

CITY 2
GOVT TO SUPPORT SPORTS FRATERNITY,
PROMOTE SPORTS CULTURE**OPINION 6**
POLLUTING A RIVER IS A
SIN AGAINST IT!**WORLD 10**
US CARRIER, S KOREA SHIPS LAUNCH
DRILLS AMID NORTH'S THREAT

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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12 SPORT

Raj revolt leaves Cong on razor's edge, may defer call on CM pick

Gehlot says sorry to Kharge, but loyalist MLAs defiant; Makan briefs Sonia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Rajasthan crisis has forced the Congress high command to defer the move for a change of guards in the poll-bound State even as all eyes are on Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi to take a call on the rebellion staged by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his loyalists.

The Congress's high command has limited options given the fact that Rajasthan is the lone big State where the party is in power. Source-based reports kept trickling throughout Monday that Sonia will take action against some Rajasthan leaders for defying the high command. But experts feel that she is unlikely to get into any such misadventure that could further destabilise the State Government and keep the pot boiling.

Sources said that to diffuse the cruises, the Congress high command may defer the entire process to elect a new leader in the State. This seems a high probability since Gehlot may be pulled out of the race for the Congress president.

While Gehlot has now apologised to the AICC observer and senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge, but that may not mean anything. It is well known that



Congress leader Ajay Maken addresses media after meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday PTI

the rebellion had his blessings, and he did not do anything to restrain the MLAs.

The crisis continued even on Monday with the MLAs loyal to Gehlot refusing to separately meet Kharge and Maken. They held a parallel meeting and demanded that Gehlot should remain the Chief Minister.

Gehlot met Kharge at a hotel in Jaipur before they left for Delhi. The CM is believed to have apologised and said he had nothing to do with the rebellion by MLAs close to him.

The Gehlot loyalists said they have conveyed to Kharge and Maken that any decision on the next Chief Minister should be taken after the party's

presidential election on October 19 and in consultation with Gehlot.

They also want someone to the top post who stood with the Congress Government during a political crisis led by Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan in 2020. Gehlot and Pilot were at loggerheads over the Chief Minister's post soon after the Congress won the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly polls. In July 2020, Pilot, along with 18 party MLAs, rebelled against Gehlot's leadership.

Party observers Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken returned to Delhi and reported to Sonia.

Talking to reporters after a nearly hour-long meeting with Sonia, Maken said they

apprised the party president of the developments in the State after which she sought a detailed report on it.

Maken slammed the Gehlot loyalists for setting conditions for a party resolution, terming it a "conflict of interest", and said their decision to hold a parallel meeting amounted to indiscipline. "In the 75 years of the Congress' history, there has never been a conditional resolution. A resolution is only a one-line document. Everything is told to the Congress president and then a decision is taken," Maken told reporters in Jaipur.

"A resolution should not have any conflict of interest. Those who are contesting elections tomorrow might become the party president, if they get to decide on the resolution, it is a conflict of interest. So, it is

wrong," he said, without naming Gehlot.

He said it was "unfortunate" that the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting could not be held and termed the move of pro-Gehlot loyalist MLAs and ministers as "indiscipline". The AICC observers kept waiting for the party MLAs in Jaipur on Sunday night but they did not turn up.

He added that the CLP meeting was kept after Gehlot's consent and the place and time were set as per his request. He said the MLAs and ministers loyal to Chief Minister Gehlot cannot pose conditions to the party leadership as they amount to a "conflict of interest".

"Kharge ji and I have apprised the Congress president of the CLP meeting in Rajasthan. The Congress president has sought a written report on the entire chronology, which we will submit by late night or tomorrow," Maken said.

"Some representatives of MLAs, ministers came and put forth three demands. Their condition is that the CLP leader be elected after October 19 and any decision should be taken after that... This cannot happen as those who are moving the resolution after October 19 would themselves take the decision and this would amount to a conflict of interest," Maken briefed.

"It is unfortunate that after all this, the CLP meeting could not take place. When the CLP official meeting is kept, no parallel meeting should take place and it primarily amounts to indiscipline," he added. The Congress has 108 MLAs in the 200-member Assembly.

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F-16s to Pak for anti-terror? Lame excuse: India to US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

India has raised doubts about the US selling F-16s to Pakistan in a deal worth over 450 million dollars to "fight terrorism" and said the USA is not "fooling anybody by saying these things".

Giving this terse message in the US capital days ahead of his meeting with US Foreign Secretary Antony Blinken and others, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar late on Sunday said America's relationship with Pakistan has "not served" either of the two countries.

Raising questions on the Biden administration's approval of a USD 450-million sustenance package for F-16 fleet, Jaishankar said in an interaction with the Indian-Americans there, "Very honestly, it's a relationship that has neither ended up serving Pakistan well, nor serving the American interests. So, it is really for the United States today to reflect on what are the merits of this relationship and what do they get by it."

Referring to the argument made by the US that F-16 sustenance package is to fight terrorism, he said everybody knows where and against whom F-16 is used. "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things," he said in response to a question.

Early this month, the Biden administration approved a USD 450 million 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 to the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department made a determination approving a possible for-



eign military sale for sustenance and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 450 million, arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

Jaishankar's remarks about the F-16 package came days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in telephonic talks with his US counterpart Lloyd Austin on September 14 had expressed India's concerns.

"I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide a sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Look forward to continuing dialogue with Secretary Austin to further consolidate India-US partnership," Rajnath tweeted after talks.

On September 23, the US

said "it (F-16) 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 its decision to provide a 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.

Continued on Page 9

Gehlot's bid to head Cong in peril as loyalty to Gandhis in question

Raj Min Dhariwal accuses Maken of plotting to make Pilot CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

If Ashok Gehlot can stage a rebellion even before he became the Congress president, how would he treat the Gandhis after taking up the reins of the party, has worried the Congress high command.

Gehlot may have apologised to party's observers Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge for the display of defiance by his loyalists, but that is unlikely to help him put the clock back. A section of senior party leaders and Gandhis are report-

ed to be very upset with the Rajasthan Chief Minister for scripting the entire drama. They feel Gehlot has done serious damage to the efforts made by Rahul Gandhi to revive the party through the Bharat Jodo Yatra route.

After the Rajasthan crisis unfolded on Sunday, Gehlot has not spoken a word about filing his nomination paper. It's obvious that unless he is able to resolve the crisis to the expectation of Sonia Gandhi, the Congress High command is

unlikely to forgive him.

Sources said disciplinary action is being considered against Gehlot's loyalists. Sonia has been reportedly very upset with the way the Gehlot handled the entire Rajasthan crisis by not holding the CLP meeting.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Minister and key Gehlot-loyalist Shanti Dhariwal on Monday launched a frontal attack on Congress' State in-charge Ajay Maken, alleging that he was talking to party MLAs in a partisan manner and canvassing for Sachin Pilot.

Soon after Maken briefed Sonia in Delhi about the political developments in the State, Dhariwal called a press conference at his residence here and hit out at party general secretary Maken.

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10 dead as tractor-trolley falls into pond in Itaunja

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident in Itaunja on Monday, 10 women devotees, including two minor girls, were killed while 47 devotees were injured after a tractor-trolley fell into a pond. Though there were reports that the mishap occurred after a heavy vehicle hit the tractor-trolley from behind, police did not confirm the same.

The deceased were identified as Annapurna (55), Ketki Devi (55), Sushma Maurya (51), Sukhrani (45), Malti (40), Sunita (36), Komal (32), Ruchi Maurya (18), Bitti (14) and Anshika (13) — all of Attariya in Sitapur district.

A police spokesman said

34 people, including men and women, were admitted to different hospitals and many of them were discharged later.

However, three of the injured refused to go for a medical examination. A total of 47 passengers, all from Attariya in Sitapur, were travelling in the tractor-trolley.

The spokesman said that the police sent the bodies for autopsy and started further investigation. "Prima facie, the tractor-trolley driver lost control of the vehicle which plunged into the waterbody," he said. The devotees were going to pay obeisance to Goddess Durga in Itaunja's Unai village temple and the incident occurred near Gaddinpurwa

village.

Early in the morning, the devotees left for the Goddess Durga temple in the tractor-trolley hired from a villager. Around 10 am, when the tractor-trolley reached a narrow stretch of road, the driver lost control of the vehicle which hurtled down the pond.

The survivors said that they felt a strong impact from behind and the next moment, the vehicle had fallen into the pond. They said they panicked when the vehicle started sinking. The men abandoned the tractor-trolley and the hapless women. The vehicle later got fully immersed into the waterbody.

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Min raps sections of US media for bias against India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has taken exception to some sections of the mainstream US media for their "biased" coverage of India and said anti-India forces are "not winning" in the country and trying to shape the narrative from outside.

Airing these opinions in his interaction with a group of Indian-Americans in the US capital late on Sunday, he also indirectly slammed *The Washington Post* for their coverage of India.

"I look at the media. You know, there are some newspapers you know, exactly, what they are going to write including one in this town," Jaishankar said.

"My point is there are biases, there are efforts really, to determine,...Look, the more India goes its way and the people who believe that they were the custodians and the shapers of India lose ground in India the more actually, some of these debaters going to come outside," Jaishankar said responding to a question on the increase in anti-Indian forces in the US.

Such groups, he asserted, are "not winning in India". Such groups, the Minister noted, will try and win outside or try and shape India from outside.

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CAPSULE

GHULAM NABI LAUNCHES DEMOCRATIC AZAD PARTY

Jammu: Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday launched his new party named the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) coinciding with the first day of Navratri festival, exactly a month after ending his over five-decade long association with the Congress.

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ GRANTED INTERIM BAIL

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday granted interim bail to actor Jacqueline Fernandez in a ₹200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekar.

NO ACTION AGAINST ANIL AMBANI TILL NOV 17: HC

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Income Tax department not to take any coercive action against Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani till November 17.

Rupee plunges 58p to close at all-time low of 81.67 per \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the currency close at an all-time low of 81.67 against dollar.

15 dead as man with Nazi symbol opens fire in Russian school

AP ■ MOSCOW

A gunman opened fire in a school in central Russia on Monday, killing 15 people and wounding 24 others before shooting himself dead, authorities said.

The shooting took place in School No. 88 in Izhevsk, a city of 960 kilometres (600 miles) east of Moscow in the Udmurtia region.

Russia's Investigative Committee identified the gunman as 34-year-old Artyom Kazantsev, a graduate of the same school, and said he was wearing a black t-shirt bearing "Nazi symbols." No details about his motives have been released.

Continued on Page 9

Ankita's murder: Mother says body not shown to her before last rites

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A day after Ankita Bhandari's cremation, her mother has claimed that she was not shown the body before cremation. In a video shot in a hospital, she alleges that she was tricked into going to the hospital where she was put on a drip.

Ankita worked in a resort owned by Pulkrit Arya, the son of a now expelled BJP leader. Arya, along with two others, has been arrested by the accused in the case.

Meanwhile, the SIT has collected evidence from the resort and also inspected the murder scene on the banks of the Chilla canal from where her body was recovered on Saturday.

Govt blocks 45 videos on 10 YouTube channels for hate, lies on Agnipath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Based on inputs from intelligence agencies, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed YouTube to block 45 videos from 10 YouTube channels for spreading false information related to the country's national security, foreign relations, and public order.

Some of the videos blocked by the Ministry were being used to spread disinformation on issues related to Agnipath scheme, Indian Armed Forces, India's national security apparatus and Kashmir among others. The content was observed to be false and sensitive from the perspective of national security and India's friendly relations with foreign States.

"These channels had con-



tent that spread fear and misconception among communities," I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

According to the statement issued by the Ministry, the blocked videos had cumulative viewership of over 1.30 crore.

"The content included fake news and morphed videos circulated with the intent to spread hatred among religious

communities.

Examples include false claims such as the Government having taken away the religious rights of certain communities, violent threats against religious communities, declaration of civil war in India, etc. Such videos were found to have the potential to cause communal disharmony and disrupt public order in the country," it said.

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50% of tweets asked by Govt to be blocked 'innocuous', Twitter tells Karnataka HC

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Twitter on Monday claimed before the Karnataka High Court it was being asked by the Government to block accounts, rather than just a tweet that was deemed improper, because of its political content. As a platform it was affected by the Centre asking it to take down accounts without issuing notice to the alleged violators. Twitter said about 50-60 per cent of the tweets being asked to be blocked were "innocuous."

Govt to support sports fraternity, promote sports culture

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lauding sportspersons in the potential of Uttar Pradesh at national and international levels, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, said that the state government was determined to support the sports fraternity and promote sports culture by supporting the talented athletes.

"Complete contribution of athletes will be ensured in building a new Uttar Pradesh of a New India," the chief minister said in Gorakhpur on Monday.

Extending Navratri wishes to the people in Gorakhpur while launching various projects, the chief minister said that taking inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to encourage athletes and promote sports in the country, the UP government was developing sports ground in every village, stadiums at the development block level, a large number of sports colleges and was expanding sports facilities.

The chief minister on the occasion inaugurated the auditoriums of Mahant Aavaidyanath Ji Maharaj Stadium at Jungle Kauria and Mahant Aavaidyanath Government College at Jungle Kauria.

He also distributed artificial limbs/calipers including about 100 motorised tricycles, 50 tricycles, 50 wheelchairs, 200 smart canes, 100 hearing aids, 50 MR kits, 50 leprosy kits and 100 different types of prosthetics like arms, feet, calipers, among others to about 700 specially-abled people.

The chief minister said that the double-engine Bharatiya Janata Party government was providing benefits of the government schemes to every section of society without any kind of discrimination.

"The government is working to serve the public through Seva Pakhwada to mark the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and even on birth anniversaries of great men like Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Mahatma Gandhiji," he said.

Maintaining that the state government in the span of the last five and a half years had worked to strengthen law and order in Uttar Pradesh, Yogi said that the efforts of the government had resulted in UP becoming a safer place today, which in turn encouraged investment from a large number of investors.

"On the contrary, 7-8 years earlier, the industries were shut down due to the presence of anarchy," he pointed out.

The chief minister said the

situation had changed today as improved connectivity and the fertiliser factory and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Gorakhpur were ensuring the development of the areas that were considered neglected.

It is noteworthy that the chief minister had inaugurated Mahant Aavaidyanath Government College last Navratri and so far the number of enrolled students has gone up to about 1,400.

The chief minister said that India was moving ahead rapidly with a new global identity. "Active participation of youth is being ensured in the development process of the country. The government is determined to make the youth digitally and technologically-abled through distribution of smartphones and tablets," he said. The government plans to distribute two crore smartphones and tablets while for the preparation of various competitive examinations, provision of physical and virtual classes through the Abhyudaya coaching had been made, he added.

The chief minister also asked the principal of Mahant Aavaidyanath Government College to provide Abhyudaya coaching facility to the students after college hours.

Yogi also urged the public to maintain cleanliness and

Yogi takes part in *kalash sthapana*

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took part in the 'kalash sthapana' ceremony at Gorakshpeeth, the spiritual abode of Guru Gorakhnath, the leader of the Nath panth, amid chants of Vedic hymns as the Sharadiya Navratri celebrations started on Monday.

Yogi also offered prayers to Maa Shailputri, the first of the nine forms of Goddess Durga worshipped during Navratri, on the first day of the festival. The rituals of the first day, which lasted for two hours, concluded with the worship of 'Jagatjanani' (mother of the world), Devi recitation, aarti and prayer for forgiveness.

Prior to kalash sthapana, the traditional grand kalash procession was taken out with religious fervour on the premises of Gorakhnath temple.

At around 5:30 pm, the head priest of the temple, Yogi Kamal Nath, was sent by Gorakshpeethadhishwar with a trident of Shivavatri Guru Gorakhnath as part of the ritual.

Under the leadership of Yogi Kamal Nath, the procession of saints reached the mythological Bhima



Sarovar amid chants of Maa Durga where they filled the kalash, circumambulated the lake and returned to the

shaktipeeth. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself raised a water-filled urn and

placed the kalash in the sanctum sanctorum of the shaktipeeth located on the first floor of the math by invoking Lord Varuna amidst Vedic chants. The Gorakshpeethadhishwar first worshipped Gauri-Ganesh by consecrating trident, the weapon of Maa Durga, Lord Shiva and Guru Gorakhnath.

The recitation of Shrimad Devi Bhagwat and Shridurgaspathshati also started in the sanctum sanctorum of the Durga temple (shaktipeeth). Chief Minister and Gorakshpeethadhishwar Yogi Adityanath also participated in aarti. Aarti and prasad distribution were done after the recitation.

Under the leadership of Acharya Ramanuj Tripathi, the head priest of the temple, all the rituals were performed by other priests, teachers of Sanskrit Vidyapeeth and Vedapathi students.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is on a fast for nine days for the Navratri festival. He has been observing the fast since his arrival at Gorakshpeeth more than two and a half decades ago. Before becoming the chief minister, Yogi Adityanath used to stay on the first floor of the Gorakhnath math for the entire Navratri.

hygiene in order to prevent the spread of diseases.

The chief minister said that Ramgarh Tal of Gorakhpur was a new model of develop-

ment. He said village ponds could be made beautiful and attractive like the Ramgarh Tal by developing them as 'Amrit Sarovars'. With this, like

Ramgarh Tal, village ponds can also become centres for shooting films, he said and appealed to people to respect art, encourage artists and cel-

brate festivals with peace. On this occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also presented 'poshan tokri' to three pregnant women.

Besides, gifts were given to three children. During this, the chief minister enquired about the facilities available to the children.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I, Asma Irfan, W/o Irfan Ahmad, R/o 89/261-A Bansmandi Kanpur, have changed my name from Asma Guliam to Asma Irfan.

NOTICE

I lost my marksheet of high-school ICSE board year 2003 roll number T/2762/041. Lav kumar gupta vill Kapanganj Post Terhi, dist. Azamgarh

NOTICE

I Madhuri, w/o Raghav Chandra Flat no 48 G, sector 8 Jasola, New Delhi 110025 have changed my name to Madhuri Jha vide affidavit dt. 26.09.2022 for all future purposes.

NOTICE

In my passport my name is Anwar Ahmad which is wrong. My correct name is Syed Anwar Ahmad. I should be known by this name for all future purposes. Syed Anwar Ahmad S/o S.A. Ahmad R/o - 13/4, Alkapuri Colony, Prayagraj

NOTICE

Original registered agreement to sell no 16032 dtd 18.12.1981 and original possession letter of my property H. No. HIG 50, Block R N Yojna II, Ratanlal Nagar, Kanpur has been lost somewhere. The use of which will be illegal. Dr Ashwani Rawal S/O Sri Triloki Nath Rawal

NOTICE

My House No. - G-1182, Awas Vikas Yojna No.-1, Keshavpuram, Kalyanpur, Kanpur Nagar's original document No.-6077 of 2011 and document No.- 7991 of 2011 and Allotment Letter (Letter No. 1889 Dated-28/06/96)) have fallen somewhere, its use will be illegal, Manoj Kumari W/O Sarvesh Kumar

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my name Sobhia Singh & date of birth 27.07.2001 as mentioned in Rajputana Rife record, is wrong. My name Saubhya Singh & date of birth 27.07.2002, as mentioned in all educational & other documents are correct. I may be known as Saubhya Singh & date of birth 27.07.2002 in future. Saubhya Singh D/o late Santosh Singh R/o Haripur Singhpur, PS Huzurpur Distt. Bahraich UP

Class X Dalit student dies after being thrashed by teacher

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Brutal assault in the name of Corporal punishment took its toll when in a fresh incident, a Class 10 Dalit student was fatally beaten up by his school teacher in Auraiya.

