

CITY 2

NEW BIO-ENERGY POLICY TO HELP
UP CURTAIL USE OF FOSSIL FUEL

OPINION 6

FACTS, FACTOIDS AND THEIR
INTERPRETATION

WORLD 10

XI APPEARS IN PUBLIC FIRST TIME
AFTER RETURNING FROM SCO SUMMIT

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INDIA TO FACE
PROTEAS IN
1st T20I TODAY
12 SPORTUddhav jolted! SC lets
EC decide on real SenaCourt allows EC
to hear Shinde's
plea for claim on
party, symbolPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a big setback to Uddhav Thackeray, the Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed the Election Commission to go ahead with the hearing of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde group's plea seeking recognition as the real Shiv Sena and allocation of the party's bow-and-arrow poll symbol to it.

Justice DY Chandrachud, heading a Constitution bench, rejected the plea of the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction seeking to restrain the EC from deciding the State's ruling Shinde camp's claim over the "original" Shiv Sena.

"We direct that there would be no stay of the proceedings before the Election Commission," the bench also comprising Justices MR Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Thackeray faction, challenged Shinde's locus to approach the poll panel seeking claim over the party and its election symbol. Sibal argued that Election Symbol Order can be invoked only when the claimant belongs



Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction) general secretary Subhash Desai (L), with party leaders Anil Parab and Arvind Sawant, comes out of the Supreme Court after a hearing on Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde's plea staking claim on the party symbol, in New Delhi on Tuesday

Shinde's plea. Shinde group's counsel and senior advocate NK Kaul submitted an election symbol is not the property of an MLA and to which faction it belongs has to be decided by the Election Commission, asserting the poll panel cannot be prevented from taking any decision on the issue.

The bench was hearing pending cases related to the political crisis in Maharashtra that began with Shinde group's revolt against Uddhav Thackeray's leadership which led to the fall of the three-party Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government in the State.

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Will go by 'rule
of majority': CEC

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday evening said the EC will apply the transparent process of the "rule of majority" in the Shiv Sena split issue. He was reacting to the questions from the media on the SC order allowing the Election Commission to decide on the Shiv Sena claims by Shinde faction.

"There is a set procedure. That procedure mandates us and we define it in terms of a very transparent process by judging and applying the "rule of majority".

to the same political party but claims to be of a rival group.

"I am saying Shinde is no longer in the party and membership has been given up. How does the EC hear him then? Sibal said, referring to the disqualification notice issued against Shinde and some other Shiv Sena MLAs who had rebelled against then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in June this year.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the poll panel, said the Election Commission is free to decide who constitutes the aspect of majority.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Maharashtra Governor BS Koshiyari, contended that the Election Commission is only deciding which faction is the "real" party and so it should be allowed to proceed with

India, Pak both
partners but
with difference,
asserts USPIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW
DELHI/WASHINGTON

A day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised doubts about the decision to sell F-16s to Pakistan, the US said India and Pakistan were both its partners with different points of emphasis.

This reaffirmation came after Jaishankar questioned US decision to sell the F-16 sustenance package and said the USA was not fooling anybody by saying these aircraft were given to fight terrorism.

In an effort to allay India's apprehensions, the US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said late Monday, "We don't view our relationship with Pakistan, and on the other hand, we don't view our relationship with India as in relation to one another.

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170 PFI activists arrested
in pan-India crackdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 170 people allegedly linked to the radical Popular Front of India (PFI) were detained or arrested in searches across seven States on Tuesday.

The latest round of searches came just five days after a similar pan-India crackdown against the group accused of espousing radical Islam. The searches were conducted following the inputs from the intelligence agencies and leads generated after the interrogations of the 106 PFI activists arrested on September 22.

So far nearly 300 activists/sympathisers have been arrested in two rounds of the searches within a week.

The searches were mostly conducted by State police teams spread across Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam



A member of Popular Front of India (PFI) arrested by Assam Police being produced before a court in Guwahati on Tuesday

and Madhya Pradesh.

On September 22, multi-agency teams spearheaded by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 106 leaders and activists of the PFI in 15 States for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

The NIA alone had arrested 45 people following searches at 93 locations in 15 States. The NIA is investigating 19 PFI-related cases (including the five in which the searches were conducted on Thursday).

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Man kills wife
for refusing to
wear burqa

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking development, a 36-year-old man stabbed his wife to death after she refused to follow Islamic tenets or wear burqa at Tilak Nagar in north-central Mumbai.

Three years ago, accused Iqbal Shaikh fell in love with and married Rupali Chandanshe — who was a Hindu woman prior to her marriage, converted herself to Islam after her marriage with the accused and became Zara — and were living together with their two-year-old son Ali.

However, their marriage ran into trouble after Shaikh and Zara began to quarrel over her refusal to wear burqa. This led to their separation a few months ago with Zara going back to her parents with her son Ali. A few weeks ago, Zara moved to a rental accommodation at the neighbouring Chembur locality.

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Abe was a great leader,
believed in Indo-Japan
friendship, says ModiPIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW
DELHI/TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid glowing tributes to former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and said he was "a great leader, a phenomenal individual and someone who believed in India-Japan friendship". Modi recalled this as he attended the state funeral of the longest serving Japanese Prime Minister who was shot dead on July 8 during a political campaign in Nara, southern city of Japan.

Representatives from over 100 countries, including more than 20 heads of state and governments, attended Abe's funeral in Tokyo.

"When I was in Tokyo earlier this year, little did I imagine I would be back for the solemn programme of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo

former PM Abe's state funeral. He was a great leader, a phenomenal individual and someone who believed in India-Japan friendship. He shall live on in the hearts of millions!" Modi tweeted, sharing a photograph of him

UP Govt defers
appointment of
CJI's son as its
lawyer in SC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Tuesday deferred the appointment of Shreyash Lalit — son of Chief Justice UU Lalit — as its senior counsel in the Supreme Court.

The latest order said the appointment of Shreyash as its senior panel lawyer in the apex court would be on hold until further orders.

On September 21, the UP Government had appointed four lawyers, including Shreyash, to represent its matters in the apex court. Along with Shreyash, the appointment of two other lawyers — Nidhi Goyal and Namit Saxena — has also been deferred. No reasons have been cited for it.

The CJI's son secured a law degree from the Faculty of Law at Delhi University in 2017. He then pursued a master's degree from the University of Cambridge in 2018.

CAPSULE

DELHI LIQUOR SCAM: BIZMAN VIJAY NAIR HELD
New Delhi: The CBI arrested businessman Vijay Nair on Tuesday in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy scam case in which Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is also an accused, officials said.

COBBLER SET ABLAZE OVER MONEY DISPUTE
New Delhi: A 48-year-old cobbler has sustained severe burn injuries after two men allegedly set him ablaze over monetary dispute near New Delhi railway station.

HC BARS CID FROM PROBING COAL SCAM
Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday barred the Bengal CID from investigating the multi-crore coal smuggling case saying once the CBI had the case the State agency had no business to intervene in the matter.

HC restrains AAP
from libel against
L-G, asks party to
take down posts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an interim relief to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday restrained the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from making "false" allegations of corruption against him and his family members.

The High Court has also directed them to take down the alleged libelous hashtags, videos of press conferences/interviews, posts, tweets, re-tweets, comments, captions and taglines similar thereto against Lieutenant Governor within 48 hours. The HC held they were made "without factual verification, in order to tarnish the reputation" of the Lieutenant Governor.

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SC hearings' live-streaming
a hit, day 1 draws 7L viewsPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The first day of the Supreme Court live-streaming of three Constitution Bench hearings, received overwhelming response and more than seven lakh views.

Court 1, which heard petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of the ten per cent quota for economically weaker section (EWS), had nearly 2.5 lakh views.

Court 2, which was hearing cases arising out of the Shiv Sena crisis and the issue concerning the scope of legislative and executive powers of the Central and Delhi Governments over control of services in the national Capital,



was viewed by almost 4 lakh people.

Court 3, which saw hearings on the petitions challenging the validity of the All India Bar Examination, logged a little below one lakh views.

The feed was streamed on the YouTube channel of the National Informatics Centre and was also available on the

Apex Court's website. The SC had last week decided to begin live-streaming of Constitution Bench cases starting September 27.

The decision was taken at a full-court meeting convened by Chief Justice of India UU Lalit last week. The decision was unanimous and the hearings will initially be telecast live on YouTube till the court develops its own platform to host the live telecast of proceedings.

On September 27, 2018, then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra had delivered the landmark judgment on the live telecast or webcast of important proceedings in matters of constitutional importance, saying "sunlight is the best disinfectant".

