

CITY 2
SP TAKES OUT FOOT MARCH
TO PARTY OFFICE**OPINION 6**
THE SUDDEN SPURT IN
AFGHAN BLASTS**WORLD 10**
AT LEAST 4 KILLED, 10 HURT AFTER
BLAST NEAR KABUL MOSQUE

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Urban Naxals armed with anti-India funds, says PM

Massive funding by global bodies hinder India's growth, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday claimed that "urban Naxals" have been receiving massive funding from different global organisations to hinder development in India and cited the example of his home State to assert that though "it took some time to thwart these conspiracies" the people of Gujarat ultimately "came out victorious."

Inaugurating the National Conference of Environment Ministers in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat via video conferencing, the Prime Minister highlighted that the conference is being held when India is setting new goals for the next 25 years.

"Today's new India is moving ahead with new thinking, new approach," said the Prime Minister and further went on to add that India is a rapidly developing economy, and it is continuously strengthening its ecology as well.

"Our forest cover has increased and wetlands are also expanding rapidly," he said.

Pointing to the "complications" involved in getting environmental clearance, the Prime Minister said the development



Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally addresses the National Conference of Environment Ministers being held in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on Friday

of modern infrastructure and efforts to improve the standard of living of the countrymen is "hindered" and gave the example of Sardar Sarovar Dam which was initiated in 1961 by Pandit Nehru but got considerably delayed.

He said it took decades to complete its construction due to the "conspiracies" carried out in the name of the environment.

Claiming that "urban Naxals" hindered the development of India by taking crores of rupees from different global organisations and foundations, Modi said due to their conspiracies the World Bank had refused to give a loan to increase the height of the Sardar Sarovar dam.

speedily deal with obstacles put up in the name of the environment highlighted the importance of the parivesh portal for the single-window forest, wildlife, environment, and coastal regulation zone clearances.

He said over 6,000 proposals for environmental and 6,500 for forest clearance were pending with the states. He called for clearing them sooner as projects worth thousands of crores of rupees will be stuck due to the pendency.

Modi underlined the need for bringing about a change in the work environment so that the pendency goes down and clearance is expedited.

"Expedited clearances should also take care of the rules and give priority to the development of the people... It is a win-win situation for both the economy and ecology... we have to remember the faster the environment clearance is available, the faster the development will also take place," he said in his address at an Environment Ministers' conference.

The Prime Minister remarked that today the world is joining India because of its track record of fulfilling its commitments.

"Gir lions, tigers, elephants, one-horned rhinos, and leopards have increased in numbers over the years. New excitement has returned from the homecoming of Cheetah in Madhya Pradesh a few days ago," the Prime Minister added.

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Be vigilant for hate crimes: Govt to Indians in Canada

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday asked Indian nationals in Canada and students heading to that country to "remain vigilant" against what it called a "sharp increase in hate crimes, sectarian violence and anti-India activities".

Canada is home to 1.6 million people of Indian origin and non-resident Indians. They account for more than 3 per cent of Canada's population.

The advisory came in the backdrop of a diplomatic row over a so-called referendum by "pro-Khalistan" elements on a separate homeland for Sikhs.

"There has been a sharp increase in incidents of hate crimes, sectarian violence and anti-India activities in Canada. The Ministry of External Affairs and our High Commission/Consulates General in Canada have taken up these incidents with the Canadian authorities and requested them to investigate the said crimes and take appropriate action, the release said. The perpetrators of these crimes have not been brought to justice so far in Canada, the MEA said.

Indian nationals and students from India in Canada may also register with the High Commission of India in Ottawa or the Consulates General of India in Toronto and Vancouver through their respective websites, or the MADAD portal madad.Gov.In, the Ministry said.

The registration would enable the High Commission and the Consulates General to better connect with Indian citizens in Canada in the event of any requirement or emergency, it added.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Thursday described the referendum as a "farical exercise held by extremist and radical elements". He also said it was "deeply objectionable" that this was allowed in a friendly country.

Though the Canadian Government has said it respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India and that



it will not recognise the so-called referendum, this was not enough to address the concerns on the Indian side.

"You are all aware of the history of violence in this regard. The Government of India will continue to press the Government of Canada on this matter," Bagchi said.

Reports also indicated Pakistan Consul General Janbaz Khan visited two allegedly pro-Khalistan gurdwaras in Surrey, Vancouver recently. Khan visited the Sri Dashmesh Darbar and Guru Nanak Sikh Gurudwara reportedly to thank the office-bearers for sending donations for flood relief in Pakistan. He also held secret meetings with the office-bearers.

Enlist Modi to mediate end to Russia-Ukraine war: Mexico urges UN

Pittsburgh: With the Ukraine conflict unabated for the last seven months, Mexico has proposed to the United Nations to set up a committee including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pope Francis and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to mediate permanent peace between Russia and Ukraine.

This proposal by Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubon while participating in a UN Security Council debate on Ukraine in New York late on Thursday came days after Modi's message to President Vladimir Putin on September 16 that "today's era is not of war."

In win for Uddhav-Sena, HC allows its Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a shot in the arm for beleaguered leader Uddhav Thackeray, the Bombay High Court on Friday granted permission to the faction of the Shiv Sena headed by him to hold Dussehra rally at the historic Shivaji Park in north-central Mumbai, after holding that the action by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to deny permission to hold the rally to the Sena led by him was "abuse of law".

Quashing an order passed earlier by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) refusing permission to hold the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park, a HC bench of Justices RD Dhanuka and Kamal Khata noted, "Our view is that decision taken by BMC is not a bonafide decision."



Granting permission to the Uddhav-led Shiv Sena to hold the annual Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park anywhere between October 2 to 6, 2022, the HC bench observed that the police were at liberty to video-record the rally and in the event of any untoward behaviour, the same could be taken as a ground for refusing permission to the party for its rally next year.

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Turncoat Nitish backstabbed BJP in bid to work for PM ambitions: Shah

PTI ■ PURNEA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday flayed former ally Nitish Kumar, accusing the Bihar Chief Minister of "backstabbing" the BJP and trying to fulfil prime ministerial ambitions while "sitting in the laps of Congress and RJD".

At a rally held in Purnea, Shah asserted that the "jodi" of Kumar and RJD president Lalu Prasad will be "wiped out" (soopda saaf) in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and, a year later, the BJP will win a majority on its own in the State Assembly elections.

Widely regarded as the BJP's principal strategist, Shah arrived in Bihar on his first trip since the party was robbed of power in the upheaval last month.

He, however, refrained from joining issue with the contention of Kumar's JD(U)



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during BJP's 'Jan Bhavna' rally, in Purnea on Friday

that the BJP had tried to "break" the party.

"The number of seats won by Kumar's party in 2020 Assembly polls was nearly half of our tally. BJP showed magnanimity ('badappan') in backing him as the CM in keeping with its earlier promise. But,

with the Lok Sabha polls nearing, his prime ministerial ambitions got the better of him and he backstabbed us," alleged Shah.

The JD(U) has been indirectly blaming the BJP for the fall in its tally in the last Assembly polls when the Lok

Janshakti Party, then headed by Chirag Paswan, fielded many saffron party rebels against candidates of the Chief Minister's party.

Shah mocked the seven-party ruling 'Mahagathbandhan', which also includes three Left parties, for raising apprehensions that the BJP leader's two-day trip of Seemanchal region could lead to communal polarisation in the area, which has a high concentration of Muslims.

"The new regime has led to an atmosphere of fear in these border districts. But with (PM) Narendra Modi around, none of you need to be afraid. All of you have been elated over scrapping of Article 370, which wiped off a stigma from the forehead of Mother India. I challenge Lalu and Nitish to utter a word in appreciation of the move," Shah said.

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Jaishankar recounts moments of his work relationship with PM

ANI ■ NEW YORK

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who contributed to a special book titled "Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery" which commemorates 20 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in public life, read excerpts from the book and shared candid moments of his work relationship with the Prime Minister.

"Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery" is a compilation of chapters written by S Jaishankar, Amish Tripathi, PV Sindhu, Anupam Kher, Amit Shah and Sudha Murthy, among others. In the book, Jaishankar penned down how he first met Modi and shared the same with members of the Indian-American Community in New York.

The External Affairs



Minister very eloquently recalled the first time he met PM Modi back when he was the ambassador in China and Prime Minister Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

"No question he stood out. And I frankly liked Modi, before I met Modi," Jaishankar expressed. He distinctly remembered PM Modi's eye for detail and preparedness. "He wanted a political briefing, which normally Chief Ministers are not bothered about, but he gave me an excellent reason."

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Rajiv, M Srinivas named AIIMS' DG, Director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Dr Rajiv Bahl, who has been working as the Head of Research on Maternal, Newborn Child, and Adolescent Health and Ageing, World Health Organization, and M Srinivas, Dean of ESIC Hospital and Medical College in Hyderabad, on Friday were



appointed as new Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi respectively. Dr Bahl will replace Balram Bhargava while Dr M Srinivas will take over the new post from Dr Randeep Guleria, who has been AIIMS Director since 2017.

PFI 'flash hartal' brings Kerala to grinding halt, HC starts suo motu case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Political bigwigs in Kerala, the past masters in organising hartals and bundhs, were taken aback on Friday by the way the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its political wing SDPI brought the State to a grinding halt to protest against the arrests of their 18 leaders on Thursday by the National Investigation Agency.

The hartal that stood out because of the widespread rioting and attacks unleashed by the activists of the PFI made a division bench of the Kerala High Court to initiate suo motu proceedings against the leaders of the outfit who issued the hartal call.

Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and CP Mohammed Nissar termed the Friday's har-

tal an act of contempt of court and asked the Government to act against the PFI leaders who issued the hartal call. The Kerala Government told the court that more than 70 KSRTC buses were destroyed, forcing the authorities to cancel the services.

For the first time in the State, ambulances ferrying patients to hospitals were pelted with stones by the PFI activists who also deflated the wheels of the emergency vehicles. The activists covered their faces to escape identification.

PFI activists assaulted shopkeepers who defied the hartal and destroyed their commodities and belongings. A petrol bomb was thrown at the RSS office resulting in heavy damages.

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Bhagwat's mosque visit not a deviation from RSS ideological line: Indresh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has said its chief Mohan Bhagwat's visit to a mosque and madrasa in Delhi on Thursday was not a deviation from its ideological line and slammed the Congress for saying Bhagwat's outreach to the Muslim community was due to the "impact" of the party's "Bharat Jodo Yatra".

Senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar also criticised the Congress for saying Bhagwat's meeting with All India Imam Organisation chief Umer Ahmed Ilyasi was influenced by the same factor.

The Congress has misunderstood the Sangh's line and it should "repent" for it, Kumar, a national executive member of the RSS, told reporters on the



sidelines of an event organised to mark the 104th "Haifa Victory Day" at the Teen Murti Chowk here.

His remarks came a day after Bhagwat, taking forward his outreach to the Muslim community, visited a mosque and a madrasa here and held discussions with Ilyasi, who termed him "rashtra pita".

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Sonia, Priyanka to join Rahul in Bharat Jodo Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

In what would give a major boost to the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka Gandhi would join it on entering Karnataka.

The party also refuted claims by a section of the media and the BJP that Rahul has returned to the national Capital leaving the Bharat Jodo Yatra midway in Kerala. Congress chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said the former Congress chief is stationed at a container camp in Kerala's Chalakudy as per the rest day schedule.

Karnataka State party chief DK Shivakumar said the party has made elaborate preparations for the Karnataka leg of the yatra.

The party has given

Gehlot first leader to announce his name for Cong prez poll

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot became the first person to announce his candidature for the AICC presidential poll on Friday, a day before the nomination process begins, and said Rahul Gandhi has told him that no one from the Gandhi family should become the next party chief.

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responsibility to leaders to facilitate Sonia and Priyanka's presence in the yatra, he said. Sonia has just returned after treatment from abroad.

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UP does away with anticipatory bail in rape & POCSO Act

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Strictly going with the zero tolerance policy of his Government towards sexual crime against women and children in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday took another major decision by withdrawing the anticipatory bail provision in such crimes in Uttar Pradesh.

Yogi claimed that the Government is sensitive towards crimes against women and children and would take all strict steps towards curbing such heinous crimes by sending the accused to jail.

"The morale of such criminals who cause serious injury to not only the body of women and children but even their soul will be broken by this decision of the Government and unwavering faith in the State's law and order will be generated," said a Government spokesman.

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UP Assembly session concludes sans disruptions, adjournments

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After a gap of over three decades, the brief monsoon session of the UP Assembly concluded without disruptions and adjournments. The five-day second session of the 18th UP Assembly commenced on September 19 and adjourned sine die on Friday. UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, in his address on Friday, said never in the last over three decades, the assembly session was conducted in such a peaceful manner.

He said the monsoon session was the second session of the 18th UP Assembly and it was completed without disruptions and adjournments. He said the peaceful conduct of the monsoon session was made possible with the cooperation of the opposition parties. Mahana said Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had also

praised the UP Assembly during his address at the speakers' conference at Toronto organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The speaker urged the members of the House to motivate students, academics, lawyers and doctors to visit Lucknow and watch the proceedings of the state assembly. "The 403 MLAs of the UP Assembly are not the only stakeholders of this institution, 25 crore people of the state are also equal stakeholders in this institution," Mahana said and added, "When I was not a MLA I used to watch the assembly building with awe and had never imagined that I would enter this institution as its member."

Referring to the digitisation programme being implemented in the UP Assembly, the speaker said, "Officers from eight state assemblies

have visited Lucknow so far to learn from our digitisation programme."

He added: "UP Assembly has taken a lead in the country by implementing e-Vidhan software through which the proceedings of the House, including the annual budget presentation, have been made paperless."

Mahana also thanked the media for the positive coverage of the five-day session, particularly the special women's session. "Earlier, the media reports about state assembly coverage were full of negative reports about pandemonium and bedlam. But not this time and this has been made possible only with the cooperation of all stakeholders," Mahana said.

Meanwhile, during the monsoon session, one short notice question, 639 starred questions, 2,487 unstarred

questions and 1,553 online questions were tabled by the members. Out of these replies to 627 questions were tabled in the House. The members gave 466 notices under Rule 51 of the Rules of Business for the Conduct of the Proceedings of the UP Assembly, seeking information from the government. The members gave 327 notices under Rule 301. Of these, 105 were admitted and the rest were rejected by the speaker. Besides, 58 notices under Rule 56 seeking adjournment of the House were also tabled by the members. Of these seven were rejected and the government's attention was drawn to two notices.

During the monsoon session the MLAs filed 1,844 petitions out of which 1,072 were admitted and sent to the government for necessary action.



SP takes out foot march to party office

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party on Friday boycotted the UP Assembly proceedings and staged a foot march from Vidhan Bhawan to its state office at Vikramaditya Marg via Raj Bhawan.

The SP succeeded in its third attempt to take out the march between its office and Vidhan Bhawan. Its earlier two attempts on September 14 and September 19 were foiled by the police. The SP boycotted the assembly, alleging that the government failed to discuss raging issues of inflation, unemployment and law and order in the House.

Led by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, the party legislators staged a walkout soon after the House proceedings commenced on the last day of the five-day monsoon session and marched to the party headquarters. Rashtriya Lok Dal MLAs also walked out of the assembly following their ally. Jayant Chaudhary led RLD has eight MLAs in the 403-member Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna said in the assembly that there was no rhyme and reason for the boy-



cott by the SP as all the issues raised by the opposition were debated and the government had answered all the queries of the opposition members.

"There must be some private agenda of the SP that might have prompted them to stage a boycott of the assembly proceedings," Khanna said.

Akhilesh Yadav, the leader of opposition in UP Assembly, said the government was evasive and was trying to run away from discussing basic issues in

the House by holding the session for a shorter period.

The SP, during the march, alleged that the government had failed to discuss raging issues of inflation, unemployment, corruption and poor law and order due to the short duration of the monsoon session. This protest march by the SP was a re-enactment of their failed similar street protest on Monday.

Police had stopped a similar march by the SP from its

office to Vidhan Bhawan on the opening day of the monsoon session on September 19 on issues of price rise, unemployment and law and order situation in the state.

On being stopped midway by the police on that day, Yadav and the other party leaders had sat on a dharna on the road. They had also held a mock assembly session with former speaker Mata Prasad Pandey presiding over it.

Citing various issues like drought and fee hike in Allahabad University, Yadav asked how poor children would be able to pay such high fees for studies.

"The government should make it clear how women will be protected because the statistics of National Crime Records Bureau and Women's Commission say that Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of crimes against women. Law and order has completely collapsed in the state," Yadav said, accusing the government of not responding to the issues of the people in the House.

"The government should answer on inflation, what concrete steps have been taken to provide employment and what measures have been taken on

the law and order front," he said. "They have big dreams of investment and are dreaming of a one-trillion dollar economy. What steps have you taken for it?" Yadav asked.

The government does not want to continue the proceedings of the House for a longer duration, the SP chief said.

"Why is it ending the monsoon session within five days? All ministers want to give information about their departments. We want to ask them what work they have done. The budget has not yet reached the districts," the SP chief said.

SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said the government does not want to discuss the issues related to the public in the House so the SP MLAs decided to boycott the proceedings and march on foot to the party office.

SP chief whip in the assembly Manoj Pandey, who participated in the foot march, alleged that the problems of farmers were not being heard in the Bharatiya Janata Party rule. "Inflation and unemployment are at its peak, there is drought in some places and floods in others, but the government does not want to discuss these issues," he said.

Do not panic, mein hoon na: Yogi

CM holds Janata Darshan in Gkp

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a Janata Darshan in Gorakhpur on Friday and told people not to panic as his government was there to address all their issues.

He said, "Do not panic, Mein hun na."

People submitted their applications to the chief minister and subsequently, the Yogi Adityanath instructed the officers to dispose of the complaints in a thorough and satisfactory manner and reassured those seeking treatment for serious illnesses that no one would be deprived of care due to lack of funds.

The chief minister gave the officers specific orders to ensure stern action against criminals and mafia. He said negligence in this regard would not be tolerated.

People who came to seek financial aid for treatment of serious diseases were asked to prepare an estimate and give it

to the administration. "The government will provide enough funding for the treatment," he assured.

He instructed the officers to complete the formalities speedily so that nobody's medical care was hampered due to lack of funds.

Many women from minority communities also attended the Janata Darshan of the chief minister.

The issue of a house collapsing in the rain was mentioned by one of the women. The chief minister gave the officers instructions to make plans to offer housing in accordance with eligibility in this regard.

The chief minister bestowed his blessings on children, who came to the Janata Darshan with their mothers and gifted them chocolates.

Yogi Adityanath met nearly 250 visitors during the Janata Darshan. He also met patients who were seated in chairs outside Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan.

HC sentences Mukhtar to 5-yr imprisonment

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday sentenced former Bahujan Samaj Party MLA and mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari to five years' imprisonment in a 23-year-old case related to the Gangsters Act. Justice DK Singh passed the order while overturning Mukhtar Ansari's acquittal by a special MP-MLA court in 2020. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Ansari.

State counsel Rao Narendra Singh said the FIR was lodged with Lucknow's Hazratganj police in 1999 and a special court had acquitted Ansari in 2020. The state had filed an appeal against acquittal in 2021. The High Court on Friday allowed the state government's appeal and sentenced Ansari to five years in jail, he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mukhtar Ansari was awarded seven years' jail term in another case for threatening a jailer and pointing a pistol at him. In 2003, the then Lucknow district prison jailer SK Awasthi had lodged an FIR with the Alambagh police, alleging that he was threatened for ordering a search of people who came to meet Ansari.

SP resisting JD(U) plans to expand footprints in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the fledgling opposition unity is far from acquiring a shape, the Samajwadi Party is resisting the plans of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United) for expanding its footprint in Uttar Pradesh.

The JD (U), with an eye on the Kurmi vote bank, the fellow caste of Nitish Kumar, is keen to expand beyond the Bihar state boundaries, especially in Uttar Pradesh.

According to SP sources, Nitish Kumar has broached the idea of holding joint rallies in Kurmi-dominated areas in UP, pitching to help the Samajwadi Party in mobilising this non-Yadav OBC caste base in their favour.

Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said that no such conversation was going on between the two parties as the Lok Sabha election was still some time away.

Chaudhary, however, said the SP believed in the necessity of opposition unity.

The initial euphoria in

Lucknow after the formation of the Janata Dal (United)-Rashtriya Janata Dal government in Bihar has given way to skepticism. Soon after Nitish Kumar was sworn in for the eighth time as the chief minister, this time at the head of the Mahagathbandhan government, posters with slogans "UP Bihar - Gayi Modi Sarkar" had cropped up at the SP's state headquarters here. Sources said that a section of the Samajwadi Party was strongly resisting JD (U)'s expansionist plans.

Opposing the plans of the JD (U) for expanding its base in Uttar Pradesh, a Samajwadi Party leader said, "Going by the 2022 UP Assembly results, we are ahead on 24 Lok Sabha seats. The BJP is facing dual anti-incumbency - against the Central government and against the individual MPs. We can easily build on this; we can easily stretch our tally to 35-odd seats. In such a scenario, why should we play second fiddle to a party which has no electoral base in Uttar Pradesh?"

Since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the Bharatiya Janata

Party has successfully made deep inroads and managed to keep non-Yadav Other Backward Class bloc in their camp. During the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, the Samajwadi Party had gone on overdrive to reach out to the non-Yadav OBC bloc.

SP state president Naresh Uttam Patel-led Kisan Naujawan Patel Yatra targeted the Kurmi vote bank. However, the efforts did not pay the expected dividends.

As per the 1931 Census, when the last time a caste count was done, the Kurmi population, which is concentrated in eastern and central UP amounts to a little over 4.7 per cent of the total population in the state and can impact the outcome in at least 15 Lok Sabha seats

The JD (U) in turn is hoping that organising such rallies will help carve a bigger role for Nitish Kumar. However, Nitish Kumar has reiterated in his recent trip to Delhi that while he will work towards opposition unity, he himself is not interested in leading the joint opposition.