The student died during treatment in a hospital.

The victim, Nikhil Dohre, was beaten up by his social science teacher on September 7 as he had made a mistake in an exam. His health deteriorated after that and he was being treated in a hospital. The teacher also contributed to the treatment. On September 24, Nikhil's father, Raju Dohre, lodged a report in the Achhalda police station against the teacher for not cooperating in the treatment and for using caste-indicative abusive words.

He made a complaint after Nikhil died during treatment on Saturday.

The FIR was registered against the accused, Ashwini Singh, at Achhalda police station and teams have been formed to arrest the accused.

Auraiya's Superintendent of Police Charu Nigam said,

"We have talked to Etawah chief medical officer to set up a panel for autopsy to find out the cause of death and get the autopsy and videographed. Further action will be taken. Three teams have been formed to arrest the accused."

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) condemned the death of a Dalit student, Nikhil, allegedly due to beating by a teacher of a school in Auraiya district of UP and said such incidents were a shame on civilised society.

Expressing sympathy with the family of the deceased student, the CPI(ML) demanded severest punishment to the teacher so that no one could dare to repeat such an act in future. CPI(ML) state secretary Sudhakar Yadav in a statement said the Auraiya incident was a repeat of Rajasthan's district Jalaur incident in which a student, Indra Kumar Megwal, had died in nearly a similar way.

In another incident, a Class IV employee of the BEd department committed suicide in a classroom of the Deendayal

Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University.

The employee, identified as Vibhuti Prasad, ended his life by hanging himself from the ceiling. When the teachers saw him hanging, they immediately informed the Cantonment police, and the cops rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.

During the investigation, police recovered a suicide note from the pocket of the deceased. The suicide note, purportedly written by the deceased, read, "I am writing the suicide note so that people know why I have hanged myself. My wife is dead and I have been suffering from stomach disease for two years. I have cancer in my stomach, there is a lot of pain, so I am committing suicide."

Vibhuti is survived by his sons Kaushal Kumar Gaur and Pramod Gaur.

The police sent the body for post-mortem and further investigation is underway.

In Etawah, a 25-year-old man died after allegedly falling off a moving train, officials said on Monday.

Yashvardhan Rana, a basketball referee, was travelling in the Sangam Express when he fell from the train on the intervening night of September 24-25 between Ekdil and Bharthana railway stations in the Kanpur-Tundla division.

Rana, who was also an instructor at the Modi Sports Academy in Meerut, was going to Kanpur for the 61st Uttar Pradesh Basketball Competition at Chaudhary Harmohan Singh Yadav Paramedical College, along with the Meerut team.

According to Etawah Superintendent of Police (City) Kapil Dev Singh, Rana, a resident of Civil Lines in Meerut, was in S-5 coach while the basketball team was travelling in the S-3 and S-7 coaches. When the train reached Kanpur station on Sunday morning, a search operation was launched after Rana was not found inside the coach. Later, a body was found lying on the side of the railway track near Bharthana station of Etawah district.

Officials from the Basketball Association reached the spot and identified the body.

2 kids die in wall collapse

Four killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two children were buried alive and half a dozen others, including three kids, received serious injuries when the mud wall of a house collapsed due to incessant rain for the last few days in Lakhimpur Kheri. The injured were rescued and shifted to the district hospital.

According to reports, the wall of a house collapsed due to heavy rains in Vajpayee village in Sadar Kotwali area of Lakhimpur Kheri. Two children, aged 10 years and 12 years, playing nearby were buried under the rubble and died by the time the local residents could rescue them.

Six more local residents, including three other children, were injured in the accident, and they are being treated at the district hospital. On receiving the information, the police of Kotwali Sadar immediately reached the spot and sent the injured to the hospital. At the same

time, the bodies of the deceased children were sent for post-mortem.

Police said that the mud wall was in the middle of the village and it had become weak due to continuous rain for two days.

Meanwhile, four people were killed in a collision between a Roadways bus and a car in Muzaffarnagar district. After getting information about the accident, the police and administration team reached the spot and started relief work.

One of the victims was identified with the help of the Uttarakhnad Police ID card recovered from his pocket.

The police admitted the injured to the district hospital. Inspector Mahavir Singh, incharge of Mansoorpur police station, said, "A car overturned when a Roadways bus collided with it near Devrana Resort on National Highway-58. Four people were in the car out of which two died on the spot and the remaining two succumbed to their injuries later in the hospital."

Three of the victims were identified as Kuldeep Mishra (38), resident of Uttarkashi (a

constable with Uttarakhand Police), Dinesh Yadav (33), an employee at Defence Ministry, and Manish Singhal (32).

According to reports, the mishap took place while trying to save a person who was crossing the road on the highway near Devrana Resort. The Roadways bus of Sohrah Gate Depot coming from the opposite direction hit the car which then overturned after crashing into the road divider.

All the occupants of the car were killed while several bus passengers were injured and shifted to hospital for treatment.

NOTICE

This is to inform General Public. That my client Mr. Ashish Rastogi S/o Anil Rastogi R/o Flat No. B 1st Floor Mittal Bhawan Building No. 5, 10 Station Road Lucknow. Have lost original POA Date 25.06.2003 Executed by Smt. Krishna Shah W/o Late Shri Bhupendra Shah R/o Parsi Shah Building Aminabad Park Lucknow. In favour of Shri Ashwani Shah S/o Late Shri Bhupendra Shah & Shri Ashutosh Shah S/o Late Bhupendra Shah duly registered in the Sub-Reg. Office of New Delhi with Book No. IV, Vol No. 1941 pages 78/81 Document No. 5101. These Document are belongs to Shop No. 1 IInd Floor, Building No-113/9 Parsi Shah Building Aminabad, Lucknow. This Property is Presently owned exclusively by my client if any person have anykind of right. Title Claim, interest etc. then please comaintain the same with in 7 days, to Adv. Nishant Singh Lucknow on 9453431919 or Indusind Bank Ltd. Lucknow. otherwise the same will be considered void.

COURT NOTICE

CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT) (Chapter XXX, Rule-21) IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD ORIGINAL JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY AND INTTESTATE JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 66 OF 2022 IN THE MATTER OF THE GODDS OF Late Ram Sevak Son of Late Sukhrum R/o Village Bair Amad Karari Basuher, Nevada Chail, District-KaushambiDeceased. Nihal.....Petitioner.

WHEREAS an application has been made by Nihal Son of Late Ram Sevak R/o Bairamad Karari, Basuher, Sarai Akl Chail, District-Kaushambi for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Ram Sevak deceased, who died at Village-Bair Amad Karari Basuher Nevada Chail, District-Kaushambi on 05.11.2018 AND WHEREAS, the 28th day of September, 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 24th day of August, 2022.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD Shri Birendra Singh, Advocate Counsel for the Petitioner.

Tourism dept sends proposal to admn for Lko Mahotsav

Lucknow (PNS): The Tourism department has sent a proposal to the district administration regarding holding the Lucknow Mahotsav this year. A senior official from the department said the decision would soon be taken after a meeting is held to finalise the details of the Mahotsav, which is usually held between November 25 and December 6. The Lucknow Mahotsav was last held three years ago. It was announced in 2019 but could not be held due to the Defence Expo. Later, the extravaganza could not be held for two years owing to the Covid pandemic and consequent lockdown. Lucknow Mahotsav has a fun zone, auto expo and food gallery apart from various competitions such as kite competition, vintage car rally, boat rally, etc.

hostage in the field for two days and raped her several times.

Two days later, on the night of September 21, the accused threatened to kill her if she informed anyone about the incident and fled, leaving the victim outside her aunt's house.

The victim's father said that he along with his family was getting his daughter treated at a private hospital. The father further claimed that on Sunday evening, when his other daughter was coming out of the hospital, both Jabir and Rinku stopped them and threatened them that they had objectionable videos of the victim and if they took legal action, they would upload it on social media.

He said that he went to lodge a report at Bhuta police station but the cops tried to pressurise them for a compromise and refused to register a case. He also alleged that the police forcibly took the thumb impression of the victim's father on a plain paper.

When the Bhuta police did not register the report, they filed a complaint with the ADG and SSP, and on their direction, the local police registered a case of rape and also booked the accused under the SC, ST Act, and arrested them.

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 19 BUT IT CAME TO LIGHT AFTER A VIDEO OF THE MOB BEATING HER UP WENT VIRAL ON SUNDAY EVENING. THE VIDEO SHOWS A GROUP OF MEN HOLDING THE WOMEN BY HER HANDS AND LEGS AND TOSSING HER IN THE AIR AT A SUGARCANE FARM

her up," he added.

The horrific scenes of violence by men on the 'mentally ill' women received huge backlash from people across social media. After the video of the incident went viral, several twitter users sought information about the case.

In a statement issued on Twitter, Meerut police on Monday said, "The incident is one week old, an FIR has been registered in the incident and efforts are being made to arrest the accused."

Incidents of child lifting and rumour mongering have suddenly spiked in several northern states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), leading to unwarranted incidents of mob lynching in which as many as 11 people have died so far after being beaten by public. The gravity of these rumours and the havoc wreaked due to this

is such that the Yogi Adityanath government last week decided to slap National Security Act (NSA) against people found involved in rumour mongering over child lifting.

Meanwhile in Bareilly, a woman was given sedatives mixed with 'prasad' and taken to sugarcane fields in unconscious state where she was gang-raped by the accused.

According to the victim's father, on September 18, at 11 am, his daughter was going to the tailor's shop to get clothes. On the way, Jabir of the village gave him some intoxicant mixed in 'prasad'. After she fainted, Jabir took her to the sugarcane field where he and his accomplice Rinku Lala raped her. When she regained conscious, both the accused again raped her after taking her at gun point. He alleged that both the accused kept the girl

UP to buy bajra, maize and paddy from farmers at MSP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to procure bajra (pearl millet) along with maize and paddy from the farmers at the minimum support price in the kharif marketing year 2022-23.

The move is part of the government's larger plan to promote coarse grains ahead of the International Millet Year. The minimum support price of bajra has been fixed at Rs 2,350 per quintal.

The procurement will start on October 15 in districts with high yield, including Aligarh, Hathras, Kasganj, Etah, Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Mainpuri, Bareilly, Budaun, Sambhal, Bulandshahr, Kanpur Dehat, Auraiya, Etawah, Jalaun, Prayagraj and Ghazipur.

Since coarse grains require less water and are more economical in terms of production cost compared to wheat and paddy, UP has been encouraging farmers to cultivate prominent coarse cereals like maize, jwar, bajra and barley. Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, Sorabh Babu, said that the state was working towards bringing more coarse grains under the institutional procurement sys-

UP govt sanctions funds to promote organic farming

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government, for promoting organic farming in the state, has sanctioned Rs 69 crore for 47 development blocks of seven districts of rain deficient Bundelkhand region of the state. The scheme will be implemented in the next five years and the government has sanctioned the funds from its own resources. For the current fiscal 2022-23, the government has released Rs 2.7 crore to the districts.

tem for providing remunerative prices to the farmers and achieving the goal of doubling rural income.

Despite a low level of awareness, the government's intervention has yielded visible results and millet cultivation is on the rise in the state.

In a bid to make UP a one-trillion-dollar economy, the government is making concrete efforts to revive millet cultivation under rain-fed farming

The Union Agriculture Ministry under the National Mission for Natural Farming has also provided for Rs 185 lakh. The mission will run from 2022-23 to 2025-26 and it has identified 62,200 hectares of land for organic farming in 26 districts along the course of the river Ganga.

For UP, the national mission has sanctioned Rs 70 crore for 23,510 hectares in 23 districts, to be spent in the next four years.

UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said here

on Monday that for the current fiscal 2022-23, 1,758 clusters measuring 35,700 hectares had been identified in the state and an estimated Rs 61 crore would be spent on organic farming. He said so far Rs 17 crore had been released to the districts and about Rs 10 crore had been utilised.

The minister said in Hamirpur district, 2,800 hectares of land spread in 140 clusters had been earmarked for organic farming. He said Rs 7.25 crore had been provided to Hamirpur district.

export and branding, among others.

In the proposed action plan, the government will also focus on increasing the cultivation area, production of millets and productivity of land. The government plans to increase the area of bajra cultivation, which is currently 9.80 lakh hectares, to 10.19 lakh hectares and productivity from the current 24.55 quintal/hectare to 25.53 quintal/hectare.

Itaunja tragedy: Dist admn mulls counselling drivers in rural areas

Lucknow: In view of the accident that claimed 10 lives on Monday, the district administration here is mulling counselling the tractor-trolley drivers operating in rural areas in order to prevent such incidents in future.

In a statement issued here, the Lucknow district administration said, "In view of the accident, and keeping in mind that a large number of people make a visit (to religious places) on tractor-trolleys."

"Counselling of tractor-trolley drivers operating in the rural areas should be done, so that they do not travel with excess number of passengers and follow the traffic rules, and such sad incidents are not repeated in future," it read.

DM Surya Pal Gangwar instructed the Public Works Department (PWD) officials to ensure that all the roads are surveyed, especially those on which the devotees move.

Priority should be given to restoring the side lane of those roads, which are located near ponds and gorges, and the roads on which the tractor-trolleys move, they should be made pothole-free, the DM said. He instructed that all the lekhpalas and revenue inspectors should inspect all the roads. Ten people were killed while 37 were injured when the tractor-trolley in which they



Rescue operation underway with the help of local villagers

Pioneer

were travelling overturned and fell into a pond here on Monday, a senior district offi-

cial said. They were visiting a Durga Devi temple in Unnao village for a 'mundan' ceremo-

ny, District Magistrate (Lucknow) Surya Pal Gangwar said. **PTI**

2 dengue cases detected in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two dengue cases were detected in Lucknow on Monday in addition to five reported on Sunday. A senior health official said the figure is not high but cases are being reported on the basis of rapid card tests which should not be taken as confirmed dengue cases.

"We have issued instructions that positive rapid card test results should be considered as reactive and confirmation should be through ELISA test," he said.

Lucknow witnessed six dengue cases on September 17, three on September 19, seven on September 20, four on September 21, seven on September 22, four on September 23 and two on September 24. He pointed out that these have been confirmed through ELISA test.

"Protective clothing reduces the risk of mosquito

bite if the fabric is sufficiently thick or loosely fit. Long sleeves and trousers with stockings may protect the arms and legs, which are the preferred sites for mosquito bites. School children should adhere to these practices whenever possible. Repellents are common means of personal protection against mosquitoes and other biting insects. These are broadly classified into two categories — natural repellents and chemical repellents. Essential oils from plant extracts are the main natural repellent ingredients such as citronella oil, lemongrass oil and neem oil," he explained.

He further said that chemical repellents can provide protection for a few to several hours. "Tight-fitting screens, wire mesh can be used on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering a particular place. Mosquito nets have limited utility in dengue control since the Aedes bites

during the day. However, nets can be effectively utilised to protect infants in hospital setups. They can also be effective for people who generally have an afternoon nap. Bed nets need to be used at hospitals during the dengue season to prevent mosquito bite and to interrupt transmission," the health official said.

He pointed out that possible community actions include target behaviours to ensure early identification, detection and treatment seeking for dengue.

"Ensure no self-medication and early consultation with a doctor. Do not insist on hospitalisation unless advised by a doctor as all dengue patients do not require hospitalisation. Ensure early hospitalisation, if advised. One should ensure use of paracetamol, intake of plenty of fluids (ORS), and rest in case of fever. Besides, get your blood tested for dengue," he added.

SBSP chief opposes caste-based census

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party president Om Prakash Rajbhar has opposed caste-based census. He said the non-Yadav Most Backward Class would get no benefit from the caste based census. Rajbhar launched the Savdhan Yatra from Lucknow on Monday. It will conclude in Bihar with a huge rally in Patna on October 27.

Rajbhar said the Samajwadi Party was in power in Uttar Pradesh four times and the idea of caste based census never occurred to them when they were in power.

"Dr Ambedkar had favoured decadal caste based census, but Samajwadi Party never paid heed to it. Now that they are out of power and consistently losing elections to

the Bharatiya Janata Party since 2014, they have suddenly started demanding caste census," he said.

Rajbhar, however, said the SBSP, after coming to power, would implement caste based census and ensure that each caste gets its due share in power structure as per its share in population.

He said the SBSP had organised Savdhan Yatra only to spread awareness among the people about the caste based census.

He said for the last 75 years people were being exploited on caste basis and they were being used as mere vote banks.

The SBSP chief said the Savdhan Yatra sought to spread awareness and empower people to fight for their rights and ensure their place in polity.

Rare bone marrow transplant at Medanta Hospital

Lucknow (PNS): Medanta Hospital performed an allogeneic haplo-identical (half HLA-matched) bone marrow transplant on a 12-year-old girl suffering from tuck acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a type of life-threatening blood cancer. In the process, it became the first private hospital in Uttar Pradesh to have achieved this rare feat.

The team, led by director of bone marrow transplant Dr Anshul Gupta, consisted of consultant of hematology, hemato oncology and bone marrow transplant, Dr Dipankar, senior consultant and head of transfusion medicine and blood bank Dr Bhattachal, Dr Ashish Tiwari, Dr Dileep Dubey, and Dr Madhumati Goel.

Elaborating on the condition of the patient, Dr Anshul Gupta said she hails from Allahabad and was suffering from fever, body rashes, anaemia when brought to the hospital three months ago.

He said that she was initially given chemotherapy twice to bring the disease under control. "It was followed by haplo-identical bone marrow transplant procedure. She was given half HLA from her father for the transplant as doctors could not find a perfectly matched donor for her. Usually HLA-matched sibling donors are the first choice for allogeneic stem cell transplantation. However, only for 30% of patients find HLA-matched donors while 70% have to depend on alternative donors, including through donor registration or haplo-matched donors," he explained.

Dr Dileep Dubey said it was an HLA half-matched transplant with 3-week duration of severe neutropenia and very little white blood. "During the procedure, the child was kept in a specially-designed HEPA filter room. After 15 days of cell transplant, the blood count recovered and the girl is doing well," he added.

Stress on hand hygiene in hospitals to prevent spread of infections

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hand hygiene is widely recognised as the most important measure to prevent the spread of infection in any hospital. However, Dr R Harshvardhan from SGPGI said that despite evidence, there is little compliance in hospitals across the country.

"The main responsibility of the infection preventionist is to develop, implement and monitor hand hygiene programmes as a critical piece of broader infection prevention programmes in healthcare settings. Handwashing has always been one of the most effective ways of keeping diseases at bay. It is a simple act that helps a lot when it comes to keeping oneself healthy and safe. Handwashing was one of the key practices of COVID-19 prevention," he said.

He added that the number and types of bacteria on the hands increases with contact with the environment, patients and other healthcare workers.

"Cross-contamination can happen every time healthcare personnel come in contact with a patient, other healthcare personnel, or the environment. While one cannot know where infection transmission begins or ends, there is a chain of infection when the contamination from one surface is transferred to the susceptible host," he pointed out.

He further said out that hospital infection control programme with stable structure should be present in all the institutions that provide healthcare in order to create a managed environment.