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Dada Saheb Phalke goes to Asha Parekh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Asha Parekh will be honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2020, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday.

Parekh, 79, will be presented with the award during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, to be held on Friday.

The five-member Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee — comprising Asha Bhosle, Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana — decided on Parekh's name for the honour, Thakur told reporters in his constituency Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.

"They decided in the meeting that this time Asha Parekh ji will be honoured with the



Dada Saheb Phalke Award, which will be presented during the National Film Awards ceremony.

It is a matter of pride for

the Ministry to announce this prestigious award for the veteran actress," said the Union Minister.

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New bio-energy policy to help curtail use of fossil fuel

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Giving an impetus to its commitment to increase use of bio-fuel, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to implement a bio-energy policy that will help in curtailing use of fossil fuel as well as help in increasing the income of farmers. The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting here on Tuesday as the government also adopted a resolution to formulate a new MSME promotion policy.

Energy Minister AK Sharma, while briefing mediapersons, said here that the state government was determined to solve the problem of burning agricultural waste (perali) in the fields.

Agricultural waste, agricultural produce market waste, live-stock waste, sugar mill waste, urban waste and other organic waste available in abundance will be used in generating bio-fuel.

"The new policy has been formed to finalise the possibilities of setting up bio-energy enterprises in the state by removing the shortcomings of the earlier policies," Sharma said.

Under the Bio-Energy Enterprises Promotion Programme-2018, 100% exemption was given in stamp duty on land purchase to bio-energy enterprises and 100% reimbursement of SGST for ten years from the date of commencement of production was given.

"The term of the new policy will be five years. Incentives will be given to the bio-energy projects (compressed biogas, bio-coal, bio-ethanol and bio-diesel) to be set up in the state during this period. Under this policy,



"The term of the new policy will be five years. Incentives will be given to the bio-energy projects (compressed biogas, bio-coal, bio-ethanol and bio-diesel) to be set up in the state during this period. Under this policy, subsidy will be given on compressed biogas production at the rate of Rs 75 lakh per ton to a maximum of Rs 20 crore. It will be Rs 75,000 per ton on bio-coal production to a maximum of Rs 20 crore, and Rs 3 lakh per kilolitre on the production of biodiesel"

subsidy will be given on compressed biogas production at the rate of Rs 75 lakh per ton to a maximum of Rs 20 crore. It will be Rs 75,000 per ton on bio-coal production to a maximum of Rs 20 crore, and Rs 3 lakh per kilolitre on the production of biodiesel," Sharma said.

In another decision, the state cabinet approved the MSME Promotion Policy under which industrial clusters will be set up in every gram sabha where the local artisans will be given financial help as well as a window to start the marketing process.

Besides, the Industrial department has been asked to identify 5 acre land 5 kms from expressways where industrial clusters will be set up as per the requirement of new MSME policy. "The private sector will also

be encouraged to set up MSME units and subsidies will also be given to them for this," Sharma said.

In a landmark decision, the cabinet approved the first tiger reserve of Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh. The government has approved the proposal to notify Ranipur Tiger Reserve under Section 38 (V) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. It spans across 52989.863 hectare, including 29958.863 hectare of buffer area and 23,031 hectare of core area already notified as Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary in Chitrakoot district.

It was also decided to establish Ranipur Tiger Conservation Foundation along with sanctioning of requisite posts. The Ranipur Tiger Reserve area covered by Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests is home to

megafauna tigers, leopards, bears, spotted deer, sambhar, chinkara and diverse avifauna, reptilia and other mammals.

The state cabinet also approved the proposal to digitalise the records of the Department of Stamp and Registration. Till now, only the records till 2017 were being digitalised. Now, the state government has decided to digitalise the records till 2022.

"This decision will bring transparency in government working and the legal cases will be resolved expeditiously," Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh said.

The state cabinet also approved the proposals of the Urban Development department to increase the boundaries of Nagar Palika Parishad of Muzaffarpur and Gonda.

Planning commission reconstituted, to be known as STC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a cue from the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government reconstituted the state planning commission and re-named it as State Transformation Commission. The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting here on Tuesday.

"The State Transformation Commission (STC) will be headed by the chief minister while the finance minister, both the deputy CMs, agriculture minister, social welfare minister, panchayati raj development minister, industrial development minister, jal shakti minister and urban development minister will be its members," Energy Minister AK Sharma said while briefing reporters here on Tuesday.

The deputy chairman of the STC will be an economist or social scientist of fame.

Other members include chief secretary, additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries of different departments, including finance, agriculture, rural development, medical and health, industrial development, and planning.

The commission will also have non-govt members, who are experts in the social sector, agriculture and economy. These nominated members will have a term of three years, which can be extended up to two years.

"This commission will act as a think tank and formulate policies after having discussions with experts of different departments. Policy formation is the big work which involves new skills and innovation," Sharma said, adding that it would also help in making UP a \$1-trillion economy.

He said the STC would work with the available resources in the state.

The problems that the state is facing will be identified by the commission and ways will be found for resolving the same. Use of the PPP model will also be discussed. The present scheme and their outcome will be evaluated by the commission.

The Planning Commission in UP was set up in 1972 and it helped the state government in formulating policies by identifying need-based areas.

Raids against PFI continue, more than 36 suspects detained for interrogation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Raids against the Popular Front of India members continued on Tuesday as the joint team of Anti-Terrorists Squad (ATS) and Special Task Force (STF) on the inputs of National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided the premises of PFI members at several locations, particularly in western Uttar Pradesh. The sleuths picked up over three dozen suspects for interrogation.

Meanwhile, ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said that people associated with PFI and its affiliated organisations have been raided by STF, ATS and police simultaneously in several districts, including Meerut, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Shamli.

During this, a total of 27 people were detained and legal action will be taken on the basis of the evidence recovered.

According to reports, on the basis of disclosures made by 106 PFI members held during the first raids by NIA on September 22, the investigative agency continued to target the PFI members as they, with the help of local ATS, again raided several places, including in Uttar Pradesh, since the wee hours of Tuesday.

Sources said the Lucknow unit of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) raided the bases of the radical Islamic organisation PFI in Bulandshahr on Tuesday and arrested of two of its members.

However, according to information received from sources, the ATS detained about two dozen people for questioning from the Siana area of Bulandshahr. The ATS raided the house of PFI member Khaliq Ansari at 4 am on Tuesday at Mohalla Uparkot in Bulandshahr City Kotwali area and took him into custody. All mobile phones and documents belonging to Khaliq's family were also confiscated by the ATS.

Khaliq Ansari has also been the city president of the Samajwadi Party (SP). At present, he is said to be an active member of MP Asaduddin Owaisi's party AIMIM and Bharatiya Kisan Union.

Khaliq also owns a school called Green Field. Meanwhile, his family claimed that Khaliq Ansari had joined PFI four months ago and resigned from its membership a month later.

The family claimed that a large number of police personnel took Khaliq Ansari with them. The ATS also arrested a person named Afzal in Mohalla Chaudhriyan of Sayana. Afzal is a lawyer by profession and practises in Meerut.

After Bulandshahr, the raids were conducted at the locations of PFI in Aligarh and suspects were taken to the Quarsi police station for further interrogation.

In Shamli, the teams of NIA and ATS detained four people associated with PFI and its political wing SDPI. Sources said that the security agencies picked up four suspects from different places while raiding Kairana and intensive interrogation was going on.

At night, the teams of ATS and NIA reached Mamaur village of Kairana from where two people (Maulana Zahid and Sabir) were picked up.

According to sources, Maulana Zahid is the elder brother of Maulana Sajid, who was arrested earlier. Sabir is said to be the younger brother.

Apart from these, Jabir from Paonti Kallan village and Sarwar Ali from Gogwan village were also picked up by the security agencies.

In search of the PFI members, the ATS team also raided localities under the Lisadi Gate and police station and Sarurpur area of Meerut.

The ATS took half-a-dozen people to grill them in the local police stations. Some objectionable items were also recovered from them.

The raids were also conducted in Sitapur district where suspected youths named Mukeed from Asodar village of Khairabad police station area and Anees from Leopard Bahori of Rampurkalan were detained.

Earlier, a PFI member Abdul Majeed was arrested by the STF from Vibhuti Khand area in Lucknow on Sunday night. He was said to be deft at making cooker bombs.

He had a close relationship with Minhaj, a terrorist arrested from Kakori a year ago. Majeed is a resident of Mahipatmau in Kakori. After Minhaj's arrest, he joined SDPI. Majeed also used to make objectionable remarks on non-Muslims on social media. He was arrested in 2020 and sent to jail.