ED confiscates another property of Haji Iqbal

Lucknow (PNS): Enforcement Directorate sleuths in Lucknow have attached a property worth Rs 200 crore of former MLC of Bahujan Samaj Party and mining mafia Haji Iqbal alias Balla on Dehradun-Mussoorie Road.

Mining don Haji Iqbal belongs to Saharanpur district and is facing several criminal and money laundering cases. Sources said the market value of Iqbal's ill-gotten property located on Mussoorie diversion was worth more than Rs 200 crore. About two days ago, the officials of ED's Lucknow branch had gone to Dehradun in Uttarakhnad and pasted a notice on the property regarding the legal action.

The ED officials, after gathering information and evidence about Haji Iqbal's

Dehradun property, concluded that it was acquired around 15 years ago from ill-gotten money. The ED attached the property under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

A four-member team of ED officials from Lucknow reached Dehradun and after measurement of the property installed a board stating its confiscation.

Haji Iqbal, who is the former MLC of the Bahujan Samaj Party, has several criminal cases related to molestation, money laundering, Gangsters' Act and Goonda Act that have been pending against him in various police stations of Uttar Pradesh.

A local court in Saharanpur had earlier issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Haji Iqbal.

COURT NOTICE (BY ADVERTISEMENT) (Chapter XXX, Rule-21) IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD ORIGINAL JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 99 OF 2022 IN THE MATTER OF THE GOODS OF Late Prakash Chandra Pathak, Son of Late Krishna Prasad Pathak, Resident of House No. D-47/198-S, Ramapura, Luxa, District Varanasi..... Deceased. Santosh Kumar Pathak Petitioner. WHEREAS an application has been made by Santosh Kumar Pathak Son of Late Krishna Prasad Pathak, Resident of House No. D-47/198-S, Ramapura, Luxa, District Varanasi for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Prakash Chandra Pathak deceased, who died at Babu Ka Hata Miyam Bazar Gorakhpur on 05.11.2008 AND WHEREAS, the 21st day of November, 2022 has been fixed for hearing of the said application. THIS CITATION is issued calling upon all persons claiming to have any interest to come and see the proceedings if they think fit before the grant of probate (or Letters of Administration). Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 19th day of September, 2022. DEPUTY REGISTRAR HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD Manoj Kumar Singh, Advocate Counsel for the Petitioner.	
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the pioneer

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I have changed my name from Mohd. Tarif Elahi to Tarif Elahi S/o Rahmat Elahi R/o 40/197-A Makhaniya Bazar, Kanpur for all future purpose.

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I have changed my name from Taranjeet Singh to Taranjeet Singh Chadha Taranjeet Singh Chadha S/o Manjeet Singh R/o N-10 Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Nagar.

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I Amrish Singh has Added my Surname Sengar in my name Amrish Singh Sengar in future I shall be known as Amrish Singh Sengar S/o Harpal Singh R/o Flat No, C-2 Saidham Apartment 113/11-A Swaroop Nagar- Kanpur.

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे फ्लैट संख्या 602/ए-3, परिजात अपार्टमेंट, विक्रांत खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ का मूल आवंटन-पत्र कहीं खो गया है। अन्तु जैन D/o रसो एस0बी0 जैन मो0 नं0 8009241203

सूचना

सूचित हो कि मेरे पुत्र की हार्डस्कूल मार्कशीट में त्रुटिवश Aman Khan लिख गया है जबकि वास्तविक व सही नाम Amaan Khan है। नमिसे मैं उसे Amaan Khan के नाम से ही जाना जाये जफर खॉन डालीबाग, लखनऊ।

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In some documents my name is written as Sushma Rani Gupta & in some documents as Sushma Gupta. Now treat my name as Sushma Gupta for all documents & records Sushma Gupta W/o Lakshmi Chandra Gupta B-4/4 Napier Road Colony Part-I, Lucknow U.P.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 28-09-2022, अपराह्न 11:15 बजे आयकर अपीलीय अधिकरण, पंचम तल, पिकप भवन, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ निष्पक्षीय रद्दी पेपर, गत्ते आदि की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रू0 2,000/= नकद तथा फर्म द्वारा जी0एसडी0 व पर्सिंग प्रमाणपत्र जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा/आई0पी0 सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

आवश्यकता है

महेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह लॉ कॉलेज

आवश्यकता है विधि संकाय हेतु

प्रचार्य- 01

सो आचार्य-05

चौयथा एवं वेतनमान UGC एवं BCI के मानकानुसार

अभ्यर्थी कृपया अपना आवेदन ई-मेल करें या निम्नलिखित पते पर पोस्ट करें mpslawcollege@gmail.com

पता- अन्दावां, सराय इनायत प्रयागराज-221505

SGPGI to have three new departments

Lucknow (PNS): Three new departments will be created at the Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences soon. It was decided in a meeting held recently. The new departments include head and neck surgery, paediatric endocrinology and infectious diseases and vaccine research.

"Though the largest state in terms of population, UP does not have a dedicated head and neck surgery department in any hospital. It was thus decided that this department at the SGPGI will cater to patients of head & neck cancer which constitutes 21% of overall cancer cases detected

in UP. After this department comes up, head and neck cancer patients will be treated in a better and organised way," a senior doctor said.

He further said it was also decided that the department of paediatric endocrinology would cater to the areas of growth and puberty in children.

"SGPGI had started the first formal training programme in paediatric endocrinology in 2001. After creation of this new department, cases of diabetes, obesity, thyroid and other disorders prevalent in children can be treated with complete focus and dedication," he said.

It was also decided in the meeting that the department of infectious diseases and vaccine development was much needed in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic.

This new department will exclusively handle infectious diseases like swine flu, Japanese encephalitis, viral hepatitis and Covid-19. "These new departments are very significant considering the occurrence of throat cancer, paediatric complications and the recent Covid pandemic. Uttar Pradesh will have long-term benefits with availability of specialised treatment in these new departments," the senior doctor said.

Proper urban planning need of the hour: Yogi



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the National Urban Planning and Management Conclave in Lucknow on Friday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Urbanisation and proper urban planning is the need of the hour to ensure that every individual gets access to adequate basic facilities in order to lead a quality life, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday at the National Urban Planning and Management Conclave in Lucknow.

Stating that Uttar Pradesh being the most populous state and home to every sixth person in the country, Yogi Adityanath said that for India to turn into a 5-trillion USD economy as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UP had to step up efforts and contribute effectively by transforming into a 1-trillion dollar economy.

He went on to say that with a population of 24-25 crore, the state of Uttar Pradesh acted as a testing ground for every scheme formulated by the Centre.

“If any welfare programme

bears positive results in UP, it is set to have a positive impact on all the other states,” he pointed out.

Furthermore, the chief minister said that Uttar Pradesh was a state with infinite potential and limitless possibilities where the rural economy played a decisive role in the growth of the state.

“To achieve self-reliance, efforts were made in both rural areas and urban areas. Resultantly, within the last five years, more than 100 new urban bodies were developed in UP,” he said.

Broadising the opposition, the chief minister said that despite UP’s infinite potential, the previous governments lacked the will, the vision and the action plan for the planned development of urban areas.

“Urbanisation and ease of living are extremely important for ensuring economic growth. Today, 10 cities are being developed under the Smart City Mission and the remain-

ing seven municipal bodies are also working at their level under the mission. UP is also becoming the state to make Metro services functional in maximum cities,” he said.

He also stressed on the need for better conditions of housing, infrastructure, education, health, and transportation. Planning should be done on priority and on the goal of making the municipal bodies self-reliant, he added.

Stating that municipal bodies depended on the government for carrying out their work, the chief minister said that a lot needed to be done to improve their functioning.

“The conclave should act as a medium to improve urban planning in the state. An action plan should be formulated by conducting a board meeting of municipal bodies and development authorities as well as a proper presentation should be made before the mayor, MPs, MLAs for ensuring proper urban development,” the chief minister said.

CM conducts aerial survey of flood-hit areas

Asks DMs to expedite relief work

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas and directed the district magistrates concerned to expedite relief operations. The districts surveyed by the chief minister included Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Basti, Ayodhya, Gonda and Barabanki. He flew from Gorakhpur and surveyed the flood-affected districts and then reached Lucknow.

The chief minister issued instructions to the district magistrates to accelerate relief work in the flood-affected areas.

He also asked the district magistrates to submit a full report on the flood relief efforts



being made in the flood-hit villages of the affected districts.

The chief minister ordered quick distribution of relief supplies and permissible medical aid in cases of human or animal casualties.

In the last 24 hours, more than 25 mm rainfall was

recorded in 16 districts. At present 247 villages of 14 districts are affected by floods in the state. As many as eight National Disaster Response Force teams have been sent to the state’s seven districts, including Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Lakhimpur Kheri, Varanasi,

Bahraich, Ayodhya and Bareilly for rescue operations.

In 10 districts in the state, including Barabanki, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Moradabad, Bareilly, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Etawah, Ayodhya and Mirzapur, 15 teams of State Disaster Response Force

have been deployed for rescue operations.

At the same time, 44 teams of 17 companies of Provincial Armed Constabulary have been deployed in 46 districts of the state. At present, a total of 67 teams are deployed for carrying out rescue operations in 44 districts of the state.

Yogi Adityanath also visited Ayodhya district and reviewed the flood relief and rescue operations. In a meeting with senior district officials he enquired about the relief and rescue operations conducted in the flood affected areas.

The chief minister also enquired about the preparations being made for organising Deepotsav-2022. He directed the officials to complete all arrangements in a time bound manner. He also enquired regarding construction of Lata Mangeskar Chowk.

Public representatives and senior officials of the government and administration were present on the occasion.

3 people end lives

Lucknow (PNS): Three people ended their lives in separate incidents in the last 24 hours. In Mayapuram, Daroga Kheda, under Para police station, 36-year-old Shivpujan hanged himself to death. Father Vijay Pal Singh said his son was alcoholic and would pick up fights with him when confronted. He said his son might have ended his life in frustration. However, no suicide note was recovered from his room. The deceased worked with a plywood factory. He is survived by wife and two sons.

In Padiyana village falling under Banthra police station, 27-year-old Lallan hanged himself outside his house. Relatives said Lallan had gone to his in-laws’ house on Thursday morning and returned the same evening. He was found hanging outside his house in the wee hours of Friday.

Meanwhile, 40-year-old Ram Pratap Chauhan, who was a resident of DUDA Colony in Amrapali Housing scheme in Dubagga, was found hanging from the ceil-

ing in his room. No suicide note was recovered from the room. He lived alone in the rented room while his wife and children reside in Gorakhpur.

A neighbour lodged a complaint and said there was no activity in the room since Thursday morning. He said he called other neighbours and one of them peeped through the window, only to find Chauhan hanging from the ceiling. His wife and other family members were informed about the incident.

In a separate incident, Manoj Srivastava of Mashakganj under Wazirganj police station was fatally knocked down by a speeding four-wheeler at Balaganj crossing. He died on the spot while his 26-year-old sister Neha sustained grave injuries. She was admitted to a private nursing home. Manoj was going to drop Neha to a school in Kakori where she is a teacher. While waiting for conveyance at Balaganj crossing, the sibling duo were mowed down by a car. Police said they had launched a manhunt for the errant driver.

Mayawati: Will Bhagwat's mosque visit change BJP approach towards Muslims?

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati on Friday targeted Bharatiya Janata Party over their new-found soft corner for Muslims.

Referring to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat’s visit to a mosque and a madrasa in Delhi and his meeting with the ulema, the BSP supremo questioned whether the Muslim society and mosque-madrasas would be followed after this. She asked through a series of tweets if there would be a change in the negative attitude of the BJP and its governments towards the Muslims now.

Mayawati said, “After RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat went to a mosque/madrasa in Delhi on Thursday and met the ulema and then made them call him ‘Father of the Nation’ and ‘Rishi of the nation’, will the negative approach and behavior of the BJP and its governments see any change towards Muslim society or mosque-madrasas?”



The BSP president further said, “The UP government is not able to bear the compulsion to offer namaz alone for a few minutes in the open space and is willing now also to intervene in private madrasas, besides the government madrasas, but what is the meaning of deep silence of RSS chief towards it, they must also look into this.”

Significantly, Bhagwat visited a mosque and a madrasa on Thursday, expanding his reach to the Muslim community. The RSS sarsangchalak went to a mosque at Kasturba Gandhi Marg in central Delhi and then

visited Madrasa Tajweedul Quran in Azadpur, North Delhi. This is the first time the RSS sarsangchalak has visited a madrasa. According to an RSS functionary, Umar Ahmed Ilyasi, the head of the All India Imam Organization, during a conversation with the children of the madrasa, called Bhagwat the ‘Father of the Nation’. However, Bhagwat immediately interrupted him and said that there was only one Father of the Nation in the country and everyone else were the children of India.

Ilyasi said that Bhagwat had come to visit the madrasa on his invitation. In this meeting, on the initiative of Ramlal, a prominent RSS leader and former BJP organisation general secretary, possible measures were discussed to reduce the differences between the two communities. The meeting was initiated by Muslim intellectuals. This initiative comes at a time when the situation worsened by the controversial remarks of BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

Dengue cases fewer this year, situation under control: Singhal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Dengue cases may be coming in the state capital but the situation is under control, Joint Director, Health, Vikas Singhal said on Friday. In Lucknow, the number of dengue cases since January is 159, including 59 this month alone, he pointed out.

Since January, the total number of dengue cases detected in the state is 1,367, including 770 this month, he said, adding the cases are fewer than those last year.

“During the corresponding period last year, there were more than 200 cases. We are carrying out case-based surveillance under which whenever any case is detected, we launch a testing drive in the neighbourhood and take con-

trol measures so as to contain the spread,” he said.

Singhal appealed to people to take prevention measures and help in containing the spread of dengue and malaria.

“People in most urban areas use containers for storage of water. Besides, rainwater also collects in objects lying in the open. The water tanks and containers should be covered with a tight lid. Big tanks should have inlets and overflow outlets with mosquito wire mesh. Periodically cleaning and scrubbing the inside of water containers and jars can help destroy the Aedes eggs,” he said. “Big water drums and small earthen jars need to be turned upside down once a week. Filtering water from one container to another through piece of cloth can help trap and

dislodge larvae and pupae,” he added.

“Cleaning of water coolers, ACs, refrigerators room coolers, condensation collection pans under refrigerators and ACs should be regularly inspected, drained, and cleaned. Special attention should be paid to potential breeding spots in places like government buildings, hospitals, schools, religious places, cinema halls, theatres, malls, entertainment venues, etc. Wherever possible, these potential breeding spots need to be dried up once in a week,” he added. He further stressed on the need for mosquito-proofing of overhead tanks or underground reservoirs, masonry chambers of piped water lines and domestic wells. “Tins, bottles, buckets or

packaged items such as cups, trays and waste material should be buried in landfills. Scrap material in factories and warehouses like tyres, metal boxes, discarded appliances, sinks, basins, vehicle frames and parts of other items on industrial and commercial premises should be kept in sheltered areas protected from rainfall. Objects which can hold water should be kept upside down if kept in the open,” he said.

“Used automobile tyres are significant breeding sites for Aedes and hence a public health problem. Tyres in depots should always be kept under a cover to prevent collection of rainwater. Each community should look at ways to recycle used tyres so that they do not become breeding habitats for mosquitoes,” he added.

Book fair: Rains play spoilsport

Lucknow (PNS): Rains played spoilsport even as the National Book Fair kicked off at Balrampur Gardens on Friday. Key organiser Manoj Chandel said though rains created problems for them, he was positive that the book fair would attract adequate number of visitors in the coming days. “We have made arrangements but no matter how hard one tries, some water does come in. What is the cause of concern is that there is prediction of rains till the end of this month,” he said. An official from Prabhat Prakashan, which is putting up a stall displaying books on literature, said they were waiting for the rains to stop.

Rajkamal, Lokbharti Prakashan, Prabhat Prakashan, Samyak Prakashan, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Kitabghar Prakashan, Prakashan Sansthan, Pratiyogita Darpan, Setu Prakashan, Nayee Kitab Prakashan, Sasta Sahitya Mandal, Gayatri Gyan, Vaidik Sahitya, Hindi Vangmaya Nidhi, Nikhil Publishers, Tirumala, etc are participating in the fair.

ADMISSION

Aarohi Sethi of City Montessori School, Kanpur R o a d campus, and Urvi Prakash of CMS, R D S O campus, have got admission to National University of Fashion Technology (Rai Bareilly) and Institute of Art and Design (Delhi), respectively. They were earlier selected by National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIPT).



CITYBRIEFS



Mount Carmel College student Ella Awasthi bagged one gold and two silver medals in the CISCE National (Swimming) Diving Competition held at Padukone David Academy in Bengaluru from September 21 to 23. Ella won the gold medal in high board diving and the silver medals in 1 metre and 3 metre springboard diving events

ALZHEIMER’S DAY

A two-day programme was organised under World Alzheimer’s Day by the department of human development and family studies, School of Home Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University. On the concluding day, all the teachers and students of the department, while doing a ‘memory walk’ from the university, went to the nearby rural area of Rajni Khand and

under the community tour, the girls staged a street play to make people aware about the prevention of Alzheimer’s.

CAMPAIGN

Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi’s foundation organised a ‘Child Marriage-Free India’ campaign in Lucknow on Friday. The state consultation was held with an aim to mobilise all stakeholders of child protection to move

Advanced Neurosciences Centre to come up at RMLIMS soon

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Director of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences Dr Soniya Nityanand said the government has funded the hospital for the setting up of an ‘Advanced Neurosciences Centre’, construction of which is in progress. It will have state-of-the-art equipment like Gamma knife.

She said that the institute has an intense desire to adopt newer technologies which have evolved for improved healthcare, thus an MoU is being signed with IIT-Kanpur for collaboration in the artificial intelligence and digital health.

She said that the institute has made a big leap in academics in the past one year.

“The National Medical Council (NMC) has given the green signal to 66 new PG seats, perhaps one of the highest number of seats allocated to a single institute in the state in a short time. In addition, six new DNB seats have also been granted. A College of Nursing has been established and permission has been granted to BSc (Nursing) with 40 seats, and the first batch has already joined in January earlier this year,” she said.

The institute has started 13 post-doctoral certificate courses and fellowships in broad and

superspecialties. “We have introduced new specialised services in paediatric hepatology and gastroenterology, paediatrics orthopedics, paediatrics ophthalmology, head & neck cancer, clinical hematology, rheumatology, children with hearing impairment, breast clinic, stoma care clinic, anorectal & andrology clinics, amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling for genetic disorders,” she elaborated.

She further said that there are only two government centres in the state performing renal transplants and RMLIMS is one of them. “This year, the institute has performed 26 renal transplants and till date, 136 transplants have been performed,” she added.

She said that a new registration hall with 33 registration counters to ease the problems of patients queuing up to avail of services has been set up. “Hospital Revolving Fund (HRF), an in-house drug distribution system, has been streamlined with the aim to provide quality drugs to both OPD and IPD patients at a highly discounted rate and in the shortest possible time, 10 additional OPD/IPD counters have been opened. A new 24-hour canteen service for patients and their relatives has also become functional. Availability of online appoint-

ment and online access to investigation reports and liquid medical oxygen plant of 20,000L capacity has been installed,” she elaborated.

The institute has conducted several outreach programmes from time to time through its rural and urban centres. “The institute has launched a cervical cancer vaccination awareness drive, which was flagged off by Governor Anandiben Patel in March earlier this year,” she pointed out.

FOUNDATION DAY

RMLIMS celebrated its second annual Foundation Day on the theme of ‘Digital health reimagining healthcare for 21st century’. Dr Devi Shetty, in his seminal talk, highlighted the role of IT and digital platforms in providing efficient and patient-friendly healthcare. According to him, the next level of evolution in health will be artificial intelligence and its submersion with healthcare services. Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra was the chief guest on the occasion. Principal Secretary, Health, Alok Singh highlighted the government’s plan to develop a IT team in all the medical colleges. Medical superintendent Dr Vikram Singh highlighted the ongoing efforts in modernisation and digitalisation.

Stress on youth’s participation in family planning programmes

Lucknow (PNS): Mamta Health Institute for Mother and Child organised a consultative workshop with the aim of prioritising youths participation in family planning programmes. The chief guest at the workshop was Secretary (Planning) and nodal officer for \$1-trillion economy Alok Kumar.

“Uttar Pradesh has made great progress in health and to sustain these achievements, it is necessary to have a multi-sectoral coordination between var-

ious departments with focus on youth. We will try to ensure combined efforts by departments through shared vision and joint accountability,” Kumar said. “The \$1-trillion economy will provide the youth with information, knowledge and skills so that they can make a meaningful contribution to the overall development of the state,” he said.

Director-General, Directorate of Family Welfare, Medical and Health Services, Dr

Renu Srivastava Verma said World Contraception Day is an important day to remind people that there is a need to create more awareness amongst the youth on family planning services. “The National Family Health Survey-5 figures show that we have made significant progress and the challenge now is to sustain this progress. This is possible only when our programmes are made in tandem with the youth and for the youth,” Verma said.

Meanwhile, a man was arrested for allegedly carrying over one quintal ganja. He was identified as Naseem alias Gullu (22), a resident of Faizabad road under Mahanagar police station. Police said the accused was going to deliver ganja to retailers early Friday morning. He told the police that he smuggled it from Nepal.

Concern over rise in JE casesCVO inspects Ordnance Parachute Factory

PNS ■ KANPUR

Chief Development Officer (CDO) Sudhir Kumar while addressing the inter-departmental coordination meeting at Vikas Bhawan expressed concern over the rise in Japanese Encephalitis cases in Kanpur and its surrounding districts. He said it had been decided to prepare a micro-plan and work in a coordinated manner. He directed the officials that as per the UP government all departments should carry out their plans unitedly so as to deliver results.

He said the nodal officer will be the Medical and Health departments. He said under this special monitoring will be carried out of JE patients and on the basis of the list prepared on basis of symptoms proper treatment needs to be carried out.