"Infection control is the discipline which is concerned with preventing healthcare-associated infection. It is vital although often non-supported and not recognised as a part of the healthcare organisation. Healthcare-associated infec-

tions are drawing increasing attention from patients, insurers, governments and regulatory bodies. This is not only because of the magnitude of the problem in terms of the associated morbidity, mortality and cost of treatment, but also due to the growing recognition that most of these are preventable. Hospital infection control is very essential for the safety and wellbeing of patients, hospital staff and visitors," he elaborated.

He said that hospital administrators should make efforts to create an organisational atmosphere in which adherence to recommended hospital infection control practices is considered an integral part of providing high-quality care. "For such an approach to be successful, hospitals must provide visible support and sufficient resources in the form of continuous education and training programmes," he said.

"These programmes should be innovative, educational and motivational, and tailored to specific healthcare personnel. The strategies should be designed to suit the specific needs and the expected outcome for that particular category of healthcare worker. Regular educational and training programmes on hospital infection control, standard and transmission-based precautions and ward-based teaching programmes on various care bundles must be included in the in-house programmes," he added. Dr Harshvardhan said such training includes the execution of educational and induction programmes that are designed to overcome any shortcomings in the knowledge, attitude and practice of infection control by healthcare workers. "An institutional culture that focuses on infection control practices will reduce the incidence of hospital acquired infections," he added.

Two persons end lives

Lucknow (PNS): Two persons, including a class XI student, ended their lives in different parts of the city. In PGI police station area, Vikas Kumar of SGPGI campus was found hanging at his house around 1:30 am on Monday.

His mother Satyaprabha, who is employed with SGPGI, was on duty in the night shift when Vikas took the extreme step. Police said Vikas was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around his neck. The police suspected that Vikas was under mental duress and took the extreme step as a result. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation.

In Gomti Nagar, a 35-year-old plumber was found hanging on the top floor of his house. Reports said Vinod Kumar Gautam of Chhoti Jugauli locked himself in a room on top floor and later hanged himself. He was found hanging from the ceiling with

a rope tied around his neck.

Meanwhile, a 65-year-old man was killed in a road mishap in Chinhat police station area on Monday morning. As per reports, Ram Chandra Kushwaha of Gahmar Kunj locality in the area left the house for Command Hospital to take medicines. Around 7 am, an uncontrolled tractor-trolley hit his scooter from behind near a petrol pump. His granddaughter Puja Kushwaha said a neighbour informed her about the incident.

Elsewhere, a youth was killed while his companion was injured in a road mishap in Nagram police station area on Monday. As per reports, Nihal and Arun of Abbas Nagar were returning home while carrying a gas cylinder. They attempted to overtake a tractor-trolley and hit it in the process. Both fell off the bike and Nihal came under the wheels of the tractor-trolley. He died on the spot.

Man who raped woman in legal battle with husband arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Vibhuti Khand police on Monday nabbed a man who was accused of having raped a woman, who is in a legal fight with her husband, on the pretext of providing her legal help. The victim had said on Sunday that she would petition her case to senior officials and State Commission for Women.

The accused, identified as Sandeep Yadav of Sarwar Nagar in Binjor, was accused of raping the woman at the gun-point at a hotel in Gomti Nagar. The woman has a dispute with her husband and she was looking for a legal remedy.

She had lodged the case against the accused who met her at the civil court on September 14. Sandeep took her to the hotel on the pretext



of a meeting with a lawyer and later raper her at the gun-point before fleeing the scene.

DCP (East) Prachi Singh said a team led by Inspector Patiram Yadav, was hunting for the rape accused. "The team was tipped off about the presence of the accused near PICUP Bhawan and he was nabbed," she said.

The DCP said the accused confessed to his crime during interrogation. She said the

CITY BRIEFS



SCHOLARSHIP

Four students of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus II — Parth Tiwari, Anushka Singh, Shivam and Spandita Srivastava — been awarded scholarship worth Rs 16 lakh by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. These students have been offered the scholarship to pursue higher education in sciences and each will receive Rs 80,000 per year for five years. They secured this scholarship by figuring in the top 1%

merit list in the country on the basis of their ISC (class 12) percentage marks. They credit their parents, teachers and the school's environment for their achievement.

RENAMED

On the first day of Navratri, Burlington crossing was renamed as Ashok Singhal crossing. Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia pointed out that Burlington crossing has long been considered a symbol of English slavery. She said Ashok

Singhal who was the president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and often stayed at Bhargava Niwas near this crossing. She said that to commemorate the 96th birth anniversary of Ashok Singhal, 'Yugpurush Ashok Singhal remembrance and salutation ceremony' was organised at the CMS, Gomti Nagar Extension, auditorium where Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya addressed the gathering.

CSIR FOUNDATION DAY

CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) celebrated 81st CSIR Foundation Day on Monday. CIMAP remained open for students and the general public on the occasion. Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New

Delhi, Dr N Kalaiseelvi, addressed the scientists, staff and research scholars virtually. Nearly 700 students and farmers from 13 schools and universities in and around Lucknow took part in the programme. The students and farmers visited various laboratories of CSIR-CIMAP, demonstration block, distillation units, human park, etc. The main programme be held on September 30. Meanwhile, an Open Day was organised at CDRI on Monday. More than 500 students and faculties from various schools and colleges participated in the event and interacted with the scientists. Science model, quiz and painting competitions were organised for the school students and the winners were awarded.



Devotees throng Badi Kali Temple in Chowk on the first day of Navratri

Pioneer

LDA to develop township with help of pvt partners

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow Development Authority recently cancelled an agreement to develop a separate township on a land measuring 764.47 acres Mohan Road. However, it decided to design its own township on the same piece of land with the help of private partners. An official report in this regard was forwarded to the state government for approval on Monday.

The development authority had allotted the land to a private developer in 2006 so that the entire area could be developed within 10 years. However, the developer did nothing all these and only levelled the ground several times.

The private developer requested for some more time

when the LDA officials sought to know the reason for delay. The agreement which was signed 16 years back, was cancelled 10 days ago.

LDA secretary Pawan Gangwar said that with the help of private partners, they would come up with a well-planned township for home buyers. The proposed township is to come up in Kalkakhedha and Pyarepur villages on Mohan Road. The site has the capacity to accommodate 8 lakh flats meant for the downtrodden. The civil work on the proposed township is likely to begin by January next year. The land has been divided into five areas — housing, mixed use, commercial, industrial and community service.

Three-coach metro train arrives at Kanpur yard

PNS ■ KANPUR

Three coach metro train arrived here at the Kanpur Metro Yard near Gurdev crossing on Sunday evening. It arrived on giant trailers from Savli plant of Vadodara (Gujarat). With this Kanpur has got eight metro trains so far. In a press statement, UP Metro Rail Corporation said Kanpur will have a total of 39 metro trains. These 39 trains, having three coaches each, will run on two corridors of Kanpur Metro. At present Metro is running on nine km run between IIT Kanpur and Motijheel (part of corridor-I). Corridor-I is of about 24 km long starting from IIT Kanpur to Naubasta. The construction of corridor between Chunniganj (next station after Motijheel) and Naubasta is on which includes the underground stations between Chunniganj and Nayaganj. The second corridor of around eight km distance between CSA University and Barra-8 was also included in the plan, the release added.

FOUR INJURED: Four members of a Ramlila Committee were injured when they along with women cops,

reached the Ramlila ground to see the construction of a boundary wall in Ramaipur under Vidhnu police station on Sunday afternoon. Members of a family residing near the ground attacked them with stones, iron rod and stick to stop construction of the boundary wall there.

After admitting the injured to Community Health Centre (CHC), police took one of the assailants into custody. General secretary of Ramlila Committee Indrajit Singh Senger said on around 1.5 bigha land in Ramaipur, five-day Ramlila celebrations were being organised every year during Dussehra for the past 78 years.

The office-bearers of the committee had got it registered in 1976 also. During past one year when people living near the ground had secured unauthorised possession on around 10 biswa land, the committee had decided to construct a boundary wall to contain growing encroachment on it. The measurement of the entire land of the ground was also accordingly carried out by the lekhpal. The construction of the boundary wall had started

about 10 days ago. But suddenly on Sunday, Shiv Kumar Tewari residing near the ground got the construction work stopped by scolding the mason and labourers. Tewari deputed women members of his family on the site to maintain strict vigil on the committee's move. Immediately, committee members, including Raju Rana, Shekhar Tomar and Prashant Sachan along with woman sub-inspector Maya Pal and a woman constable rushed to spot. When the committee member Raju Rana and women cops were trying to pacify the issue, Shiv Kumar's son Dipu slapped the lawyer Prashant Sachan.

Thereafter, agitating women pelted stones at the mob and attacked on them with iron rod and stick. In the incident lawyer Prashant, Raju, Shekhar Tomar and Navin Dwivedi were seriously injured.

When the SHO Yogesh Kumar Singh along with force also rushed to spot, assailants escaped from there. Of the injured, Prashant and Shekhar were referred for UHM hospital. SHO said after lodging FIR, raids were on to nab the assailants.

144 recruited during campus placement

PNS ■ KANPUR

Director of National Sugar Institute (NSI), Prof Narendra Mohan, on Monday informed that during the first phase of campus placement drive which commenced on September 8 at NSI here a total of 144 recruitments had been made by 12 reputed companies, including DCM Shri Ram Ltd, Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd, Dalmia Bharat Sugar Mills Ltd, Renuka Sugars Ltd, NSL Sugars, Mawana Sugar Works, ISGEC Ltd, Radico Khaitan Ltd, and Mawana Sugars Ltd. He said these companies had shown greater interest in recruiting students from Alcohol Technology, Sugar Engineering, Sugar Technology, Sugar Boiling, Quality Control and Environment Science streams.

He said these companies from all sugar producing states were recruiting students and NSI was sure that this year the students of all the courses shall get 100 per cent placement through campus. He said while 100 per cent placements had taken place for Alcohol Technology students, the remaining students of the other courses like Quality Control and



Selected candidates of mega campus placement drive conducted at NSI.

Environment Science got placement within two months of joining the course, although they will pass out next year only. He said the NSI was flooded with requests from sugar units, distilleries and machinery manufacturers, which speaks volumes for the credentials of the institute.

Prof Mohan said the stu-

dents of Sugar Technology, Sugar Engineering and Alcohol Technology while have been offered pay package of Rs 4 to 6 lakh per annum, the students of short duration certificate course like Sugar Boiling and Quality Control had been given pay packages of Rs 2-3 lakh per annum. Prof D Swain, Placement

Officer said the NSI was going to arrange second phase of campus interviews from first week of October for which NSI have already received requests from reputed companies like Triveni Sugar and Industries Ltd, Dhampur Bioorganics Ltd, Dwarkesh Sugars Ltd and Avadh Sugar and Energy Ltd.

Man falls off train, dies

Etawah: A 25-year-old man died after allegedly falling off a moving train near Kanpur, officials said on Monday.

Yashvardhan Rana, a basketball referee, was travelling in the Sangam Express when the incident occurred on the intervening night of September 24-25 between Ekdil and Bharthana railway stations in the Kanpur-Tundla division, they said.

Rana, who is also an instructor at the Modi Sports Academy in Meerut, was going to Kanpur for the 61st Uttar Pradesh basketball competition at Chaudhary Harmohan Singh Yadav Paramedical College, along with the Meerut team.

According to Etawah Superintendent of Police (City) Kapil Dev Singh, Rana was a resident of Civil Lines, Meerut. He was in the S-5 coach while the basketball team was travelling in the S-3 and S-7 coaches. When the train reached Kanpur station on Sunday morning, a search operation was launched after Rana was not found inside the coach.

Later, a body was found lying on the side of the railway track near Bharthana station of Etawah district. Officials from the Basketball Association reached the spot and identified the body. **PTI**

Vice-Chancellor congratulates 3 faculty members

PNS ■ KANPUR

Vice-Chancellor of Chandra Shekhar Azad University Dr DR Singh congratulated the three faculty members of the varsity who were felicitated at the National Book Fair, held at Lucknow and organised by Nikhil Prakashan Samuh. The trio-ka Dr Mithilesh Verma, Dr Sadhna Vaishya and Dr Jitendra Sing were conferred with 'Rashtriya Gaurav Samman'. This award is given for exemplary services of scientists in the field of research work and their constant efforts for agricultural development.

Coordinator Dr AK Singh said the varsity had made rapid advances and its excellence was growing in all directions of the country. He said the biggest credit was that all research work which was carried out in the laboratories was ensured that it reached agricultural fields and benefits the farmers.

NOMINATED: The Chairman cum-Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd has in an official statement issued recently informed that on the approval of the competent authority, Mahendra Bahadur Singh has been nominated as the member of Telephone Advisory Committee for Kanpur Telecom/Telephone District. This nomination will remain valid up to January 13, 2024, or till further orders, whichever is earlier. It was requested to intimate the TAC member directly regarding his or her nomination within 15 days of the receipt of this letter, after duly verifying the identity of the TAC member concerned. The telecom district website and telecom circle website may be updated after the inclusion of the member in TAC.



Three scientists of CSAUA&T felicitated at National Book Fair in Lucknow organised by Nikhil Prakashan Samuh.

Sachan: India needs expert pharmacists today

PNS ■ KANPUR

Chairman, DD Institute of Pharmacy, Dr Yogesh Sachan while addressing the students on Sunday on the occasion of World Pharmacists Day observed every year on September 25, said the theme for 2022 was "Pharmacy united in action for a healthier world." He said it was aimed to promote unity and highlight sound effects of pharmacy on health. He said some recent developments were spatial aggregation propensity for detecting protein aggregation, advances in drug delivery technologies involving microencapsulation and nanocoatings and tools to understand the risk of nanomaterials in drug delivery systems. Keynote speaker

was Manoj Sachan, New Delhi, who said today India needed expert pharmacists and this can be only if institutes provide cream students who can accept the challenges. He said prominent issues facing the pharmacist were identity as a pharmacist, lack of cohesiveness and low self-confidence as a professional changes in practice, adoption of technology and work force issues. He said the fact was the pharmacists played a very important role after doctors and paramedical staff and the basic duty of a pharmacist was to check prescriptions from physicians before dispensing medication to patients to ensure that they do not receive the wrong drugs or take an incorrect dose of medicine. Addressing the function

Namrata Singh said safety of the patient rested much on a pharmacist. She said the pharmaceutical industry had expanded as a result of the hard work put in by pharmacists. She said there was no doubt that a pharmacist was someone who collaborated closely with the doctor to guarantee patients' safety. She said the global pharma multinational corporations were also looking at new growth drivers within India's domestic market to capitalise on this growing opportunity.

She said world class capabilities and favourable market conditions over the past many years had ensured that India continued to be one of the most lucrative pharmaceutical markets in the world.

Rake formation of 3 trains changed

PNS ■ VARANASI

For the convenience of the public, the rake formation of three popular trains departing from Banaras railway station for New Delhi daily including 12559/12560 Banaras-New Delhi-Banaras Shiv Ganga Express, 12581/12582 Banaras-New Delhi-Banaras Superfast Express and 15127/15128 Banaras-New Delhi-Banaras Kashi Vishwanath Express has been changed. In place of one general second class coach being fitted in these trains, one air conditioned third (AC-III) class coach will be fitted.

As per the changed rake structure, these trains will depart Banaras railway station from October 1 while and New Delhi from October 2. As per new rake combination, they will have 22 coaches including one generator cum luggage, three general second class compartments, five Sleeper Class, one AC-III, two AC-II and one AC-I Class compartment apart from one LSLRD coach. Earlier, along with entire Indian Railways,

under the ongoing Cleanliness Fortnight (September 16-October 2) 'Swachh Aahar Diwas' (Clean Food Day) was observed on Sunday in the entire Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER). On the occasion, the teams of designated officers conducted a thorough check on the cleanliness of the catering facilities available at different stations as well as in the pantry cars of various trains including Shiv Ganga Express, Tapti Ganga Express, Lichchavi Express, Swatantra Senani Express and Patna- Secunderabad Express etc. Besides, the quality of food and beverages available with local vendors, canteens, food stalls, food plazas at Banaras, Varanasi City, Ballia, Ghazipur City, Azamgarh, Mau, Bhatni, Siwan and Chhapra stations of the division were also checked and vendors and food stall managers were given instructions to maintain proper hygiene and cleanliness. They were also instructed not to use single use plastic and ensure the availability of separate dustbins for dry and wet waste.

23 IITs to come together for R&D Fair on Oct 14, 15

PNS ■ KANPUR

For the first time all the 23 IITs of the country will come together for a mega Research & Development Fair to be held on October 14 and 15 at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and IIT-Kanpur will lead a presentation on the ongoing R&D in drone technology and how diverse its utilities had become. The exhibition will be inaugurated by Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan. The event had been titled 'InvenTiv'. Director, IIT-K Prof Abhay Karandikar along with Dr Radhakrishnan, Chairman for Standing Committee for IIT Council and BoG Chairman IIT-K will be the key participants.

The event was aimed at creating holistic awareness around the research and innovation work being done by the IITs and seeking collaborative avenues among state universities and institutes, industry and the IITs for better development and reach of innovations at the grassroots level. The R&D Fair was being organised in commemoration of the 75th year of

India's Independence in line with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative. It will showcase projects on diverse areas covering climate change, sustainability, smart city architecture, rural agriculture, affordable healthcare, drone technology and a few more.

The objective was to promote innovations in line with Make in India and Digital India initiatives and sought solutions for better reach and scalability of innovations that benefit the masses across regions. The event would also host administrators and students from institutions from tier 2 and tier 3 cities for them to have a closer glimpse of the R&D ecosystem of IITs and in turn inculcate similar innovation-driven outlook towards developing projects of national interest.

It would facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the requirements at the grassroots level in key areas such as agriculture, rural development, sanitation, resource management and would engage them to develop innovations that made a positive impact on a larger section of society.

Commenting on the

prospect of the event, Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman, BoG IIT Madras commented, "As India is taking strides to scale new heights in research and innovations, the IITs are at the forefront supporting the nation in attaining self-reliance across sectors. InvenTiv aims to bring focus to key innovations from all 23 IITs so that awareness regarding R&D at the IITs increases. This would help develop more affordable technologies for the benefit of all. We are expecting active participation from industry, academic and R&D institutions, as well as government to seek more collaborative and multidisciplinary avenues for furthering the vision of 'Make in India' and Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Dr BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman, BoG IIT Hyderabad and IIT Roorkee said, "The IITs have been consistently contributing towards nation building. In today's time when multi-disciplinary research leading to cutting edge innovations are taking centre stage it is important that the research and development done at the IITs is exhibited and presented to the industry

and policy makers for meaningful outcomes that benefit the society. With this Fair, we bring the key stakeholders from industry, government institutions and academia closer to collaborate for building an Atma Nirbhar Bharat. The Fair provides an opportunity to learn, exchange ideas and innovate for accelerating country's progress in the 'Amrit kaal'."

Prof BS Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, said, "IITs have been working relentlessly for the past decades towards enriching the research and development pool of the country. Right from making breakthrough discoveries to developing grassroots innovations, IITs have stood the test of time in supporting the nation for a holistic growth. This R&D Fair is envisioned to enhance the public perception of the IIT ecosystem and to look for potential collaborative avenues among key stakeholders."