Govt to further strengthen security system of banks

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In order to further strengthen the security system of banks, the state government on Tuesday said that all safety measures should be in place to avert any untoward incident. Instructions were also issued to make internet banking better and more convenient.

Addressing the 29th meeting of the State-Level Security Committee at the Reserve Bank of India in Gomti Nagar on Tuesday, Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad said that sur-

veillance systems and data storage need to be made more effective to further strengthen the security system of banks.

Adequate arrangement of CCTVs should be made mandatory in all branches, currency chests and ATM booths while security equipment, alarms, sirens, etc installed in banks should be checked regularly, he said.

For proper arrangements for fire safety in banks and currency chests, the standards laid down in the fire audit were also discussed in detail. Instructions were given to officials con-

cerned to make adequate arrangements for fire prevention in all banks and conduct fire audit compulsorily.

From time to time, it will also be monitored by the officials of the bank and fire department. Instructions were also given to the officials concerned to strictly check the circulation of counterfeit currency.

Various points related to safe movement of cash used in the currency chests of banks, especially for their transportation to other states, were discussed in detail. Discussions

were also held on making the security system of currency-chests and ATMs more effective. Special emphasis was laid on strengthening effective coordination between bank branches and local police stations.

The meeting was attended by Home Secretary BD Palsol, Regional Director of Reserve Bank of India (Lucknow) Dr Balu Kenchappa and Regional Director of Kanpur Reserve Bank of India Dr Ishan Shukla, along with representatives of major banks working in the state, senior police officers, etc.

Akhilesh set to be re-elected SP chief third time in a row

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is all set to be re-elected as the national president for the third consecutive term at the party's national convention in Lucknow on Thursday. The meeting of the state executive of the party will be held on Wednesday.

Party's Uttar Pradesh unit chief Naresh Uttam Patel is also likely to retain his post, SP sources said. Akhilesh Yadav and Naresh Uttam were elected to the posts they are holding at the SP's national convention in Agra on October 5, 2017. The first day session will commence at 10:15 am with the hoisting of the party flag by Akhilesh Yadav. Later, Yadav will deliver the inaugural address which will be followed by presentation of economic and political resolutions.

SP general secretary and returning officer Ram Gopal Yadav will complete the process of the election of party's national president. The valedictory address will be delivered by Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday.

Akhilesh had first taken over as SP's national president after replacing his father



Preparations are in full swing for the Samajwadi Party's national convention at Ramabai rally ground on Tuesday

Mulayam Singh Yadav in January, 2017. Naresh Uttam Patel replaced Akhilesh's uncle Shivalp Singh Yadav at the party's emergency national convention held in January 2017 amidst the Yadav family feud. The SP organised another meeting of the national executive in Agra in October 2017 and Akhilesh was re-elected as the party president while Naresh the state president.

During the Agra convention, the SP also amended its

constitution and increased the term of the party president from three to five years. After the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly poll results, Akhilesh had on July 3 dissolved the national and state executives of the party. The SP is currently busy with its membership drive.

Akhillesh on Tuesday accused the BJP of vitiating the political atmosphere of the country by pursuing divisive politics which only generates hate. He alleged that the BJP

made an attempt to hijack the democratic process and values.

The SP chief alleged that the BJP government in UP had derailed the development process and development projects started during the Samajwadi Party government had been damaged.

"The BJP, during the last six years, has only changed the names of the development projects, cities and districts," he added. The SP chief maintained that the party, during the state executive and nation-

al executive meetings, would resolve to dislodge the BJP from power in 2024 elections.

Akhilesh faces the daunting task of proving his leadership mettle. SP, under the leadership of Akhilesh, has suffered successive electoral setbacks. Akhilesh was the chief minister in 2014 when the BJP swept the Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh. He faced another electoral debacle in 2017 when his party faced the worst-ever political defeat and the BJP formed the government in the state with a clear majority after a gap of 25 years.

The Samajwadi Party had entered the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal. The alliance proved to be a disaster for the Samajwadi Party as its tally was reduced to five seats. It also lost Rampur and Azamgarh Lok Sabha seats to the BJP in June last.

The SP's tally in this year's state assembly elections did increase to 111 but it was far behind the magic number of 204 seats. The alliance forged by the SP ahead of this year's assembly elections is also in a bad shape as two allies have already deserted the SP.

Jaiveer Singh slams Azam for returning security

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh on Tuesday slammed Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan for returning the 'Y' security provided to him by the Yogi Adityanath government.

"It was the erstwhile Samajwadi Party government which vitiated discipline in police and introduced the element of caste in police administration. Azam Khan is reaping what he had sowed when he was a minister in the SP government," the minister said.

"There is no vendetta against any political person and no one is targeted by the BJP government. The BJP government is only tirelessly working to reform the police administration which had been reduced to a private army by the previous SP government. In 2012, when the Samajwadi Party was in power and Azam Khan was the parliamentary affairs minister, I was a Bahujan Samaj Party MLA and a case of looting wrist watches was registered against me. Azam Khan had justified the flimsy case



and argued that the cost of the wrist watches varied from Rs 50 to Rs 50 lakh, and they could be looted," the minister recalled.

सूचना

प्राची शिवराम गुप्ता पुत्र स्वो परमेश्वर दास गुप्ता, निवासी 17ए, रामानन्द नगर, प्रयागराज की मूल रजिो डीड संख्या 1 खण्ड 113 के पृष्ठ-159/166 पर क्रम संख्या 17370 दिनांक 15.06.1990 को हुई थी। उक्त जमीन लेने का इकरारनामा दिनांक 20.04.1990 को विनय कुमार शिवाला पुत्र वमन लाल साविन निो 152 अलोपीबाग, इलाहाबाद से हुआ था। उक्त डीड कचेरी प्रयागराज में मेरे बैग सहित कहीं खो गयी, खोजने और पता करने के बाद भी नहीं मिली।

BSP, Cong assail govt over death of Dalit student

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party as well as Congress attacked the Yogi Adityanath government following the death of a Dalit student due to being assaulted by a teacher in Auraiya.

BSP president Mayawati took to Twitter to raise questions on the police administration regarding the Auraiya incident on Tuesday morning. She claimed that the atrocities against Dalits were increasing in UP.

"The government's apathy to the death of a Dalit student who was assaulted by a teacher in Auraiya is a serious issue. People are very angry due to lack of justice and proper action. Instead of hiding such serious cases, the government should ensure effective action immediately. This is the demand of BSP," the

former UP chief minister tweeted.

She said that in UP, the issue of insecurity of women along with that of Dalits, poor, Muslims and other minorities was also in a lot of discussions. Reports of exploitation and injustice meted out to women cops in the police stations were also in the headlines.

"It only proves that the government's claim of law and order are wrong," Mayawati said.

All-India general secretary of Congress Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is also the incharge of party affairs in UP, also took to Twitter to raise the Auraiya issue.

She claimed that a series of incidents, particularly crime against women and Dalits, showed that the law and order was in a very bad shape under the Yogi Adityanath government.

"In the last five years, the deteriorating law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh, increased atrocities against women and Dalits clearly hint at the failure of the government in providing security to the fairer sex and weaker sections of the society," Priyanka tweeted on Tuesday morning.

She accused the BJP government of spreading false propaganda on law and order. Party leaders in UP also attacked the government.

"The seriousness of the Yogi Adityanath government about law and order is clearly evident as he has not found time to select a permanent DGP even as the Home department is now handed over to a junior officer," UPCC spokesman Sanjay Singh said, adding that the government was spending crores of rupees on false propaganda to conceal the real picture.

Ensure peace, law & order during festivals: Jacob

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob, a meeting was held in view of the festive season — Durga Puja, Navratri, Dussehra, Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, Diwali.

The divisional commissioner said Lucknow has been a witness to festivals of different communities with mutual respect. “Following the same tradition, we all will celebrate Durga Puja and other festivals in the coming days. We will have to make sure that Eid-e-Milad is celebrated in a peaceful manner. Special care should

be taken for the facilities to be provided to the general public. Durga Puja pandals should not be set up on roads, loose electric wires should be repaired, roads be repaired wherever required, and medical teams be present during the processions,” Jacob said.

The divisional commissioner directed the officials concerned to ensure arrangements for water tankers, lighting etc. She said police and administration are committed to ensuring people’s security and law and order during the festivals. “Prompt and stern action will be taken against those making misleading posts

on social media or spreading any kind of rumour to disturb peace,” she added.