He said it had become highly essential that Kanpur Nagar Nigam, Nagar Palika, Panchayat Raj department and the rural development



Chief Development Officer Sudhir Kumar holds a meeting to combat JE in city and rural areas

departments worked in a coordinated manner.

Sudhir Kumar said all departments will hold meetings as per the time line and all micro plans be accomplished in the stipulated time-frame. He said the rural and urban department concerned need to carry out regular fogging and cleanliness drives need to be carried out on top

priority. He said the principal of the government school will be run till October 31. He said the programme will take off with a rally and an oath taking ceremony. He said from October 7 to 21 'Dastak Abhiyan' will be carried out, Officials of various medical and health department were also present on the occasion.

Chief Medical Officer Dr

Alok Ranjan said the vector-borne disease programme will be run till October 31. He said the programme will take off with a rally and an oath taking ceremony. He said from October 7 to 21 'Dastak Abhiyan' will be carried out, Officials of various medical and health department were also present on the occasion.

PNS ■ KANPUR

Chief Vigilance Officer, Srikant Balgadh carried out an inspection of Ordnance Parachute Factory (OPF) a unit of Gliders India Limited on Friday and viewed all the products displayed in the exhibition room. He said in the changing scenario it was highly necessary to make the products relevant. He said it was highly encouraging to find that the new DPSU, GIL was gaining gradual momentum in this direction. The chief guest was welcomed by acting incharge Ashish Kumar.

Reviewing the products put on display in the exhibition room, he praised the products, especially being manufactured in P6 department where various parachutes and floats were being prepared. He said from the time the products were being manufactured there had been organisational and structural changes evident and thus there was also a need to have a change in the mindset of officials and staff working here. He said if this was practised in toto then the organisation will reach the topmost rungs of success ladder and carve a niche for itself across the world.

Director Gliders India Limited, Sunil Date said the GIL products had become the most sought for quality



Chief Vigilance Officer Srikant Balgadh being felicitated at OPF on Friday

product and on this basis of its quality it was reaching out to the world.

Ashish Kumar said the entire staff and officials of the OPF were highly dedicated and on the basis of its art of

handling their duties they were outstanding and were focused to march further ahead. Joint General Manager, S Bannerji and others were present on the occasion.

Committee finalises sugar standards for 2022-23 seasonIIT-K invites applications for 3rd cohort of eMasters Programmes

PNS ■ KANPUR

The meeting of the Expert Committee for Sugar Standards constituted by the Government of India was held today on Friday at the National Sugar Institute under the chairmanship of Prof Narendra Mohan, Director. The Expert Committee finalised the sugar standards for the sugar season 2022-23 commencing from October. Prof Mohan said every producer of sugar in the country shall now have to procure the grades from National Sugar Institute, Kanpur for marking their sugar on packs as L-31, L-30, M-31, M-30, S-31, S-30 and SS-31. He said while L,M,S and SS denoted grain size as large, medium, small and super small, 31 and 30 indicated colour and 31 being the superior white. The

committee also decided to introduce new standard in 32 colour series keeping in view the improvement in quality of sugar in the country over the years. He said NSI had collected hundreds of sugar samples from various states and the analysis indicated necessity of introducing grade for superior quality sugar.

Prof Mohan said this will help both the producers and buyers, particularly, the users of sugar who procure about 65 per cent of the total sugar which was consumed and aspired for very good sugar quality. In yet another meeting the committee specifications for several special sugars like low sulphur sugar, light brown and dark brown sugar were finalised. He said such sugars were present in the market but in absence of any BIS stan-

dards, the product quality was observed to be varying to a greater extent. He said thus for having quality control and to safeguard the interest of common consumer, specifications for these sugars had been prepared on behalf of BIS.

The committee also revised BIS standards for raw and refined sugar considering exports requirements and harmonisation of specifications for these sugars with the specifications as formulated by other international organisations.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Indian Sugar Mills Association, The Sugar Technologists' Association of India and Bureau of Sugar Standards and a few more.

PNS ■ KANPUR

IIT Kanpur is inviting applications for the third cohort of eMasters Programmes to start in January 2023. The eMasters programmes were one-of-a-kind and offered 60 credits across 12 modules. The third cohort will be offered three PG programmes- Communication Systems, Cyber Security and Power Sector Regulation, Economics and Management. Applications are open till September 30 and classes will start in January 2023.

After getting a huge response in the previous two batches, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur had announced the next cohort which will provide an executive-friendly virtual learning environment that will deliver course content online and help upskilling working professionals with industry experience and expand their career options. This degree programme was envisioned as a new-age postgraduate degree programme for professionals, where they get a Senate-approved degree during the convocation, unlike most other diploma or professional certificate courses. The 60-credit, 12-

module industry-focused curriculum offered flexible completion timelines (one to three years), IIT Kanpur alumni status, access to IIT Kanpur's placement cell, alumni network and incubation cell. The credits earned during the programmes can be transferred to an advanced degree at IIT Kanpur by participants selected to pursue the advanced degree and subject to Senate approval.

Announcing the opening of applications for the next batch across three programmes, Prof Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT Kanpur, said, "In last few years, IIT Kanpur has brought significant reforms in broadening the learning and curricular spectrum of the institute. Our eMasters programme is a one-of-a-kind initiative to ensure more flexible and seamless learning opportunities by going beyond the traditional scope of learning. In the last two years, we have got a great response from more than 250 professionals preferring to enroll across four eMasters programmes. We are glad to be launching the next batch across three programmes that start from January next year. I believe that all the three programmes

would cater to the needs of professionals across sectors to get carefully curated and regularly updated information and knowledge on industry-relevant areas. It will help enhance their domain expertise and get them to play a key role in India's digital transformation journey."

Each of these eMasters programmes is offered in a hybrid delivery mechanism where participants learn online in an experiential format from distinguished faculty of IIT Kanpur through the digital delivery platform ipearl.ai. He said they also get the opportunity to visit IIT Kanpur to meet faculty and experience campus life. Corporates can also nominate their employees for these programmes as part of their learning and development initiatives or talent retention plans.

This programme was specifically designed for professionals in the fields of Communications Equipment, Computers and Electronics, Electronics and Electrical, Optoelectronics and Fibre, Network Equipment and Virtualisation, Telecommunication, VLSI, IoT, and Signal Processing. He said this programme would arm work-

ing professionals with a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of modern digital communications systems. He said the programme will address the needs of trained professionals given the rapid developments in the field of communications with the advent of 5G, 6G and Edge Computing in India.

eMasters programme in Cyber Security had a strong focus on building capabilities in evolving threat landscapes. It trains cyber security professionals in the latest tools and technologies, techniques and concepts to navigate through the changing scenarios of cyber security. The programme is beneficial for cyber security enthusiasts who are planning to master hands-on learning by combining deep formal rigor and an intensely practical approach to counter cyber threats and challenges.

This programme in Power Sector Regulation, Economics and Management was curated from an engineering, economic and regulatory perspective. The programme aims to provide professionals with a conceptual understanding of the power sector, with regulations building on fundamental economic principles.

Workshop on prevention of hair fall organised

Kanpur (PNS): Thinning of hair has of late become the major cause of concern of Indian women. Over 50 per cent of the population was suffering from hair fall and out of the total 40 per cent were women. Umpteen factors were the cause behind the thinning of hair and receding hairline and various shampoos, application of chemicals, hair straightening, use of hard water to wash hair regularly etc were some major reasons for the thinning of hair especially among Indian women.

This was stated by noted dermatologist of Pune, Dr Shefali Malik, while addressing the workshop on hair and how to prevent hairfall, organ-

ised by Rotary Club of Metro on Friday. She said although there were many factors which can cause women to lose their hair, from hormones to stress to going on or off birth control.

Dr Malik said hairstyles and repeatedly wearing braids or other hairstyles that pull hair too tightly over a long period of time can cause hair thinning and hair loss. He said overprocessing hair with chemicals like bleach and heating tools like blow dryers and flat irons can also damage hair and cause breakage. She said considering the negative effects of hard water on hair one needed to take right steps to avoid damage to hair.

Rape accused gets lifer

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Pratapgarh court sentenced the 24-year-old accused, who had raped a six-year-old girl after lifting her from the road last month, to imprisonment till his last breath in a trial of just 10 days. This decision gave justice to the family of the girl who was drowned in grief, and also gave hope to the people who are saddened by such crime that the courts should give a speedy hearing in the cases of women crime and give the verdict at the earliest, then perhaps fear will arise among the perpetrators of such crimes. Right now the cases hang for years and years and the accused keep roaming free on bail after arrest and the decision does not come for years.

Recently, the case of a similar crime committed 34 years ago with a girl child in Kanpur came up for hearing in the High Court. Now that child has become an adult woman, but the case related to that person who committed adultery with her is still pending in the court. However, some time before Thursday's verdict, the court of Pratapgarh, while speeding up a similar offense, had completed the trial in just 20 days and pronounced the sentence. On June 10, the fast track court had sentenced Rajkumar Maurya, a resident of Lalganj, to life imprisonment in the

case written in the case of raping an 11-year-old girl in the house. Now half the time, in just 10 days, the court has completed the trial and given its verdict.

Civil Lines resident teacher Shuchi Aggarwal said that the quick decision of Pratapgarh court was welcome and said that the girl with whom the abomination was done, she and her family will suffer mental agony for the rest of her life, but within a few days from the court, the guilty will be punished severely.

At least they got the satisfaction of getting justice. It should be expected that other courts will also conduct faster trials in such cases than date on.

Anuragini Singh, a teacher associated with Yous Club, says that this incident is very sad but the court verdict is pleasant. With the trial hanging in the courts for years and repeated calls for statements, the victims have to back down, which at times weakens the trial and escapes the guilty. If speedy justice is provided like Pratapgarh court, then it is expected that such crime will also come down. This decision is an example.

Purva Dwivedi, a social worker in Prayagraj, said that after the crime is committed, the victim hopes from the police and the court that she will get justice. If the police collect concrete evidence and file the charge sheet at the earliest and the court pronounces the verdict soon, then the work of healing the victim will be done.

AMA annual conference on September 25

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Annual conference of Allahabad Medical Association will be held on September 25 at AMACC, The theme of conference is "BACK TO BASICS" This conference will be held under the Presidentship of Dr. Sujit Singh and the organizing secretary is Dr. Siddharth Madnani. Due to Covid-19 it has not been possible to conduct this annual conference for the past two years. Conveners of the Conference are Dr. Ankita Agrawal, Dr. Amrita Madnani, Dr. Anubha Srivastava, Dr. Parul Mathur and Dr. Vinita Mishra. Chief Guest for the Inauguration of the function to be held at 6 PM will be Mr. Sanjay Shrinet, Hon'ble Chairman UPSC.

will begin at 9 AM with a Keynote address by Prof. Sarita

Bajaj, Former HOD Medicine MLN Medical College, Prayagraj. Dr. Deep Dutta Endocrinologist from New Delhi will talk on prediabetes, to be followed by talk on rational use of topical steroids by Dr. Vikrant Saoji dermatologist from Nagpur.

HOD VR Services Narayan Netralaya Bengaluru Dr. Chaitra Jayadev will throw light on Ophthalmic Manifestation of Systemic disorders. Topic of Dr. Deepak Jumani Sexologist from Mumbai will be Erectile dysfunction-tip of the iceberg. There are two orations in this Conference: Dr. B.L. Agrawal Oration will be taken by Dr. Gourdas Choudhuri, Gastroenterologist from Fortis Hospital Gurugram on the topic Jaundice in Pregnancy. Dr. Anoop Tripathi oration will be taken by Dr. Rajendra

Prasad Director & HOD, Pulmonary Medicine Era Medical College, Lucknow on the topic Role of Chest X-ray in the era of CT Scan.

Foot Surgeon Dr. Sanjay Sharma from Bengaluru talks on Diabetic foot whereas Dr. Deepak Talwar Pulmonologist Metro Hospital Noida will be brief about COPD /Asthma overlap. Post lunch Approach to case of pancytopenia will be explained by Dr. Dipsha Kriplani Hematology Oncologist from Breach Candy Hospital Mumbai. Dr. Vikash Agrawal Rheumatologist SGPGI will deliver his lecture on Approach to Arthritis and Dr. Anshu Srivastava Pediatric Gastroenterologist will enlighten on pediatric constipation followed by a talk on legal pitfalls in the practice of clinical medicine by Dr. Subodh Sirur a legal expert from Mumbai.

Woman offering namaz at hospital creates a flutter

Prayagraj (PNS): The hospital administration has become strict after a video of a woman offering Namaz at Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital popularly known as Beli Hospital in Prayagraj went viral. The hospital administration has set up an inquiry into the matter. Strict action is being taken to ensure that this does not happen in future.

A 40-year-old woman from Jethwara Pratapgarh is admitted in the dengue ward of the hospital.


One of his attendants went some distance away from the bed and started offering Namaz. She continued to offer Namaz for about 12 minutes. Some of the attendants present there also protested. Someone made a video of her from a mobile phone. When he made it viral, the information reached the medical superintendent as well.

It is seen in the video that the woman starts offering Namaz by laying a sheet on the floor. The relatives of some other patients are also seen around. After offering Namaz, the woman gets up from there and goes some distance and sits down.

Dr. MK Akhouri, the superintendent of Beli Hospital said that he went there after getting the information and warned the woman who offered Namaz. Along with this, the ward in-charge Shabnam Rai, who ignored it, was also warned. He further said that an inquiry has been ordered into the matter.



Devotees perform 'Pind Daan' for their ancestors after taking a holy dip in Ganga during Pitru Paksha at Sangam in Prayagraj



Corrigendum
Gujarat State Board of School Textbook
"Vidhyayan," Sector-10/A, Gandhinagar-382010
E-Tender/Two Bid
Tender No - 544714 / 2022-2024

The last date for online submission Request for proposal of empanelment for Job work of Offset Printing of Textbooks Year 2022-2024 for printing work are amendment as follows. For amendment in the tender and other details please visit: www.nprocure.com

N O	Particulars	Previous Date/Time	Now Date/Time
1.	Online Bid submission End Date & Time	Di. 22/09/2022 05:00 p.m.	Di. 29/09/2022 05:00 p.m.
2.	Last Date and Time For Receipt of physical Bid document Submission of EMD Tender Fees, Other Document	Di. 23/09/2022 12:00 p.m.	Di. 30/09/2022 05:00 p.m.
3.	Opening Technical Bid	Di. 23/09/2022 15:00 p.m.	Di. 01/10/2022 12:00 p.m.

Sd/-
Director
Gujarat State Board of School Textbook,
Gandhinagar

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Shopping
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) PP NO: NHP-2022-2023-OD-862945
Dated. 22nd Sep 2022

A-530
BID Reference No.: NHP/ODGW/2022-23/WQLE/31-P4R

The Chief Engineer & Director, GWD and Nodal Officer, NHP - Odisha invites tenders through e-Procurement platform online from eligible bidders for the work: - "Supply, Testing and Commissioning of Water Quality Lab equipment under National Hydrology Project, Odisha"- Package-4. Bidding documents are available online on www.tendersodisha.gov.in which is free of cost. Bidders are advised to participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in bidding document.

1	Start date of availability of Bid document (for downloading from e-Procurement portal)	26/09/2022 11:00 Hrs.
2	Last Date of availability of Bid document (for downloading from e-Procurement portal)	10/10/2022 14:00 Hrs.
3	Start Date of e-Bid submission	26/09/2022 11:30 Hrs.
4	Last date of e-Bid submission	10/10/2022 14:00 Hrs.
5	Time & Date of opening of bids in the portal	10/10/2022 15:00 Hrs.

Further Details can be seen from e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

OIPR : 32407/11/0019/2223
Sd/- Chief Engineer & Director,
GWD and Nodal Officer,NHP-Odisha

Hospital staff booked for fake OPD form, test reports

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Puramufti Police has registered a case in connection with the making of fake OPD form and ultrasound report in District Women's Hospital (Dufferin Hospital) in Prayagraj.

A case has been registered against the medical staff and employees of this hospital. In which case the

police took this action.

Puramufti police on the complaint given by Girjavati, resident of Allapur in Prayagraj city, has registered a case against her daughter-in-law Ruchi Tripathi, daughter-in-law's brother Mayank Tripathi and family planning consultant of Dufferin Hospital Anita Shukla, driver Ravi Prakash Upadhyay, pharmacist Jai and other

employees including Arun Kumar, Upcharika Gulnaz Bano, Archana Dwivedi, Shalini and many others under fraud and other sections.

Girjavati told the police that her son Shobhit was married two years ago to Ruchi, a resident of Puramufti. After a year of marriage, Ruchi accused him of beating.

He said that Ruchi was admitted to Dufferin Hospital after being injured in the beating, where she was treated but during this time she was also aborted.

On the basis of the report of the hospital, Ruchi filed a case at Puramufti police station. Girjavati also alleged that when she sought information under the Right to Information Act regarding

the incident, the fraud was discovered.

The hospital administration conducted an inquiry, in which the allegations were found to be true but no action was taken.

Girjavati then complained to the police officers, on whose instructions the Puramufti police started the investigation, setting up the case.

Low-lying areas in Purvanchal facing threat of floods

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The continuous rise in the water level of Ganga for the last few days is once again posing a threat of floods in the low-lying areas of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP). Though the river's water level is increasing slowly, just one centimetre per hour, it has increased the pulse rate of residents of several low-lying areas and colonies located near the rivers Ganga and Varuna in southern and northern parts of the city respectively which had recently faced a flood like situation and when they are still struggling hard to bring their life to normal, the continuous rise has increased their worries.

As per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), the river rising trend has continued right from upstream Phaphamau to downstream Ballia, including Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi and



Water level of Ganga continues to rise in Varanasi on Friday.

Ghazipur. However, rising speed was slow as the water level was increasing two cm per hour in Mirzapur but just one cm at all other places but another flood threat in low-lying areas in this belt of Purvanchal cannot be ruled

out. In Ballia, the river was already flowing above the warning level of 56.615 metres as it was recorded at 57.17 metres at 8 am on Friday and it is expected that after 24 hours the level would be at 57.5 metres against the red mark of

57.615 metres. In Varanasi, it was at 66.62 metres against the warning level of 70.262 metres. In Ghazipur, the river was also close to the warning level of 62.105 metres as it was recorded at 60.19 metres.

As the water level of Ganga continued to rise, it reached close to the feet of Sheeta Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Due to this, most of the chowkis of pandas have been submerged in the water and the venue of famous regular Ganga Aarti was shifted upstairs. Dozens of low-lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats were either submerged in the water fully or partially. The people who brought their bodies for cremation at two mythological burning ghats, Manikarnika and Harishchandra, are finding it it tough once again to carry the bodies for consigning them to the flames.

Atique's younger son also on police radar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

After taking action under the Gangster Act on Ali Ahmed, the police will tighten the grip on the younger son of mafia-turned-politician Atique Ahmed. Along with Ali, action will also be taken against him under the Gangster Act and many other associates. For this, Prayagraj Police has started action in a confidential manner. On December 30 last year, Chakia resident property dealer Zeeshan had lodged a case against Ali Ahmed, the younger son of Atique Ahmed, in Kareli police station under sections like extortion, murder, rioting etc. In this more than a dozen of his accomplices

including Ali were named. Ali had absconded after the incident, on which a reward of Rs 50,000 was announced on his head. Ali surrendered in court on July 30. Since then he has been in Naini jail. Kareli police has started the process to take action against Ali and his associates under Gangster.

Police are continuously tracing the benami properties of Atique Ahmed, Puramufti and Dhumanganj police in Prayagraj have come to know about his other properties, which are being marked. After preparing its report, a report will be sent to the DM for attachment action. Mafia Atique Ahmed's benami properties worth about Rs

500 crores have been attached so far. Action has also been taken on his properties in Lucknow district. The police have also grounded the house located in Chakia. Most of his properties have come to the fore in Pooramufti, Dhoomanganj, on which action has been taken. In this episode, once again Puramufti and Dhumanganj police have come to know about his land worth crores, which is on Prayagraj-Kaushambi road. The help of the revenue department is also being taken to mark these lands. A report will be prepared after marking the land of the mafia to where it is. After that further action

will be taken. Police station in-charge Puramufti Upendra Pratap Singh refused to say anything categorically, but did say that more benami properties of Mafia Atique Ahmed would come to the fore soon.

The flat which the STF raided in River View Colony, Watganj, Kolkata, West Bengal in the month of July in search of Ali, the son of Mafia Atique Ahmed. Whose flat is that, now it is being ascertained confidentially. At that time, the police had got information that one of Ali's associates had taken the flat in his name, but the police suspect that the money of the mafia was invested in it.

GeM 'Seller Samvad' organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Government e-Marketing (GeM) in collaboration with the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on Friday organised the GeM 'Seller Samvad' at Weavers Service Centre here on Friday. An interactive session was organised with the stakeholders of GeM to get their feedback and suggestions to further improve the service delivery of the digital platform. The 'Seller Samvad' has been planned to interact with the GeM sellers in particular and make them aware about the new GeM features and functionalities that further make it conducive for them to operate on the portal. Through the Samvad (dialogue), it was also planned to have these sellers speak about their experiences and share the same with others to learn from and get inspired.

Speaking on the occasion, GM of GeM Anurag Awasthi said GeM has grown tremendously since the past few years. "Lakhs of buyers and sellers are now connected with the GeM. With the growth, we need to sensitise people and improve its service delivery further for which programmes like Seller Samvad are important," he said.



GeM 'Seller Samvad' being held in Varanasi on Friday.

Prashant Kakkar, media and communication officer (PIB, Varanasi) highlighted the importance and benefits of a unified market under GeM as envisioned by the Prime Minister. An interactive session with the sellers has also been organised wherein the sellers shared their experiences on GeM. "I have taken over ancestral work and am currently supplying wooden toys materials all over the country. In my journey, GeM helped a lot,"

Rameshwar Singh, a seller, said. During the Seller Samvad, another seller Pranav Asthana shared his experience about GeM and said that it has provided a transparent and hassle free platform to do business and grow. "GeM has added glitter to my business. It is on a tremendous growth path. GeM has not only worked as a tremendous tool to eradicate corruption but also abolishes the middle-men practice," he said.