There are 10 broad themes identified in focused areas for the event like defence and aerospace, healthcare, environment and sustainability, clean energy and renewables,

manufacturing, AI/ML/Blockchain technologies, smart cities and infrastructure, communication technologies, robotics, sensors and actuators, semiconductors, flexible electronics and nanotechnology.

A total of 75 projects brought out by 23 IITs are selected for the event along with six showcase projects. Out of the six showcase projects, IIT Kanpur will lead a presentation on the ongoing R&D in drone technology and how diverse its utilities have become; IIT Bombay will lead a presentation on the Babubhaashak project, which enables speech-to-speech translation, NPTEL, SWAYAM, MOOCs videos in vernacular languages, in line with the vision of National Education Policy 2020; IIT Madras will lead a presentation on 5G Core and allied technologies; IIT Delhi will lead a presentation on the R&D in the broader areas of climate change, agriculture, rural technologies, sanitation etc; IIT Kharagpur will lead a presentation on affordable healthcare devices and technologies and IIT Hyderabad will lead a pre-

sentation on the technological innovations in the electric vehicle (EV) sector.

The selected projects will be presented before the audience in designated booths during the two-day mega event. Representatives from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) will be present at the event. The audience shall also include administrators and students from universities and colleges from small towns, global IIT alumni, faculties of various CFTIs, scientists from DRDO, ISRO, CSIR and ICAR and so on. This will be followed by a one-to-one sessions among the academia and industry representatives. The steering committee will comprise Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman, BoG IIT Madras, Dr BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman, BoG IIT Hyderabad and IIT Roorkee, Dr K Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Standing Committee for IIT Council and BoG IIT Kanpur.

Vishwanath Gate to be closed for devotees

PNS ■ VARANASI

From the security point of view, the administration of the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir has decided to close the main entrance Gate No-4, known as Vishwanath Gate (Gyanvapi side) for the devotees. It will now be opened only for the emergency purpose. Instead, the devotees will enter the temple premises to have darshan and offer prayer from Chhatta Dhwar (adjacent to Gate No-4), Gate No-1, 2 and Gang Dhwar.

Recently the temple administration had made a new arrangement for the devo-

tees under which they will carry mobile phones, bags, pens, etc to the premises of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham where they can keep these things in lockers which facility is available free of cost. The devotees could though not carry these objects in the temple premises. The temple administration decided to implement this arrangement after the directive from the government to facilitate the devotees who had to face inconvenience and financial exploitation from the shopkeepers who make high-handedness in realising the charge in lieu to keep mobile and other things. Earlier, the devotees

were not allowed to carry mobile phones in the premises of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

After the new arrangement under which the devotees have been allowed to carry mobile phones in Dham premises, the temple administration decided to close the Gate No-4, known as Vishwanath Dham because it is the side of Gyanvapi complex in which the Gyanvapi Masjid and temple of Goddess Shringar Gauri are located. It is learnt that five Hindu women have filed a civil suit in the local court seeking permission to unhindrance permission at the

temple of Shringar Gauri and other visible and invisible deities located on Gyanvapi complex.

The court of the District Judge is hearing the case. SSU holds programme: The Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) on Monday organised a programme 'Vividhata me Ekta' (Unity in Diversity) under the Seva Pakhwada being observed from September 17 to October 2.

Prof Shailesh Kumar Mishra, as the chief guest expressed that the importance of pluralism is not only because it is achieved in heritage in view of the Constitution but also it

is important because of values inherited in it.

We are able to preserve the history of pluralism achieved in heritage, he said, adding that the differences in views are not our weakness and rather we are able to face these differences because humanity is the supreme for us.

The sports activities lead the way of national unity, he said further.

Prof HK Chakraborty while presiding over the programme said that we feel proud of being Indian and the unity in diversity is the main way to reestablishing the glory of the country.



A priest performs Maa Ganga aarti after taking holy dip in the Ganga river during first day of nine days Navratri festival in Prayagraj on Monday.

Pioneer

Thousands throng Shailputri temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Thousands of devotees thronged Shailputri Devi temple near Shakkar Talab behind Varanasi City railway station on the auspicious occasion of first day of Sharadiya Navratra here on Monday. In comparison to the last two years when there were restrictions due to COVID -19 pandemic, this time a heavy rush was seen. Right from the morning hours, there was a long line of devotees and to control the rush barricading was done in the temple premises. Despite scorching heat, the devotees waited hours to reach the temple and offer prayers.

Besides, heavy rush of devotees was seen throughout the day at the famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) where the devotees lined up in long queues and waited for hours to offer prayers. Near the temple, huge quantities of coconut, chunris and other puja articles were sold. Rush was also seen at some other temples including Navdurga temple at Navapura. Not only this, hundreds of devotees through various vehicles also rushed to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district and Maihar Devi in



Devotees offering prayers at Shailputri Devi temple on first day of Sharadiya Navratra in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

Madhya Pradesh to offer prayer on this auspicious occasion apart from Old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar, Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpur (near Chunar, Mirzapur) and others.

At both Durga Kund and Shailputri Devi temples, elab-

orate security arrangements were made and due to rush at Durgakund, the vehicles were also diverted. Throughout the day, there was a festive look in the areas and even in the late afternoon and evening hours the temples witnessed heavy

rush of devotees. Kashi is a rare city where there are separate temples of all the nine Gauris and Devis where the devotees reach to offer prayers on different days during Basantik (Chaitya) and Sharadiya Navratra respectively.

Durga puja begins at many places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With the installation of idols of Goddess Durga at several places, the Durga puja in this holy city began on the first day of Sharadiya Navratra here on Monday. The city which is known as 'Mini Kolkata' for its grandeur of Durga Puja as around 250 places the idols are installed here every year. After two years of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions when the festival was celebrated in a symbolic or simple way, the city is all set to see the grandeur of the festival this year as grand pandals are being constructed at dozens of places this year, once again.

Though the festival will get its climax on the occasion of Saptami, the idols of Goddess at about five places including Sarvajanik Durgotsav Samiti at Townhall have been installed on Monday as these puja samities organise their festival for nine days. The idols at these places were also installed amidst the chanting of mantras and traditional rituals. The rush was seen at these places including Maa Durga Pujanotsav Samiti at Daranagar, Maa Durga Puja Navyuvak Samiti at Navapura, Sarda Mandir at Ghai Ghat and SB Durgotsdav Samiti at Sudia apart from Townhall. Some of the famous puja samitis will



Installation of idol of Maa Durga being held at a pandal in Daranagar area in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

also install their idols on the occasions of Panchmi or Sashti.

To maintain law and order situation during the puja, several samitis of big pandals, will also install CCTV cameras to keep regular watch on the visitors as well as anti-social elements. They were also instructed by the police admin-

istration to ensure proper electric fittings and fire safety equipment in their puja pandals. The district administration and Varanasi Police Commissionerate have already held meetings to review the security and other arrangements during the puja. The Durga Puja of the city is also

famous for its different colours as while most of the Bengali-dominated puja samitis maintained their traditional religious fervour giving focus on their idols of Maa Durga, some other groups make attempts to adopt new techniques and a few of them give focus on the uses of electronic gadgets.

Dev Deepawali to be celebrated on Nov 7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Ending the confusion over lunar eclipse, the Kashi Vidvat Parishad has made it clear that it will fall on November 8 and hence, the internationally famous Dev Deepawali will be celebrated on November 7 the day on which the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima will fall. It is learnt that the Dev Deepawali celebration is held on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima.

There was confusion regarding the celebration of the Dev Deepawali as some schol-

ars were of the view that the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima is falling on two days on November 7 and partially on November 8. On November 8, there will also be a lunar eclipse on which day, the Dev Deepawali could not be celebrated.

The various organisations including Ganga Seva Nidhi and Gangotri Seva Samiti decided to celebrate the Dev Deepawali on November 7 claiming that the auspicious occasion will remain throughout the day and night as well on this day while the kunal eclipse will be on November 8 and that

day the Dev Deepawali could not be celebrated. The district administration has also started making preparations to celebrate this internationally famous festival on November 7.

Now, the Kashi Vidvat Parishad ended the confusion over it and decided to celebrate the festival on November 7 the day on which the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima will fall. This decision was taken at a meeting of the jyotish cell of the Parishad convened on Sunday in Manas Nagar, Durgakund here under the chairmanship of Prof

Ramchandra Pandey.

The meeting was of the view that the auspicious occasion Kartik Purnima will remain from 3.58 pm late afternoon on November 7 to 5.53 pm in the evening on November 8 and there will also be lunar eclipse on November 8. In such a situation, the meeting decided to celebrate Dev Deepawali on November 7 because in the evening Vyapini Purnima, the Dev Deepawali (Tripurotsav) could be celebrated and so as per shastras, this festival of deeps could be celebrated on November 7.

Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Maharaja Agrasen, the members of Sankalp Sansthan and others offered floral tributes to his statue at Shri Agrasen Vatika, Maidagin here on Monday. Patron of Sankalp Anil Kumar Jain, while wishing everyone on the occasion, said that Maharaja Agrasen is called the forerunner of socialism and in order to establish true socialism in his area, he made a rule that every family of the city would give him 'one rupee and a brick' for the help of every family who came from outside so that it would be easy for the newcomer family to fend for themselves.

Speaking on the occasion, he further said that Maharaja Agrasen gave birth to a new system of governance as he again applied the basic beliefs



Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti being celebrated in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

of Vedic Sanatan Arya culture, in the reorganisation of the state, along with the development of agriculture-trade, industry, cow rearing, re-establishment of moral values etc. In this way, Jain added that during the reign of Maharaja Agrasen, the Republic of Agroha progressed quadruple

day and night and it is said that lakhs of merchants used to live there at the time of its peak prosperity.

The families who settled in the state used to offer 'one rupee and one brick' as assistance to the newcomer family, in this way, that newcomer would get lakhs of rupees and

bricks to establish himself so that he would be free from worry and start his business, he added.

Besides, Jain said that Maharaja Agrasen gave priority to Karma in life as he believed that only a person who is rich by hard work can do good to his family, society, country and humanity and only through production we can create the means of employment for the prosperity of the country.

Calling upon the entire society, he gave a message to pave his way on the strength of his hard work and taught the lesson of taking the weak and needy families of the society along.

On the occasion, Rameshchand Agrawal, Anil Dhammavat, Santosh, Harekrishna Agrawal, Hemant Agrawal, Pankaj Agrawal, Alok Jain etc were also present.

Devotees throng Durga temples as Navratri begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Shardiya Navratri began on Monday with thousands of devotees thronging Devi temples and worshipping Goddess Durga in different incarnations.

Temples of Devi Alop Shankari, Kalyani Devi, and Lalita Devi were the most crowded temples on the first day of Navratri, and the areas where these temples are situated, witnessed traffic jams almost for the whole day.

Arrangements had been made to divert traffic for the convenience of the daily commuters, still the office goers had to brave traffic jams.

Offices and schools reopened on Monday and a heavy rush of devotees caused traffic problems almost all over the city which wore an overcrowded look.

Markets were also full of Devi worship related items



including Chunri, Coconut, dry fruits and so on. Devotees observed fast on Monday, while

some of the Durga Puja organisers established Goddess idols in Pandals. Mainly Durga idols

Pran Pratishtha takes place on Shashthi of Navaratri for Puja festival.

Bank looted by robbers, cashier injured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Three robbers stormed Teni branch of Bank of Baroda in Lalgopalganj area and attacked the counter clerk with pistol butt to grab cash and other things.

The whole episode is recorded in the CCTV footage. A case in this regard has been registered with Nawabganj police station.

Three miscreants entered the branch and attacked the counter clerk with pistol butt

injuring him seriously. They collected booty and escaped from the scene firing in the air. The injured Mohammad Zaid has been rushed to hospital.

GANG OF VEHICLE-LIFTERS BUSTED: Police busted a gang of mobile snatchers and bike lifters with the help of CCTV footage. Three persons have been arrested while one managed to escape from the scene. The police recovered 11 motorcycles, 41 mobile phones besides pistol, cartridges and cash from their

possession.

This gang was quite active in the city for the past six months. They used to lift bikes from different places and snatch mobile phones in a flash. The gang members used to visit Prayagraj from Kaushambi to commit crime. They accepted that mobile phones stolen by them had been sold in rural areas, while bikes were sold after preparing fake papers. They have lifted over 40 bikes and over 80 mobile phones during the past

six months. On September 19 a motorcycle was stolen from Prayagraj Junction railway station. The police found some clues after going through CCTV footage from that area, and raided Jogaveer tri-junction in late night hours to nab the criminals. Three gang members--Kuldeep Tripathi, Rishi Gautam, and Neeraj Yadav were nabbed from the spot while one Raj made a successful escape. They recovered 11 bikes and 41 mobile phones from their possession.

Uproar in AU against fee hike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad activists on Monday placed locks at all the entrance gates of Allahabad University as part of the ongoing agitation to lodge a protest against four fold fee hike.

This action was taken by the student activists at 8.00 am to disrupt normal functioning of the university. Students placed locks at KPUC, Library, Students Union gates and other entry points.

They also pasted a poster

displaying that the Vice-Chancellor is missing. It may be mentioned here that the students had taken out a mock funeral procession of the VC a couple of days ago as a protest against fee hike.

A Heavy police force was deployed on the campus after Monday's development. SDM reached the spot after receiving information and when his talks with the students failed, he ordered them to break open the locks.

In support of the students' protest former IPS Amitabh

Thakur and social activist Nutan Thakur reached Allahabad University campus on Monday at 11.00 am and said fee hike will deprive poor students from education.

NAVRATRI SPECIAL BUS SERVICE BEGINS: UP State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) took an initiative to start special bus service for Vindhyachal from Monday keeping in mind the Navaratri festival. The first bus left Zero Road bus station at 5.00 am.

From Prayagraj buses will

be available for Vindhyachal after every 30 minutes.

As many as 195 buses have been arranged, out of which 130 will ply from Prayagraj region. As many as 50 buses have been arranged to ply between Zero Road and Vindhyachal.

Devotees are enjoying the facility and a good number of passengers were seen at Zero Road bus station on Monday.

This special bus facility will continue up to October 4.

Himanshu Shekhar joins as CPRO of NCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay took over as Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railway here on Monday. Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer of 2007 Civil Services batch Mr Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay assumed the charge of Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railway. Prior to this, he was serving as Deputy Chief Operations Manager (Planning). Hitherto, he took over the charge from outgoing Chief Public Relations Officer, Dr Shivam Sharma, who has been transferred to the post of Senior Divisional Operations Manager (Co), Prayagraj Division, North Central Railway.

Mr Upadhyay originally hails from Ambedkarnagar and



Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay (right) taken over as Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railway

Pioneer

is a post graduate in Economics from Allahabad University and has been an inmate of the prestigious Dr Amarnath Jha Hostel. The image of Mr Upadhyay is that of a smart

officer and he has been working in many important positions in North Central Railway, including Divisional Operations Manager Manager, Jhansi, Senior Divisional

Operations Manager (General) / Prayagraj Division, Senior Divisional Operations Manager Agra and Dy Chief Traffic Manager cum Station Director, Kanpur.

Perform duties with dedication: DC

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra has asked the personnel deployed in Navratri Mela to perform their duties with dedication. He said this while addressing the meeting of employees deployed in the mela on Sunday. He told the police personnel to keep proper coordination with the staff other than police to make the Mela successful. The DC said nobody will be allowed to enter the sanctum sanctorum hence such a decision should be followed strictly. DIG RP Singh said timing was very important part of duty. He asked the police personnel to not to leave the place of deployment till the reliever did not come on duty. He said if any employee did not reach the duty, then inform the supervising officer and remain at duty point till further deployment. DM Divya Mittal said it is a matter of pride that we are holding the mela. She gave a brief detail about the arrangements. She told the personnel to perform their duty with the spirit of service. SP Santosh Kumar Mishra said ferrying of boats was completely banned on the Vindhyachal ghats but as a precautionary measure Chilh SO was directed to check in his own area as well.

He said during the mela only school buses will be allowed from Natwaan to Vindhyachal. Later a meeting of zonal and sector officers was held at administrative building in Vidhyachal and on the feedback provided arrangements were improved.

ARRESTED: Ahraura police arrested three cattle smugglers and recovered 14 head of cattle on Sunday. On being tipped off by an informer police raided the spot and arrested three persons and recovered 14 head of cattle from the place. After registering a case the police freed the cattle and sent the accused identified as Sattan Yadav of Chakia, Haseem of Chitvishram under Ahraura police station to jail. Meanwhile Vindhyachal police arrested one person for manhandling a forest employee on Sunday. Forester Panch Bahadur Singh was on his routine patrolling when Hanuman Singh of Mahuari village under Vindhyachal police station along with his five-six accomplices having a countrymade gun, misbehaved with him and threatened him with dire consequences. The forester reached the police station and lodged an FIR. Police arrested the main accused the same day.

RECOVERED: Police on Sunday recovered a girl and sent the accused to jail in connection with a case registered at Jigna police station. A named FIR had been lodged by the father of a girl alleging that the accused had enticed his daughter away. During investigation it came to light that the accused had married the girl in a temple. Police recovered the girl from the house of the accused. The accused has been sent to jail.

OBSERVED: The birth anniversary of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay was observed with a seminar organised on Sunday. Veteran BJP leader Ganga Sagar Dubey said the thought of 'Ekatma Manavvad' (integral humanism) propounded by Panditji was so relevant for the nation that now it was playing a pivotal role in world politics. The speakers exhorted the gathering that it will real tribute to the visionary leader if we could follow his path and work for betterment of nation. The seminar was conducted by Kaushal Srivastawa and presided over by Brijbhushan Singh. The vote of thanks was proposed by Jahnavi Prakash Tiwari. Chairman Zila Panchayat Raju Kanaujia, Jagdish Singh Patel, Shyam Sundar Keshari, Gyan Prakash Dubey and others participated in the seminar.

FIRST COLUMN

SOCIAL MEDIA SPURS SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

Excessive usage of social media could harm mental health of kids



JYOTI KAPOOR

With suicide cases being the second leading cause of death in the young population (10-24 years), influence of social media/internet is immense. Digital interventions among teenaged kids and young adults are significantly affecting their mental health and well-being, making them more susceptible to self-harm, suicidal ideation and later suicide attempts.

A study published in 2015 highlighted teens who reported using social media sites more than two hours a day are much more likely to report poor mental health outcomes. Besides, the suicidal thoughts, excessive social media usage results in a low self-esteem and poor body image are quite a frequent behaviour.

An addiction is identified from mild to severe using 11 criteria of addiction outlined in the 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-5'. A child can be termed as a social media addict if he/she meets two or fewer criteria.

The 11 criteria of addiction are more social media usage than wished for; having frequent urge or desire of checking social networking sites; usage of social media started conflicts in their immediate relationships with others; hampering his/her ability to function, work, or complete tasks; focussing more on social media and cutting back on activities which they previously used to enjoy; experiencing physical or emotional discomfort when you stop or cut back; stopping or cutting back on social media making them irritable; negative impacts to physical or mental health; continued use of social media despite



problems, consequences, or impairments; using in situations that are risky or hazardous (i.e. while driving or working); reduced real-world social interaction; needing more time/likes/follows to get the same amount of pleasure or enjoyment from social media.