Departmental officers should be directed to ensure necessary arrangements like electricity, water, cleanliness, etc for Navratri and other festivals. In order to maintain uninterrupted supply of electricity during Navratri and proper cleanliness arrangements, she issued directions to the officials concerned. The divisional commissioner said the pit dug up in the Jhulelal Park for idol immersion should be deepened and the officials must ensure proper parking arrangements. “All the officers

concerned should be on alert in view of the festivals and special attention be given to safety of women. All the district magistrates of the division must take necessary action to maintain peace and order in their respective districts,” she added.

Commissioner of Lucknow Police SB Shiradkar, District Magistrate Suryapal Gangwar, Joint Commissioner of Police Piyush Mordia, Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh and ADM besides PWD, Jalkal, divisional officers of various departments were present in the meeting.

‘Kids not vaxxed against measles likely to get SSPE’

Lucknow (PNS): Children who have not been given measles vaccine shots are likely to get sub-acute sclerosing panencephalitis, commonly called SSPE, which can prove to be fatal. It is very important for children to get vaccinated against measles.

According to head of KGMU’s neurology department Dr RK Garg, SSPE affects the mental functions of patients and they develop jerky movements and it ultimately.

“There is no cure of SSPE available and it is important for people to get their children vaccinated against measles. This vaccine is given to children less than one year under the regular immunisation programme. It is generally seen that in our set-up, the number of children who are given this vaccine is very less,” he said.

“It is seen that in many of these children who are unvaccinated get this disease 5-6 years later. This is a complication of the measles infection and after 6-8 years, this virus goes into the brain. It remains in the brain up to 7-8 years and ends up eating the entire brain. The disease happens to children in the age group of 9-12 years,” he pointed out.

He said they get 3-4 such patients every month. “The treatment which we carry out is symptomatic like that for convulsions. We have to tell the parents about the fatality of the disease and it is very sad to see a child die. We get patients both from rural and urban parts of the city,” he said. He added that he has seen cases amongst pregnant women and other adults too. “The maximum age of such patients we have seen is 40 years. The virus stays in the brain, multiplies in the brain and then finally eats it up,” he said.

4-year-old boy killed by woman over ‘taunts’ by his mother

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident in Siddharthanagar, a 4-year-old boy was killed by a woman in retaliation to the taunts made on her by the victim’s mother. Police made this claim following the arrest of the accused on Tuesday. The police said that the woman confessed to have killed the boy.

body from a box in Jyoti’s house. The cops had reached there after Aryan told them that he and Sunny were playing at her (Jyoti’s) house on the fateful day. The police grilled Jyoti who confessed to have killed the boy. The cops took both Jyoti and her father Ram Milan Yadav into custody and sent the body for autopsy.

Rajesh Chaurasia said he had no enmity with anyone, yet his son was murdered. He also said that Sunny was the eldest of the two brothers. Jyoti, however, claimed that Sunny’s mother used to taunt and abuse her, so she strangled him to death to exact revenge.

The police said that Jyoti sold the locket and ‘karadhan’ which Sunny was wearing to a bullion trader for just Rs 1,700 and the same were recovered by them.

Elsewhere in Farrukhabad, a middle-aged villager killed his wife Kiran by slitting her throat on Monday night. Reports said that Sunil Katheria of

Khanpur village of Farrukhabad Kotwali was living with his 38-year-old wife (Kiran). Some time on Monday night, Sunil had a dispute with his wife and he slit her throat with a sharp-edged weapon. She died on the spot. The police took Sunil into custody and sent him to jail on Tuesday afternoon. Kiran was Sunil’s second wife.

Meanwhile in Amroha, one person was killed and six others were injured when a state roadways bus in which they were travelling rammmed into a truck on Tuesday morning, police said. The incident occurred in Rajabpur on National Highway-9 when the Delhi-bound bus rammmed into the stationary truck from behind, the police said.

Rajabpur SHO Ramesh Saharawat said the injured had been admitted to the Gajraula community health centre. The body of the deceased, who is yet to be identified, had been sent for autopsy, he added.

LMC begins preparations for visarjan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation has started preparations for the immersion of the Goddess Durga idols on October 5. Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh himself inspected two sites on Tuesday.

“We have made temporary ponds near the Gomti river where the idols will be immersed. We have made these ponds all along the Gomti river, including at Kudia Ghat, Gau Ghat, etc. We are also making arrangements for cleanliness, drinking water, toilets, etc,” he said.

With visarjan likely to witness a lot of rush as it will coincide with ‘Ravana dahan’ at



the Jhulelal Park, Singh said barricading would be put up there would be coordinated efforts by the police and district administration.

He said their efforts were limited to water supply and cleanliness facilities, pandals and ghats. “We are also repairing the roads around the pan-

dals, taking care of sanitation facilities and taking up a special clean-up drive around the temples,” he added.

Meanwhile, president of Durga Puja Visarjan Samiti Rupesh Mandal said they have already requested for five ‘kunds’ at Laxman Mela Park and one at Kudia Ghat.

“As many as 124 Durga idols will be coming for visarjan. All of these will be immersed into the ‘kunds’ and not a single idol will be immersed into the river. A total of 20 idols will go for visarjan through cranes. Ramakrishna Math carries out visarjan in their own premises, as do Bengali Club and Sahara Shri Durga Puja.

Man accused of sexually exploiting fiancée, held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man was accused of sexually exploiting his fiancée and then reneging from the promise to marry her in Chinhat. Police arrested the accused after a case was lodged in this connection.

As per reports, the accused, identified as Govind Rai aka Monu of Punjab, got engaged to the victim, who is a resident of Chinhat, in 2020. Both started talking on voice and video calls. In April 2021, the victim’s father died due to illness and Govind, along with his mother, visited her house to extend condolence to her. It was alleged that

Govind forced the victim to have physical relations with him as he said he would marry her soon. “He sexually exploited me during his stay at our house. After he left, Govind continued to talk to me for a few days but later started distancing himself from me. He later reneged from his promise to marry me and blocked me on his phone,” the victim alleged.

On Tuesday, a police team arrested the accused, who reportedly owned up to his crime. The police said the accused was arrested from Kamta bus stand in Chinhat following a tip-off. “He has been

booked for rape and for threatening,” the police said.

Meanwhile, the Krishna Nagar police on Tuesday recovered the body of a man who had jumped into the canal in Manak Nagar to save a woman on September 25. Identified as Kashi aka Raj Kumar of Para police station area, he was passing by the scene when he saw the woman jump into the canal near DRM culvert in Manak Nagar. He jumped into the canal to save the woman, but in vain. The woman’s body was later fished out from the canal but Kashi remained untraceable despite strenuous efforts.

Short films made by youth of urban slums screened at LU

Lucknow (PNS): Short films made by the youth of urban slums in Lucknow were screened as part of the Smart Yuva Film Festival at the Radhakamal Mukerjee Hall of Lucknow University on Tuesday. ‘Smart Yuva’, a joint initiative of UNICEF and National Service Scheme (NSS), was started in the urban slums of Lucknow, Kanpur and Prayagraj in association with Vigyan Foundation. The pilot project aimed at building the capacity of NSS volunteers as digital storytellers, who in turn, trained the community youth volunteers to identify, shoot and disseminate stories of positive deviance related to child protection & social protection schemes against Covid. The programme covered Vijay Khera, Shram Vihar Nagar, Gadhi Kanaura, Haddi Khera, Karehta and Purviden Khera slums in Lucknow.

“The initiative has unlocked the youth’s digital storytelling skills, uncovering 77 inspirational stories of community people who have played an important role in protecting the rights of children and youth. Lucknow University Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Rai said, “Smart Yuva’ is a perfect example of collaboration. Lucknow University, NSS, and UNICEF have jointly worked together on this initiative which has helped develop an emotional quotient among students. The students went to the slums and got a glimpse of the harsh realities of life.”

6-foot-tall book centre of attraction at fair

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

A 6-foot-tall book on Lord Ram has become the centre of attraction at the National Book Fair which is currently underway at Balrampur Gardens.

Apoorv Shah (from Gujarat), who has brought this book, said it took him a year and a half to come up with it and he visited Ayodhya for it four times. Last time, Shah had brought a life-size cut-out book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it had witnessed good sales.

“This 6-foot book is the main attraction at the fair and everybody is coming to see this. There always has to be something new which can add to the book fair attraction so that people can be encouraged to read more,” he said. However, he



pointed out that this book consisting of 36 pages is not for sale.

