCI is also working to host the inaugural edition of the much-anticipated Women's IPL early next year.

It was reported that the tournament is likely to take place in March after the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

"The BCCI is currently work-

ing on the much-awaited Women's IPL. We are expecting to start the first season early next year," Ganguly wrote in the letter dated September 20.

The Women's IPL is expected to raise the standard of women's cricket in India.

Besides the Women's IPL, the BCCI is also launching a girls under-15 ODI tournament.

"We are glad to introduce a girls U15 One Day tournament from this season. Women's cricket has seen phenomenal growth across the world and our national team has been performing well. This new tournament will create a pathway for our young girls to play at the national and international level," Ganguly wrote.

## ICC CHAIRMANSHIP NOT IN MY HANDS: GANGULY

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said the BICC chairmanship is "not in my hands", playing down strong speculation that the former India captain could head to Dubai. In July, the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board approved the process to elect the next chairman of the world body in November.

After the meeting in Birmingham, it was decided that with Greg Barclay ending his tenure this year, the election will be decided by a simple majority and the term of the Chair will be for a two-year period between December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2024.

Ganguly's name has been doing the rounds since then. But when asked about it, the elegant batter of yesterday just had this to say: "ICC chairmanship is not in my hands."

The ICC Board has decided that a two-thirds majority is no longer required to be elected as the chairman. According to the latest recommendations, the contestant bagging 51 per cent votes will be elected as the winner. In a 16-member board, the candidate needs just nine votes from the directors to get elected.

## Indrajith, Gowtham take South past West's score

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Baba Indrajith's scintillating Bhundred and Krishnappa Gowtham's rearguard 43 took South Zone past West Zone's first-innings total on an interesting second day of the Duleep Trophy final.

Indrajith's 118 off 125 balls, along with contributions from Manish Pandey (48) and Gowtham (43 off 55 balls), ensured that South finished the second day on 318 for seven -- 48 runs clear of West Zone's first innings score of 270.

The match did turn out to be interesting when South were in a spot at 243 for six, but all-rounders Gowtham and T Ravi Teja (26) added 63 for the seventh wicket in just 16.2 overs, and in the process, surpassed West's total.

However, with the final being a five-day affair South are



still some distance away from ensuring a healthy lead, which might not happen with only Teja remaining among the recognised batters.

He has R Sai Kishore (5/86 in 35.3 overs) for company, but

the left-arm spinner would be more happy that he could grab a fifth five-for and deny young Het Patel (98) a chance to get to the coveted three-figure mark.

Mayank Agarwal pounced his catch, but later, when he

came on to bat, he was caught in the slip cordon by Yashasvi Jaiswal off seamer Atit Seth's delivery.

Hanuma Vihari (25), whose Test batting slot is in line was then caught plumb in-front,

but Indrajith was more dominant during their stand of 61.

The Tamil Nadu right-hander played some gorgeous drives but was equally adept while working the deliveries pitched on his legs.

His 13th first-class hundred had 14 fours in it and the 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket, with the seasoned Pandey, put South in the driver's seat.

Pandey, who had quickly hit four fours and a couple of sixes, should have converted it into a big score but Tanush Kotian, the Mumbai off-spinner, castled him two short of fifty.

**Brief Scores:** West Zone 1st Innings 270 all out (Het Patel 98, R Sai Koshore 5/86). South Zone 1st Innings 318/7 (Baba Indrajith 118, Manish Pandey 48, Krishnappa Gowtham 43, Jaydev Unadkat 3/52, Atit Seth 3/51).