Parents play an important role in the de-addiction regime of social media in their kids. Though it's a tough job, if done in a friendly way then it can strengthen a parent and child bond. They need to build a positive and family environment at their home so that the child doesn't get the urge of the virtual world. Parents should also take part in their social media usage by learning about the programs/apps, their child is using. Ask the child to teach you about the nuances of these platforms. Parents need to show interest in such activities and ask questions.

In order to monitor children's online activities, the tablets and computers are placed in common areas, while a tab on child's online accounts be kept. This will make them understand that monitoring their online activity would help keep them to stay protected from cyber bullying.

But be attentive as some children or teens may create a fake second account for their parents to follow. You can ask them in a friendly gesture about the people they are friends with online.

Showing genuine interest will help them feel comfortable talking about it. Explain that it's easy for someone on the Internet to pretend to be someone they're not. Talk about the importance of keeping online friendships in the online world. Make it clear that if your child wants to meet an online friend in person, it must be in a public place and with a trusted adult. Talk in detail about what's okay and safe to post online, and what isn't.

People do not always have control over what others post about them. Explain how information and photos found on the internet can resurface years later. Explain how autocorrect can sometimes result in misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

(The author is Founder & Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali)

Mainstream channels are the biggest threat



ANURAG THAKUR

Edited version of speech by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur at the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) on Sep 20

I am extremely delighted to be amidst you at the AIBD (Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development) general conference meeting 2022 and address this prestigious assembly of the broadcasters from the Asia-Pacific region...

Firstly, I would like to congratulate AIBD for creating a desirable platform for broadcasters to put forward their opinions and comments to build a strong future for themselves.

I have been told that even during the difficult Covid period, when the world was facing fear and gloom, lockdowns had slowed the pace of life, economies were under severe stress, AIBD leadership kept the member countries connected online and maintained a constant dialogue on how media can mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The member countries were immensely benefitted through sharing of information on the latest developments in the medical field, positive stories of Covid warriors and more importantly in countering fake news which was spreading faster than the pandemic.

If we talk about the theme of the event, it highlights the need for creating a stronger future for broadcasting in a post-pandemic era...

It is media which brought the world on one platform during this difficult phase and reinforced the spirit of one global family.

We have also seen the extensive use of media—both mainstream as well as new digital platforms—by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government during this exceptionally difficult phase of Covid-19.

Information was shared in a timely and transparent manner, ensuring a quick response, mitigating myths and spreading awareness about a pandemic that was both evolving as well as ever expanding.

Together with our media friends, we ensured saving millions of lives the world over, which otherwise could be lost, had timely information not flowed to the people about safety measures and protection from Covid-19 virus.

I would specially appreciate India's Public Service Broadcaster, Doordarshan and All India Radio, as they very satisfactorily delivered on their mandate of public service and stood strong with the people during the testing times of the pandemic.

Even the other Indian broadcasters and Indian media in general ensured that Covid-19 awareness messages, important government guidelines and free online consultations with doctors reached everyone in nook and corner of the country.

Expert opinions through programmes like Doctors Speak and campaigns such as Mask-up India by the public broadcaster Doordarshan played a very significant role at the time when fake news on the epidemic became a menace.



IF YOU [NEWS BROADCASTER S] DECIDE TO INVITE GUESTS WHO ARE POLARISING, WHO SPREAD FALSE NARRATIVES AND WHO SHOUT AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS, THE CREDIBILITY OF YOUR CHANNEL GOES DOWN

(The author is Information & Broadcasting Minister)



The media the world over played a very significant role in educating the people of the country about the vaccine availability and the benefits of being vaccinated against coronavirus.

It helped the health system in fighting the vaccine hesitancy...

The Covid-19 crisis has thrown up challenges as well as provided an opportunity not just to re-invent journalism, but to redefine the media as a trusted source of news and information.

Our mainstream media organisations have a great challenge to provide truthful accurate and reliable news faster, while preserving media ethics and values.

Real journalism is about facing the facts, presenting the truth and letting all sides the platform to present their views.

In my personal opinion the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather the mainstream media channel itself.

If you decide to invite guests who are polarising, who spread false narratives and who shout at the top of their lungs, the credibility of your channel goes down. Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone and visuals define your credibility in the eyes of the audience.

The viewer may stop for a minute to watch your show, but will never trust your anchor, your channel or brand as a trusted and transparent source of news.

So my question to broadcasters present here today is this:

Are you going to watch the narrative be defined by soundbites, or redefine yourself and set

the terms for your guests and channel?

Are you going to watch as the younger audience switches and sweeps through the shrill on TV news, or are you going to bring back the neutrality in news and discussion in debates to stay ahead of the game?

Are you going to show visuals that grab eyeballs and inflame anger, or show restraint and project visuals in context to showcase the full picture?

And finally, how will you re-define and innovate your TV news content, presentation and dissemination to reach the new-age audience who is constantly being fed information via social media platforms?

Instead of compromising our values in this fierce competition, we must work hard to preserve professionalism.

I strongly believe that journalists are duty bound to report news without fabrication, despite temptations to compete with those who propagate false news.

The AIBD as a regional inter-governmental organisation must continue to train and equip media practitioners with the best professional skills to gain broader freedom for our media. India stands ready to support your efforts.

Another important area of cooperation is good quality content exchange among the member countries.

Prasar Bharati has been sharing DD India channel in the OTT platform of South Korea on reciprocal basis including exchange of several coproduction programmes.

Prasar Bharati is also unliking

Bangladesh TV on its Freedish platform. We have also partnered with Australia in the field of broadcasting in March 2022 through programme sharing.

The broadcasters of the two countries are also exploring opportunities in co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes spanning multiple genres.

I am happy to state that DD India with the objective to become Global Public Broadcaster channel is now available on OTT platforms.

Dear delegates, you have come to India at a time when we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence. It is the time for us to pay tribute to hundreds of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and freed the country from the shackles of foreign rule.

This is the festival time for us which we call 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It has taken the form of a mass movement where people from all walks of life are participating in different programmes across the country.

Before concluding, I truly believe that media, in all its forms, has immense ability to shape public perceptions and perspectives as an effective tool of empowerment.

It is imperative to create an enabling environment for our journalists and broadcasters friends for making the space of media more vibrant and rewarding.

I wish the delegates from the member countries of the AIBD a very happy stay in India. I am sure that the deliberations which you are going to hold over the two days will be meaningful and bring new insights to the media industry.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

TODAY'S ACTORS ARE INSECURE TO SHARE SCREEN SPACE WITH EACH OTHER AS COMPARED TO 80S-90S ACTORS.

—ACTOR

SANJAY DUTT



I THINK THEY ARE STILL DOING THREE-HERO FILMS AND TWO-HERO FILMS. AS FOR INSECURITY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE IT FOR SURE, SOME PEOPLE DON'T CARE.

—ACTOR

JACKIE SHROFF



Release of cheetahs significant in various ways

But there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea

After 70 years since the killing of the last surviving cheetah by Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya estate in Madhya Pradesh (now in Chhattisgarh), the Centre re-introduced cheetahs in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon after returning from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit released the first batch of eight cheetahs on September 17, 2022 in Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh.

The cheetahs will first be quarantined for a few days in an enclosure and gradually released in a larger fenced area and into the forests ultimately. The release of cheetahs is significant not only from the point of view of conservation of wildlife but also for the



VK BAHUGUNA

(The author is former Director-General, ICFRE, Ministry of Environment & Forest)

civilisational message to bring back the lost heritage of biodiversity and celebrate the co-existence of all life forms on earth.

It is also a proud moment for the much maligned Indian Forest Service (IFS) which has been using the acronym IFS for over more than a century for getting back a priceless species it conserved against all odds before it went extinct due to the false notion of bravery by hunting with guns by the misguided Royals. Cheetah is the most charismatic, beautiful and fastest animal in the world.

Cheetah is capable of accelerating up to 120 kilometres per hour in just over three seconds. At top speed, their stride is 23 feet long which makes them fearsome hunters. The male and female cheetahs live

differently. The male siblings move in a group of two to three or even more and this is called a coalition which lasts for life and protects their territory well, while the female cheetah lives alone and meets the male only during mating time.

Cheetahs do not pose much challenge for humans and many royals and others used to rear them and used them for hunting. Unlike other cats they do not roar but meow or purr.

However, after this release of cheetahs in the Kuno National Park, the real challenge to the foresters has begun in order to see if we can replicate the success of tiger conservation for cheetah also.

The cheetah became extinct due to indiscriminate hunting and shrinking of its



natural habitat. It thrives in grassland and in India the saddest part is that we have never given focus on grassland conservation.

Now there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea. Today, if cheetah can find a new home akin to their home territory there is nothing wrong in it from the

point of view of biodiversity conservation. After all, the migration of animals and plants from one geographic area to another had routinely happened during the evolutionary process.

The real test of re-introduction will happen when these eight cheetahs adapt to their new home and start hunting and live in a natural style of their own so that the next batch of cheetah can be brought here. The good thing about Kuno is that it has a good prey base for them to survive. The second issue is how the local people will see this introduction in future in terms of protection of their habitats.

The Madhya Pradesh government had already relocated 24 villages and the forest department though had made

adequate precautions for their protection and movements and had made arrangements for 24 hours vigilance but they will have to see that the tree climbing leopard do not enter their territory.

The leopard hunts by ambush but cheetah do not have retractable claws and hunt for a particular type of prey like medium sized antelopes, hares, calves of herd animals, birds with their speed and sudden galloping gait. Thirdly, the local people and scientific community from the Wild Life Institute and Universities need to be involved in the conservation process with liberal research and training grants.

Fourthly, the poachers must be kept at bay and for this forest department at field level must possess the best of the

equipment. The Central as well as the Madhya Pradesh Governments, therefore, will have to plan a long term strategy for the cheetah conservation in India so that in next few years the population of the cheetahs can grow.

The situation of manpower from forest guard to ranger level and infrastructure needs a review. We must understand that the manpower of the forest department and infrastructure like superior weapons and other modern gadgets are not match for the superior equipment of the poachers.

It will be a special challenge for the Park Director, because cheetah breeding requires proper attention and resources. A "Project Cheetah Scheme" needs to be started on the pattern of Project Tiger.

We will work to boost Indo-Japan ties: PM

Modi leaves for Tokyo to attend Shinzo Abe State funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday left for Tokyo to attend the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday and is expected to be attended by representatives from around 100 countries. "I am traveling to Tokyo tonight to participate in the State Funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe. I will be conveying heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Kishida and Mrs. Abe on behalf of all Indians," the Prime Minister said in a tweet message on Monday. "We will continue working to further strengthen India-Japan relations as envisioned by Abe San," he said.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said the duration of Modi's visit from the time of his departure from Delhi will be



Representational picture

around 12 to 16 hours. Modi will have a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and also meet Abe's wife, he said. Modi's visit to Japan will be an opportunity to honour the former prime minister Abe, Kwatra said.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister, was shot dead on July 8 while delivering

a political campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillors election on July 10. Prime Minister Modi had a close relationship with Abe. He had condoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.

SC asks Bombay HC to hear Deshmukh bail plea immediately

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed displeasure over the delay in hearing the bail plea of Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, arrested in connection with a money laundering case, and directed the Bombay High Court to hear and decide his case expeditiously.

The top court observed that any person who has filed a bail application has a legitimate expectation that his plea will be disposed of at an early date.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli noted that the bail plea of Deshmukh is pending in the high court since March 21. "We issue a direction and permit the petitioner to apply before the learned judge, to whom the case has been assigned, tomorrow.

The application shall be taken for hearing during the course of this week and decided expeditiously," the bench said, adding that keeping an application for bail pending is not consistent with the Right to

Life under Article 21 of the Constitution,

The top court clarified that it has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case. Justice NJ Jamadar of the High Court is hearing the bail plea of Deshmukh. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for 73-year-old Deshmukh, submitted that the hearing on the bail plea is being deferred and sought interim bail.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED, opposed the interim bail plea and said the top court should not pass any such order.

Deshmukh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in November 2021 and is currently in judicial custody. On April 8, the high court adjourned the hearing on Deshmukh's bail application while deprecating the practice of seeking urgent hearings of bail pleas citing medical emergencies.

The ED's case is that while serving as the Home Minister, Deshmukh misused his official position and collected Rs 4.70 crore from various bars in Mumbai through Sachin Waze, a police officer who has been dismissed.

SC notice to Centre, TN over early release of Nalini in Rajiv assassination case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Tamil Nadu Government on a plea filed by Nalini Sriharan and RP Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, seeking premature release.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna issued notices to the Centre and the Tamil Nadu government and sought their replies on the plea.

Both convicts challenged the June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected her plea for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict AG Perarivalan. The HC do not have the power under Article 226 of the Constitution to do so, unlike the Supreme Court



which enjoyed the special power under Article 142, the high court had said while rejecting their pleas.

Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail, and said the Tamil Nadu governor ought not to have sent the "binding" advice made by the state cabinet for his release to the president.

The apex court had said the advice of the state cabinet is binding on the Governor in

matters related to commutation/remission of sentences under Article 161 of the Constitution. Under article 142, the top court may issue any verdict or order necessary to provide "complete justice".

Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally.

In its May 1999 order, the top court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts Perarivalan, Murugan, Santhan and Nalini.

However, in 2014, it commuted death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment along with those of Santhan and Murugan on grounds of delay in deciding their mercy petitions. Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2001 on the consideration that she has a daughter.

Cong: Legal action in 5 cases against BJP's fake news on yatra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said it has initiated legal action in five cases of "fake and divisive news" peddled by BJP leaders and their "online hate factory" to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra, asserting that it will not take this lying down.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also shared a police complaint by Kerala MP Hibi Eden against a particularly "vicious bhakt".

"We have initiated legal action in five cases of fake and divisive news peddled by BJP leaders and their bhakt online hate factory to hurt Bharat Jodo Yatra. Be warned! We will not take this lying down," Ramesh said.

In the police complaint shared by Ramesh on Twitter, Congress MP Hibi Eden complained against a social media post with two pictures. "The impression these pictures sought to convey was that INC leader Rahul Gandhi was posing with an individual who had been accused of sloganeering

'Pakistan Zindabad' on a previous occasion. However, as was made clear almost immediately, the individuals in the photographs were two separate and distinct people," Eden said. "The distortion was not an innocent one because it sought to falsely and maliciously suggest that former INC president Rahul Gandhi, who was on a yatra to unite Indians had demonstrated sympathy for individuals who supported Pakistan and approved their illegal sloganeering and was ultimately attempting to break India," he said.

Thus, it is clear that this "malicious post" was designed to create a dangerously false impression in the minds of the viewers regarding the Congress leader's approach towards Pakistan and individuals involved in the illegal sloganeering in support of Pakistan; and to foment social tensions in the Bharat Jodo Yatra rallies led by Gandhi, Eden said.

He requested that an urgent and immediate FIR be registered by police under relevant IPC provisions.

Def Min honours kin of HP martyrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday felicitated the families of the brave soldiers of the armed forces, hailing from Himachal Pradesh, who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. The felicitation ceremony was organised at Badoli in Kangra district of the state.

Rajnath paid glowing tributes to the war heroes, including the first recipient of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Major Somnath Sharma (1947); Brigadier Sher Jung Thapa, Maha Vir Chakra (1948); Lt Col Dhan Singh Thapa, PVC (1962); Captain Vikram Batra, PVC (1999) and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, PVC (1999), the defence ministry said here.

He said the armed forces will always be a source of inspiration to the people, especially the youth, as they possess the traits of discipline, devotion to duty, patriotism and sacrifice and are a symbol of national pride and trust.

The defence minister said India is the only country which has given the message of peace to the whole world and its military is respected across the globe for its bravery. While maintaining that India has

Indian Navy to take part in CMF training exercise in Seychelles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In an effort to forge closer ties with countries in the Indian Ocean region, an Indian Navy ship INS Sunayna has reached Seychelles to take part in the annual training exercise 'Operation Southern Readiness' of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

It is the maiden participation by the Indian Navy in the drill. The ship's participation reinforces the Indian Navy's commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, officials said here on Monday.

The ship is scheduled to participate as associate partner in the capacity-building exercises being conducted by CMF, the Defence Ministry said.

The joint training exercise is being attended by represen-

tative delegations from the US, Italy, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and ship participation from the UK, Spain and India. Similarly, INS Tarkash made a port call at Port Gentil, Gabon as part of her ongoing deployment in the Gulf of Guinea for anti-piracy patrol. This marks the first visit by any Indian ship to Gabon.

During its stay in harbour, the ship and crew will participate in official and professional interactions as well as sports fixtures. Professional interactions will include discussions and drills on fire fighting and damage control, medical and casualty evacuation issues, and diving operations.

There will also be familiarisation visits. In addition, yoga sessions and social interactions are also planned. The ship will also remain open to visitors, officials said here.

gical strikes in 2016 and airstrikes in Balakot in 2019, Rajnath stated that India's new strategy against terrorism has broken the backs of those who try to hurt unity and integrity of the nation.

Medal for hurt officer not needed: Chief's quip irks CRPF men

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While the CRPF has moved a proposal for the award of Shaurya Chakra for the gallant action of Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh in an encounter with the Naxals in Aurangabad district of Bihar, outgoing paramilitary chief Kuldiep Singh's recent comment that there is no need for a gallantry medal to him because that was a routine incident has led to resentment among the cadre officers.

Bibhor Kumar Singh had to undergo amputation of both legs due to a blast during an anti-Naxal operation 15 km southwest of Pachrukhiya village near Madanpur in

Aurangabad district of Bihar in February this year. Shaurya Chakra is the third highest peacetime gallantry award.

On March 17, the CRPF chief, an IPS officer on deputation to the paramilitary, had said he will hold himself responsible for delays in air-evacuation of injured personnel but pointed out that sometimes 'practical difficulties' crop up in executing such operations in a timely manner in the Naxal theatre.

The DG was talking about injured

Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh who had to undergo amputation of both his legs post a blast while leading an anti-Naxal operation, due to delayed evacuation for over

seven hours. The Naxal movement is being spearheaded by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) which a banned terror organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"If you ask who is responsible for this, I would hold myself responsible, it is my responsibility to ensure helicopters are provided to troops because it is me who directs and motivates troops to go out for operations.

If anyone is to be blamed, it is me. I cannot blame anyone else," Singh told a Press conference in March ahead of the Force's 83rd Raising Day. There has been a longstanding demand for a dedicated air wing for the CRPF. "In oper-

ations, such incidents (of blasts and resultant injuries) are normal. In the CRPF and its specialized CoBRA Battalions, young officers like Assistant Commandants and Deputy Commandants and even up to the level of Commandants lead the troops from the front.

In certain cases, DIGs also lead operations. In Maharashtra, Assistant Commandant Nitin Bhale Rao and Deputy Commandant Vikas lost their lives in IED blasts in Palodi (Sukma, Chhattisgarh). Similar blast has occurred in this case (of Bibhor Kumar Singh) and there is no provision of medals for injury. Medals are for action and not injuries. If there is an element of action

involved in the operation, medal can be definitely given," the DG had said at a Press conference on September 21.

Cadre officers of the CRPF mostly comprise the post of DIGs. Bibhor will be looked after for everything but medals are awarded on action and not on injury. Even deaths occur in the operations, then there should be more medals, he quipped sarcastically.