About radical changes in the way procurement was done by government buyers and public sector undertakings. GeM is contactless, paperless, and cashless and stands on three pillars viz. efficiency, transparency and inclusivity. GeM has surpassed the milestone of INR one lakh crore of procurement value, in a single fiscal year in FY 21-22. Cumulatively, GeM has facilitated over one crore transactions valued at over INR 3.02 lakh crore. This has only been possible with the support of all stakeholders including buyers and sellers across the country. Since its inception, GeM has been steadily growing with new product and service categories being added constantly. Currently, there are about 300 service categories and over 10,000 plus product categories available on GeM. These categories feature around 44 lakh catalogues of product and service offerings. Further, GeM is an evolving platform and relentlessly works towards adding new features and functionalities to the portal. In line with this principle, approximately 2,000 minor and 460 plus major functionalities have been introduced in the last 24 months.

Emphasis on nurturing potential agri-startups

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA & FW), Dr Abhilaksh Likhi had a hectic one-day visit to the city on Thursday when he not only attended programmes at two national level institutes, including ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR) and National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) but also interacted with vegetable farmers associated with ICAR-IIVR. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call towards creating AtmaNirbhar Bharat, he emphasised on nurturing potential budding agri-startups and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) through support under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM). He was addressing a national workshop on 'Role of Agri Start-ups in Honey Value Chain' at NSRTC which was organised by National Bee Board (NBB), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in collaboration with NSRTC.

Dr Likhi assured that implementation of NBHM would upgrade skills in scientific beekeeping, setting up of state-of-the-art infrastructural facilities for processing honey



AS (DA & FW) Dr Abhilaksh Likhi interacting with scientists at NSRTC in Varanasi on Thursday.

and allied beekeeping products like bee's wax, propolis, royal jelly, bee venom, etc, quality upgradation by quality control laboratories and create better supply chain by setting up of collection, storage, bottling and marketing centres. The beekeepers, honey startups and FPOs, stakeholders in beekeeping, officials from various ministries/ government organisations/ institutes, state departments of Horticulture, state agricultural universities (SAUs)/ central agricultural universities (CAUs) etc participated in the workshop.

In his opening remarks, Additional Commissioner

(Horticulture) and Executive Director, NBB, Dr NK Patle while briefing about the role of agri start-ups in honey value chain, highlighted the role of NBHM and its contribution in beekeeping sector, including promotion and facilitation for honey startups and FPOs. He invited honey startups and FPOs to avail the facilities available under NBHM and adopt beekeeping in a scientific manner to get additional income through honey and other beehive products.

Addressing the participants, Director of IIRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC Varanasi) Dr Sudhashu Singh

said in order to alter the scenario of Indian agriculture and beekeeping, it is essential to emphasise more on small and marginal beekeepers and small entrepreneurs who form the majority in Indian agricultural economy. Director of NSRTC Dr MP Yadav assured support to participants in various aspects relating to startups in beekeeping.

Earlier, when Dr Likhi reached ICAR-IIVR, he was welcomed by Director Dr Tusar Kanti Behera. Later, Dr Likhi visited the ICAR-IIVR experimental farm, where he also interacted with vegetable farmers associated with the ICAR-IIVR. He emphasised on importance of soil health and drip irrigation to the farmers. He also interacted with scientific staff of the institute, 22 institutes of the horticultural divisions of ICAR, more than 40 Indo-Dutch and Indo-Israel Centers of Excellence from across the country who were all connected virtually. Director of the institute presented the institute's current and past research and extension activities. Joint secretary Priya Ranjan, Horticultural Commissioner Dr Prabhakar Kumar and Embassy Liaison Officer for Indo Dutch COES Tarannum Kadarbhai also put forward their views.

Special campaign to seek Aadhaar numbers from electorate on Sept 25

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district election department will launch a special campaign on September 25 to seek Aadhaar numbers from the existing electorate for linking with electoral rolls. The booth level officers (BLOs) will collect Form-6B from voters at polling booths between 10 am and 4 pm on that day. Legal action will be ascertained if any BLO remains absent from this work.

As per the directive of the

Election Commission of India (ECI), the work to receive Aadhaar number from voters whose names are enlisted in the voters' lists voluntarily is being carried out from August 1 and to give a boost to it a special campaign will be launched by the district election department from 10 am to 4 pm on September 25. Additional District Magistrate (Administration) and Deputy District Election Officer Ranvijay Singh said. He added the BLOs will be present at

their respective polling booths to collect Form-6B from existing electors to link their Aadhaar numbers with electoral rolls.

District Magistrate/District Electoral Officer Kaushal Raj Sharma and other officers associated with the election process will visit polling booths, he said and added that all educational institutions/offices and other institutions where polling booths were made will remain open on that day.

The electors whose names

are enlisted in electoral rolls can make available their Aadhaar numbers to BLOs for linking it with electoral rolls voluntarily through Form-6B, he said and added that voters could also get their Aadhaar numbers linked with electoral rolls through voter helpline app or website of the ECI <https://nvsp.in>, <https://voterportal.eci.gov.in>.

District Electoral Officer Sharma cautioned that legal action would be ascertained against the BLO found absent during the campaign.

60 donate blood in camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A blood donation camp with the help of Rakt Mitra Parivar Foundation was held at BLW Central Hospital here on Friday. Besides, free eye check-up camp and blood donor award ceremony were also organised in the same hospital premises. The programme was inaugurated with lamp lighting by the chief guest and chairperson of Zila Panchayat Poonam Maurya and Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar.

A total of 60 people donated blood in the camp. After donating blood, all the blood donors were honoured with saplings and cloth bags for environmental protection and a message was also given for environmental awareness. On the occasion Poonam Maurya, Dr Devesh Kumar, Ram Janam Choubey, Rajesh Kumar, Dharmendra Singh and BD Dubey gave important information on the sub-



Blood donation camp being held at BLW in Varanasi on Friday

ject of blood donation. A good number of senior railway officers, doctors and railway personnel enthusiastically donated blood in the camp. Among those also present were Sangeeta Prasad, Hari Kishore, Anil, Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Ajay Gupta, Shivkant Tripathi, Satish

Kumar, Rajeev Kumar Rai, Durgesh Nandan, Sachin Jain, Ashtabhujia Mishra and Jai Mukherjee. In the end, the vote of thanks was proposed by the founder of Rakt Mitra Parivar Foundation Rakesh Prasad. The programme was conducted by Arya Deepa Mishra.

ACHIEVEMENT: In an

achievement, the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) got the order from non-railway customers to supply as many as 14 diesel engines. The BLW got the order from non-railway customers to supply as many as 14 diesel rail engines in the financial year 2022-2023 which is a record in its history till now, said a press release adding that the BLW will supply the diesel rail engines by manufacturing on time. The BLW got the order of two diesel rail engines of WDS6ADT from Rights/RES, two rail engines of WDG3A from Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited/Etah, two rail engines of WDG4 from Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited/Obra, two rail engines of WDG3A from Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited/Panki, four rail engines of WDG3A from NTPC/Farakka and two diesel rail engines of WDG3A from Adani Power Limited/Godda.

Tribute paid to freedom fighters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The activists of Pranam Vande Mataram Samiti paid rich tribute to the freedom fighters, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country's independence, during the ongoing Pitru Paksha at Assi ghat here on Friday. Led by Samiti chief Anup Jaiswal, they offered 'tarpan' for the peace of souls of all those revolutionary heroes of freedom struggle amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras under the leadership Pt Shri Prakash Pandey. They offered 'pind daan', 'tarpan' and other shraddh rituals for



known freedom fighters like Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Savalkar, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Khudiram Bose, Surya Sen etc

apart from all other known and unknown revolutionary heroes who gave their extreme sacrifices for the sake of country's freedom. They also prayed to the Almighty for the peace of their souls as well as for the country's happiness, peace and prosperity. The programme was conducted by Dharendra Sharma while the vote of thanks was proposed by Shankar Sahani. It was attended by state BJP spokesperson Ashok Pandey, Dinesh Kalra, corporator Chandranath Mukherjee, corporator Rakesh Jaiswal, Mithailal Yadav, Dharmendra Yadav, Amrisha Jaiswal, Mangalesh Jaiswal, Manish Chaurasia, Brijeshwar Tripathi and many others.

leaders and senior citizens to refrain from rumours and inform the SHO's and senior police officers if anyone was found spreading them. Police personnel would keep a close watch on social media so that no rumour monger could disturb the harmony by spreading rumour through this platform. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Kotwali Trilochan Tripathi and SHO's of police stations under the zone were also present in the meeting.

Kisan Diwas held

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Divya Mittal has warned insurance companies to pay the claims of farmers timely otherwise first information report (FIR) will be lodged. Such warning was issued by the DM while addressing Kisan Diwas organised at Vikas Bhawan on Thursday. The DM asked the officials of insurance companies to conduct a survey of the entire district and initiate the process to assess loss of farmers due to drought and flood and provide claims accordingly. The lekhpalas were directed to conduct surveys in the affected areas. The meeting was attended by Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS, District Development Officer (DDO) Shrawan Kumar Rai, Project Director DRDA Anay Mishra, district agriculture officer Pawan Kumar Prajapati, progressive farmers and others. Meanwhile DM Divya Mittal flagged off the mobile laboratory/FSW at Collectorate on Thursday. After flagging off the van

in the presence of Additional District Magistrate (F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla and Assistant Food commissioner Manjula Singh the DM examined the sample of mustard oil and found the oil up to the mark. The DM directed that the van should be utilised in Vindhyaachal Navratri Mela and ensure that no adulterated food item was sold in the Mela area.

ASSAULTED: Some miscreants assaulted a woman and her daughter under Dramondganj police station on Wednesday night. As per reports, some miscreants entered the house of a 55-year-old woman of Majhigavaan village late at night. However she got up and on hearing her cries villagers gathered on the spot but the miscreants assaulted her and her daughter. The victims were admitted to the divisional hospital from where the woman was referred to the Trauma Centre situated in Varanasi. No arrest had been made so far in this connection, last reports received here said.

Fertility centre launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With an aim to expand its branch, the CK Birla Healthcare launched its comprehensive fertility centre, Birla Fertility & IVF at Arihant Central in Sriga. This is the group's second centre in the state, offering clinically reliable treatment and trustworthy care to patients with fertility issues. Talking to newsmen CEO of CK Birla Healthcare Akshat Seth on Thursday said that the Birla Fertility & IVF is currently one of the fastest growing IVF and fertility brands in the country and added that the centre holds high pregnancy rates with multiple live births across centres, 95 per cent patient satisfaction score and offers affordable and transparent pricing to patients. Reiterating our commitment to spreading fertility awareness in communities across the country, all our OPD consultations are free of cost, he said. Dr Deepika Misra, Consultant, Birla Fertility & IVF Varanasi said the centre is fully equipped with modern diagnostic equipment and world-class fertility treatments and offers latest and reliable treatment options for male as well as female infertility and added that with our state-of-the-art equipment and modern facilities, this centre will become a one stop destination for IVF and infertility treatment. The launch of Birla Fertility and IVF, Varanasi was also graced by Dr Anuradha Khanna, president, Uttar Pradesh Obstetrics & Gynaecology Society and Dr Vinita Das, Consultant, Birla Fertility & IVF Lucknow.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Uphill task

If Gehlot is elected as Cong chief, he will have to strive hard to revive the party

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is said to be leading the race for Congress president; and this is not because he is a party stalwart, which he is, but because he enjoys the blessings of the Gandhi family. A non-family member will head the 'grand old party' after decades since senior leader Rahul Gandhi said no family member should head the party. So, in effect, Gehlot is the family's nominee. Former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor, who was considered close to the family but later joined the rebel G-23 group, is reportedly keen to take on Gehlot. Some other leaders may also enter the fray. The Kerala MP, however, has failed to enthuse many leaders. The Congress units in 10 States, including in his home State, have reportedly opposed him. Some of Tharoor's party colleagues in Kerala have said they would support only those who recognise the Nehru family's prominence. Gehlot clearly enjoys that support but the 71-year-old Congress veteran is not very happy,



for the Congress president's post comes with conditionality: He has to leave the top office in Rajasthan. This will be a bitter bite for him as his *bête noire* in the State, Sachin Pilot, is likely to succeed him. There are media reports suggesting that he wanted the next Chief Minister of his choice, a demand that doesn't seem to have been acceded to. For the top Congress leadership, the intra-party election may be an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone: Get a non-family party president, thus blunting the BJP's attacks of the GOP being a family-run party; and putting an end to the Gehlot-Pilot tussle in Rajasthan.

The interim chief of the Congress, Sonia Gandhi, before her meeting with Gehlot, had an hour-long chat with Pilot. While the proposed arrangement — Gehlot as the Congress chief and Pilot as Rajasthan Chief Minister — will suit the party's top brass, it may not exactly delight Gehlot. He may head the country's oldest political party but, with Pilot as the Chief Minister, the old warhorse will have hardly any say in his own home State. The reasons are obvious: There was a lot of bad blood between Gehlot and his former Deputy Chief Minister, Pilot. The Congress will hope that Gehlot, if elected, would focus on the new job rather than bemoaning the loss of the previous one. The bigger issue would be the interference of the family in running the party. If that continues, and in the manner the interference continues, the chances of party revival will be considerably diminished. While Rahul has been consistent in his criticism and condemnation of the Narendra Modi regime, and his Bharat Jodo Yatra has also gained some traction, his and his family members' performance has been, to put it mildly, suboptimal. Some of the Gandhis' decisions have been completely bereft of rationality. Gehlot, if elected, will have a lot of baggage to deal with. Reviving the party will be an uphill task.

PICTALK



A child participates in the 'Pedal For Peace' cycle race organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police, in Srinagar

New-look PM CARES

The PM's fund has three new trustees, including the illustrious Ratan Tata

The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) is all set to enter a new phase. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to widen its board of trustees. Three new trustees were inducted in a meeting chaired by the PM himself. The Union Home Minister and the Finance Minister are already the fund's trustees. The three new members are former Supreme Court judge KT Thomas, former Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda and industrialist Ratan Tata, all of them octogenarians. The Advisory Board to PM CARES would have Rajiv Mehrishi, the former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Sudha Murthy, former Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, and Anand Shah, co-founder of 'Teach for India' and former CEO of Indicorps and Piramal Foundation. This now gives PM CARES some semblance of a public trust rather than a government body. Modi said the participation of new



trustees and advisors will provide 'wider perspectives to the functioning of the PM CARES Fund' as their vast experience in public life would impart further vigour in making the fund more responsive to various public needs. It is true though this should have been done at the time of formation of the fund.

In fact, the fund drew flak from all quarters for being 'redundant' as the Prime Minister Relief Fund already existed for such exigencies. So what was the need to have such a fund in the first place? Besides, they objected to the fact that the Government kept it away from the CAG audit's ambit. The Government's stand has been that it doesn't get Government funding, rather only private funds. However, that is debatable as PM CARES has allegedly received multi-million funds from PSUs, Government departments, etc which run on exchequer's money. It goes without saying that once the name of Ratan Tata is associated with PM CARES, it would give validation to its motives and ensure transparency. Besides, if the fund has to have respectability, the money must be used judiciously. Unfortunately in the past, there were reports of substandard medical equipment being bought by the PM CARES money. Every penny counts and must be spent transparently, whether the money is received from a private enterprise or a PSU. Let's hope that Ratan Tata's trusteeship brings about a radical change in the PM CARES disbursal of funds.

The sudden spurt in Afghan blasts

Will Taliban be able to defeat a resurgent Islamic State of Khorasan Province, which is carrying out terror strikes to undermine the regime?

The continuing explosions in Afghanistan — the latest at the time of writing being the one that killed at least three in Kabul on September 21, 2022 — have been attributed to or claimed by the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), an affiliate of the Daesh or Islamic State. Many also call the organisation, which made its appearance in Afghanistan in 2014 (2015, according to some), the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan (ISIS-K).

These blasts and other terror strikes are aimed at undermining the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. As Asfandyar Mir, a senior expert at the US Institute of Peace, points out in a Wilson Centre paper, dated October 8, 2021, "ISIS-K sees the Taliban as an irreconcilable enemy that needs to be militarily defeated." While "sustained military hostilities" have aggravated the enmity between the organisations, "the main cause remains their sectarian difference". The ISKP subscribes to the "Jihadi-Salafism ideology" — and plays up the 'purity' of its anti-idolatry credentials, the Taliban subscribe to "an alternative Sunni Islamic sectarian school, the Hanafi madhhab," which ISKP regards as "deficient". The two groups also differ over the role of nationalism. The ISKP's fierce rejection of it "runs counter to the Afghan Taliban's aims of ruling over Afghanistan".

The blasts and other forms of terror strike have, no doubt, seriously undercut the Taliban narrative that their rule has brought security to Afghanistan. They also raise the question whether the Taliban regime itself is secure. Of course, it is one thing to trigger explosions and quite another to defenestrate the Taliban regime. It is always difficult to prevent terror strikes including bomb blasts. The initiative lies with the perpetrators and Governments can only react *post-facto*. Preventive action can only be taken if advance information is available as a result of deep and extensive penetration of the organisation concerned by intelligence agen-



cies, which, again would depend in a great measure on how porous or impenetrable the organisation is. Given the continuing frequency and spread of the blasts and other attacks by the ISKP, the Taliban have clearly not been able to penetrate it.

Inability to prevent terror strikes does not mean that the Taliban regime is set to collapse. It has a large army of trained fighters and has inherited the arms, ammunition, military aircraft and vehicles and combat infrastructure left behind by the United States. Nevertheless, the Taliban do face serious problems. Writing for the US Council of Foreign Relations' Centre for Preventive Action, Seth G Jones, Harold Brown Chair and Director, Transnational Threats Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies, they do not control law and order outside most cities; nor have they been able to establish basic services. The economy is in shambles. As a report in *The Economist* datelined June 8, 2022, and titled *The Taliban Government has proved surprisingly good at raising money*, states, in "the last four months of 2021, the economy contracted by more than a third compared with the same

THE ISKP HAS SHOWN REMARKABLE RESILIENCE. SUSTAINED ATTACKS BY THE US FORCES, THE PREVIOUS AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT AND THE TALIBAN, FROM 2016 TO 2021, HAD SEVERELY WEAKENED IT

period a year earlier. Private businesses have laid off about three-fifths of employees. Food prices are rising by 18% year on year. Families that were middle-class a year ago are surviving on a single meal a day. More than half the country's people face acute hunger. Some have taken to selling organs or children."

The same report, however, pointed out that the new Government's finances were in much better shape than anybody expected — largely because of its ability to keep revenues flowing despite the obstacles facing it, which, in turn, is due to its experience in collecting taxes during their two decades as a rebel army and their crackdown on corruption in revenue collection following their ascent to power. This is important because it needs money to fight ISKP. It, however, is not just a question of money. ISKP has shown remarkable resilience. Sustained attacks by the US forces, the previous Afghan Government and the Taliban, from 2016 to 2021, had severely weakened it.

There, however, was a resurgence after the Taliban takeover. In a dispatch in *The New York Times* (datelined May 1, 2022) titled *'With Spate of Attacks, ISIS Begins Bloody New Chapter in*

Afghanistan', Christina Goldbaum states that since the Taliban seized power, the ISKP has grown in reach and expanded to nearly all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. She further cites Abdul Sayed, a security expert who tracks the ISKP and other jihadi groups, as saying that the ISKP carried out 119 attacks in Afghanistan in the last four months of 2021 against 39 in the corresponding period of 2020.

The ISKP has also doubled its strength in Afghanistan from around 2,000 to 4,000 since the Taliban's return to power. This is both a result of escape/release of its fighters from prisons that followed, those disillusioned by Taliban and many of the former Afghan Government's military and intelligence agency (the National Directorate for Security) personnel joining it, the last two perceiving it to be the most effective opponent to the Taliban. Clearly, the Taliban have a major problem at hand. So has the world. The establishment of their version of sharia law worldwide through global terror strikes is an integral part of the ISKP's agenda.

(The author is Consulting Editor, *The Pioneer*. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOLERANCE IS ON THE WANE

Sir — Tolerance is the intrinsic characteristic feature of Indian culture and civilisation but unfortunately it is waning, which is a cause of serious concern to political parties, Government and the general populace. Since ancient times, the quality and doctrine of tolerance guided us and it formed part of our life and whole governance; thus we should protect this intrinsic beauty of our nation at all costs. If it requires any sacrifice, we should be prepared for it and should never let it down it under any circumstances. The bane and politics of intolerance and hatred has become a reality and fashion in the 21st century India.

It is an irony that everything is politicised by politicians purely for vote bank politics and appeasement policy. The politics of intolerance has affected our coexistence and mutual brotherhood. The creed of intolerance is threatening our secularism, pluralism and the Hindu-Muslim amity/unity. Therefore, we should not allow the culture of intolerance and hatred to flourish in India as it is against our age-old values of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which means that the whole world is one family and it is central to all our endeavours.

Vivek Koul | Jammu

A POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT

Sir — The political witch-hunt in Telangana is talk of the town as many business people who are close to the ruling TRS are feeling scared as the ED and CBI have started investigating many cases against them and some have even been arrested. Though political witch-hunt is nothing new, it is being seen more of since the BJP Government is determined to fight corruption in business, politics and funding elections through black money. But it should apply to all, whether BJP-ruled States or the Opposition party ruled States. Many States are worried and agitating at the raids.

Disrupting life for no reason



Public in Kerala had to face a lot of problem during the one-day strike called by a faction which was protesting against the raid and arrests made by the NIA over the radical outfit's alleged involvement in terror-related activities including involvement in funding terrorism and terrorist activities, organising training camps and radicalising people to join banned organisations. At many places, buses and vehicles were blocked and shops closed by the protesters. Many KSRTC buses were damaged and

commuters hurt at many places.