“I have mentioned the 16 qualities of Lord Ram in this book, and also the Supreme Court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi. I wrote this book as the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be completed in about a year’s time and there is a chapter on those associated with the temple. This book is important in view of the grandeur of the temple,” he said.

He added that accompanying this 6-foot book are small books having various aspects of Lord Ram and are priced at Rs 250 apiece. “Despite rains, we sold 50 books till afternoon,” he said. He added that these books reflect on why Ram is called ‘Maryada Purushottam’, what is the importance of Saryu river’ and ‘Sita Rasoi’.

CITYBRIEFS

INAUGURATED

The Natural Farming Complex of Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture on Rae Bareli Road near Telibagh was inaugurated online by Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and DG of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Himanshu Pathak. Deputy DG (Horticulture), ICAR, AK Singh also congratulated the institute. CISH director Neelima Garg highlighted the achievements of the institute in the field of natural farming during the last six months. The institute adopted five indigenous cows and maintained a farm/orchards spread over an area of 10 hectares exclusively with natural farming methods without using any chemicals or pesticides.

6 E-VEHICLES INDUCTED

In a continued endeavour to become an eco-sustainable airport, the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport has inducted six electric vehicles in its fleet for operational use. “It is a part of the initiative of the airport to meet the eco-sustainable goal to become a carbon neutral airport by 2024 and net zero in another five years’ time. The airport will also commission an EV charging station in the parking lot on the landside and a similar facility will be set up on the airside,” the spokesperson said.

BLOOD DONATION

A blood donation camp was organised at Lok Bandhu Rajnarayan Chikitsalaya on Tuesday. It was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak. The newly-built Gyani OPD and the registration counter were also inaugurated by the deputy CM. He lauded the online OPD registration process. Residents of the area

donated blood in the camp. He also inaugurated the hospital’s website and expressed satisfaction after examining the arrangements at the hospital.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University witnessed a plethora of cultural activities under its music club and cultural club themed around ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’. A competition of folk songs and folk dance was organised by the music club on the theme of unity in diversity. Six students participated in a singing competition and sang Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Bihari and Gujarati folk songs. Aniket Prabhakar, Vaishnavi Mishra and Sachidanand Pandey were declared the winners. Eight students presented Gujarati, Awadhi, Kashmiri, Rajasthani and Haryanvi folk dances. Ranjana Gupta, Samragyi Shaurya Patel, Nashra Yusuf were declared the winners. A fashion show was also organised in which the students participated enthusiastically.

VISIT

Member of Railway Board (Infrastructure), New Delhi, Sudhanshu Sharma visited Charbagh railway station to take stock of ongoing works during his one-day tour to the city on Tuesday. The aim was to give a fillip to the ongoing projects at the railway station. He, along with the officials of Lucknow division of Northern Railway, inspected the infrastructural works of the under-construction projects and also those which have been completed. He walked from platform numbers 8/9 and reached the KKC bridge where he inspected the diamond crossing and yard and gave instructions for its improvement. Asking the officials not to compromise with

the quality of work, Sharma said maintaining quality and standard in the ongoing infrastructural works would help in making the railway station one of the best in the country.

SELECTED

Eight students of City Montessori School have brought glory to Lucknow by getting selected in the National Defence Academy examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). These CMS students are Shreyansh Tiwari, Lokesh Pandey, Omansh Srivastava, Utkarsh Pandey, Priyansh Yadav, Akshat Singh, Jahnava Tripathi and Ishit Dev Sinha.

SWACHH PARYAVARAN DIWAS CELEBRATED

The Lucknow division of North Eastern Railway on Tuesday celebrated ‘Swachh Paryavaran Diwas’ (Clean Environment Day) at Lucknow Junction, Gonda Junction, Gorakhpur Junction, Badshah Nagar, Aishbagh and other railway stations of the division under the ongoing ‘Swachhata Pakhwara’. Several programmes are being organised under the ‘Swachhata Pakhwara’ on the instructions of DRM, NER, Monica Agnihotri.

WEBINAR

A webinar on cleanliness awareness campaign was organised at RDSO on Tuesday. Director General Sanjiv Bhutani chaired the webinar. ACMS, RDSO, Sangeeta Sagar gave a presentation on ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’. AEN-II, RDSO, KK Mishra also gave a presentation on making RDSO complex free from environmental hazards. The DG released the Indian Railway Technical Bulletin (June, 2022) and presented mementos to the speakers.

Ayurvedic treatment for rheumatoid arthritis shows positive results

Lucknow (PNS): The State Ayurvedic College and Hospital has shown good results as far as the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis patients is concerned, Prof Sanjeev Rastogi said on Sunday. The hospital started a special programme of treating rheumatoid arthritis with 23 patients on August 21 and a total of 4,043 patients have already received treatment for the same, he said.

Rastogi pointed out that the Arthritis Treatment and Advanced Research Centre (A-ATARC) was conceived as a pilot project in 2019. “Approved by the Uttar Pradesh government for funding, it formally started the OPD in August last year and registered over 1,600 new arthritis patients in a year from across the state. At least, 60% OPD patients belong to places other than Lucknow. Five per cent patients are from outside the state or country while 60% patients are those

who had been on allopathic medicine. Besides, 10-15% patients arrive early in the course of their illness (within 1-3 months). The hospital has received referrals from other departments and various peripheral Ayurveda dispensaries,” he said.

The treatment methods include ‘panchakarma’, ‘balukasweda’, ‘januvashti’, ‘kati-vashti’, ‘shuskasweda’ (IR lamp), ‘shirovashti’, ‘grivavasti’, ‘prishthavasti’, ‘virechana’, bloodletting with ‘jalauka’ (leech), and yoga asanas. “As per the recommendation of physicians, physiotherapy should also be carried out,” Rastogi said.

He said that psychological impacts of arthritis are known and visible. “These effects adversely impact the coping mechanism and negatively modulate the patients’ ability to respond to pathogens,” he added.

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APPENDIX IV [See Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)				
Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice, on date mentioned below against each account stated hereinafter, calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the date mentioned below against each account. The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the total amount due mentioned below against each account and interest & all expenses thereon:				
Sl No.	Borrower, Guarantor & Branch Name	Mortgagor and Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Notice	Date of Demand Notice & Amount Due
1.	Borrower- Mrs. Afroza Fatima w/o Saiyad Azhar Abbas Jafari & Saiyad Azhar Abbas Jafari s/o Saiyad Ahmed Jafari, Guarantor- Mrs. Alkama Jafari w/o Mr. Mazahar Abbas Jafari Both R/O: 249/281 Daira Shah Azmal Prayagraj - 211003 (UP) BRANCH- Chowk, Allahabad	All that part & parcel of the property bearing, Plot No. Portion of Arazi No. 321, Min. Area- 41.82 sq. mtrs situated in Mauza- Enuddinpur, Tehsil- Sadar, Distt. Allahabad (U.P) in the name of Mrs. Afroza Fatima w/o Saiyad Azhar Abbas Jafari Boundaries: East- Portion of Arazi No. 321, West- Other Plot, North- 15 ft. wide Road, South- Portion of Arazi No. 321	22.09.2022	11.02.2021 Rs. 23,22,234.91 + interest & all expenses since 11.02.2021
Note- The attention of Borrower, Guarantor & Mortgagor is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets. For any clarification/error please contact the concerned branch				
Date : 28.09.2022		Place : Prayagraj		Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

2 killed in mishap ‘Complaints related to entrepreneurs should be taken up on priority’

PNS ■ KANPUR

Two boys were killed and a girl sustained serious injury after a speeding DCM ran over them in Jainpur village under Akbarpur Kotwali police station of Kanpur Dehat late on Monday evening. Due to her serious condition, the injured girl was referred to a Kanpur hospital. Police have impounded the DCM and launched raids to nab its driver.

Deepak of Sarai, Rura and Balram of Gulauli, Moosanagar of Kanpur Dehat are engaged as labourers in a factory in Jainpur and live there with their family members. On Monday evening, Deepak's son Aryan (12) with his younger

sister Gungun (8) and Balram's son Ansh (12) had gone to the coaching institute.

When they were returning from the tuition classes a speeding DCM going towards Kanpur in a bid to save a motorcyclist reached on the service lane across the road divider and ran over the children.

Their kin and local police immediately rushed to the spot. Police sent the injured children to the district hospital with their kin where Ansh and Aryan were declared dead. Gungun was referred to a Kanpur hospital. Superintendent of Police (Kanpur Dehat) Suniti also rushed to hospital and consoled the bereaved family members.