Veterans as well as serving cadre officers of CRPF took exception to the casual manner in which the sacrifice of the brave officers during action was mentioned by the paramilitary boss.

They also questioned the lack of awareness on part of the top officer.



Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari presents a memento to Commander UAE Air Force & Air Defence, Major General Ibrahim Nasser Mohammed Al Alawi during a meeting PTI Photo

Union Min launches JALDOOT App today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

You will soon be able to measure and capture the water level in your area with the click of the mouse or keypad of your mobile. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh will on Tuesday launch the "JALDOOT App" that will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected wells in a village.

The App is being launched in view of declining levels of the groundwater, as also utilization of surface water sources, resulting in significant depletion of water levels causing distress to the community, including farmers. "Therefore measurement and

observation of the levels of water tables across the country has become necessary. "The Jaldoot app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon). In every village, an adequate number of measurement locations (2-3) shall need to be selected. These will be representative of the ground water level in that village," said an official from the Ministry.

The app will facilitate panchayats with robust data, which can be further used for better planning of works. The ground water data could be utilised as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA planning exercises.



Further, the data can also be used for different kinds of research and other purposes.

The official pointed out that in the last few years, various steps have been taken for improvement of water management both in the rural and urban areas, through watershed development, afforestation, water body development and renovation, rainwater harvesting and so on.

According to the Central Ground water Board (CGWB), with 230 billion

metre cubes of groundwater drawn out each year for irrigating agriculture lands in India, many parts of country are experiencing rapid depletion of groundwater.

The total estimated groundwater depletion in India is in the range of 122-199 billion metre cubes.

According to the officials, 89% of ground water extracted is used in the irrigation sector, making it the highest category user in the country. "This is followed by ground water for domestic use which is 9% of the extracted groundwater. Industrial use of ground water is 2%. 50% of urban water requirements and 85% of rural domestic water requirements are also fulfilled by ground water," said the officials.

Train MBBS docs to be family physicians too: AFPI prez

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Family physicians have played a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications particularly in the backdrop of the Covid-19, but ironically they are facing 'identity crisis' as no training is being given to the MBBS students in the subject, the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI) rued on Tuesday.

Seeking mandatory inclusion of 'training as family physician' in the MBBS course at all Indian medical colleges in the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, the members of the AFPI said that they act as single point of contact for all healthcare needs of a family and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary

healthcare systems. "Family Physicians can deliver holistic treatment and prevent unnecessary burden on secondary and tertiary hospitals," Dr Raman Kumar, AFPI national president, said, adding that a family physician is not only a family doctor but acts as a guide, who helps a family in making informed healthcare decisions.

The occasion was the foundation Day of the Academy of Family Physicians of India (AFPI), which has also been declared 'National Family Medicine Day' The AFPI has been pushing for the revival of family physicians and popularising family medicine as a clinical specialty.

Dr Kumar said that Family Medicine is recognized in many developed countries where training is provided

through organized residency programs.

This should happen in India as well, he added. "Family medicine has been incorporated in the foundation course of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and is planned to be adopted in all medical institutes in India; however, the MBBS syllabus makes no mention of it." "There is a requirement for developing a comprehensive curriculum for family medicine to address the current health needs of communities.

The healthcare system should focus more on primary care and family medicine to provide affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare to people," the members said.

Prof Surekha Kishore, Director of AIIMS Gorakhpur, who was the chief guest, agreed

and assured to raise the issue of family physicians and their training with the National Medical Commission as its member. Dr SK Sarin, Director of Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi, and president, National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), said, "Family physicians play a pivotal role in the prevention of diseases and their complications."

Director of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Alok Saxena emphasised on its revival and the integration of family physicians with the health system. He said, "Training MBBS doctors as family physicians is of paramount importance. There should be a structured course during MBBS as all doctors need not become hospital-based specialists."

Ghulam Nabi Azad launches Democratic Azad Party

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Veteran Congress leader and a former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Monday launched his 'Democratic Azad Party', exactly a month after severing ties with the parent party, along with his supporters here in Jammu.

Unveiling the party flag, with three stripes in different colours—mustard, white and dark blue, Azad claimed his party will be based on the principles of democracy. "It will not be 'autocratic' but 'democratic'", he added.

Speaking to reporters, Azad said, "The mustard colour indicates creativity and unity in diversity, white indicates peace and blue indicates freedom, open space, imagination and limits from the depths of the ocean to the

heights of the sky".

Flanked by senior party leaders Azad also appealed to the people of both Jammu and Kashmir to join hands together and break the artificial walls being raised between them by the vested interests.

Azad had earlier declared the broader contours of his newly launched party in his maiden public rally in Jammu soon after exiting the Congress party in the first week of September. According to Azad the top most priority of his party will remain restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, protection of land and job rights of its residents, creating job opportunities for the unemployed youth and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

After announcing the party name and unveiling the party flag he focused on the agenda

of the party in the days to come. While doing so, Azad made it clear. We will have no competition with any political party. "We will speak about our own policies and programmes and let others do their own and leave everything to the people who are the ultimate masters in politics," he added.

In the same vein Azad added, Democratic Azad Party will not be influenced by any outside leader or other party. It will have independent thinking and will stay independent in its decisions. It will not be autocratic and power will not be in one hand.

He also clarified his surname has nothing to do with 'Azad' in the party name.

After leaving the Congress party Azad had himself talked about launching a National party with a J&K unit ahead of beginning a new political

innings, however, none of the supporters, backing him from behind especially from the G-23 grouping, were present at the time of formally floating the party.

Responding to the allegations that he was working at the behest of BJP, Azad told reporters, "Many people accused me of having a prior alliance. We only have the alliance with heart and minds and people of J&K and nobody else. We have not consulted anyone before launching the party, neither regional nor national party." Our party will borrow from the ideas and principles of former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi.

"Our party policy will not be influenced by politics of religion, caste or creed. It will follow the roadmap of Gandhi, who got India independence.

Talking about his priorities Azad claimed the party will keep holding grassroots level elections for its structure. "We are here to compete at our own level. I have no competition with any party. Will compete like students compete with each other in a classroom. We don't have any enemy or foe," he said, adding "50 per cent of tickets will be given to women and youth". "Our priority is to get the party registered. But since elections (in Jammu and Kashmir) can happen anytime, related developments would continue".

On Article 370, Azad clarified that he never said it won't be restored. "I had only stressed that if someone can persuade Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah. I can't do that as I have no such strength at present," Azad explained.



Gehlot's rebellion dwarfed Sonia's stature, says BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of an apparent rebellion in the Congress Rajasthan unit over the selection of new Chief Minister, the BJP on Monday claimed that the developments have "considerably dwarfed the stature of Sonia Gandhi" and "demolished" the "aura of their invincibility".

BJP leader Amit Malviya said in a tweet in Hindi "Irrespective of whether Ashok Gehlot files or not his nomination for the post of Congress president his rebellion has considerably dwarfed Sonia Gandhi's stature."

He further said, "Now whosoever becomes the president of Congress, it is possible that there can be a rebellion again against the Gandhi family which has lost its aura of



invincibility," said Malviya hitting out at the opposition party.

Union Minister and BJP leader from the state Arjun Meghwal said there is virtually no government in the state and people have been left to fend for themselves.

Another BJP leader from Rajasthan Satish Poonia also took a dig at the Congress, saying none of its leaders wants to be the party's national president and prefer to be a state chief minister or a regional leader.

"This drama of 'Kissa Kursi

Ka' (tale of CM's chair) started in Rajasthan in 2018 when slogans for Gehlot and Sachin Pilot were raised. It then continued for portfolio allocation and then for rooms in the secretariat in Jaipur," Poonia said adding throughout the entire episode, the people of the state suffered.

Echoing similar sentiments, BJP leader and MP from Rajasthan Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, said, "It's time to bring down curtains on this drama. It would be better if they really resign to give relief to the public. The Congress government has no moral standing to continue in power."

Rathore said everyone is suffering in the state, be it farmers, youngsters and females, adding, "law and order in the state has completely collapsed".

No coercive action till Nov 17 against Anil Ambani: Bombay HC to I-T Dept

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Income-Tax Department not to take any coercive action against Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani till November 17 on a show cause notice issued to him seeking to prosecute him under the Black Money Act.

The I-T department had issued the notice to Ambani on August 8, 2022 for allegedly evading Rs 420 crore in taxes on undisclosed funds worth more than Rs 814 crore held in two Swiss bank accounts.

The department has charged Ambani (63) with "wilful" evasion, saying he "intentionally" did not disclose his foreign bank account details and financial interests to Indian tax authorities.

As per the department's notice, Ambani was liable to be



prosecuted under Sections 50 and 51 of the Black Money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) Imposition of Tax Act of 2015, that stipulates a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment with a fine.

Ambani earlier this month approached the HC challenging the notice, claiming that the Black Money Act was enacted in 2015 and the alleged transactions are of assessment years 2006-2007 and 2010-2011.

Senior counsel Rafique Dada, appearing for Ambani, said provisions of the Act cannot have a retrospective effect. Advocate Akhileshwar

Sharma, appearing for the I-T department, sought time to respond to the petition.

A division bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and R N Laddha permitted the same and posted the petition for hearing on November 17.

"The Income Tax department shall till the next date not take any coercive action against the petitioner (Ambani) in pursuance to the show cause notice," the court said.

It also directed the I-T department to respond to Ambani's contention that provisions of the Black Money Act may not have a retrospective effect.

Dada told the court that an assessment order was passed by the department in March this year and the petitioner filed an appeal against the said order before the Commissioner of Income Tax.

HC won't stay dismissal order of IPS officer Verma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to stay the Centre's order dismissing senior IPS officer Satish Chandra Verma who had assisted the CBI in its probe in the Ishrat Jahan encounter case, a month before his scheduled retirement. The court, however, asked the Centre to file within eight weeks its reply to Verma's plea challenging his dismissal.

Verma was dismissed from service on August 30, a month ahead of his scheduled retirement on September 30, after a departmental inquiry found him guilty of various charges including "interacting with public media". Verma approached the HC following the Supreme Court's order allowing him to move the HC

challenging his dismissal.

The apex court had on September 19 stayed the Centre's dismissal order for a week and said it is for the high court to consider the question as to whether the stay or vacation of dismissal order is to continue. In the HC, a bench of Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva and Tushar Rao Gedela said, "We have perused the contents of the transcript of the interview that has been placed on record as also the enquiry report."

"We are of the view that at this stage the order of termination dated August 30, 2022 does not warrant any interference as the petitioner is to superannuate, in any event, on September 30, 2022. Consequently we are not inclined to stay or interdict the order of dismissal dated August 30, 2022 at this stage".

FROM PAGE 1

RAJ REVOLT LEAVES CONG ON RAZOR'S EDGE, MAY DEFER CALL ON CM PICK

Earlier, Rajasthan Minister and key Gehlot-loyalist Shanti Dharwal launched a frontal attack on Congress' state in-charge Ajay Maken, alleging that he was talking to party MLAs in a partisan manner and canvassing for Sachin Pilot.

With the bitter internal feud in the party spilling into the open, Maken, who was sent as a central observer, had earlier in the day criticised MLAs loyal to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for placing conditions for the resolution to be taken up in the legislature party meeting on deciding the next CM.

He had also said that holding a parallel meeting and not attending the official meeting of the legislature party is "indiscipline".

Soon after Maken briefed Sonia Gandhi in the national capital about the political developments in the state, Dharwal called a press conference at his residence here and hit out at party general secretary Maken.

"If the party general secretary and in-charge have come up with a mission to make such people (who rebel against the party) as the chief minister, then the MLAs are bound to be angry."

Party observers Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge Kharge, who came to Jaipur for the legislature party meeting, kept waiting for the MLAs at the chief minister's residence and the legislature party meeting could not take place.

Both the leaders returned to New Delhi on Monday and apprised party president Sonia Gandhi about the developments.

The CLP meeting was called after Gehlot declared his candidature for the party president's post.

AMID RAJ DRAMA, BIG QUESTION MARK OVER FATE OF GEHLOT'S PREZ POST RACE

"My allegation against the general secretary and State in-charge (Maken) is that he was talking to the MLAs here in a partisan manner. For many days there were continuous reports that he used to ask for campaigning in favour of Sachin Pilot."

The Minister further said, "We are soldiers of Sonia Gandhi. I have not been accused of indiscipline even once in the last 50 years."

However, sources in the Cong said more than one CWC member have urged Sonia to select a candidate other than Gehlot for the top post.

News agency ANI has reported that the CWC members have said, "It would not be good to lay faith in him and give him the responsibility of the party. The party top leadership should reconsider his candidature."

The members have urged Sonia to make another such person a candidate who is a senior leader and also loyal to the Gandhi family.

If Gehlot is pulled out of the race, the Congress high command may go for lead-

ers such as Digvijaya Singh or Mukul Wasnik for the top job, sources said.

Shashi Tharoor, who is also in the race for the party's top post, will file the nominations on September 30.

F-16S TO PAK FOR ANTI-TERROR? LAME EXCUSE: INDIA TO US

Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs reportedly expressed its concern during a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu. He was here to take part in the Quad Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

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. So we thought it was quite important to be as transparent as we could with Indian counterparts both in advance and during that decision and it provided a good opportunity to have a healthy exchange on both the US rationale for its limited security partnership with Pakistan as well as a good opportunity to hear India's concerns about that," Ratner said.

ANTI-INDIA FORCES SHUT OUT OF COUNTRY, CONSPIRING ON FOREIGN SOIL: JAISHANKAR

"This is something which we need to be aware of. It is important to contest. It is not because most Americans will not know what sort of the nuances and the complexities of back home, so, it's important not to sit back, not to let other people define me. That is something which I feel as a community is very important for us," he said.

Responding to a question on misrepresentation of the Kashmir issue in the American capital, Jaishankar said if there is a terrorist incident, it is not matter what faith the person who's killed belongs to.

"If there are Indian soldiers or Indian policemen who are abducted; If there are people working for the government, or citizens going about their business, who will lose their lives?" he added.

"How often do you hear people talking about it; pronouncing it, in fact, look at the media coverage. What do the media cover, what does the media not cover?" the External Affairs Minister asked. That is how opinions and perceptions are shaped, he underlined.

"There is a big song and dance about the

Internet being cut. Now, if you've reached the stage where you say an Internet cut is more dangerous than the loss of human lives, then what can I say?" Jaishankar said.

"If you look at (Article) 370 issue. What was a temporary provision of the Constitution was finally put to rest; this was supposed to be an act of majority. This was supposed to be majoritarian. Tell me what was happening in Kashmir was not majoritarian? I think the way facts are slanted, things are laid out. What is right, what is wrong is confused. This is actually politics at work."

"We should not let it go. We should contest it. We should educate. We should shape the narrative. This is a competitive world. We need to get our messages out. That is my message to you," he said.

"We are not serving our country well or our beliefs well, or even our sense of what is right and wrong but by staying out of these debates. I think we have opinions, we must express them, we must share them with people, we must educate others on what is right and what is wrong."

"I honestly believe that if you look at the whole 370 Jammu & Kashmir situation, to me it is mind boggling. Something whose merits were so obvious, should actually there even be people who would think in a different way," Jaishankar said.

GOVT BLOCKS 45 VIDEOS ON 10 YOUTUBE CHANNELS FOR HATE, LIES ON AGNIPATH

Certain videos depicted erroneous external boundary of India with parts of J&K and Ladakh outside the Indian territory. Such cartographic misrepresentation was found to be detrimental to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The content blocked by the Ministry was found to be detrimental to sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, India's friendly relations with foreign States, and public order in the country," said the statement issued by the Ministry.

"Orders to block the concerned videos were issued on September 23, 2022 under the provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021," the Ministry said in its statement.

The content was covered within the ambit of section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Ministry said, adding the Government remains committed to thwarting any attempts at undermining India's sovereignty and integrity, national security, foreign relations, and public order.

10 DEAD AS TRACTOR-TROLLEY FALLS INTO POND IN ITAUNJA

The news flew thick and fast and a huge number of villagers flocked to the scene. On being informed, senior police officers reached the scene and launched a rescue operation with the help of SDRF officials.

The rescue teams, along with villagers,

pulled out the victims from the muddled water and rushed them to hospital. Ten women, including two girls, were pronounced dead. The villagers acted as good samaritans and rescued some of the people before the arrival of police and SDRF teams.

An ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each is being extended to the family of the deceased. A person with grave injuries was admitted to the KGMU hospital, District Magistrate Suryapal Gangwar said.

President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of lives in the accident. "The news of death of women and some girls in Lucknow is painful. In this hour of grief, I express my deep condolence to the families of the bereaved, and pray for speedy recovery of the injured," she said in a tweet in Hindi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also expressed grief over the loss of lives and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the family members of each of the deceased would be provided a financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak visited the community health centre in Itaunja and enquired about the well-being of the injured.

National spokesperson of Rashtriya Lok Dal Anil Dubey also expressed grief on the loss of lives in the mishap.

The DM said investigations were on to find out the reason behind the accident, and feedback was also being taken from eyewitnesses.

Earlier, Gangwar, along with senior district and police officials, rushed to the spot and instructed the officials concerned to ensure all possible help to the victims. He also met the victims admitted in the Itaunja CHC and enquired about their condition.

15 DEAD, 24 WOUNDED IN SCHOOL SHOOTING IN RUSSIA

The Committee said 15 people, including 11 children, were killed in the shooting, and 24 other people, including 22 children, were wounded in the attack.

The governor of Udmurtia, Alexander Brechalov, said the gunman, who he said was registered as a patient at a psychiatric facility, killed himself after the attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described the shooting as "a terrorist act" and said Russian President Vladimir Putin has given all the necessary orders to the relevant authorities.

"President Putin deeply mourns deaths of people and children in the school, where a terrorist act took place," Peskov told reporters Monday.

The school educates children between grades one and 11. It has been evacuated and the area around it has been cordoned off, the governor said.

Russia's National Guard said Kazantsev used two non-lethal handguns adapted to fire real bullets. The guns were not registered with the authorities.

A criminal probe into the incident has been launched on charges of multiple murder and illegal possession of firearms.

BJP chief lambasts Kerala Government

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala has become the epicentre of terrorism and anti-national activities, according to J P Naddha, all-India president, BJP. Addressing booth level party workers at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, the national president of the BJP alleged that the chief minister's office itself has become the hub of gold smuggling. "Swapna Suresh, who was arrested in connection with gold smuggling, has named the chief minister and his family members for their active rolls in smuggling. Names of many CPI(M) ministers and party leaders have been disclosed by Swapna Suresh in her statement to the Court," said Naddha.

The BJP chief alleged that there was no ideology or ethics in the CPI(M). "The party has become a family dynasty party. Family rule and dynasty rule are the hallmark of the CPI(M). Kerala has also become the hotspot of terrorism," he said. The



BJP chief also came down on the State administration for its financial mismanagement. "Kerala is in a debt trap as its debts has crossed the Rs 3,40,000 crore mark. Over the last seven years, the debt of the State has doubled and this is a matter of concern. There is nepotism everywhere. Appointments in universities are meant only for the relatives of the ministers and party leaders. The CPI(M)-led government is trying to weaken the Lok Ayukta (whistleblower) to save the chief minister and other ministers from charges and allegations of corruption," said the party president.

Strong possibility of Opp parties fighting 2024 polls together: Nitish

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a strong possibility of Opposition parties coming together to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said on Monday, stressing that he has had good talks with them and many will join hands gradually.