The pain, anxiety and anguish felt by the common man as a result of such unwanted protests and hindrances, blocking the everyday life of citizens, can never be understood by those stupefied due to political power and radical influence. Complete chaos and disruptions lead to so many problems and confusion in public life. Punishment to all such elements will definitely reduce such anti-public behaviour. It is really surprising to see the leaders of political parties and factions, who lead such protests, justifying such strikes. Other than the leaders and the members of the parties who call these strikes, nobody supports or is interested in such protests that cause only difficulties and hardships to the common man. Rather than getting the support, they can expect only fear and animosity from the public.

M Pradyu | Kannur

Regarding the raids in Telangana, it comes as no surprise especially since the witch-hunt was started by the ruling party. Despite a plethora of corruption and land grabbing complaints against various political leaders and even Ministers, the Government never looked into any complaints. But now many Opposition leaders are being harassed by police and arrested for petty cases. Even public gatherings and rallies are not permitted but, after the High Court's intervention, the Government had to permit public meetings and rallies. Even journalists were harassed and arrested for commenting against the Government.

JP Reddy | Telangana

CRACKDOWN ON THE CORRUPT

Sir — The CBI has arrested Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal, the founder of ABG Shipyard Limited, in connection with an alleged bank fraud of more than ₹22,842 crore. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had booked Agarwal, a former chairman of the company, then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy and

directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia on February 7. Agarwal was called for questioning on Wednesday at the CBI headquarters, during which the investigating officer suspected that he was not cooperating in the probe and was evasive in responses. He was, therefore, arrested.

The CBI had registered the case on a complaint from the SBI for the alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act. The SBI with an exposure of ₹2,468.51 crore was part of a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions led by ICICI Bank. The ABG Shipyard, being a major player in Indian ship building industry, operated from its shipyards located at Dahej and Surat in Gujarat with capacity to build vessels up to 18,000 dead weight tonnage (DWT) at Surat shipyard and 1,20,000 DWT at Dahej.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

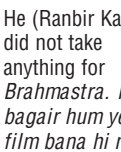
Shashi Tharoor should not contest. We're still requesting Rahul Gandhi to become Congress chief.



Cong LS chief whip —K Suresh



Canada PM —Justin Trudeau



Director —Ayan Mukerji



Indian grappler —Bajrang Punia

We will use guerrilla warfare tactics... (and) will uphold the tradition of 56 years.



Sena (Thackeray) leader —Ajay Choudhary

FIRST COLUMN

REMOVE CODIFIED BIAS ON WAQF PROPERTIES

The Waqf Act is the outcome of politics of appeasement



SHSHANK SAURAV

The Waqf Board in Tamil Nadu has claimed ownership of an entire village. Media reports claimed that Muslim resettlement in this area happened in 1927-28 and the Wakf Board has claimed its stake on the property of village temple also. There have been many such instances where people who were dwelling the property were unaware of the fact that it has been claimed as Wakf property by the board.

The Wakf Act was initially passed by Parliament in 1954 and subsequently Wakf Act, 1995, was enacted for the purpose of better administration of Aukaf (i.e., assets donated for religious or charitable causes).

However, this law has become a tool to grab the assets and innocent people are harassed due to its draconian provisions. The Act empowers the Waqf Board to declare any property as Waqf property based on the survey carried out by its team. If this is not enough, Section 6 specifies that the aggrieved party has to appeal to the Tribunal constituted under the Act and there is a limitation period of one year for raising the dispute.



This legislation is drafted in such a way that it is not necessary for the Board to give a notice to the person whose property is sought to be declared as Waqf property and if the aggrieved party has not litigated within a period of one year, then he has no legal recourse!

Section 40 of the Act reiterates this power of Waqf Board and any property shall remain vested with it until revoked by the Tribunal. Section 83 read along with 85 gives exclusive powers to the Tribunal and parties aggrieved by the decision of the Tribunal can approach the High Court. Plight of the common man can be understood when his property is declared as Waqf asset without his knowledge and then he is expected to litigate it within a period of one year, otherwise it is gone forever. Even if he litigates it with the Tribunal then the next recourse is at High Court level, which is out of reach for most of the Indians.

It is pertinent to note that in a matter related to Wakf Act, 1954, the Supreme Court had decided that the limitation of one year for initiating the litigation is not applicable for non-Muslims (Board of Muslim Wakf, Rajasthan versus Radha Kishan and Others, 1978), but in order to appease the Muslims, section 6 was amended in 2013 and now there is a uniform time limit of one year for all the aggrieved parties.

Rajindar Sachar, chairman of the Sachhar Committee, in his 2006 report estimated the value of Wakf property at Rs 1.2 lakh crore. The Wakf Board owns around six lakh acres of land. Sachhar suggested survey of Wakf properties and amendments to the Wakf Act which were duly incorporated in the law by way of amendment in 2013.

Indian history is full of partiality against the Hindus and nothing changed even after Independence. Jawaharlal Nehru got Hindu Code Bills passed by Parliament but he didn't dare to touch the practices of other religions. Dr. BR Ambedkar was in favour of a uniform civil code, but Nehru insisted on changing the Hindu laws only and gave liberty to the others. Charitable & Endowment Acts were enacted by state governments in the 1950s to manage the Hindu temples but a central legislation was passed in 1954 to protect the Wakf properties.

The Congress government at the Centre implemented the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which intends to bar the Hindu's claims on other holy shrines.

(The author is a policy analyst)

The SCO has a long-term regional agenda

The outcome of the SCO in Samarkand shows that the members are bracing for a larger role on the world stage



PK VASUDEVA

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit of the eight-nation influential grouping took place amid the growing geopolitical turmoil largely triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Strait. Launched in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has eight full members, including its six founding members—China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.

Leaders of Russia, China, India, and other SCO member states attended high-level meetings in Uzbekistan's historic city of Samarkand,

focused on regional and global stability, security, and economy. In the run-up to the main event, Uzbekistan, which held the SCO chairmanship this year, has hosted a total of more than 80 SCO-related events, with more than 40 documents signed, including the leaders' summit declaration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held separate bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. However, there was no bilateral meeting between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Modi began his comments by telling Putin that the

"era of war" is over, indicating India's discomfort with Russia's attack on Ukraine for the first time in public, although New Delhi has not criticised Russia for its action thus far. "I know that today's era is not of war and we have spoken to you many times on the phone that democracy, diplomacy and dialogue are such things that touch the world," Modi said. His remarks on Ukraine have been widely appreciated by the Western and European countries.

Modi during his speech at the summit said, Covid-19 and Ukraine situation resulted in hurdles in the global supply chain, resulting in a food and energy security crisis. In April 2022, WHO inaugurated its Global Centre for Traditional Medicines in Gujarat. This was the first and only global center by WHO for traditional treatment. India will take an initiative for a new SCO working group on traditional medicines, said Modi.

"India's economy is expected to grow at the rate of 7.5 per cent this year. I'm glad that ours is one of the fastest growing economies among the largest economies of the world," he added.

Security, Iran's nuclear programme, Afghanistan, and reforms of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were discussed at the summit. The SCO's growth is probably one of the key features of this year's summit. A memorandum on Iran joining the SCO as full-time member has been

adopted with Minsk of Belarus starting its accession as well. The organization also accepted Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar as dialogue partners, with an agreement being reached on the Maldives, Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait, and Myanmar becoming new dialogue partners.

There were a number of important statements coming from SCO leaders on the second day of their work in Samarkand. Xi spoke against colour revolutions, while Putin pointed at the fundamental transformations which have taken place in world politics and the economy, calling them irreversible.

Being part of the SCO founders' pool, Russia and China communicated actively in Samarkand, with Putin

and Xi meeting one-on-one, as well as in trilateral format with Mongolian leader Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh.

The summit's final declaration focused on members' confirmation that the organization is not directed against other countries, with SCO nations agreeing not to interfere in the internal affairs of states. There were several important security-related issues in the declaration, such as the need to implement a plan on Iran's nuclear programme, a call to create an inclusive government in Afghanistan, and an affirmation of the need to observe the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Besides being successful in organizing a productive summit, Uzbekistan's offi-

cials also managed to draw the organization's attention to an issue that is of particular importance for Tashkent itself, namely the need for Afghanistan to be accepted by the SCO family, with the topic being mentioned in the final declaration of the summit. Uzbekistan's leader Shavkat Mirziyoyev also pointed at the need to lay out a long-term plan for the SCO's development.

"The President of Uzbekistan [Shavkat] Mirziyoyev actually mentioned that we need to develop the strategy for the SCO's future to 2040," said Marat Aitov, who is the head of the department of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya had a vision for world



SUMEET BHASIN

His philosophy of integral humanism gave centre-stage to the poorest of the poor in statecraft; so much so that it is the ideological philosophy in India

Rank communism and capitalism are now dead. But integral humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya is not only alive, but is the ideological philosophy in India. The post-Independent Indian politics has found a deep ideological anchor in the thoughts of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

In the philosophy of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, which requires wider debate and discussion among academicians, there is a balance of human life with nature. Now that the 77th United Nations General Assembly is taking place, the world leaders among others face the grave challenge of climate change and deepening social inequity. The developed world, both led by capitalism and communism, wrecked the environment with their reckless exploitation of the natural resources.

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed the self-centeredness of the developed world, as they stock-piled vaccines, while the poor in the least developed countries waited for the life-saving medicines and vaccines. It's the time of crisis when the depth of an ideology is tested, and the integral humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya shone brightly on the world stage, as India delivered vaccines, medicines, food, Covid-19 kits to small and big nations alike, making no difference, with sole abiding ideal that each life be saved and nurtured.

In the Modi government, the integral humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya has found the finest expressions in the statecraft, while the BJP has embarked on the path of social democracy to execute the words of the top ideologue of the party in action.

When a child is born, he or she first becomes aware about himself or herself, and with the passage of time starts knowing about the family, society, state and nation. The human entity lives a life in a give and take with the surroundings, including nature. Thus, human beings, animals and vegetation strike a balance of co-existence, which was underlined by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. If one stops caring for another, there will be imbalance, which will have consequences for all. Climate change is a consequence of the developed world being unkind to the basic principle of coexistence.

But the Modi government, while rolling out the Ujjwala scheme not only thought of the wellbeing of the poorest of the poor in the country, but also of the environment. Women were exposed to smoke, becoming unwell with several diseases when they grew old, while trees were felled to burn the kitchen fire. The Ujjwala scheme thought of the wellbeing of women and nature in line with the core mantra of the philosophy of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

The greater significance of the ideals of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya is that one should exemplify the life principle, and that should be the abiding duty of the



UNDER THE JAM TRINITY, THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAS BROUGHT TO LIFE THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA, AS MASSIVE SCALING UP OF THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF THE WEAKER SECTIONS OF SOCIETY WAS CARRIED OUT

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



person for the self, family, society, state and the nation. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was once travelling in a bus, and it so happened that he requested the person sitting next to him to play news on his transistor set. But the person saw that Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was carrying a transistor set himself. So, he enquired if there is any issue with his transistor set to which Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya replied that he couldn't renew the license of his radio set. Such a commitment to align the laws of the land with the life practices is central to the idea of a state and the people being in a symbiotic relationship.

Rajpath has been renamed Kartavyapath to remind all, including the people, the politicians, the officials and the ministers, that they have duties for the nation, society and citizens and that must be their life principles. This is the mantra being conveyed by PM Modi, which he has spoken of on several occasions, including from the ramparts of the Red Fort as recently as this year's Independence Day.

Probity in life is the basic minimum for a healthy society and a great nation. No society can take care of its people if there is no probity. The people have to be honest, and they should be seen often being honest. Honesty cannot be a hidden jewel. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya lived his ideals. The BJP workers and others who read about him greatly benefit from the scale of probity in his life.

Once Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was travelling in a train, he got to know that Guruji (MS Golwalkar) was also in the train in the first compartment. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya went to the first compartment and after a while he got down at his destination station. There he straightaway went to the office of the station master, and paid the fine for travelling a part of the journey while he had the ticket for the second class.

Such individual attributes when shared at mass level in the society can help shape the character of a great nation. The political class, the officials, the judiciary, and other members of the civil society have to demonstrate the credible attribute of probity in personal and public life.

Such was the significance of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya that when he passed away the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the "sun of our life has gone, and now we have to seek guidance with the earthen lamp". Vajpayee had succeeded Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya as the president of Jansangh, and when he became Prime Minister of India, the government conceived Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) to help the rural parts of the country access the urban amenities. Vajpayee further embedded the philosophy of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya in his statecraft, as he spearheaded connectivity at a scale that was never seen in the country in roads,

telecommunication, infrastructure, amenities and services. Besides, a nation that has self-belief can take care of the national interests also while being unafraid of others, which was demonstrated in Vajpayee carrying out the Pokharan II nuclear tests and Modi delivering body blow to the terror infrastructure in Pakistan through the Balakot and the surgical strikes in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack.

On September 25, we all will commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya to reaffirm to live by his ideals, the philosophy of integral humanism, and further accelerate the welfare of the poorest of the poor in the country so that they are not only taken care of but also made to stand on their feet.

Under the JAM trinity, the Modi government has brought to life the political philosophy of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, as massive scaling up of the financial inclusion of the weaker sections of the society was carried out in the recent few years, which again was an extension of the work done under the Vajpayee administration when India was given the affordable tools to communicate with mobile phones.

The Mudra, Suraksha Bima, Sukanya Yojna and others are all aimed to fulfil the political ideology of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, which again is being scaled up with the target of 100 per cent saturation of all schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I'M NOT HAPPY WITH THE ATMOSPHERE OF DISHARMONY; IT'S COMPLETELY WRONG. ONLY THEN THE COUNTRY CAN MOVE AHEAD.
—RSS CHIEF MOHAN BHAGWAT



THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS OF MUSLIMS' LOYALTY AND WANT THEM TO PROVE THEIR PATRIOTISM AT EVERY TURN. MUSLIMS ARE ALSO INDIANS.
—FORMER CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER SY QURAISHI

MODI SHOULD MEET LEADERS FROM OTHER PARTIES MORE: NAIDU

This will help clear misunderstanding
Opp leaders may have about PM's methods: Ex-VP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should meet more often with the political leadership from all sides which may help clear some "misunderstandings" the Opposition parties might have about his methods. Speaking at the launch of a book on the Prime Minister's speeches, Naidu praised the



Prime Minister for his achievements across diverse sectors

like healthcare, foreign policy, and technology.

But at the same time, Naidu said that despite the

PM's achievements, some sections still have some reservations about his methods "because of some misunderstandings, maybe out of some political compulsions". "Over a period of time these misunderstandings will also be cleared.

The Prime Minister should also often meet more and more sections of the political leadership... this side and that side," the former V-P said adding political parties should also keep an open mind and respect the mandate of the people. "They must also be open-minded.

You all should also understand that you are rivals not enemies. All parties must respect each other, the institution of the prime minister, institution of the president,

institution of the chief minister. All institutions should be respected that has to be kept in mind by one and all," Naidu said. The current government, he said, is working under the broader philosophy of 'Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhawantu'. Naidu listed out the Direct Benefit Transfer as the biggest achievement of the Government and said it freed people from the shackles of middlemen, ensuring endpoint delivery of welfare measures.

The former Vice-President along with Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur and Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan released a book 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas - Prime Minister Narendra Modi Speaks (May 2019-May 2020)'. Naidu said, "India is now a force to reckon

with, its voice is now heard across the world.

In such a short span, it is not an ordinary thing. This is because of his actions, because of the guidance he is giving to the people and because of progress that India is making." Naidu retired from the top constitutional post on August 10, 2022 after his term ended as the 15th Vice President of India.

The Kerala Governor lauded the PM for enacting a law to ban the practice of triple talaq among Muslims.

He said even the first PM Jawaharlal Nehru had said his biggest regret was that he could not make laws to alleviate the problems faced by Muslim women. "Nehru could not take the bold decision to deliver justice to Muslim women. Modi dared to do it. We will under-

stand the importance of this decision only decades later," Khan said. Khan said that a common thread runs through the book and that is the Prime Minister's concern for marginalized section and women empowerment.

He highlighted that the twin issues of availability of toilets and water connectivity had needed urgent Government intervention for very long but had been lagging even as many Governments came and went. It was only the current dispensation that took up this mission on war footing from the beginning, he said.

For his part, Thakur said the book, brought out by the Publications Division, focuses on 86 speeches of the PM on various subjects from May 2019 to May 2020.

US: F-16s supply to Pak not designed as message to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

Days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed India's concern to his US counterpart Lloyd Austin over supply of F-16s to Pakistan, the US has said "it is not designed as a message" to New Delhi for its neutral stand on Russia regarding the ongoing Ukraine conflict.

Making his country's stand clear regarding the issue, Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, said late Thursday its decision to provide a USD 450 million sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet is associated with America's defence partnership with Islamabad which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security.

He also said the US has a limited security partnership with Pakistan. However, New Delhi says Pakistan's F-16s are not used for counter-terrorism operations and instead pose a threat to India.

The US official's reaffirmation came in the backdrop of Rajnath on September 14 talked about India's apprehensions about the F-16 deal during his telephonic talks



with Austin.

It was the first ministerial level objection registered by India. "I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Look forward to continuing dialogue with Secretary Austin to further consolidating India-US partnership," Rajnath tweeted after talks. Earlier, the ministry of external affairs reportedly expressed its concern during meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu.

He was here to take part in the Quad Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). On September 8, the Biden administration approved the 450 million dollar F-16 fighter jet fleet sustenance programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens for the Afghan

Taliban and the Haqqani network.

In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department made a determination approving a possible foreign military sale for sustenance and related equipment arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

Responding to a question, Ratner, said the recent US action with Pakistan on F-16 is not designed as a message to India as it relates to its relationship with Russia.

"The decision inside the US government around the F-16 issue was made predicated on US interests associated with our defence partnership with Pakistan which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security and as the (Defence) Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear to (Defence) Minister Rajnath Singh during their call last week, this case did not include any upgrades or munitions," he said.

"We have been engaging with our Indian counterparts, both in advance of the announcement to preview it and during my visit with Assistant Secretary (Donald) Lu in Delhi as well.

New telecom draft bill to bring OTT platforms under licensing regime

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The new telecom draft bill seeks requirement of licence for internet calling facilities like Whatsapp, Zoom and Google platforms and OTT apps for operating in India.

Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that new telecom bill, which will replace the 137-year-old Indian Telegraph Act, is expected to be in place in 6-10 months. The bill also seeks to replace the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.

"Based on the consultation process, we will create the final draft. That draft will then go through committee processes of Parliament. Then it has to go to Parliament. I see a timeline of 6-10 months but we are not in a hurry," said Vaishnaw, giving detailed presentation in a press conference.

While the Government has sought reference from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on licensing framework for internet and calling messages, the bill clearly shows the Government intent to bring the OTT apps under the licensing regime. "OTT already comes under regulation by

interpretation of what is a telegraph. The consultation process for its regulation has already started. The focus of this bill is that we have to make a light touch regulatory environment.

Wherever required there should be strict effective regulation and in rest of the places there will be light touch regulation," the Minister said.

The bill proposes all internet calling and messaging apps to comply with the Know Your Customers (KYC) provision when they come under telecom licence ambit. The Minister said the first fundamental thought in the bill is about protection of users and every consumer has the right to know who is making the call.

"If calls can take place from different platforms then every platform needs to come under the same kind of regulation.

This is not only in India, this is the thought process across the world. Technology has brought so many changes that the distinction between voice call and data call has disappeared," Vaishnaw said. He said that KYC norms will also help in curbing cyber frauds.

The Minister said that it is the fundamental duty of users to give correct information while take services from oper-

ators. The bill proposes up to one year imprisonment for giving false identity for availing telecom services.

He said that telecom service providers will be given an option to shift to the new rule. The bill proposes to slash the maximum penalty of telecom operators to Rs 5 crore from Rs 50 crore per circle imposed at present. The bill proposes a penalty in the range of nil to maximum Rs 5 crore.

The Government in the bill has proposed a provision to waive fees and penalty of telecom and internet service providers. Vaishnaw said that the government will focus on continuity of service in case a company goes for insolvency as at the end the spectrum will come back to the government. The bill proposes an enabling framework for the Centre to address defaults in payment by a licensee, registered entity or assignee.

In case of extraordinary circumstances, the government can decide to defer the due payment, convert a part or all of the amounts into shares of the entity, write-off the amount or a part of it or even provide relief from payment of such amounts or a part. The draft also has a provision for a refund of fees in case a telecom or internet provider surrenders its licence.

Mexico proposes UN peace panel with Indian PM among members to broker Russia-Ukraine peace

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/PITTSBURGH

With the Ukraine conflict unabated for the last seven months, Mexico has proposed to the United Nations to set up a committee including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pope Francis and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to mediate permanent peace between Russia and Ukraine.

This proposal by Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubon while participating in a UN Security Council debate on Ukraine in New York late Thursday came days after Modi's message to President Vladimir Putin on September 16 that "today's era is not of war".

Putin told Modi that he was aware of India's concerns over the Ukraine conflict and that Russia will do everything possible to end it as soon as possible. The two leaders held bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO).

Modi's message to Putin was welcomed by French President Emmanuel Macron in UN earlier this week. The US and United Kingdom also

lauded Modi for this stand. "Based on its pacifist vocation, Mexico believes that the international community must now channel its best efforts to achieve peace," Casaubon said.

"In this regard, I would like to share with you the proposal of the President of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, to strengthen the mediation efforts of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, through the formation of a Committee for Dialogue and Peace in Ukraine with the participation of other heads of state and government, including, if possible, His Excellency Narendra Modi and His Holiness Pope Francis."

He said objective of committee would be to generate new mechanisms for dialogue and create complementary spaces for mediation to build confidence, reduce tensions and open way for lasting peace.

Casaubon said Mexican delegation will continue with necessary consultations to contribute towards generating broad support for mediation efforts led by UN secretary-general as well as for committee, "whose formation we hope will proceed with support of UN member states that so decide".