PNS ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Visakh G Iyer while chairing the Zila Vyapar Bandhu meeting at Collectorate expressed concern over increasing number of complaints and directed the officials to ensure that all complaints related to industries and entrepreneurs should be taken up on top priority. He said all complaints need to be attended to within the stipulated time frame. He directed the Kanpur Nagar Nigam that it should ensure the repair of the roads at the earliest.

He said on account of incessant rains this year the city roads were in a veritable mess and people were often stuck at the bottlenecks on account of

damaged roads.

He said the trading community had especially complained that in commercial areas loading, unloading and movement on the roads was hindered due to their bad condition. He said another cause of concern was the ever growing littering of polythene and plastics and asked the KNN and the Kapda Committee members to ensure that all markets are made plastic free zones and said this should be started in Gumti market as a pilot project and then taken up for the entire city. He said the cause of waterlogging was majorly due to sewer choking and drain blockages. He said KNN had been directed that all blocked drains and choked sewers were

cleaned to prevent waterlogging all over the city.

Kapda Committee president Shesh Narain Trivedi said change must come from the people and they need to refuse plastics if offered. He said people will have to carry cloth bags or they should be made to pay for them to carry the purchased goods. He said unless this was adopted it would be highly difficult for declaring market plastic free.

He said crackdown should not only be confined to roadside vegetable vendors and hawkers who had to bear the brunt both of police and KNN officials. ADM (City) Atul Kumar, AMC Suryakant Tripathi and several others were present in the meeting.



District Magistrate Visakh G Iyer chairing the meeting of Zila Vyapar Bandhu

KNM to run campaign for recycling waste Symposium on dengue & chikungunya

PNS ■ KANPUR

President of Kanpur Nagrik Manch Suresh Gupta, while addressing presspersons on Tuesday said the KNM had decided to carry out a campaign for recycling waste in order to save environment and thus will observe 'Green Consumer Day' on September 28. He said this day will focus primarily on raising awareness and importance of recycling-reusing and reducing waste material. He said this will also drastically help the city reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators.

He said to save our Mother Earth it was essential to recycle waste and added that if waste was not recycled it can negatively impact our environment in many ways. He said recycling reduced the need for all these mentioned as manufacturers do not have to look for new materials as they can reuse old ones to create new ones. He said it not only saved energy but also reduced greenhouse gas emissions which helped to tackle climate change.

Addressing the meet, Chotebhai said recycling reduced pollution. He added pollution in the form of water, air and land has been a major cause of global concern. He said recycling these materials helped environment a lot. He suggested that instead of throwing waste away recklessly, it was good to consider if it can be used elsewhere. He said recycling was also environment friendly and recycling paper helped in restoring forests thus protecting our environment.

He said global warming was now a burning issue and continuous greenhouse gas emissions in the air contribute to global warming and therefore climate change was occurring and that too dangerously. He said recycling played a big role in minimising global warming. He said improper waste disposal emitted different gases like carbon dioxide, nitrogen and sulfur which contributed to global warming. He said as recycling process involved minimal waste disposal, burns little fossil fuels and most chemicals were reused, there was less emission of greenhouse gas.

Chotebhai said waste can impact animals and consequently, humans because of the food chain.

Waste can cause loss of natural habitats and contributed to negative impacts like climate change and global warming, which can also destroy animals' natural habitats. When animals and other biological organisms lose their habitats, they can die off or starve.

He said raw materials often come from our most important forests like rainforests that include natural resources like timber, water and minerals and recycling helped cut back on new materials and thus preserve natural habitats, forests, rainforests and give the Earth a chance to grow and heal.

He said one of the biggest reasons why recycling had been promoted was that it did reduce the strain on environment by utilising waste products in a constructive way and one can slowly decrease the size of landfills. He said the benefits of recycling were that it helped to keep pollution in check and decrease it gradually.

PNS ■ KANPUR

A symposium on 'dengue and chikungunya' was organised at Arogyadham Homoeopathic Clinic, Gwaltpoli, on Tuesday. Senior homoeopath Dr Hemant Mohan and gynaecologist Dr Arti Mohan said that due to change in weather, they had noticed an increase in the number of patients suffering from dengue and chikungunya visiting their clinic during the past few days. They claimed that with the treatment with homeopathic medicines both the diseases could be cured. Dr Arti Mohan said in dengue hemorrhagic condition when balance of sodium and potassium gets disturbed in the body and the mental balance of a patient becomes out of con-



Patients being examined at Arogyadham Homoeopathic Clinic, Gwaltpoli on Tuesday.

trol homoeopathic medicines work miraculously. They also examined many patients in their clinic on the occasion.

CONFERENCE: The three-day state annual conference organised by the Association of Maxillofacial Surgeons of India saw many eminent experts sharing their views on head and neck cancer, dental implants, facial trauma, tumour of face and

jaws with special focus on methods of treatment beneficial to large section of the society.

During the conference, three live surgeries were also performed on facial aesthetics, orthognathic and zygomatic implants by Dr Sardar Singh and Dr Susmriti Dey at Saluja Dentals. As many as 30 guest speakers from all over Uttar Pradesh and 15 from

different parts of India took part in the conference. Some of them included the President, AOMSI, Dr Manjunath Rai (Mangaluru), Mentor UP State Dr R Pradhan and, Secretary AOMSI Dr Girish Rao (Bengaluru), Dr Jinson (Chennai), Dr Nithin Bhola (Wardha), Dr Sonal (Ahmedabad), Dr Pritham Shetty (Bengaluru) and Dr Amit Dhawan (Amritsar). Lifetime Achievement Awards were given to Dr SK Gupta and Dr Padam Tandon in presence of Mentor Prof YC Mishra. Chairman, Scientific Committee Dr Nishant informed that as many as 80 postgraduate residents from different parts of the state and country presented their papers and 12 of them were awarded the prizes.

Radiologists & clinicians' familiarity with fetal MRI still limited: Disawal ‘Govt making effort to promote religious & cultural tourism in Kanpur’

PNS ■ KANPUR

Noted radiologist, Dr Amit Disawal, Moradabad while addressing the concluding session of 34 RICON 2022 organised by the Indian Radiological and Imaging Society of Uttar Pradesh while speaking on "Fetal MRI" said MRI had been increasingly used for detailed visualisation of the fetus in utero as well as pregnancy structures. He said yet the familiarity of radiologists and clinicians with fetal MRI is still limited engendering the need for a practical approach to fetal MRI imaging.

He said fetal MRI was an interactive scanning of the moving fetus owed to the use of fast sequences. He said single-shot fast spin-echo (SSFSE) T2-weighted imaging was a

standard sequence. He said T1-weighted sequences were primarily used to demonstrate fat, calcification and haemorrhage and balanced steady-state free-precession (SSFP) were beneficial in demonstrating fetal structures as the heart and vessels.

He said diffusion weighted imaging (DWI), MR spectroscopy (MRS) and diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) had potential applications in fetal imaging. He said knowing the developing fetal MR anatomy was essential to detect abnormalities and MR evaluation of the developing fetal brain should include recognition of the multilayered appearance of the cerebral parenchyma knowledge of the timing of sulci appearance, myelination and changes in ventricular size.

PNS ■ KANPUR

District Tourism Officer Arijit Ojha while chairing the 'Sewa Pakhwara Karyakaram' on the occasion of World Tourism Day on Tuesday said the Uttar Pradesh government had decided to bring talents from different states on a common platform and promote them on a larger scale. He said as per the plan native inhabitants of different states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttarakhand and a few more who had permanently settled in Kanpur should be united on a common platform so that their talents in the field of arts, culture, food, language, tradition etc can be shared so as to promote unity in diversity.

He said the Uttar Pradesh government was making every effort to promote religious and cultural tourism in Kanpur which has been a mythological city. He said it was a matter of great concern that despite being

of one country people were unaware of art, culture food and traditions of other states and this had to be promoted in a big way to make a united and strong India. He hoped that this platform will provide an opportunity for people who had assembled from different states to display their talents in different fields.

Dr Vipin Bannerjee, Bengal, while addressing the function said that World Tourism Day was observed on September 27 every year and thus it had been decided to organise a 'Sewa Pakhwara' which is service fortnight. He said UP is known for its rich culture and tradition and was home to Ayodhya and Mathura birthplaces of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna respectively. He said UP attracted many national and international tourists.

He said direct benefits included economic support for hotels, retail shops, transportation services, entertainment venues and attractions, while indirect benefits includes gov-



ernment spending on related infrastructure, plus the domestic spending of Indians employed in the tourism sector. He said tourism can and does bring about socio-economic changes and was usually deliberately developed to generate economic benefits and through them social betterment. He said therefore, it was important to understand the specific types of impacts whether positive or

negative that tourism generated in a society.