Speaking to reporters, the Janata Dal (United) leader also made light of the BJP's repeated swipe at the Opposition over its unity talks, saying the ruling party has many problems of its own. "All they can do is speak day and night," he said.

"Many parties will join hands gradually and there is a strong possibility that they can fight the 2024 polls together," he said, adding that he has had good talks with leaders of different parties.

Asked if the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, both having strong reservations against the Congress, will also be a part of such a formation, he said once an agreement is reached in the Opposition about an alliance, only then something concrete can be said.

At the same time, he added that the media will be aware of all the



leaders he has met.

Kumar had met AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his last visit to the national capital.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also said recently that she together with Kumar, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and SP supremo Akhilesh Yadav will defeat the BJP. Kumar had met Congress president Sonia Gandhi along with RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday.

During an earlier visit, he had met many other opposition leaders.

Nitish Kumar, NCP leader Sharad Pawar and other prominent opposition leaders had at a rally in Fatehabad on Sunday called for a new alliance that includes the Congress for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, stressing that a bipolar contest will ensure the BJP's defeat.

US carrier, S Korea warships launch drills amid North's threat

AP ■ SEOUL

A US aircraft carrier and its battle group launched drills with South Korean warships off the Korean Peninsula's east coast on Monday in their first such training in five years, a day after North Korea test-fired a short-range ballistic missile in a possible response to the exercise.

North Korea could conduct more tests in coming days as it views US-South Korean military exercises as a practice to invade the country and often reacts with displays of weapons designed to attack its rivals.

The four days of drills are aimed at demonstrating the allies' "powerful resolve to respond to North Korean provocations" and improve their ability to perform joint naval operations, the South Korean navy said in a statement.

More than 20 US and South Korean navy ships, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, a US cruiser and South Korean and US destroyers, were mobilised for the drills, according to the navy statement. It said US and South Korean fighter jets and helicopters will also take part in the training.

It would be the first such



joint drills involving a US aircraft carrier near the peninsula since 2017, when the US sent three aircraft carriers including the Reagan for naval drills with South Korea in response to North Korean nuclear and missile tests.

The allies had since cancelled or downsized some of their regular drills to support now-dormant talks on North Korea's nuclear programme or guard against COVID-19.

The North Korean missile fired on Sunday flew about 600 kilometres at the maximum altitude of 60 kilometres before falling into the waters off the

North's east coast, according to South Korean estimates.

Some experts say North Korea might have launched a nuclear-capable, highly maneuverable ballistic missile and that its 600 kilometre-flight had enough range to strike a southeastern South Korean port where the Reagan was previously docked.

North Korea has performed a record number of missile tests this year as it steadfastly rebuffs US and South Korean calls to resume the nuclear diplomacy.

North Korea has said it won't return to talks unless the

United States drops its hostile policies in an apparent reference to US-South Korean military drills and US-led economic sanctions on it.

Earlier this month, North Korea adopted a new law that authorised the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in some situations, a development that showed its increasingly aggressive nuclear doctrine.

Some analysts say North Korea would eventually aim for arms control negotiations with the US to get sanctions relief and other concessions in return for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability.

Dependence on Russian def equipment not lack of trying on India's part: Jaishankar

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India's dependence on Russian defence equipment and the strong defence ties with Moscow is not because New Delhi did not approach the US to get those from the United States, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday.

"One of the changes in our relationships has actually been the defence cooperation which has really come about in this current form maybe the last 15 years," Jaishankar told Indian Americans here during an interactive discussion with him organized by the US India Friendship Council and Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies.



"From 1965 pretty much for the next 40 years, there was no US defence equipment to India. This was, in fact, a period when the India Soviet, India Russia relationship became very strong," he said.

"This was not due to a lack of trying

on India's part. I can vouch for it myself. I've had my relatives, my father, my grandfather, they worked with the defence ministry. So, I know firsthand what great efforts were made over those years to try to make the US understand that it was in American interest to have a strong, united, independent, prosperous India," Jaishankar said.

"At that time, they did not succeed, maybe the state of the world was such," he noted. "The change that started was really triggered by the nuclear deal that removed a very big obstacle to go forward and then to actually take the relationship to a new level requires leadership in India," that did not had reservations.

In Tokyo, US vice prez Harris calls US-Japan alliance 'a cornerstone'

AP ■ TOKYO

US Vice President Kamala Harris met with Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio on Monday shortly after arriving in Tokyo for the state funeral of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe.

Abe, who was assassinated in July, will be honoured on Tuesday, and Harris is leading a U.S. Delegation to pay its respects.

"The alliance between Japan and the United States is a cornerstone of what we believe is integral to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," she said at the Akasaka Palace. Kishida said Abe "poured his heart and soul" into strengthening ties between their two countries.

"I feel it is my duty to carry on his aspirations," Kishida said.

Abe forged closer ties with the United States at a time of increased concern about China's ambitions, and Kishida is continuing his push for a stronger national defense.

The potential for war over Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as part of its own territory, has troubled Japan, which would likely be pulled into such a conflict.

President Joe Biden said recently that the U.S. Would send its own troops to defend Taiwan if China attacked.

"The president has addressed that issue. And if it comes up, the vice president will align with the president," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

The official also said Harris would "make clear our ironclad commitment to Japan's security." More than 50,000 U.S. Troops are based there. Harris, who is scheduled to spend three nights in Tokyo, is visiting at a politically fraught moment. Kishida's decision to hold a state funeral for Abe, a conservative nationalist, has been controversial in a country where such memorials are uncommon, and some oppose honoring him in this way.

6 Pak Army personnel, including two officers, killed in helicopter crash in Balochistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Six Pakistan Army officials, including two Majors, were killed in a helicopter crash in southwestern Balochistan province, the military said on Monday, the second such incident after another military helicopter crashed in the same province last month.

The crash occurred near Khost in the Harnai district of the province on Sunday night during a flying mission, it said.

All the "six personnel on board, including 2 pilots" were killed in the crash, the Army said.

No reason for the crash was given.

The accident comes more than a month after a similar incident occurred in Balochistan on August 1 when a Pakistan Army helicopter crashed, killing all six personnel, including a Lieutenant General, on board.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR),



the media wing of the Pakistani military, said on Monday that 39-year-old Major Khurram Shahzad (pilot) and 30-year-old Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal (pilot) were among those killed in the crash.

The funeral prayers of the six army personnel were offered at Quetta Garrison, according to the ISPR. Balochistan corps commander as well as senior military and civil officials attended the funeral.

Indian climber among 12 injured as avalanche hits Nepal's Mt. Manaslu

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Indian climber Baljeet Kaur was among 12 climbers who were injured when an avalanche struck them at the base camp of Mt. Manaslu in Nepal on Monday, according to media reports. Out of the 12 mountaineers, three were critically injured, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

The Department of Tourism confirmed that the avalanche hit at 11:30 am on Monday. Sources told local media that Sherpa climbers from Seven Summit Treks, Satori Adventure, Imagine Nepal Treks, Elite Expedition, and 8K Expeditions, among others, were injured.

Australia after data breach mulls tougher cybersecurity laws

AP ■ CANBERRA

The Australian government said on Monday it was considering tougher cybersecurity rules for telecommunications companies after Optus, the nation's second-largest wireless carrier, reported personal data of 9.8 million customers had been breached.

Optus said on Thursday it had become aware the day before of the cyberattack breaching details of 9.8 million people — within Australia's population of 26 million.

In the cases of 2.8 million current and former Optus customers, the breach involved "significant amounts of personal data," Cybersecurity Minister Clare O'Neil told Parliament.

"The breach is of a nature

that we should not expect to see in a large telecommunications provider in this country," O'Neil said.

In some countries, such a breach would result in fines "amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars," O'Neil said.

Australian law doesn't currently allow for Optus to be fined for the breach.

"A very substantial reform task is going to emerge from a breach of this scale and size," O'Neil said.

"One significant question is whether the cybersecurity requirements that we place on large telecommunications providers in this country are fit for purpose," she added.

O'Neil called on Optus to offer compromised customers free credit monitoring to pro-

tect them from identity theft, a request that the Sydney-based company complied with later on Monday.

Optus announced it was offering its "most affected" customers 12-month free subscriptions to Equifax Protect, a credit monitoring and identity protection service.

Optus said the information that had been accessed by an unnamed third party included customers' names, dates of birth, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

For a minority, the personal data also included identification documents such as driver's license and passport numbers. Police and other government security agencies had worked through the weekend to protect affected customers, O'Neil said.

Renewed militia clashes rock western Libya; 5 killed

AP ■ CAIRO

A new round of infighting between rogue militias in western Libya has killed at least five people, including a 10-year-old girl, health authorities said Monday, the latest bout of violence to rock the North African nation mired in decade-long chaos.

The fighting broke out on Sunday between rival militias in the western town of Zawiyah, where armed groups — like in many other towns and cities in oil-rich Libya — are competing for influence. Along with the five who were killed, at least 13



other civilians were wounded in the clashes that continued overnight, the Health Ministry's emergency services said. The fighting trapped dozens of families living in the area for hours, said Malek Mersat, a spokesman for the emergency services. Local media reported that one mili-

tia fired at a member of its rivals, wounding a militiaman who was taken to hospital.

The violence was the latest between militias in western Libya. In August, clashes in the capital of Tripoli killed more than 30 people, one of the deadliest bouts of fighting in Libya in many months.

Libya was plunged into chaos after a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The oil-rich county has for years been split between rival administrations, each backed by rogue militias and foreign governments.

2 more arrests in deadly attack during Norway Pride festival

AP ■ COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

Two more suspects have been arrested in connection with a deadly shooting during the Norwegian capital's annual LGBTQ Pride festival, police said on Monday. The total number of suspects is now at four.

A 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran was arrested shortly after the June shootings in Oslo's nightlife district that killed two people and wounded more than 20.

A second Norwegian man in his 40s is being sought, police said on Friday.

On Monday, police said two more suspects — a man in his 40s with Somali citizenship and a Norwegian national in his 30s — were arrested on Sunday. Both are known to the police, authorities said, adding that they are residents of Oslo.

They faces preliminary charges of "complicity in an act of terrorism", police said.

Powerful typhoon leaves 6 rescuers dead in north Philippines

AP ■ MANILA

Typhoon Noru blew out of the northern Philippines on Monday, leaving six people dead, knocking down power in two entire provinces, trapping villagers in floods and forcing officials to suspend classes and government work in and around the capital.

The most powerful typhoon to hit the country this year slammed ashore in Burdeos town in Quezon province before nightfall on Sunday then weakened as it barreled overnight across the main Luzon region, where more than 52,000 people were moved to emergency shelters, some forcibly, officials said.

Gov. Daniel Fernando of Bulacan province, north of Manila, said five rescuers, who were using a boat to help residents trapped in floodwaters, were hit by a collapsed wall then apparently drowned in the rampaging waters.

"They were living heroes who were helping save the lives



of our countrymen in the calamity," Fernando told DZMM radio network. "This is really very sad."

Police said a Bulacan villager drowned after refusing to heed appeals to leave his riverside house. Authorities were separately trying to confirm another death in Burdeos town and a missing farmer in a flooded village in western Zambales province.

In Aurora province's hard-hit Dingalan town, more than 6,000 houses were damaged and a newly built evacuation centre housing more 200 displaced families was battered by the fierce wind and rain but no injuries were reported, officials said.

US, allies push for UN rights body debate on Xinjiang abuses

AP ■ GENEVA

The United States and several Western allies presented a proposal on Monday for the UN's main human rights body to hold a special debate over reported rights abuses and violations against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in China's western Xinjiang region.

A core group of countries including Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were behind a draft resolution at the Human Rights Council that would call for a debate on Xinjiang at the council's next session in early 2023, diplomats said.

It amounts to the latest geopolitical salvo between the West and Beijing in the wake of recent tensions over issues like

the future of Taiwan.

If approved, the resolution would mark the first time that human rights concerns in China have been formally put on the council's agenda.

Diplomats in Geneva, where the 47-nation council is based, have been on the lookout for whether Western countries might be able to muster enough political capital to present and push through a resolution on Xinjiang before the council's current session ends on October 7.

The draft resolution would only convene a debate in the council — which debates issues all the time — and stops short of calling for stronger tools in the council's arsenal to monitor rights abuses, such as convening independent experts to scrutinize countries' activities.

Ukrainians scared by Russia's preordained referendums

AP ■ KYIV

After seven months of war, many Ukrainians fear even more suffering and political repression as referendums orchestrated by the Kremlin portend Russia's imminent annexation of four occupied regions. Many residents fled the regions before the so-called referendums got underway, scared about being forced to vote or potentially being conscripted into the Russian army.

Others described hiding behind closed doors, hoping to avoid having to answer to armed soldiers going door-to-door to collect votes.

Petro Kobernik, who left the Russian-held southern city of Kherson just before the pre-ordained voting began on Friday, said the prospect of living under Russian law and the escalating war made him and others extremely jittery about the future.



"The situation is changing rapidly, and people fear that they will be hurt either by the Russian military, or Ukrainian guerrillas and the advancing Ukrainian troops," Kobernik 31, said in a telephone interview. As some Russian officials brought ballots to neighbourhoods accompanied by armed police, Kobernik said his 70-year-old father shut the door of his private house in the village of Novotroitske — part of Kherson — and vowed not to let anyone in.

The referendums, denounced by Kyiv and its Western allies as rigged, are

Monday.

In an online intelligence briefing, the British Defense Ministry said "many tens of thousands" had been called up. However, the Russians face challenges ahead.

"Unlike most Western armies, the Russian military provides low-level, initial training to soldiers within their designated operational units, rather than in dedicated training establishments," the British said.

Under normal circumstances, two battalions deploy while a third remains behind to train. But in the Ukraine war, even the third battalion is deploying, weakening that training, the British said.

taking place in the Russian-controlled Luhansk and Kherson regions, and in occupied areas of the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

They are widely viewed as a pretext for annexation, and Russian authorities are expected to announce the regions as theirs once the vote ends on Tuesday. The Kremlin has used this tactic before.

In 2014, it held a hastily called referendum in Ukraine's Crimea region to justify annexation of the Black Sea peninsula, a move that was denounced as illegitimate by most of the world.

CROATIA, NETHERLANDS INTO NATIONS LEAGUE SF

AP ■ LONDON

Croatia and the Netherlands booked their places in the last four of the Nations League as holders France needed a favour to avoid relegation from the top tier on Sunday. Les Bleus lost 2-0 in Denmark to finish with just one win from their six group games, but Croatia's 3-1 win at Austria saved the world champions from the drop.

Didier Deschamps will be hoping to have a number of key men back from injury by the time France's defence of the World Cup begins against Australia on November 22.

"It was a young French team, which for the most part does not yet have experience of the highest level," said Deschamps.

"Tonight is a dose of reality and what will be waiting for us in two months."

France will also come up against the Danes in the group stage in Qatar and the Euro 2020 semi-finalists showed they are more than capable of causing more trouble in two months' time.

Both goals came before half-time as Kasper Dolberg stretched to turn home Mikkel Damsgaard's cross before Andreas Skov Olsen volleyed in from the edge of the area.

France were without Hugo Lloris, Jules Kounde, N'Golo Kante, Paul Pogba, Ousmane Dembele and Karim Benzema through injury.

But the star trio of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Kylian Mbappe failed to find a way back into the game for France.



We have to focus on winning against Spain: Santos

AP ■ BRAGA

Portugal coach Fernando Santos said his team would not settle for the draw they need to reach the Nations League finals when they host Spain in Braga on Tuesday.

Portugal, who won the inaugural edition of the tournament in 2019, moved top of Group A2 on Saturday with a 4-0 victory over the

Czech Republic as Spain lost at home to Switzerland.

Santos' side now hold a two-point lead over their neighbours ahead of the final group match.

"We just have to focus on winning rather than reaching the final four," he said.

"I want the players to face Spain on their merit, as they do all opponents. Do that and we will always be

closer to getting where we want to go."

Manchester United right-back Diogo Dalot scored twice against the Czechs as Portugal bounced back from a defeat in Switzerland in June.

Santos has a near fully-fit squad to choose from, with Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix having returned to training after missing last weekend's match.

Denmark's win meant Croatia needed to get all three points in Austria to top the group.

Luka Modric got the 2018 World Cup finalists off to a flying start, but they were quickly pegged back by Christoph Baumgartner's header.

Two goals in three second-half minutes proved decisive as Marko Livaja and Dejan Lovren headed in at the far post.

"Austria made our lives very hard, but in the end, the win was deserved," said Modric. "I am very happy that we are in the top four."

Defeat relegated Austria to League B.

The Netherlands made sure of top spot in Group A4 with a 1-0 win over Belgium thanks to Virgil van Dijk's header 17 minutes from time.

The Dutch just needed to avoid defeat by a three-goal margin after winning 4-1 in Brussels earlier in the group.

A Belgian revival never looked likely. Van Dijk settled the game when he was left completely unmarked to head in a corner inside the six-yard box.

In the same group, Wales were relegated after losing 1-0 at home to Poland.

Karol Swiderski scored the only goal in Cardiff from Robert Lewandowski's cushioned through ball.

Turkey were already guaranteed promotion from League C, but were still embarrassed by a 2-1 defeat to the Faroe Islands.

The Faroes led 2-0 through Viljormur Davidsson and Joan Edmundsson before Serdar Guler's late consolation for the side ranked 83 places higher in FIFA's world rankings.



India face Vietnam test in football tourney

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

The Indian men's football team will have its task cut out when it takes on Vietnam in the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament here on Tuesday.

In their opener last Saturday, India were held to a 1-1 draw by lower-ranked Singapore.

Up against a confident Vietnam, who blanked Singapore 4-0 in their first match, the Blue Tigers will have to be extremely focussed.

"It will be a very different game against a much stronger opponent, so our approach will also change accordingly," said India head coach Igor Stimac said on the eve of the match.

"We need to be more

focused, especially on vertical football and quick transition.

"At the same time, we must maintain focus on our defence as well. They pose a real threat from long range shots, and from their crosses, and we need to be able to deal with that," said Stimac.

The India head coach has also closely followed the match between Vietnam and Singapore, and believes that their Tuesday's opponents are an organised unit.

"I've watched their first match against Singapore and they (Vietnam) are a very disciplined side," said Stimac.

"They have also had enough time after the first game for recovery, while we need to see how many of our boys will be available and fit to play."



Determined to make big contributions in World Cup: Gurjant

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Having played a vital role in India's Silver medal-winning feat at the Commonwealth Games, national hockey team forward Gurjant Singh is now looking to make an impact at next year's FIH World Cup.

"I am glad that I was part of the Silver medal-winning team at CWG. It's a huge honour for me to be an Olympic and CWG medal winner," Gurjant, who was part of the Olympic Bronze medal winning team in Tokyo, Hockey India said in a release.

"However, I have noted down the points that I need to improve on and I am determined to make an even bigger impact in tournaments such as the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

India are set to host the men's hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time jointly in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year and Gurjant hopes to get an

opportunity of playing in front of the home crowd.

"Playing in the World Cup is every hockey player's dream. And I really hope I will be given the opportunity of playing the tournament at our home ground."

"There is always a great buzz and fanfare in Odisha and I am sure that the fans' support will motivate us to play at our best."