Prophet remark row: FIRs against Navika transferred to Delhi Police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday clubbed and transferred to the Delhi Police all FIRs registered against journalist Navika Kumar over the controversial remarks made by ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Mohammad during debate in Times Now channel moderated by her. A bench of Justices MR Shah and Krishna Murari

said no coercive action would be taken against Kumar for a period of eight weeks so that she can avail remedies in the interim period.

Apex court also granted liberty to Kumar to move the Delhi High Court for quashing of the lead FIR. The court also said that any FIR registered in the future against Kumar in the matter will also be transferred to the Delhi Police. "The petitioner shall be at liberty to approach the Delhi High Court

seeking the relief of quashing of FIRs. We have not expressed any opinion on merits," the bench said. The Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Delhi Police will probe matter. The apex court on August 8 had granted interim protection from arrest to Kumar and issued notices to Centre, West Bengal government, and others on plea of journalist seeking quashing of proceedings initiated against her.

SC stays graft case proceeding against BSY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed proceedings against former Karnataka Chief Minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa in an alleged corruption case. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli issued notice to the private complainant on a plea challenging the Karnataka High Court order restoring complaint against Yediyurappa and others. "There shall be a stay of proceedings so far as the petitioner is concerned," the bench said. The Karnataka

High Court on September 7 had restored a private complaint against Yediyurappa and his family members. The complainant had accused him of taking bribe for awarding Government contracts.

A Sessions court had earlier dismissed a plea seeking a probe into the allegations of corruption against Yediyurappa as then Governor had refused to sanction it. TJ Abraham, a social activist, had lodged the complaint alleging that Yediyurappa and his family members had taken bribe from

Ramalingam Construction Company and other shell companies in return for awarding Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) contracts.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with former captain of India women's national cricket team Mithali Raj, during a meeting PTI

'Herbal drug 'BGR-34' cuts down obesity, improves body metabolism'

It modulates hormonal profile, lipid profile and triglyceride level while bringing down fat level in body: Doctors at AIIMS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Anti-diabetic ayurvedic drug BGR-34' is effective in cutting down obesity along with improving metabolism mechanisms of patients afflicted with the chronic disease, a team of doctors from the country's premier health institute AIIMS, Delhi has found.

Led by Dr Sudhir Chandra Sarangi, Additional Professor, Department of Pharmacology AIIMS, the team reached this conclusion following a study spanning three years.

Comprising a range of ingredients from medicinal plants, this drug has been developed after an intensive research by scientists of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and is being marketed by AIMIL Pharmaceuticals.

The study was aimed to

investigate whether BGR-34 was effective on its own or along with other allopathy drugs, and if yes, then at what level. The results found that the herbal drug was enough not only in reduction of fasting blood sugar through modulation of hormonal profile along with a significant body weight reduction, but there were other benefits also.

The drug also modulates hormonal profile, lipid profile and triglyceride level while bringing down leptin mark which is effective in controlling fat. Triglyceride, in excess quantity, is harmful for the health as it is a bad cholesterol. Similarly, controlled lipid profile keeps heart diseases at bay while disturbance in hormonal profile can result in poor sleep, noted the authors about the research based on various health parameters, according to the study.

In contrast, modulation of hormonal profile was found to be significant, resulting in increased insulin level. The study initiated in March 2019 will soon be published in a research journal.

One in six people with diabetes in the world is from

India. The numbers place the country among the top 10 countries for people with diabetes, coming in at number two with an estimated 77 million diabetics. China leads the list with over 116 million diabetics. Diabetes can increase the risk of health complications, including cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, stroke, blindness, and circulatory issues, which could necessitate the amputation of toes, feet, or a part of the leg.

Dr Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director, AIMIL Pharmaceutical said herbal-based ayurveda medicines are finding huge acceptance among people who are more keen into taking preventive health measures in the backdrop of rising non-communicable diseases due to lifestyle changes, among others.

"To cater to this increasing demand, the government too has taken various measures to boost the availability of these products based on time-tested medicinal plants as immunity boosters. This will go a long way in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Healthy India', he added.

CISF doing non-core duties at 60 airports will be replaced by private security personnel: AAI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) on Friday said that Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel performing non-core duties at 60 airports in the country will be replaced by private security personnel. The move will reduce the security expenditure, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said, and added that "these CISF personnel can be deployed at other airports which will further strengthen the security set-up."

"In line with the decision of the central government, a total of 1,924 private security agency personnel will be deployed at 60 airports in place of CISF personnel, posted at non-core duty posts," AAI said in the release.

AAI also said it has appointed 581 security personnel from Directorate General Resettlement (DGR)-sponsored security agencies for non-core posts at 45 airports. "These security personnel will be deployed after completion of the aviation security (AVSEC) training pro-

gramme at selected airports," it said. It also said that as many as 161 DGR personnel for 16 airports are attending AVSEC training programmes and they will be deployed after completion of training from Saturday.

Already 74 DGR security personnel have been deployed at Kolkata Airport from early this month after attending the AVSEC training programme, the statement said. The deployment process of the remaining security personnel is under process, it added. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) issued a circular in this regard in May. Hiring of private guards is also expected to lower aviation security costs at airports because their salaries are estimated to be lower than that of CISF personnel. At present, airports bear the expenses of security cover provided by the CISF and this is recovered from passengers in the form of an aviation security fee. Airports will be reimbursed for costs related to deployment of private agency guards, a source said. At present domestic and international passengers are charged an aviation security fee of ₹200 and \$12, respectively.

‘Rahul told me no one from Gandhi kin should be Cong prez’

Gehlot first to announce candidature for AICC chief’s job

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot became the first person to announce his candidature for the AICC presidential poll on Friday, a day before the nomination process begins, and said Rahul Gandhi has told him that no one from the Gandhi family should become the next party chief.

He also said the call on his successor to head the Rajasthan Government will be taken by

the party's interim president, Sonia Gandhi, and the Congress's Rajasthan in-charge, Ajay Maken.

Gehlot's remarks came a day after former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi batted for the "one-man, one-post" concept in the party, in line with the Chintan Shivir reforms earlier this year.

With Shashi Tharoor likely to be the second contender and the names of several others also doing the rounds for joining the fray, Gehlot said the aim should be that all Congress members work together after the poll to strengthen the party.

Talking to reporters in Kochi, the 71-year-old leader said, "I will fix the date (to submit the nomination papers) after going back (to Rajasthan), but I have decided that I will have to contest. It is a question of democracy and let us make

a new start."

Gehlot also said Rahul Gandhi has told him that he respects the wish of the party workers that he should take charge of the organisation but no one from the Gandhi family would become the next Congress president.

"I requested him multiple times. He has clearly said 'I know, everyone wants me to take it up, PCCs have passed resolutions, the workers want it. I have a lot of respect for them but due to certain reasons, we have decided that a non-Gandhi family person should become the president,'" Gehlot said.

With Thiruvananthapuram MP Tharoor likely to enter the poll fray, Gehlot said other "Congress friends" may also contest but what matters is unity and the need to strengthen the organisation at all levels.



"There are Congress friends. Even if they contest, there is no issue. After the results, we should work together to strengthen the Congress at the block, village and district levels and also move forward making our (Congress) thought process as the base, so that we emerge as a strong opposition," he added.

Considering the present situation in the country, there is a need for a strong Opposition, the veteran Congress leader said.

Later in the day, talking to

reporters in Shirdi, Gehlot said the debate on "one man, one post" is unnecessary and he would like to serve the people of his state all his life. He also said his statements on wanting to serve the people of Rajasthan are being interpreted in different ways.

With the speculation over Rahul Gandhi contesting the AICC presidential poll coming to an end with Gehlot's remarks, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury hailed the former party chief for taking a "principled" stance and called him a "natural leader."

"It was the universal demand from the workers of our party that Rahul Gandhi should assume the charge of AICC president. But from the very first day, he has been declining the job. He has decided that someone from outside

the Gandhi family should take it up," Chowdhury told PTI.

"It is a very principled stand. He is a natural leader. When he says anything, he will draw the attention of the country. He certainly holds a special place in the heart of the common Congress worker," he said.

Rahul Gandhi does not hanker for posts, Chowdhury said, adding that he could have taken up a ministerial berth in 2009, but had declined it.

In another related development, a day after Congress leader Gourav Vallabh taunted Tharoor over his probable AICC presidential poll bid, the party asked its spokespersons and communications department office-bearers to refrain from commenting on any colleague contesting the election.

Vallabh had also voiced support for Gehlot, who many

believe enjoys the backing of the party's current leadership.

According to sources, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, in a message to the spokespersons and office-bearers of the party's communications department, said, "I would strongly urge all spokespersons and office-bearers of the communications department of the AICC to refrain from making any comment of any kind on any colleague of ours contesting the election for the post of Congress president."

Even as the race for the Congress president's post is heating up, veteran leader and Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh said he is not interested in becoming the party chief.

Several senior leaders' names such as that of former

Union minister Manish Tewari, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, Mukul Wasnik and Mallikarjun Kharge were doing the rounds as possible contenders, but many of them have privately ruled out running for the top post.

According to a notification issued by the party on Thursday, the process for filing nominations for the election will be held from September 24 to 30. The date for a scrutiny of the nomination papers is October 1, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 8. The final list of candidates will be published at 5 pm on October 8.

The polling, if needed, will be held on October 17. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 19 and the results will be declared the same day.

Kurmis’ rail-road blockade in Bengal for SC status enters 4th day

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Life continued to remain stranded as the rail and road blockade organised by the Kurmi community of Jangalmahal area of Bengal entered its fourth day on Friday. The members of the Kurmi community that have been demanding Scheduled Caste status and inclusion of the Kurnali language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution said the movement would continue till they did not get a positive assurance from the State and the Centre.

The movement --- that started on Tuesday with a Rail-Roko and on Thursday spilled over to NH 6 blocking the one of the busiest national highways of the country --- has affected large parts of Purulia, West Midnapore, and Jhargram dis-

tricts of Bengal, a helpless State administration said adding they had nothing in their hand and that the Centre should immediately intervene.

Bengal minister Firhad Hakim said that the movement ahead of the festive seasons was likely to affect lakhs of people and urged the Prime Minister to intervene. "This is a movement of 75 years ... the Trinamool Congress too had raised the issue in Parliament and now it remains on the Centre to take steps ... we request the Prime Minister to intervene so as to find an amicable way out," the senior Bengal minister said.

While the South Eastern Railways sources said that at least 159 trains --- including Bombay Mail, Geetanjali Express --- and those running via Kolkata-Nagpur route had

been suspended indefinitely, sources in the State transport department said thousands of trucks carrying essential items including foods and vegetables and other perishable products were stranded along the national highway. Bus services connecting Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha via this route had also been interrupted sources said.

Five different Kurmi outfits of the Jangalmahal area have collaborated to bring bring pressure on the Centre and the State even as its leader Ajit Mahato said "we have been making our demands for the past 75 years ... we are bhoomiputras (sons of the soil) and yet our demand has not been met ... now enough is enough ... the government will have to listen to us ... though we do not want to put the fellow citizens of the coun-

try into trouble ... the movement will continue if our demand is not met."

Mahato's statement came amid reports that the State Government had sent a letter forwarding their demand to the Union ministry of Tribal Affairs. "We have done out bit ... now it is up to the Centre to take a call," said a senior bureaucrat.

According to the Kurmi leaders the community had lost its Scheduled Tribe status post Independence despite the fact that they were registered as STs till 1931.

Meanwhile, Kharagpur BJP MP and party national vice president Dilip Ghosh whose constituency too has been affected by the blockade blamed the Trinamool Congress for the "mischievous" He said, "even we have



supported this demand in Parliament ... in fact such things are done in a particular manner and not by blocking the rail or road traffic ... it has been instigated by the TMC to turn the attention from the corruption charges and the public unrest that it has been facing in

recent times."

The last time a similar movement was witnessed was in 2006 when then opposition leader Mamata Banerjee had blocked the national highway during his anti-land acquisition movement at Singur for more than two weeks.

Herald case: ED notices to AP, Telangana Cong leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notices to some Congress leaders from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in connection with its ongoing money laundering investigation against the National Herald newspaper owned by the Congress party.

While some of the politicians belonging to the party have been summoned for questioning here over the next few weeks, others have been given notices to explain certain payments made to Young Indian, the company that owns National Herald. At least four leaders have been issued the notices, officials said.

Earlier this week, Karnataka Congress President

D K Shivakumar had told reporters after finishing his questioning session with the ED here that he was questioned about certain transactions made by him to this company in the past.

"Surprisingly, they (ED officials) have asked me about the payment from one of my trusts, from me and my brother, to Young Indian," he told reporters on September 19.

Shivakumar said he had sought more time from the agency to furnish details about his assets and liabilities.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son and MP Rahul Gandhi, apart from some other Congress leaders, have been questioned by the ED over the last few months in the case.

FROM PAGE 1

URBAN NAXALS ARMED WITH ANTI-INDIA FUNDS, SAYS PM

The Prime Minister further added that in giving environmental clearance, care should be taken of the rules, and priority be given to the development of the people of that area.

"It is a win-win situation for both the economy and ecology," he said. "It should be our endeavour that by raising the name of the environment unnecessarily, no obstacle should be allowed to be created in the quest of Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business. We have to remember that the faster the environment clearance is available, the faster the development will also take place."

Drawing attention to the net zero targets for the year 2070, the Prime Minister said the focus of the country is on green growth and green jobs. He stressed the need to maintain equilibrium with nature.

He also highlighted the role of the Environment Ministries of the States in achieving these goals. The Prime Minister said, "I urge all Environment Ministers to promote a circular economy as much as possible in the states."

Modi supplemented his statement by mentioning that it will significantly strengthen the Solid Waste Management campaign and will free us from the clutches of single-use plastic.

Continuing with the role of the Environment Ministries, the Prime Minister said this role should not be seen in a restricted manner. He lamented the fact that for a long time the Environment Ministries got shaped more as a regulator.

However, the Prime Minister said, "I think that the role of the Environment Ministry is more as a promoter of the environment rather than as a regulator." He asked the States to own the measures like vehicle scrapping policy, and biofuel measures like ethanol blending and strengthen them on the ground. He asked for healthy competition as well as collaboration among the states to promote these measures.

SONIA, PRIYANKA TO JOIN RAHUL IN BHARAT JODO YATRA

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, along with another AICC general secretary and in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, Shivakumar and a host of leaders took part in the party's review meeting for the yatra on Friday.

"In Karnataka, Sonia may attend the Bharat Jodo Yatra someday, and Priyanka will also be joining separately," Venugopal said.

Noting that the Karnataka leg of the yatra will begin at Gundlupet on September 30 at 9 am, Shivakumar said on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, there is a programme at Badanavalu in Nanjangud Taluk, which is known for its Khadi and Gramodyog Centre.

"There will be two days holiday for Dasara, there will be a public meeting in Ballari, in between Rahul will interact with youth, women, civil society, students, tribal community and farmers among others each day, and teams have been formed for this," he added.

Not wanting to comment on the demand for Rahul as AICC president, Shivakumar in response to a question said, "The KPCC has already authorised the Congress president... We all are committed that Rahul should lead the party, but it is left to him."

The AICC was fully satisfied with the arrangements made by KPCC for the yatra, Venugopal said, adding the march has been successful so far and the response to it in Tamil Nadu and Kerala is "unimaginable and beyond

expectations".

Arrangements have been made in Karnataka to ensure the same success, he said, adding, "for the last ten years, the BJP and Sangh Parivar had one duty- to tarnish the image of Rahul, but people are now realising as to who is Rahul... This yatra will be a turning point in Indian politics."

Responding to a question on surfacing of posters captioned "PayCM" with Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's photograph in parts of Bengaluru,

Venugopal said, "PayCM" is not a campaign created by the Congress party. The party is only taking up genuine issues raised by people of Karnataka, everyone is saying this is the most corrupt Government in the State."

The Congress is not scared of arrests, party workers have enough courage and will raise the corruption issue again and again, come what may, he said.

Surjewala said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai "lords over" the most corrupt Government in the entire country. "This is a one scam a day Government that he (Bommai) heads," he said.

JAISHANKAR RECOUNTS MOMENTS OF HIS WORK RELATIONSHIP WITH PM

He said, "Look, I'm abroad. I'm from a different political party. But I do not want to say something which is even a millimetre different from what is my national policy," Jaishankar said during the address.

Jaishankar further shared when he once again met Modi. "It's not like you know, we had some huge prior personal connect. It's someone I have known really for about 10 years. What stood out for me were his really exceptional working habits and his commitment and his desire... that fire in the belly to change the country was very visible," Jaishankar concluded.

This book traces the journey of Modi that started from the moment he became the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001.

After his landslide victory in 2014, he was re-elected in 2019 after he won over the public with his charisma and his terms of work. Unlike any of his predecessors, Modi managed to create a wave of mass approval that built the pillars of his 20-year-long hold as the head of the government.

Union Minister Jaishankar in his conversation shared the reason behind the rise of somebody from an extremely humble background to the ultimate seat of power in India. "I would say Modi himself is a product of that change. That is the fact that someone like him eventually has become prime minister of India itself shows how much the country has changed," Jaishankar asserted.

In this book, the compilation of chapters about Modi's model of governance has been contributed by domain experts and eminent critics.

Starting from the grassroots-level transformation in Gujarat to the changing political fabric of India, Modi@20 is an expansive exploration of the Indian Prime Minister's governance.

TURNCOAT NITISH BACKSTABBED BJP IN BID TO WORK FOR PM AMBITIONS: SHAH

The BJP leader also raked up Kumar's unsteady relations with colleagues like George

Fernandes and Sharad Yadav, blaming it on the CM's "lack of ideological commitment" and "excessive attachment to his chair".

He also sought to drive a wedge between the JD(U) leader and the latter's arch-rival Prasad, saying, "Tomorrow, Nitish Kumar might dump the RJD and form a new front with Congress and the Left or he may even seek rapprochement with the BJP".

"He (Kumar) cut his political teeth taking part in the anti-Congress stir of 1970s. Now, he is sitting in the laps of Congress and RJD... He won the last mandate in the name of Narendra Modi but backstabbed the BJP like he had done eight years ago," Shah alleged.

Kumar had been a BJP ally since the mid 1990s and served as a minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government before becoming the chief minister of Bihar.

He snapped ties with the BJP in 2013, following differences over elevation of Modi, then his Gujarat counterpart, on the national stage. Four years later, he was back in the NDA as the BJP readily came out with offer of support when his alliance with Prasad hit the rocks.

Shah, who reached here in the afternoon, is scheduled to spend the night in adjoining Kishanganj, which is the only district in Bihar with a more than 50 per cent Muslim population.

Besides the rally, he is scheduled to hold meetings with the state BJP core committee, comprising about 20 top leaders, and office-bearers of various district units.

On Saturday, Shah is slated to hold meetings with administrative officials before his departure.

BOMBAY HC ALLOWS UDDHAV-SENA TO HOLD DUSSEHRA RALLY AT SHIVAJI

Friday's development came as a major boost to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena - which headed by the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government - was unseated from power and the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis alliance government came to power on June 30 this year.

Virtually pulling up the BMC for denying permission to the Uddhav-led Shiv Sena to hold its annual Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park, the HC bench observed, "The application could not be decided for so long and the police report was called for after the writ petition was served. In our view BMC's action is a clear process of abuse of law". "We are invoking powers under Article 226 of the Constitution. In this case, BMC has misused power by refusing to grant permission in view of another application. This case calls for interference and grant of permission. Permission can be granted on various conditions. Petitioner will have to comply with conditions," the HC bench said.

It may be recalled that in 2016, the BMC commissioner had been directed to allow holding of the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park, and accordingly, permission was granted till 2019. However, the rally could not be held in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In its petition, the Uddhav-led Shiv Sena told the High Court that in 2022, as per the procedure, it had applied to BMC on August 26, 2022 for permission to hold the rally on October 5, 2022. However, the permission was not granted despite lapse of more than a month, prompting the Thackeray Sena to approach High Court for appropriate directions.

After the Uddhav Sena moved the High Court, the BMC rejected its application seeking

permission for the rally on September 21.

However, in the meanwhile, the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena -- through MLA Sada Sarvankar - moved an intervention application opposing the Uddhav Sena's petition. At the hearing held on Friday, the advocate Aspi Chinoy-appearing for the Thackeray faction of the Sena - made a strong case for the grant of permission to hold the rally saying the Bal Thackeray-led Shiv Sena had been its annual Dussehra rally at the Shivaji Park since the party's formation in 1966. Chinoy argued that Shiv Sena had a right to hold the Dussehra rally "as a matter of practice in the Government resolution".

Chinoy said rejecting an application filed by Shiv Sena on the ground that there was another application filed by an individual MLA was "perverse and irrational". "If an individual's application creates a law and order situation then you preserve law and order. Any MLA wanting to hold at the same spot cannot be a ground for not allowing. Shiv Sena's right to hold the rally has been recognised by way of practice, since they have been holding it during the last 50 years, custom, tradition and also the resolution issued by the Maharashtra Government in 2016 earmarking the ground to be used for Dussehra Melawa (rally)," Chinoy stated. Senior Advocate Dr Milind Sathe for BMC told the High Court that the Thackeray faction had no right to hold such a rally. He said that the issue that could have been considered was whether the permission was granted in accordance with law or not. "If a permission is rejected, it is a matter of injury. Where is the right?" Sathe, adding that the BMC had not acted arbitrarily by refusing permission to Shiv Sena and granting to others, they had refused permission to all because of law and order situation.

"The right is to assemble peacefully and lawfully and not to hold a rally. That right is not ascertained in the petition" Sathe argued.

Sathe argued the State Government's resolution of 2016 which enlisted the 45 days when non-sporting events could be conducted on the Shivaji park playground. Citing an example that a local school near Dadar had been granted permission to use the ground for their school function and that had been specifically recorded in the petition, Sathe said that there was no such mention for Shiv Sena's rally."The GR grants permission for Dussehra rally and not Shiv Sena's Dussehra rally" Sathe said.