Addressing the session Govind Chiwate from Maharashtra said socio-economic impacts of tourism had made this field a rather controversial one in recent years, especially where tourism development had been rapid and largely unplanned and uncontrolled with the result that there had been adverse socio-

cultural as well as environmental impacts.


He said direct economic benefits included provision of employment, income and foreign exchange, which led to improved living standards of local community and overall national and regional economic development.

He said in economically depressed areas employment and income provided by

tourism, especially to young people, may help stem out migration from those areas.

Sunil Murarka, Rajasthan, said another indirect socio-economic benefit is the improvement brought about in transportation and other infrastructural facilities and services for tourism that also serve general national, regional and community needs. He said tourism may be seen as advantageous in trading technical and managerial skills for segments of its population, some of which can be transferred to other sectors which would generally encourage people to adopt regular employment habits and work for things they wanted.

He said tourism can be a major stimulus for conservation of important elements of cultural heritage of an area because their conservation can be justified, in part or whole, by tourism as tourist attractions. The vote of thanks was proposed by corporator Madan Lal Bhatia.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

POSSESSION NOTICE
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Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued as demand notice to the following borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest within 60 days from the date of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is here by given to the below mentioned Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of power conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on the dates mentioned below. The Borrower attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for the amount / liability and interest and other expenses there on due from the Borrower as mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrower Demand Notice Date / Possession Notice Date	Details & Description of Properties	Amount Due on Notice Date
1.	Borrower : Mr. Ram Chandar S/o Late Bedi Prasad Add : Vill Jamuwa, Post Dharde, Chandauli - 232103 Guarantor : (1) Mr. Upendra Bahadur Singh S/o Late Nar Singh Add : Vill Gaudihar, Post Mawaiya, Chandauli - 232103 (2) : Mr. Bhola S/o Late Bedi Prasad Add : Vill Jamuwa, Post Dharde, Chandauli - 232103 Date of Demand Notice : 20.06.2022 Date of Possession Notice : 23.09.2022 Branch : Sikandarpur	Equitable Mortgage of Arazi No 34 Area 2044 sq.ft Muza Someshwarpur Patti Majhali, Pargana Keramagraur, Tehsil Chakia Chandauli in the name of Mr. Ram Chandar S/o Late Bedi Prasad & Mr. Bhola S/o Late Bedi Prasad Bounded as Under : East : Rest Part of Land of Seller, West : Land of Pintu, North : Road, South : Miner	Rs. 14,75,044/- + interest + Other Miscellaneous & Legal Expenses
2.	Borrower : Mrs. Deepmala W/o Mr. Subhas Ram Add : Shop No. 305, Gomti Market Jalali Patti DLW Varanasi-221108 Guarantor : Mrs. Sona Devi W/o Mr. Shankar Ram Add : Lakhampur, Bhullanpur, Varanasi - 221108 Date of Demand Notice : 11.07.2022 Date of Possession Notice : 27.09.2022 Branch : Amara Khaira Chak	All the parts and parcel of Property situated at Arazi No. 114/1, Area 3 Decimal, Mauza Lakhampur, Pargana Dehat Amanat, Tehsil and District Varanasi, Property in the name of Mrs. Sona Devi W/o Mr. Shankar Ram . Bounded as Under : East : Boundary Wall and Room of Sitaram, West : House of Shiv Prasad, North : Rasta, South : House of Sona Devi thereafter Rasta	Rs. 25,46,967.94/- + interest + Other Miscellaneous & Legal Expenses

Publication has been done carefully if mistake is found please contact the concerned Branch or The Authorised Officer.
Date : 28.09.2022
Place : Varanasi
Authorised Officer

Muzaffarnagar riots: UP min, others get bail

PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

Uttar Pradesh minister Kapil Dev Agarwal and several other BJP leaders were granted bail after they surrendered in a special MP/MLA court here on Tuesday in connection with a case pertaining to violating prohibitory orders and inciting communal tension during 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots. Special Judge Mayank Jaiswal withdrew the non-bailable warrants against them and ordered each of them to furnish two sureties each of Rs. 20,000.

Earlier, the lawyers of the accused filed applications requesting the recall of warrants and allowing bail to the accused persons. According to prosecution officer Niraj Singh, the accused have been charged under Section 188 IPC (Disobedience of order duly

promulgated by the public servant). It was alleged that they had taken part in the panchayat meeting in Nagla Madore village where they violated the prohibitory orders and incited violence through their speeches on August 30, 2013.

Those who surrendered in the court included Kapil Dev Agarwal who is an MLA from Sadar seat in Muzaffarnagar and the minister of state for skill development. VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi, former BJP MLA Ashok Kansal, former district BJP president Yashpal Panwar and former MP and SP leader Harendra Malik besides former BJP MP Sohan Vir Singh were among those who surrendered. About 60 people were killed and more than 40,000 displaced during the 2013 communal riots in Muzaffarnagar and adjoining areas.

AU students threaten to take 'bhu samadhi'

PTI ■ PRAYAGARJ

Allahabad University students demonstrating against a fee hike on Tuesday threatened to take 'bhu samadhi' by burying themselves in a pit they dug at their protest site here. Some of them jumped into the five-foot pit near

the protest site in the university premises and policemen had to pull them out, the police said. Additional police force was also summoned.

The students say their fees have been hiked nearly three-fold and have been holding protests for several days now.

VDA to develop tent city

PNS ■ VARANASI

VDA has chalked out a project of 'tent city' in front of Assi Ghat across the river Ganga on (Ramnagar side) to accommodate the tourists coming from various parts of the country and other countries of the world

them.

Keeping this in view, the VDA had invited accretion of interest for the project regarding this through its website on April 25 last and a meeting with the DC in chair had invited companies for the presentation to develop a tent city.

The VDA had prepared a detail RFP by including the suggestions of the companies and invited tender for the proposal from the developers. The VDA opened technical tenders to develop tent city through e-tender website on August 31 last and opened two financial bids of the developers succeeded in the technical tender. On the consent of working at high bidding rate, the developers Praveg Communications (India) Limited, Ahmedabad,

Gujarat and Lallooji & Sons, Ahmedabad, Gujarat were given the contract to develop two clusters of 200 tents and one cluster of 200 tents respectively. A team of VDA and senior officers of concerned departments made a visit of the site where the tent city is to be developed and the estimated amount had also been transferred to the concerned departments which had also invited tenders for the facilities to be made available there.

Chairing a meeting at the divisional auditorium here on Monday Agrawal reviewed the inter-departmental works relating to develop the tent city and the departments informed him that the work has been started on the project site by awarding the tender.

The DC directed the developers to ensure the operation of tent city before the festival of Dev Deepawali.

One cluster is to be developed in 10 hectare area and three clusters of 200 tents each are to be developed. A total of 200 tourists could be accommodated in one cluster.

The Swiss/cottages (tents accommodation), reception area, gaming zone, restaurant, dining area, conference site, spa & yoga center, library and art gallery are to be developed besides water sports, camel/horse riding, etc for the facility of the tourists. The sports and cultural activities would also be held there.

Tourism can help us overcome Covid shockwaves: MSDSU V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Suhel Dev State University (MSDSU), Azamgarh Prof PK Sharma said that though Covid has adversely impacted all the sectors, it has also brought us many opportunities. “The use of digital technologies during the pandemic has seen unprecedented growth,” he said, stressing on the need for maximising the use of digital technologies in the tourism sector. Speaking as the chief guest in the inaugural function of a day-long national seminar on ‘Re-thinking Tourism’ organised by the Tourism and Hospitality section, Department of History of Arts, Faculty of Arts in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on the occasion of World Tourism Day here on Tuesday, Prof. Sharma said that diversity is one of India’s biggest strengths and the country is known for its unity in diversity.

“Our cultural heritage is unparalleled in the world and we are known for our geographical distinctiveness. So, we have many advantages that can help our tourism industry overcome the shockwaves it suffered due to the pandemic”, he said, appealing to the students of Tourism and Hospitality Management to prepare themselves for the future in terms of skills. The coming days have a lot to offer, so we better be prepared well and reap the benefits, he added.

The guest of honour and BHU Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh said the topic of the seminar is very relevant and well timed as the world has been through a severe pandemic and it is still not over.