The 27-year-old said the Indian team's immediate focus is the FIH Hockey Pro League beginning next month.

"We are working very hard to put up a good show at the FIH Hockey Pro League. A good performance there will give us a huge confidence boost before the all-important World Cup in Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

"We are looking forward to the challenge and are determined to keep getting better as a side."

India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Pro League in Odisha from October 28.

Murray backs Federer as future Laver Cup captain

AP ■ LONDON

Andy Murray has backed Roger Federer as a future Laver Cup captain after Bjorn Borg indicated the sixth edition in Vancouver next year could be his last.

Federer bade farewell to professional tennis at the tournament in London at the weekend, playing doubles alongside great rival Rafael Nadal on Friday in his final competitive match, which ended in defeat.

Team Europe suffered a 13-8 loss to Team World in the Ryder Cup-style tournament to ensure Federer, 41, was denied one final trophy but a vacancy for the captaincy will open up when Swedish great Borg steps away.

Federer, who won 20 Grand Slams in his glittering career, said he had no immediate plans after hanging up his racquet but it is likely he will want to stay involved in the Laver Cup, which he helped to create.

"I'm sure Roger is going to



stay involved in the event in some capacity and maybe one day captain the team," Murray said.

"Look, he's great on the side (coaching). He watches a lot of tennis, he loves the game. I think for ex-players that go into coaching, I think that's important to sort of stay current and know a lot of the players."

Murray made his Laver Cup debut at London's O2

arena, joining other members of the "Big Four" -- Federer, Nadal and Novak Djokovic in competing for Team Europe.

Djokovic expressed his hope that Federer would turn his hand to coaching.

"I think that Roger can offer a lot," he said. "I mean... it's logical to expect him to be able to share so many useful and valuable things with anybody really."

Julius Baer Cup: Indian GM Erigaisi goes down to Carlsen in final

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Teenaged Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi went down against world No.1 Magnus Carlsen in the final of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament, losing the second match 0-2.

Having won the first match, the Norwegian had the advantage and he won the first two games of the second match to close out the finale early on Monday.

Having won the first match, comprising four games, 2.5-0.5, Carlsen needed to only draw the second to take the top prize. He won two games of the second match and shut out Erigaisi.

The final was a two-match affair with each match consisting of four games. If the players had won a match each, a blitz tie-break would have been required to decide the winner.

Requiring to win the second match to have a chance to push the final to a tie-break, the 19-year old Indian player found himself in trouble against the world No.1 in red-hot form. Erigaisi resigned on move 48 and slipped into further trouble.

The second game was over in 52 moves as Carlsen dashed the Indian GM's hopes.

Carlsen had been unstoppable in the preliminary phase and lost just one game, resigning after just two moves against Hans Niemann and subsequently dropping a game to Lev Aronian in the quarterfinals.

Carlsen's performance makes him the first player to hit the historic 2900 Tour Rating mark.

Erigaisi, with a fine performance in the Julius Baer Cup, part of the Meltwater Chess Tour, has qualified for the eight-player tour final in San Francisco later this year.

We need to have better academies & start early, says Lalengmawia

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Starting early and upgrading academies are crucial to lifting the standard of Indian football, feels Lalengmawia Ralte, who has returned from a two-week training camp with Mumbai City FC's sister club in Belgium, Lommel SK.

The prodigious midfielder, Apuia scored his first goal for the Islanders in the Durand Cup final against Bengaluru FC. Although Mumbai City FC ended the final on the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline, the 21-year-old midfielder put in a stellar display in Asia's oldest football tournament and in the AFC Champions League earlier this year.

He suggested how Indian footballers can compete with foreign players.

"I think Indian players will be able to compete with or against them, but we need to have better academies. We need to start sending kids from a young age so that they can follow the style of Europeans and then we can compete with them at any level," Ralte said in a release.

"Training with Lommel SK in Belgium was a good experience for me. Learning new things with European players and being at the top of the game was a great experience. I gained a lot of knowledge, which is the most important thing for me."

The Aizawl native described a day in the life of the players at Lommel SK and said, "The training starts at 10 and ends around 11:30. At 12 they have lunch and then if there is a gym session, we have gym after lunch and later, they go back to their own homes."

One forgets ABCD of sport if he is away from training for 3-4 years: Vijay Kumar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having returned to top-flight shooting after a long sabbatical, Olympic Silver medalist Vijay Kumar feels athletes could "forget the ABCD of sport" if they stay away from action for three-four years.

London Games Silver medalist pistol shooter Kumar, incidentally, had taken a long break from shooting to focus on his career with the police in Himachal Pradesh. It included intense academic training, field training and border training, taking up most of his time and attention.

It was only last year that he returned to the sport, hoping to dominate it one more time.

"Spending time away was not a big deal since I was providing job security for myself. It is not a big deal, either, starting the sport from scratch," he said.

He conceded, though that muscle memory built over many years as a police shooter was lost during police training.

"Technique goes for a toss. If one doesn't train and compete for three or four years, one forgets the basics, the ABCD of sport. When you return at the highest level, you realise you



have all but forgotten how to play," he rued.

Kumar has a clear target in mind for the upcoming National Games: emulate his

own five-Gold, one-Bronze medal haul during the 2015 edition in Thiruvananthapuram.

The upcoming edition is starting in Ahmedabad on September 29.

"That (performance) is a thing of the past. I believe I can push myself more and can even excel at the Olympic level once again. That single goal has fuelled my motivation," the 2012 Olympic medalist said, revealing that he has been preparing for the Gujarat Games for over six months.

"I am happy that within a year of my return to shooting, I have made it for my fourth

National Games. I will try to perform well here ahead of the World Championships," the 37-year-old said.

The World Championships will be held in Cairo from October 12.

"The competition at the National Games will be intense, since the best 16 shooters in each event will be there. We have all been on the circuit, competing in championships and National trials since November last year."

"Each has been shooting good scores and that will make the competition really absorbing," Kumar said.

Watford appoint Bilic as manager after Edwards sacking

AP ■ WATFORD

Championship club Watford on Monday appointed former West Ham and West Brom manager Slaven Bilic as their new coach after sacking Rob Edwards.

The club announced the arrival of Bilic minutes after reporting that Edwards had been fired after just 11 games in charge in all competitions.

The team, relegated from the Premier League last season, are 10th in the Championship, the second tier of the English game, with three wins from 10 league games.



"As with all decisions taken by the board, I believe this change to be in the best inter-

ests of the club," said Hornets owner Gino Pozzo.

"We felt Rob had enough time to show us the identity of his team. However, performances haven't reflected our hopes and ambitions."

"Now we must move forward, and, in Slaven Bilic, we have secured the services of an experienced coach who has recent experience of promotion to the Premier League."

Former Croatia international and national team coach, Bilic, 54, guided West Brom to promotion in the 2019/20 season and has since managed in China.

ROHIT KEEPING FAITH IN BHUVI & HARSHAL

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma has backed pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel to hit form ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Following a disappointing Asia Cup campaign, the Indian team had something to cheer as it won the three-match series against Australia 2-1 after clinching a six-wicket win in the third game here on Sunday.

However, both Bhuvneshwar and Harshal, who made a comeback from injury, leaked runs in the series, ending with an economy rate of 12 plus.

"It's important that we give him (Bhuvi) that space because when you have a guy like him in the team and the quality that he brings, we know that he's had more good days than the bad days in the last so many years."

"We've been working on some plans, and hopefully, we can give him more options to bowl in the death. And then he'll be as good as he was before," said Rohit in the post match media interaction.

Despite the woeful run, Rohit said Bhuvneshwar is not short on confidence.

"I don't see that he is short in confidence. It's time for us to show that faith in him and keep backing his skillset



"From our side, we are trying to work out what are the things we can do because when you're bowling in the death you can't be predictable. You need to have options to bowl on both sides of the ground and set the field accordingly."

"And someone with that experience it'll be easy for him to grasp all that knowledge."

Harshal, who is coming off a long injury layoff, also struggled, giving away 99 runs in eight overs in the three games but Rohit said the death overs specialist is not being judged on

this series.

"Harshal is an important player for us without a doubt. Coming back after an injury is never easy. He missed cricket for close to two months. It's not easy (to come back), so we've not judged him on how he is performing in these three games, because we know his quality."

"He has bowled some really tough overs for us in the past and also for his franchise. It's important to keep showing that faith and I'm sure that you know he's also trying to rectify

those mistakes and he's not too far from his best."

Assessing the team's performance in the series, Rohit said "We want to tighten in all departments. I know our batting has been brilliant in the last eight or nine games that we played since Asia Cup."

"But we still want us to be more clinical, more aggressive, you know and play with that aggression. We want to keep doing that."

While the batting unit performed well, the bowlers struggled and the fielding from the

side was also substandard.

"Bowling is the main focus. Fielding is one aspect which will never stop. We want to keep improving as a fielding unit all the time."

Suryakumar Yadav played a special 69-run knock to pave the way for India's victory alongside Virat Kohli, who also scored a half-century in the third game.

"When it comes to Surya we all know his quality. He can play the shots all over the ground. And that is what makes him special."

'Want to give DK more game time ahead of T20 World Cup'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma wants to give wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik more time in the middle before the team heads Down Under for the T20 World Cup next month.

India have been alternating between Karthik and Rishabh Pant in their playing XI.

While the young keeper was given the nod ahead of the veteran player in the Asia Cup, Karthik was picked for all three matches against Australia.

"I wanted both of these guys to have a number of games under their belt before the World Cup. When we went to the Asia Cup, both of these guys were in the fray to play all games," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the three-match series against Australia on Sunday.

"But I just feel that



Dinesh needs a little more game time. He hardly got to bat (this series). Just maybe three balls. So that's not enough time," Rohit added.

Karthik faced seven balls in total against Australia, while Pant played only one game where he did not get a chance to bat.

"Pant also needs game time obviously. But looking at how this series was it was important for me to just stick to that consistent bat-

ting lineup."

India take on South Africa for a three-match T20I series, starting Wednesday and Rohit said Karthik and Pant's inclusion in the playing xi will depend upon the situation.

"I don't know what we're gonna do against South Africa. We just need to go and see their bowling, what sort of bowling lineup they'll play with, and who are the best guys for us who can handle that bowling lineup. It all depends on that."

"We want to be flexible in our batting. So if the situation or if the thing demands that we need a left-hander, we will bring in a left-hander if we need a right-hander, we will continue to do that."

"But we'll try and manage those guys pretty carefully. I do understand that they need game time before the World Cup but there are only 11 players you can play, unfortunately."



T20I Rankings: India go 7 points clear at top

PTI ■ DUBAI

India went seven points clear of England at the top of the ICC T20 rankings following their narrow series win over Australia in Hyderabad.

Down 0-1 against the touring Australia, the Rohit Sharma-led India bounced back in style to level the series in Nagpur before Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav's fifties in the deciding rubber on

Sunday sealed a 2-1 win.

The six-wicket final over win improved their ranking by one point to 268 points, a seven-point lead over their closest rival in England in the ICC T20 rankings released on

Monday.

The upcoming three-match series against South Africa will give India a chance to consolidate their lead at the top ahead of the World Cup in Australia.

The Proteas occupy third place on the team rankings with 258 points, but could stake their claim when they in the upcoming series commencing at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Incidentally it was Pakistan's narrow three-run win over England in the fourth game in Karachi on Sunday that helped India increase their lead.

That series remains tied at two games apiece, with plenty of rankings points still to play for during the final three matches in Lahore.

Oz head coach reserves big praise for 'outstanding' Axar

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Ravindra Jadeja's absence from the T20 series was expected to weaken India but the hosts found an able replacement in "outstanding" Axar Patel, said Australia coach Andrew McDonald.

Left-arm spinner Axar, who was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement for the injured Jadeja, impressed everyone with his bowling, ending as the leading wicket-taker in the three-match series.

"Axar, in particular, had an outstanding series. With Jaddu out everyone thought that it might become a bit of a weakness for India, but they've found another one again, which tends to happen," McDonald said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the series.

The Australian bowling attack, comprising the pace duo of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, was taken to the cleaners by the Indian batters. Asked if it's a concern heading to the World Cup, McDonald said: "Across the series the run rate was high, it was entertaining cricket from the get-go. Bat dominated the ball, so there was really no place to hide for bowling units, in particular death."

"We worked our way through some plans. We saw some good results with some of the plans that we implemented that might be able to transition to the World Cup."

McDonald added that Australia will have reinforcements in the form of Mitchell Starc when they begin the defense of their World Cup title at home next month.



"The connection between here (India) and Australia might be slightly different, a little bit more bounce, different tactics. Mitchell Starc comes back into the picture being one of our best death bowlers. So, we feel like we'll get reinforcements there," McDonald feels most of the bowling attack is "under the pump" due to the skills of the batters.

"The conversations always going to be can you get better at your death bowling? The answer to that is yes."

"We encourage our guys to make good decisions and execute them. Sometimes the batter out-executes you and we've seen that with Hardik (Pandya) across the series."

"Suryakumar Yadav was

outstanding today and he's gonna be dangerous in the World Cup but he showed what he can do."

Australia were without a few of their World Cup-bound players due to injuries but the head coach feels the defending champions have enough depth to overcome the situation.

"It's fortuitous that some of the guys got the opportunity here. We got a couple of injuries which are concerning leading into a World Cup. You don't like to see some of your mainstay players out of the team leading in but we feel as though we've got some good options in depth."

In the absence of David Warner, who was rested, Cameron Green "embraced the

challenge of opening'.

The all-rounder amassed 118 runs, including two beligerent half-centuries to give Australia great starts.

"I've asked him to show great intent on top of the order and everything that we're seeing so far shows that he's doing that."

"It's probably opportunistic the way that he's come into the opening position with obviously David Warner not being here and a couple of other players from our World Cup 15."

"And that's all you can do, given an opportunity... Before we came over here we thought he had the skill sets to be able to succeed there, and he's taken on some of the best bowlers in world cricket."



We warned her multiple times: Deepti Sharma on controversial run out

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India all-rounder Deepti Sharma on Monday revealed that Charlie Dean was warned against backing up multiple times before she effected a controversial run out of the England batter in the third and final ODI.

The dismissal reignited an intense debate over the 'spirit of the game'.

"Woh plan tha hum logon ka, kyunki woh baar baar... Hum warn bhi kar chuke the usko. Jo rules mein hain, jo guidelines hain, uske according hi humne kiya (We had planned this as she was not paying heed to our repeated warnings. We acted according to the rules and the guidelines," Deepti told reporters upon her arrival here.

Reduced to 118 for nine in their pursuit of 170 in the third ODI, England's chase was led by their No 9 batter Dean who revived their hopes with her last wicket partnership with Freya Davies. With 17 needed to win, Dean was run out for 47 with the veteran Indian off-spinner deciding to clip the bails during her delivery stride to put an end to their 35-run partnership that gave India 3-0 sweep. It was also Jhulan Goswami's swansong game.

The run-out is currently listed in the 'Unfair Play' section of the laws but is set to be moved to the 'Run Out' section at the start of next month when an update in the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

Deepti further pointed out that they had informed the umpires before running out Dean.

"Umpires ko bola tha hum logon ne, but still woh wahin par thi. Hum log kuchh nahin kar sakte the. (We did inform the umpires, but she continued to do it. There was nothing we could do)," the 25-year-old added.

The 39-year-old Jhulan, who has a record 355 wickets across formats, retired from international cricket in the final ODI as India secured their first-ever 3-0 sweep on English soil to give the legendary Indian pacer a fitting farewell.

Having made her debut in 2002, Jhulan ended up playing 12 Tests, 204 ODIs and 68 T20Is.

"Har team ko jeetna hota hai, aur last match mein hum chahte the ki hum jitke unko (Jhulan) acha farewell de, toh uske hisaab se, as a team, jo effort daal sakte the woh humne diya. (Every team wants to win and we as a team gave our best effort to win it for Jhulan Goswami)," she said.

Jhulan and Deepti, who also plays for Bengal in domestic cricket, landed in the city to a rousing welcome at the airport by several women's cricketers.

Shahbaz & Shreyas in T20I squad vs SA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Yet to recover from COVID-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of the rested Hardik Pandya.

The series is starting on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram.

With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the series.

"Shami hasn't recovered from his bout of COVID-19. He needs more time, and hence, will be out of the South Africa series. Umesh Yadav will continue as Shami's replacement for

the South Africa series," a senior BCCI source said.

However, when asked why Shahbaz has been picked in place of Pandya, the source said, "Is there any seam bowling all-rounder, who can replace Hardik? Raj Bawa is too raw and that's why we kept him in India A for exposure. He will need time to blossom. Tell me another name?"

With Hooda also out of the series, the selectors may have thought that a batting all-rounder would help serve the purpose. "Shahbaz is more of a batting all-rounder, who is more than a handy left-arm spinner. He is there just as back-up in case, Axar needs to be rested for a match with six T20I games in 10 days, including travel across the country," the source said.



Assam Cricket Association 'rain-ready' for India-SA T20I

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Cricket Association has put in place elaborate arrangements to minimise time-loss in the event of rain, including importing pitch covers, for the T20 International between India and South Africa on October 2, a senior official said.

The last cricket match at Barsapara Stadium here between India and Sri Lanka in January 2020 was abandoned following heavy rainfall.

"Guwahati had experienced unprecedented rainfall in

the middle of winter, and that is why the match in 2020 had to be eventually called off."

"The weather forecast for October 2 is clear, but the weather is not within the control of anyone. We have all arrangements in place in case there is rain on October 2," ACA secretary Devajit Saikia said.

The ACA has imported two "extremely lightweight" pitch covers from the US, he said. It already has around 20 covers at its disposal.

"These imported covers ensure that water or moisture

does not seep into the pitch," Saikia said.

He said the ground had been handed over to the BCCI chief curator on September 16, and its staff is now in charge of the entire field, including the pitch.

Saikia said a capacity crowd is expected for the India-South Africa encounter, with the first phase of online ticket sales garnering good response.

"The first batch of online tickets has been sold out. We will open another batch on September 26," he said.

Rizwan, Rauf help Pak win 4th T20I

AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan halted England with three wickets in six balls to take a sensational three-run win in the last over of the fourth T20I in Karachi on Sunday.

Haris Rauf grabbed three wickets as the hosts tied the seven-match series.

Earlier in-form opener Mohammad Rizwan struck a brilliant 88 as Pakistan made 166-4.

With England needing five for victory from 10 balls, Rauf dismissed Liam Dawson (34) and Olly Stone off successive deliveries in the 19th over.

Last man Reece Topley was then run out as Pakistan rescued victory from almost certain defeat at a packed National stadium in Karachi.

Dawson had silenced a 32,000 holiday crowd by cracking four fours and a six off pacer Mohammad Hasnain's 18th over.

When Topley was run out off the second ball of the last over it sent Pakistan players and



home fans into raptures.

The win made the occasion of Pakistan's 200th T20I more memorable. They are the first team to reach the milestone.

England were rocked by Hasnain (2-40) and Nawaz (3-35) and were staring at defeat at 130-7 before Dawson added 32 with Adil Rashid (three not out) to bring England back in the game.

But Rauf's two wickets, he finished 3-32, sealed the match for Pakistan.

The remaining matches are in Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2).

England, who are on their first tour of Pakistan for 17 years, won the first and third games while the home team won the second and fourth -- all in Karachi.