On his part, Senior Advocate Janak Dwarkadas, appearing for MLA Sarvankar, sought to give a new dimension to the litigation, saying that hearings on the petition be stayed till the issue of "who represents the real Shiv Sena" is resolved either by the Supreme Court or the Election Commission of India. Sarvankar claimed that Thackeray's faction is misleading and misrepresenting facts" before the Court as they do not belong to the real Shiv Sena political party. In his intervention application, Sarvankar stated, "As on date, there exists a dispute on who represents the real Shiv Sena and the issue is pending before the Election Commission of India and also the Supreme Court". The court after hearing all parties rejected the intervention application by Sarvankar and allowed the Thackeray faction's petition.

Given that the Sena was founded at Shivaji Park in 1966, the party has had an emotion attachment to this ground, Barring an exception in 2005 when the party was forced to cancel its rally owing to very heavy rains, the Sena has unfailingly held dussehra rallies at the Shivaji Park every year since its formation 46 years ago.

BHAGWAT'S MOSQUE VISIT NOT A DEVIATION FROM RSS IDEOLOGICAL LINE: INDRESH

The Congress said the RSS chief's meeting with Ilyasi was due to the "impact" of its "Bharat Jodo Yatra" and requested Bhagwat to walk with party leader Rahul Gandhi in uniting the country "with a tricolour in hand".

"There has been no change in the Sangh's line. It continues to remain the same as it was and will remain so in the future. That is eternal. People have misunderstood it as they have been misled. Efforts have been made to create a misunderstanding," Kumar said while replying to a reporter's question.

He said Bhagwat's meeting with Ilyasi was part of the Sangh's initiative to hold a dialogue with the minority communities, which began more than 20 years ago under the leadership of the outfit's former chief K S Sudershan.

"And if anyone is trying to claim the credit for it now, I want to say that the Congress must repent for launching attacks and hurling all the abuses at the Sangh. Its misunderstanding of the Sangh will be cleared if it repents," Kumar said when asked about the Opposition party's reaction to Bhagwat's meeting with Ilyasi.

The RSS "sarsangchalak" went to a mosque in central Delhi's Kasturba Gandhi Marg and followed it up with a visit to the Madarsa Tajweedul Quran in north Delhi's Azadpur. This was Bhagwat's first ever visit to a madrasa, an RSS official accompanying him during the visits said.

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

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

UP DOES AWAY WITH ANTICIPATORY BAIL IN RAPE & POCSO ACT

Giving this information, the spokesperson said that in view of the need to make the present law more stringent towards heinous crimes of rape against women and sexual assaults against children, the government had decided to ensure stringent action in rape and POCSO Act crimes. He said action had been taken to abolish anticipatory bail to the offenders involved in such crimes by amending the provisions of law relating to such offences.

He said the amendments had been made in the relevant laws.

PFI 'FLASH HARTAL' BRINGS KERALA TO GRINDING HALT, HC STARTS SUO MOTU CASE

A release by the Kerala Police said that 127 PFI activists have been arrested and 229 persons taken into preventive custody on Friday.

The division bench of the Kerala High Court said that Friday's hartal was in violation of the court order dated January 7, 2019 which had banned flash hartals of all kinds. The Court had directed that the organizers of such hartals and general strikes should ensure that the fundamental rights of the citizens are not adversely affected in any way.

Trump’s legal woes mount sans protection of presidency

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Stark repudiation by federal judges he appointed. Far-reaching fraud allegations by New York’s attorney general. It’s been a week of widening legal troubles for Donald Trump, laying bare the challenges piling up as the former president operates without the protections afforded by the White House.

The bravado that served him well in the political arena is less handy in a legal realm dominated by verifiable evidence, where judges this week have looked askance at his claims and where a fraud investigation that took root when Trump was still president burst into public view in an allegation-filled 222-page state lawsuit.

In politics, “you can say what you want and if people like it, it works. In a legal realm, it’s different,” said Chris Edelson, a presidential powers scholar and



American University government professor. “It’s an arena where there are tangible consequences for missteps, misdeeds, false statements in a way that doesn’t apply in politics.”

That distinction between politics and law was evident in a single 30-hour period this week.

Trump insisted on Fox News in an interview that aired

Wednesday that the highly classified government records he had at Mar-a-Lago actually had been declassified, that a president has the power to declassify information “even by thinking about it.”

A day earlier, however, an independent arbiter his own lawyers had recommended appeared skeptical when the Trump team declined to present

any information to support his claims that the documents had been declassified.

The special master, Raymond Dearie, a veteran federal judge, said Trump’s team was trying to “have its cake and eat it,” too, and that, absent information to back up the claims, he was inclined to regard the records the way the government does: Classified.

On Wednesday morning, Letitia James, the New York State attorney general, accused Trump in a lawsuit of padding his net worth by billions of dollars and habitually misleading banks about the value of prized assets.

The lawsuit, the culmination of a three-year investigation that began when he was president, also names as defendants three of his adult children and seeks to bar them from ever again running a company in the state. Trump has denied any wrongdoing.

At least 4 killed, 10 hurt after blast near Kabul mosque

AP ■ KABUL

At least four people are dead and 10 wounded after explosion went off near a mosque in Afghanistan’s capital of Kabul on Friday, with a hospital confirming the number of casualties.

A column of black smoke rose into the sky and shots rang out several minutes after the blast in the city’s diplomatic quarter.

The Italian Emergency Hospital in Kabul said it had received 14 casualties and that four people were dead on arrival.

Khalid Zadran, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief, said the blast targeted worshippers leaving the mosque after Friday prayers.

Interior Minister spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor said the blast went off on the main road



near the mosque. He said the cause was under investigation. Takor said police teams were at the site and that an investigation was underway.

Mosques have previously been a target for attacks.

The blast took place near the Wazir Akbar Khan mosque which, in 2020, was struck by a bomb that killed two people, including the mosque’s prayer leader.

UK HM vows full force of law against Leicester thuggery

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman has met with local police officers and Hindu and Muslim community leaders in Leicester and assured them that thugs behind recent violent clashes would face the full force of the law.

During a visit to the eastern England city on Thursday, the Indian-origin Cabinet minister was briefed by the Leicestershire Police chief and also leaders from local temples and mosques on the “serious disorder” which has resulted in 47 arrests. The disorder came as tensions since an India-Pakistan cricket match at the end of last month continued to spill over into this weekend.

“I met with Leicestershire Police officers, the Temporary

Chief Constable for Leicestershire and local community leaders to discuss action being taken to protect local residents and restore safety and harmony in Leicester,” Braverman tweeted after her visit.

“We’ll work together on this, and I will do everything I can to support communities and our police. Those who bring disorder and thuggery to our streets will face the full force of the law and I thank all those brave police officers for keeping us safe,” she said.

With reference to reports of a protest by masked men outside a temple in Birmingham earlier this week, the Home Secretary said she had also spoken to the local West Midlands Police chief and that the situation there continues to be monitored.

Violent unrest continues in Iran State TV suggests death toll from unrest could be as high as 26

AP ■ DUBAI

Protesters across Iran continued to clash violently with security forces early on Friday following the death of a young woman in police custody, as Iranian state TV suggested the death toll from the unrest could be as high as 26, without offering details.

Although the scope of the protests across some dozen Iranian cities and towns remains unclear, the movement represents the widest unrest since 2019, when rights groups said hundreds of people were killed in a violent crackdown.

Iran has also disrupted internet access to the outside world, according to internet traffic monitor Netblocks, tightening restrictions on popular platforms used to organise rallies like Instagram and WhatsApp.

An anchor on state TV said late on Thursday that 26 protesters and policemen had been killed since the protests erupted last Saturday after the funeral of the 22-year-old



Mahsa Amini, without elaborating on how authorities reached that figure.

He said official statistics would be released later, but in past times of turmoil the Iranian government has not offered official death tolls.

The unrest has killed at least 11 people according to a tally by The Associated Press, based on statements from state-run and semiofficial media.

Most recently, the deputy governor of Qazvin, Abolhasan

Kabiri, said that a citizen and paramilitary officer had been killed in the unrest that rocked two cities in the northwestern province.

The crisis unfolding in Iran began as an outpouring over the death of Amini, a young woman from a northwestern Kurdish town, who was arrested by the country’s morality police in Tehran last week for allegedly violating its strictly-enforced dress code.

Her death has sparked

sharp condemnation from Western countries and the United Nations, and touched a national nerve.

Videos show Amini wearing a long black covering and state-mandated Islamic headscarf at the time of her arrest.

The police said she died of a heart attack and was not mistreated. But her family has cast doubt on that account, as have the many Iranians voicing pent-up anger over social and political repression on the streets.

Authorities have alleged that unnamed foreign countries and opposition groups are trying to foment unrest.

Videos on social media show protesters in Tehran torching a police car and confronting officers at close range. Elsewhere in the capital, videos show gunfire sounding out as protesters bolt from riot police shouting, “They are shooting at people! Oh my God they’re killing people!”

In the northwest city of Neyshabur, protesters cheered over an overturned police car.

Footage from Tehran and

Mashhad shows women waving their obligatory hijab head coverings in the air like flags while chanting, “Freedom!”

The chants have been scathing, with some calling for the downfall of the ruling clerics.

The protesters cry, “Death to the dictator!” and “Mullahs must be gone!”

London-based watchdog Amnesty International has accused security forces of beating protesters with batons and firing metal pellets at close range.

Videos show police and paramilitary officers using live fire, tear gas, and water cannons to disperse the demonstrations.

Iran has grappled with waves of protests in the recent past, mainly over a long-running economic crisis exacerbated by American sanctions linked to its nuclear programme.

In November 2019, the country saw the deadliest violence since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, as protests erupted over a rise in the state-controlled price of gasoline.

Moscow-held regions of Ukraine in ‘sham’ vote to join Russia

AP ■ KYIV

Voting began on Friday in Moscow-held regions of Ukraine on referendums to become part of Russia, Russian-backed officials there said.

The Kremlin-orchestrated referendums, which have been widely denounced by Ukraine and the West as shams without any legal force, are seen as a step toward annexing the territories by Russia.

The votes are being held in the Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions. The vote, which asks residents if they want their regions to be part of Russia, is certain to go Moscow’s way.

That would give Russia the pretext to claim that attempts by Ukrainian forces to regain control are attacks on Russia itself, dramatically escalating the seven-month war.

The referendums follow Russian President Vladimir Putin’s order of a partial mobilisation, which could add about 300,000 Russian troops to the fight. The balloting will continue for five days through Tuesday.



As the votes were getting underway in the occupied regions, Russian social media sites were full of dramatic scenes of tearful families bidding farewell to men departing from military mobilisation centres.

In cities across the vast country, men hugged their weeping family members before departing as part of the draft. Russian anti-war activists, in the meantime, planned more protests against the mobilisation.

Election officials will be bringing ballots to people’s homes and setting up makeshift polling stations near residential buildings during the first four days of the referendums, according to Russian-

installed officials in the occupied regions, who cited safety reasons. Tuesday will be the only day when the voters will be invited to come to regular polls. Polls also opened in Russia, where refugees from the occupied regions can cast their votes. Denis Pushilin, separatist leader of Moscow-backed authorities in the Donetsk region, called the referendum on Friday “a historical milestone.”

Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of Russia’s lower house of parliament, the State Duma, addressed the occupied regions Friday in an online statement, saying: “If you decide to become part of the Russian Federation — we will support you.”



White House: GOP abortion ban would mean a nationwide crisis

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The White House and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said Thursday that a Republican-led proposal to ban abortion nationwide after 15 weeks would endanger the health of women and have severe consequences for physicians.

“If passed and enacted, this bill would create a nationwide health crisis, imperiling the health and lives of women in all 50 states,” according to a preliminary analysis of the bill by Jennifer Klein, the White House Gender Policy Council chairwoman, that was obtained by The Associated Press.

“It would transform the practice of medicine, opening the door to doctors being thrown in jail if they fulfil their duty of care to patients according to their best medical judgment,” President Joe Biden himself said at a fundraiser that some GOP efforts to ban abortion were more extreme than his own Catholic faith.

“Happen to be a practising Roman Catholic. My church doesn’t even make that argument,” he said, referring to abortion bans that leave “no exceptions. Rape, incest. No exceptions.”

Catholic teaching is that abortion is prohibited, though life-saving surgery for the mother is permitted, even if it means

the baby will die as a result. The measure introduced last week by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., proposes a nationwide ban that would allow for rare exceptions. The federal legislation has almost no chance of becoming law in the Democratic-controlled Congress. GOP leaders did not immediately embrace it and Democrats are pointing to the proposal as an alarming signal of where Republicans would try to go if they were to win control of the Congress in November.

Many in the United States had believed the constitutional right to abortion, established by the Supreme Court almost 50 years ago, could never be overturned. But that protection was stripped away this year by the court’s conservative majority, and advocates are leaving nothing to chance.

A majority of those questioned in a July poll by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research said Congress should pass a law guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide.

Vice President Kamala Harris urged Democratic attorneys general at a meeting Thursday in Milwaukee to keep fighting for abortion rights in the states. She singled out Wisconsin’s Josh Kaul, who is up for reelection in November, for filing a lawsuit to challenge the state’s 1849 law banning abortion, with no exceptions for rape or incest.

Hundreds for cancellation of Japanese ex-leader’s funeral

AP ■ TOKYO

Several hundred protesters demanded the cancellation of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s state funeral as they shouted slogans and waved banners on Friday in a Tokyo park. “Abe’s policies supported war,” demonstrator Mayumi Ishida said, noting Abe consistently sought to raise defence spending.

Like others at the protest, Ishida said he feared Abe’s views heralded a step back to the days of Japan’s militarism preceding World War II.

Abe, who was assassinated in July, was Japan’s longest serving leader and one of its most divisive in the postwar period because of his revisionist view



of wartime history, support for a stronger military, and what critics call an autocratic approach and cronyism.

Opposition to the state funeral has also grown because of politicians’ close ties to the Unification Church. Social media posts attributed to the suspect in Abe’s assassination show he blamed the church for ruining his life, and police say he targeted Abe over his links to the organisation.

The government plan for his state funeral to be held on

Tuesday has galvanised public opposition against the ruling Liberal Democratic party, which has ruled Japan for nearly the entire postwar period.

Protests and marches opposing the state funeral have been popping up nationwide, drawing hundreds of people.

Earlier this week, a man set himself on fire by the prime minister’s residence in what was described as a suicide attempt in apparent protest of the funeral.

Yoshiko Kamata, a part-time worker at a convenience store, acknowledged the state funeral couldn’t be stopped, but it was a good opportunity to drive home her message that Abe never stood with regular people.

Facebook violated rights of Palestinian users, report finds

AP ■ CALIFORNIA (US)

Actions by Facebook and its parent Meta during last year’s Gaza war violated the rights of Palestinian users to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, political participation and non-discrimination, a report commissioned by the social media company has found.

The report on Thursday from independent consulting firm Business for Social Responsibility confirmed long-standing criticisms of Meta’s policies and their uneven enforcement as it relates to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: It found the company over-enforced rules when it came to Arabic content and under-enforced content in Hebrew.

It, however, did not find intentional bias at Meta, either by the company as a whole or among individual employees.

Model who criticised Myanmar’s military fears repatriation

AP ■ BANGKOK

A model from Myanmar who denounced her country’s military rulers last year from the stage of a beauty pageant in Thailand said on Friday she fears she may be forced back home.

Thaw Nandar Aung, also known as Han Lay, told The Associated Press by phone that she has been stuck at Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport since being denied reentry to Thailand when she arrived on Wednesday night from a short trip to Vietnam.

She has been living in Thailand but needed to exit and reenter in order to extend her stay.

She said she was seeking the assistance of the United Nations refugee agency to



avoid being sent back to Myanmar, where she feared harsh punishment from the military government she has criticised.

People denied entry to Thailand are usually deported to their last point of departure, but the UN agency advised her she would be arrested in Vietnam and then repatriated to Myanmar.

Tears and hugs for Russians called up to fight in Ukraine

AP ■ ZAPORIZHZHIA (UKRAINE)

Russia escalated its military and political campaign Thursday to capture Ukrainian territory, rounding up Russian army reservists to fight, preparing votes on annexing occupied areas and launching new deadly attacks.

A day after President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial mobilization to bolster his troops in Ukraine, dramatic scenes of tearful families bidding farewell to men departing from military mobilization centers in Russia appeared on social media.

Video on Twitter from the eastern Siberian city of Neryungri showed men emerging from a stadium. Before boarding buses, the men hugged family members waiting outside, many crying and some covering their mouths with their hands in grief. A man held a child up to the window of one bus for a last look.

In Moscow, women hugged, cried and made the sign of the cross on men at another mobilization point. A 25-year-old who gave only his first name, Dmitry, received a hug from his father, who told him “Be careful”, as they parted. Dmitry told Russian media company Ostorozhno Novosti he did not expect to be called up and shipped out so quickly, especially since he still is a student.

“No one told me anything in the morning. They gave me the draft notice that I should come here at 3 pm. We waited 1.5 hours, then the enlistment officer came and said that we are leaving now,” he said. “I was like, Oh great! I went outside and started calling my parents, brother, all friends of mine to tell that they take me.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in some of his harshest comments so far



in the nearly seven-month-old war, lashed out at Russians succumbing to the pressure to serve in their country’s armed forces and those who haven’t spoken out against the war.

In his nightly video address, he switched from his usual Ukrainian language into Russian to directly tell Russian citizens they are being “thrown to their deaths.”

“You are already accomplices in all these crimes, murders and torture of Ukrainians,” Zelenskyy said, wearing a black T-shirt that said in English: “We Stand with Ukraine,” instead of his signature olive drab T-shirt. He said Russians’ options to survive are to “protest, fight back, run away or surrender to Ukrainian captivity.”

Western leaders derided Putin’s mobilization order as an act of weakness and desperation. More than 1,300 Russians were arrested in antiwar demonstrations Wednesday after he issued it, according to the independent Russian human rights group OVD-Info. Organizers said more protests were planned for Saturday. Putin’s partial call-up of 300,000 reservists was short on details, so much so that the Russian military announced Thursday it had set up a call center to answer questions.

In Washington, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon’s press secretary, said the US believes that it will take Russia time to train and equip the new troops

and that doing so may not solve command and control, logistics and morale issues.

Concerns about a potentially wider draft sent some Russians scrambling to buy plane tickets to flee the country, and Zelenskyy claimed Thursday that the Russian military is preparing to draft up to a million men. A Kremlin spokesman earlier denied such claims. German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser offered concrete support to potential deserters. She told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung that anyone who “courageously opposes Putin’s regime and therefore puts himself in the greatest danger” can apply for asylum in Germany.

In the Kremlin’s territory annexation campaign, pro-Moscow authorities in four Russian-held regions of Ukraine plan voter referendums starting Friday on becoming part of Russia — a move that could expand the war and follows the Kremlin’s play-book from when it annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula after a similar referendum. Most of the world considers the 2014 annexation of Crimea to have been illegal.

Voting on the referendums in Ukraine’s Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions is scheduled to last through Tuesday. Foreign leaders have called the votes illegitimate and nonbinding.

FRENCH LESSONS FOR AUSTRIA



AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe starred as world champions France shrugged off injuries and off-field problems to beat Austria in UEFA Nations League match on Thursday.

France's build-up to their defence of the World Cup in Qatar in November and December has been marred by fitness issues surrounding a host of key players as well as other worries, but Les Bleus did not appear distracted as they outclassed the Austrians in Paris, winning 2-0.

Mbappe showcased his phenomenal

pace and strength on the way before finishing emphatically to put the hosts ahead in the 56th minute at the Stade de France.

The recalled Olivier Giroud doubled their lead nine minutes later, heading in Antoine Griezmann's cross to score his 49th international goal -- he is now just two goals short of Thierry Henry's French record.

"We did what we needed to do to get the victory, creating lots of chances and controlling the match," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

"There are lots of positives to take from the game."

Mbappe celebrated his goal by mimicking a photographer in an apparent nod to that row.

Just eight days shy of his 36th birthday, Giroud is France's oldest ever goal-scorer.

Coming exactly two months before they begin their World Cup defence against Australia in Qatar, the result also allowed France to stave off the threat of relegation from the top tier of the Nations League, a competition they won just last year.

Deschamps' side still need to win their last Group A1 game away in Denmark on Sunday to be certain of avoiding relegation, while qualification for the four-team finals

next June is already out of reach.

CROATIA SEE OFF DENMARK

Croatia, the 2018 World Cup runners-up, are on course to top the section after beating Denmark 2-1 in Zagreb.

Borna Sosa's 49th-minute opener for the hosts was cancelled out by a magnificent Christian Eriksen strike in the 77th minute.

However, Croatia's winner came just two minutes later through Lovro Majer.

Croatia are a point clear of the Danes before going to Vienna to play bottom side Austria on Sunday.

Netherlands see off Poland

AP ■ WARSAW

The Netherlands beat Poland 2-0 in Warsaw on Thursday to move closer to qualification for the Nations League finals, as Cody Gakpo and Steven Bergwijn continued their excellent starts to the season.

Louis van Gaal's men maintained their three-point lead over Belgium.

They will need only a point from their last game against the Belgians in Amsterdam on Sunday to be sure of securing top spot.

The Dutch appear to be in strong form ahead of their World Cup opener in Qatar against African champions Senegal on November 21, before further Group A games with the hosts and Ecuador.

Poland qualified for the World Cup with a play-off victory over Sweden but were toothless on Thursday.

The Dutch took a 14th-minute lead after an excellent team move ended with Denzel Dumfries squaring for Gakpo to tap into an empty net.

The PSV Eindhoven winger has now



scored eight goals in his last seven matches for club and country.

Poland finally created a good chance in the 53rd minute, but Arkadiusz Milik blazed over.

The Netherlands doubled their advantage seven minutes later as Vincent Janssen teed up Steven Bergwijn to score.

De Bruyne leads Belgium to victory

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Kevin De Bruyne score one goal and made the other for Belgium to secure a rare 2-1 win over Wales in Brussels and keep the Red Devils' slim chance of reaching the Nations League semi-finals alive.

De Bruyne claimed before the game that he was "bored" of facing Wales on the international stage, but Belgium had won just two of the previous eight meetings between the sides over the last 10 years.

That included a

famous victory for the Welsh in the quarter-finals of Euro 2016, but there was no repeat for the severely depleted visitors on Thursday.

Gareth Bale was left on the bench by Rob Page with one eye on managing his fitness ahead of their World Cup, while Aaron Ramsey and Ben Davies missed out through injury.

Belgium were also missing one of their key men in Romelu Lukaku, but Michy Batshuayi stepped up to replace the Inter Milan striker to continue his excellent goalscoring record at

international level.

Batshuayi played provider for the opening goal as his pass was superbly stroked into the bottom corner by De Bruyne on 10 minutes.

The Manchester City midfielder then hit the post and Batshuayi passed up a great chance as Wales struggled to contain the waves of Belgian attacks.

The same two players combined for the second goal eight minutes before half-time as this time De Bruyne's teasing cross left Batshuayi with a tap-in for his 26th international goal in 46 appearances.

Unvaccinated Djokovic awaiting word on Australian Open

AP ■ LONDON

Novak Djokovic is still awaiting word on whether he will be allowed to return to the Australian Open in January after missing the tournament this year because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19.

"It's really not in my hands right now," Djokovic said on Thursday at the Laver Cup. "So I'm hoping I will get some positive news."

Djokovic is a 21-time Grand Slam singles champion -- a total that stands second among men, behind only Rafael Nadal's 22 and one ahead of Roger Federer's 20 -- and he has won a record nine of those trophies at Melbourne Park.

But he was deported from Australia last January after a 10-day legal saga that culmi-



nated with his visa being revoked; he originally was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and Tennis Australia in order to play in the Australian Open.

Australia has since changed its border rules -- since July 6, incoming travellers no longer have to have provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations, or even provide a negative COVID test.

Jhingan unlikely starter for India in Singapore friendly

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

Senior defender Sandesh Jhingan might be rested during India's first FIFA international friendly against Singapore in the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament here on Saturday.

Jhingan and teammate Chinglensana Singh didn't accompany the team due to travel document related issues and only boarded a 3 am flight on Friday morning.

As per sources in the team, head coach Igor Stimac might just rest Jhingan for the opening game and give him a start against Vietnam, a team that reached the quarter-finals of the 2019 Asian Cup.

Head coach Stimac, however, sounded confident yet cautious on the eve of India's first meeting with Singapore in 10 years.

The Croatian coach said though Singapore have made



huge progress in the past few years, India have the ability to tame their opponents.

"Singapore made big

progress in recent years. They have a new coach, who has made some changes in the system that often makes things

difficult for the opponents. But I will tell my players to play confidently against them and show what exactly we have in store for them," Stimac said.

Stimac believes that Singapore will play attacking football.

"Singapore are quite good especially in the high pressing area. I have observed the way they press the ball all over the pitch to make things which is making it tough for the rivals. So, there is one small advantage they have in this regard," added the coach.

The 55-year-old World Cupper is aware of some of the fitness challenges his team is facing.

Stimac didn't forget to mention that in terms of fitness levels and preparations, his team is slightly undercooked as the side has had only one full session in Ho Chi Minh City before coming

into the game.

"We should not ignore the fact that their fitness level is, at the moment, better than ours, but we need to be composed and get on the field with our morale high."

But he feels that he has enough players to keep the Singapore attacking line at bay.

"I think that we have enough players with technical ability who can find a way to escape from the such high press, and with many players in the middle making it tight and difficult. But we are going to find spaces on the weak positions and play as per our plan," Stimac quipped.

The Blue Tigers will be seen in action for the first time after their successful campaign in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers in June where they played three matches and finished with a hundred per cent win record.

Kaka to make marathon debut in Berlin

AP ■ BERLIN

Former World Cup-winning footballer Kaka will make his debut at the Berlin Marathon on Sunday, saying he was "just as excited as I used to be before football matches."

Kaka, who played for Real Madrid and AC Milan before retiring in 2017, said his father's struggle with Covid-19 had inspired him to run the marathon.

"He was 45 days in hospital" Kaka said at the Berlin marathon press conference on Friday.

"Fortunately, he is with us today."

Kaka's father and brother will take part in the "family experience" of the marathon.

"He's not going to run, he's just walking, but we wanted him in this experience with us - it's more of a family experience."

Kaka said marathons were particularly special as sporting events because amateurs can take part side-by-side with professionals.

"I'm very excited... Of course, it's completely different than those guys (pointing to the professionals), this is something that is really good in marathons."

McEnroe upbeat on future of tennis despite Federer's exit

AP ■ LONDON

John McEnroe says Roger Federer and Serena Williams are "irreplaceable" but that tennis "goes on no matter what" as the Swiss prepares to play his final match on Friday.

Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam singles champion, will bring the curtain down on his glittering career in the Laver Cup at London's O2 arena alongside long-time rival Rafael Nadal.

The two players, representing Team Europe, will take on Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock in doubles in the evening session on the first day of the event.

The 41-year-old Federer's retirement comes hot on the heels of a similar decision by Williams, who won 23 majors in singles.

McEnroe, who is captain of Team World, admitted the sport would miss the two players but is optimistic about the future, just weeks after 19-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz won the US Open.

"These two players are irreplaceable," he said. "I don't think there is any question about that."

But he added: "The sport



goes on no matter what, and we have witnessed that in every sport over time.

"The opportunity is there to market these young kids in a way that I don't think we have successfully done before."

McEnroe, who won seven Grand Slam singles titles, said Williams had "brought electricity" to the recent US Open, where she lost in the third round.

But he said other players such as Alcaraz and America's Tiafoe, who lost to the Spaniard in the semi-final at Flushing Meadows, made it an "electrifying event".

Taylor Fritz, who is also part of Team World, said the two big retirements would be tough on a lot of fans but the future was bright.

"Serena and Roger probably have more fans than anybody in

tennis," said the American. "But, you know, there's so many more players."

"I think tennis is becoming so much more entertaining because you're seeing so many new people win."

"It's really exciting that going into these big events there are 10 different people that could potentially win. Hopefully their fans stay in the sport, want to keep watching."

Muguruza 'not scared' after latest exit in Tokyo

AP ■ TOKYO

Struggling former world number one Garbine Muguruza said she was "not scared" of her deepening slump after losing in the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Friday.

The number three seed lost 6-4, 6-2 to Russia's Liudmila Samsonova to continue a dismal run of results this year for the two-time Grand Slam champion.

Muguruza has not managed to string together more than two wins at a tournament and fell out of the world top 10 earlier this month.

But she said she had "already recovered" from her latest defeat and was looking forward to her next tournament.

"I don't think I have to be too sad about it -- I played good, she played better, and that's pretty much it," said the Spaniard, now ranked number 12 in the world.

"I don't want to overthink, I want to keep going. I've had worse losses where I didn't think that I played good but this one I felt like I was there."

Muguruza, who won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon a year later, started the year ranked number three



RADUCANU SURGES INTO KOREA OPEN SEMI-FINALS

AP ■ SEOUL

Emma Raducanu won three matches in a row at a tournament for the first time since her US Open triumph as she blew away Magda Linette to reach the Korea Open semi-

finals on Friday.

The 19-year-old Briton powered her way to a commanding 6-2, 6-2 victory in Seoul and will now face either top seed Jelena Ostapenko or 186th-ranked Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva.

but has since lost in the first round of six tournaments.

Muguruza was the latest big name to fall at the Pan Pacific Open.

Top seed Paula Badosa, US Open semi-finalist Caroline Garcia and Wimbledon cham-

pion Elena Rybakina all made early exits, while Naomi Osaka withdrew in the second round with abdominal pain.

Samsonova will play Zhang Shuai in Saturday's semi-final after the Chinese veteran beat Croatia's Petra Martic 7-5, 6-2.

NOT WINNING WORLD CUP TITLE IS RETIRING JHULAN'S ONLY REGRET

PTI ■ LONDON

Not winning an ODI World Cup will be her "only regret" in an otherwise distinguished two-decade career, India's fast bowling great Jhulan Goswami said on Friday as she gears up for her final international game.

Goswami will retire after the third ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday.

An emotional Goswami said she is grateful to the game for giving her name and fame but not having a World Cup trophy in her cabinet will remain an unticked box.

The Indian team had ended second-best during the 2005 and 2017 editions of 50-over World Cup.

"I have played two World Cup finals, if we had won at least one, then it would have been very nice for me and the team. Every individual works for that goal. We played 2-3 finals, but we were not able to win, that remains my only regret," the 39-year-old pacer said ahead of third and final clash.

"You prepare for a World Cup for four years. There is a lot of hardwork. For every cricketer, it is a dream-come-true moment to win a World Cup. But from where I am looking, the graph of women's cricket has only gone up.

"When I started I never thought of playing for such a long time. It was great experience. I am fortunate to play the sport.

"Honestly, coming from a humble background and a small town like Chakdah (in West Bengal's Nadia district), I did not have any idea about women's cricket and how professional setup works. I am fortunate enough, thanks to my family and parents, they always supported me," she said.

Goswami said receiving the India cap was the most memorable moment of her cricketing journey.

"My best memory is when I got the India cap from my captain and bowled the first over because I never imagined (that I will play for India). The journey was difficult as I had to travel for two-and-half hours by local train one way everyday for training."



She recollected how the 1997 Women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand at the Eden Gardens, watched by close to 90,000 people, fuelled her ambitions.

"In 1997, I was a ball girl at the Eden Gardens where I saw my first women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand. From that day, my dream was to represent India," she said.

As Goswami walks into the sunset, the BCCI is set to launch the women's IPL sometime next year, but the stalwart hasn't made up her mind whether she will be a part of T20 tournament.

"As of now, I haven't decided because so far, the Women's IPL has not been officially announced. We are hopeful that it might come in the coming season. Let's wait for the official announcement and then I will decide. At this moment, I am ending my career in international cricket. I have enjoyed every time," she said.

Plagued by injuries after the 2017 World Cup, Goswami said she had been contemplating retirement for quite some years now.

"Well, after the World Cup

(2017), in the last 2 years I was always thinking each and every series could be my last. I was going through a lot of injuries and it was not easy. I was taking series by series.

"After World Cup, I thought Sri Lanka tour (in July) would be my last series but I got injured. So England tour was the last option for me. So I went back to NCA, got fit enough and thought of playing my last series in England," she said.

With India taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, Goswami now just wants to end her illustrious career on a high note.

"It is very much important to finish the tour on a high note and continue the way we have been playing in the last 2 matches."

Goswami said she would miss singing the national anthem and the Indian jersey.

"The best moment for me was coming out of dressing room and singing the national anthem and wearing the India jersey. I will miss those things.

But everything in life has to end somewhere. I am happy that I have served the country with honesty and dedication for 20 years."

Goswami said Indian fast bowling is in safe hands now.

"At this moment India has one of the best seam bowling attacks. We are improving. Indian cricket now gives a lot of importance to fast bowling. Seam bowling is an art, it is a long process."

Goswami also spoke highly about her long-standing association with retired Mithali Raj.

"Obviously, Mithali and I have played together since U19 days, we had a great relation both on and off the field. But it was just bringing Team India to a different length on what it was and today it is completely different."

"That is a journey, we believed that we can change the face of women's cricket, we believed that we can be in the top three-four teams in the world and it was not a one-day process, it was a long-time process," she said.



Rohit guides India to six-wicket win

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Skipper Rohit Sharma blazed away to an unbeaten 46 as India registered a series-levelling six-wicket win over Australia in the second T20I here on Friday. Chasing 91, Rohit scored 46 off 20 balls which included four boundaries and as many sixes to take India over the line with four balls to spare in the rain-affected game.

Earlier, Matthew Wade smacked an unbeaten 20-ball 43 to fire Australia to a challenging 90 for five.

Wade hit four boundaries and three towering sixes -- all in the final over off Harshal Patel (0/32) -- while skipper Aaron Finch hit 31 off 15 after wet outfield due to overnight rain reduced the match to a 8 overs-a-side contest.

Australia looked to put up a show for the capacity crowd at the VCA stadium but Axar Patel (2/13 in 2 overs) snapped two wickets in an impressive spell to leave them at 31 for 3.

However, Wade ensured the visitors ended things in a flourish as he along with Steve Smith (8) added 44 runs in the final 18 balls.

Earlier, Finch scooped one over the keeper's head for a boundary and then sent one across the point area to accumulate 10 runs off Hardik Pandya (0/10 in 1 over), who opened the bowling for India.

Axar was then introduced and Cameron Green (5) tried to lift him over long-on but a running Virat Kohli couldn't hold on to the ball.

Kohli, however, redeemed himself in the next delivery

when his quick throw helped Axar to dislodge the stumps and end Green's stay.

The spinner was again in action when he cleaned up the dangerous Glenn Maxwell for a duck as Australia slumped to 19 for 2 in two overs.

Once the two-over power-play ended, Yuzvendra Chahal (0/12 in 1 over) came on to bowl but Finch danced down the track and smoked him for a maximum as 12 runs came of the third over.

However, Axar was once again in his element as he pegged back Tim David's middle stumps with an arm ball when he looked to go for a slog.

His length balls kept new man Wade in check before the left-hander nailed a reverse sweep to get a boundary.

At the halfway mark, skipper Rohit Sharma handed the ball to comeback man Jasprit Bumrah (1/23 in 2 overs) and the India pace spearhead produced his trademark yorker to castle Finch.

In-form Wade then took the onus as he cracked two fours off Harshal -- one across backward point and the other through extra cover.

Bumrah could have had Steve Smith too as his sensational yorker had the batter on all fours. However, Smith and Wade managed to put him away for two fours as Australia reached 71 for 4 in 7 overs.

Wade then went berseck as the final over produced 19 runs. **Brief Score:** Australia: 90 for 5 (Matthew Wade 43 not out, Aaron Finch 31; Axar Patel 2/13). India: 92 for 4 in 7.2 overs (Rohit 46; Adam Zampa 3/16).

Women in Blue look to whitewash Eng

PTI ■ LONDON

Jhulan Goswami, a name synonymous with 'fast bowling' in women's cricket, will walk into her cricketing sunset at the Lord's on Saturday and the Indian team will strive to make it a memorable swansong for her by completing a historic ODI series clean sweep on English soil, here.

Playing one game at Lord's is an ultimate dream for a cricketer.

Scoring a hundred or taking a five-for is a different high but bidding adieu to the game following an illustrious career at the 'Mecca of Cricket' is only reserved for a few chosen ones.

Sunil Gavaskar (although he played his last first-class game there) didn't get that opportunity. Neither did a Sachin Tendulkar or a Brian Lara or a Glenn McGrath got that opportunity to step down the stairs of the hallowed Long Room on their final playing day.

Even Goswami's colleague for nearly 20 years, Mithali Raj,



couldn't retire from a cricket field.

But call it destiny or design, Goswami's last hurrah is happening at Lord's.

There couldn't have been a more iconic setting as the strapping 5 feet 11 inch lady walks her way through that Long Room where the MCC's 'suits' will stand up and her teammates will give her a 'Guard of Honour' when she will enter the ground.

A series already won with an unassailable 2-0 lead,

been Shafali Verma's patchy form throughout the tour.

Harleen Deol has done well to establish herself as a dependable middle-order batter but with Goswami's retirement, the seam attack comprising Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar would need to step-up a lot more.

As far as England is concerned, the absence of skipper Heather Knight (due to injury) and star all-rounder Nat Sciver (mental health break) impacted the team's balance hugely.

The last time Indian women won an ODI series in England was way back in 1999 when Goswami hadn't made her international debut.

So as she appears for her 204th and last game, Indian team's revered 'Jhulu Di' would know that she is a contented soul.

When she had first played for India, Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh were not even born and Jemimah Rodrigues was perhaps in her nappies.



Dilip Tirkey becomes first player-president of Hockey India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Dilip Tirkey on Friday became Hockey India's first player-president after his unopposed election to the top post as yet another sports person has grabbed the top job in a National Sports Federation (NSF).

Hockey India elections were scheduled to be held on October 1 but the results were declared in advance as there were no contestants for any post.

Tirkey, who filed his nomination as President of Hockey Odisha, was elected after Uttar Pradesh Hockey chief Rakesh Katyal and Hockey Jharkhand's Bhola Nath Singh withdrew their nominations on Friday.

Tirkey, 44, is the latest addition to the list of players who have grabbed the top job in a sports body. Recently, former player Kalyan Chaubey became the All India Football federation (AIFF) boss.

Tirkey says sports persons can contribute as administrators too. "I believe former players should come into sports administration because they know where to focus. Like Sourav Ganguly was in the CAB first and then went to BCCI and is performing brilliantly," Tirkey said.

"I am happy that Hockey India has also elected a former player like me as its president for

the first time. Players go through many phases in their career and they get better experience," the former full back added.

Adille Sumariwalla, who is also a former players, is president of Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Bhola Nath has been elected unopposed as secretary general.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has approved Tirkey and his team's appointments.

Tirkey, who is the country's most capped player with 412 international caps, said there is a need to prepare the next generation of players.

"There is a need for a specific training program for junior players such as the need to prepare the next generation of drag-flickers and goalkeepers and the focus will also be on team fitness," he said.

"We have seen how important the role of our drag flicker and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was in the Olympics, but after that the next generation players will also have to be produced."

He also said that there is also a plan to restart the Hockey League.

"We also have plans to restart the hockey league. It will be discussed with the committee and after discussion with the executive board it will be taken forward."

Pant with his 'dare & courage' is must in India XI: Gilchrist

PTI ■ DUBAI

For his sheer "courage and dare", Rishabh Pant should be a part of India's starting XI during the T20 World Cup, feels former Australian great Adam Gilchrist.

There has been a debate if it should be Pant or Dinesh Karthik in India's playing XI and it seemed that Gilchrist's vote of confidence is in favour of the much younger Delhi cricketer.

"The dare of Rishabh Pant and the courage in him, the way in which he takes on bowling attacks, I think he's got to be a must in that Indian line-up," Gilchrist was quoted as saying in an ICC release. "They can play together, but I think Rishabh Pant has definitely got to be in there."

India included both Pant and Karthik in the 15-member squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia but the former's underwhelming record in T20Is might go against him.

Pant has 934 runs in 58 T20Is at



an average of 23.94 and a strike-rate of 126.21. But he hasn't quite enjoyed the success what was expected of him in this format unlike Test cricket where he is already an established star.

Add to it, Karthik has of late blossomed as a finisher, which could

work in his favour.

But just like his former skipper Ricky Ponting, Gilchrist too feels that both the stumper batters can play together in the eleven.

"It'll be interesting to see if they can both play in the same team. I think they

can. What they bring to a team ... the versatility of Dinesh Karthik, he can play at the top of the order, he can, as he has done more so later in his career, be in the middle and late overs to finish. He has a really nice touch game," the former Australia wicketkeeper batter signed off.

'HCA NOT AT FAULT'

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohammed Azharuddin on Friday said he was very disappointed over the stampede-like situation at the Gymkhana Ground here during the sale of tickets for the India-Australia T20 match on September 25 but said the association is not at fault in the unfortunate incident.

He refused to blame anybody and said he was very disappointed with what had happened. "I don't want to blame anybody. Why should I blame anybody. Actually, I am very disappointed with what happened. My heart goes to the families. We are taking care of them," he told reporters.

Jaiswal 209 not out brings West back in game

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed his way to a double hundred in just about two-and-half sessions as West Zone took control of proceedings despite South's 57-run first innings lead on the third day of the Duleep Trophy final here.

At the end of third day's play, West Zone were 376 for 3, courtesy Jaiswal's unbeaten 209 off 244 balls that had 23 boundaries and three sixes.

West now have a lead of 319 runs and even if they declare at lunch on Day four, they will have five full sessions to force an outright victory although the track is getting easier for batting with no considerable wear and tear.

For South, it will be about batting out in the fourth innings and winning the trophy by virtue of first innings lead.

Jaiswal had a 169-run third wicket stand with Shreyas Iyer (71) and another 58 for the unbroken fourth wicket with Sarfaraz Khan (30 batting).

It was a day that will be best

remembered for the duel between two powerhouse performers in this year's domestic cricket -- left-handed opener Jaiswal and left-arm spinner Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore.

While Jaiswal had failed in the first innings, he came out with a lot more positive intent in the second essay after South were dismissed for 327 with an addition of only nine runs to their overnight score of 318/7.

Once West came out, Jaiswal was severe on South pacers Basil Thampi (0/67 in 9 overs) and CV Stephen (0/27 in 6 overs) as he and Priyank Panchal (40) added 110 runs at little under five per over for the opening stand.

South skipper Hanuma Vihari missed the trick when he introduced Sai Kishore (27-5-100-2) only as second change after the opening stand yielded 80 plus runs.

Panchal was caught off Sai Kishore's bowling and Ajinkya Rahane was then trapped leg before by the off-spinner Gowtham (33-1-139-1).

But the joy of two wickets was short-lived once Jaiswal started using his feet to good effect with two spinners in their combined 60 overs went



for 239 runs, which was nearly four runs per over.

He got good support from Iyer, who did make amends and hit four fours and two sixes before getting dismissed while going for a glory shot off Sai Kishore's bowling. Iyer, thus missed a half-century in the first innings and didn't show enough patience to score a hundred in the second.

Jaiswal hit off-spinner Gowtham with the turn for a six and didn't let Sai Kishore settle to one line as he repeatedly came down the track to disturb his line. He also had a six off seamer Stephen's bowling.

There were many boundaries between cover and extra-cover region and one such shot off Gowtham brought up his double hundred.

It was like a release of emotions as he let out a war-cry as he got a standing ovation from the West dressing room.

Brief Scores: West 270 and 376/3 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 209 batting, Shreyas Iyer 71, R Sai Kishore 2/100, K Gowtham 1/139). South Zone 327 (Baba Indrajith 118, Jaydev Unadkat 4/52).