Seminar on tourism being held at BHU in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

Underlining the important role of academic institutions in reviving the sectors which suffered a lot, Prof. Singh said we must brainstorm the ideas and innovative ways that could help tourism and hospitality sectors adopt a fast pace in terms of growth. He said that Indian society has always been visitor friendly and we treat our guests as a manifestation of the divine. The Registrar said that tourism is a magnificent way to showcase India’s rich heritage, culture and diversity and to capitalise its benefits. Prof. Singh presented various data to showcase the benefits tourism brings in terms of jobs, economic growth and uplifting people. He added that tourism is a great resource and we

must be at our best in creatively making good use of this resource.

Director of Inter University Centre for Teacher Education (IUCTE BHU) Prof PN Singh, while referring to the tourist inflow in Varanasi in the past few months, said that tourism in the city has definitely seen a significant growth and the bigger challenge now is to manage it effectively and efficiently. He said the students of tourism are the future leaders of the industry and they must be ready for it.

Dean of Faculty of Arts Prof VB Singh appealed to those present to look around and make efforts in identifying the potential areas and boost tourism activities. He suggested

that tourism should be made a mandatory part of the curriculum. “This will help in overall development of students as traveling and knowing about something other than their surroundings will help them develop a better outlook towards the world,” he said. Course Coordinator Prof ON Singh, while welcoming the guests, exuded confidence that the students of these courses in BHU would go a long way and leave a mark wherever they go. Convener Dr Anil Kumar Singh said that millions of jobs have been lost due to COVID-19 but there are numerous opportunities. Organising Secretary Dr Praveen Rana conducted the programme. Dr Shyju PJ conveyed the vote of thanks.

Hundreds throng Brahmarini temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Hundreds of devotees thronged Brahmarini Devi temple located near Brahma Ghat in Kotwali area on the second day of Shardiya Navratri here on Tuesday. Rush was also seen at the temple after two years of COVID-19 restrictions but the same was not as heavy as it was witnessed on the first day of Shardiya Navratri at Shailputri Devi temple. Right from the morning hours, there was a long line of devotees in the nearby narrow lanes and only a few devotees were allowed to enter the temple premises at a time to avoid any awkward situation. Braving scorching heat, the devotees waited for a long time to reach the temple and offer prayers.

Heavy rush of devotees was also seen throughout the day at the famous Durga Mandir (Durga Kund) as usual. Rush was also seen at some other temples of goddesses. This holy city is a rare place where there are separate temples of all the nine Gauris and Devis where the devotees reach



Devotees offering prayers at Brahmarini Devi temple on second day of Navratri in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

to offer prayers on different days during Basantik (Chaitiya) and Shardiya Navratri respectively.

Besides, hundreds of devotees rushed to Vindhyachal in Mirzapur district by Roadway buses or other vehicles to offer

prayer on this auspicious occasion. Rush was also seen at Old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar, Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpur (near Chunar, Mirzapur) and others. Due to the high level of water in river Ganga, though it was recorded

steadily during the day, the devotees faced it tough to reach Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dashashwamedh Ghat.

At both Durga Kund and Brahmarini Devi temples, elaborate security arrangements were made.

Spl vaccination drive begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A special routine vaccination drive, under Universal Immunisation Programme, which was started in the schools in the district on Monday, will continue till October 15. The special drive also continued on Tuesday as the camps will be held in schools on every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday till mid of the next month. Under this campaign, children above five years of age are being immunised with DPT (a vaccine against three infectious diseases diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) and Td (diphtheria and tetanus) vaccines and in the first day, children were vaccinated against DPT and Td in more than 50 government schools of the district.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that the aim of the campaign is to prevent infection and serious life-threatening diseases in children and to control child mortality. He has appealed to the family members that if any vaccine of the child has been missed according to the age under the routine vaccination programme, then they must go to their nearest government hospital and get the vaccine so that the infect-



Regular immunisation being held at a school in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

ed diseases can be prevented.

District Immunisation Officer Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma said that in the special vaccination campaign, children above five years and between 10 and 16 years were immunised against diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DPT) and tetanus-diphtheria (Td) in camps organised in different schools with the help of ANMs

and ASHA workers. Initially, vaccination of missed children is being done by organising special camps in government and government recognised schools but soon the same drive will also be conducted in private schools as well.

Senior Medical Officer and Immunization In-charge Dr AK Pandey informed that this campaign will be run in schools

on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in addition to regular vaccination days on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Deputy District Immunisation Officer Dr Yatish Bhuvan Pathak informed that information has been given to the officers from district level to block level so that maximum number of children can be immunised.

Navaratri celebrations in full swing on second day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A large number of devotees made a beeline outside the temples on the second day of Shardiya Navratri, the festival of renounce and dedication here on Tuesday.

By keeping a fast with selfless devotion, devotees worshipped and had darshan of the Brahmarini form of goddess Durga. The fasting women and men were praying for the attainment of self-power from the mother by lighting the diya in the house and reciting Durga Saptashati. They worshipped goddess Durga

through Bhajan-Kirtan in their homes.

In temples, the Brahmarini form of Maa was adorned and worshipped. Under the leadership of Maa Kalyani Devi Temple President Sushil Pathak and General Secretary Shyamji Pathak, amidst chants, goddess Durga was adorned with gem-studded ornaments and worshipped as per the rituals and performed the aarti of Ma and wished for the welfare of the people. The devotees present were mesmerized after seeing the divine form of the Ma.

The process of worshipping Maa Lalita Devi temple had started in the morning. In the evening, aarti was performed by adorning the Brahmarini form of Ma. Temple committee president Harimohan Verma and general minister Dheeraj Nagar prayed for public welfare by offering sacrifices in Shatchandi Yagya.

Devotees came from far and wide to have darshan of Maa Khema Mai. Offering chunari, coconut and prasad to the mother, circumambulated the Akhand Jyoti. At the same time, the process of seeing Ma’s cradle in Maa

Alopshankari temple continued from morning till night. By offering flowers, chunari, coconut and cardamom in Ma’s cradle, devotees wished for the desired results.

On Wednesday, the 28th of September, the Chandraghanta form of Maa Durga will be worshipped. Shatchandi Yagya is going on for public welfare in Devi temples.

The ‘ahutiyas’ were made in the Yagya Kund amidst chants in Maa Alopshankari, Maa Kalyani Devi, Maa Lalita Devi temple. People associated with the temple management participated in the yagya.

Maha Kumbh 2025: First coordination meeting of railway, civil admn held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In view of the preparations for the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025, the first coordination meeting of railway and civil administration was held under the chairmanship of General Manager, North Central Railway at North Central Railway Headquarters here on Wednesday.

In this meeting, Commissioner Prayagraj Division Vijay Vishwas Pant, Inspector General of Police RK Singh, District Magistrate Prayagraj Sanjay Kumar Khatri and Senior Superintendent of Police Shailesh Pandey along with other officers of District Administration and Additional General Manager on behalf of Railway Administration attended this meeting.

Additional Railway Manager Ranjan Yadav, Divisional Railway Manager Mohit Chandra, Principal Heads of Departments from North Central Railway Headquarters, senior officers of Northern Railway and North Eastern Railway and North Central Railway Prayagraj were present.

In his address on this occasion, the General Manager



assured everyone that the Railway Administration has always been contributing significantly in the Maha Kumbh Mela, the biggest human gathering to be organized in Prayagraj and we will discharge it in a responsible manner in the upcoming Kumbh also. In the same sequence, he said that in the next few days, the dedicated freight corridor will become operational and freight trains will be shifted on it, then it will provide an additional rail route for passenger trains.

In this sequence, by form-

ing a joint team of officers of civil administration, police and railways, he talked about making a list of desired reforms and development works at all stations. In the same context, he also talked about adding a route to the proposed road over bridge for Subedarganj station, widening the station from Kanpur road side and likewise, the widening of Naini station connectivity road and Prayagraj Chheoki station route, improving the connectivity of Jhansi station. Somewhere. In this sequence, the need for overall develop-

ment of Jhansi station was also expressed. During this, he said that Niranjan bridge is to be widened for two additional rail routes in future. Along with this, there was also a discussion regarding removing all the obstacles in the way of the proposed road over bridge at IERT railway crossing.

On this occasion, General Manager Pramod Kumar assured that there will be no constraint of funds for development works and wherever there is a need for sharing of funds for any project, necessary action will be taken.

Crude bomb explosion near school causes panic

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The bombing outside a school in the city of Prayagraj caused panic. Some people hurled the bomb outside the Jwala Devi Vidya Mandir School located in Civil Lines. On Monday night Though the incident took place late at night, still fear gripped the school staff and the students. The principal of the school has filed a case against the unknown at the Civil Lines police station. However, it is not yet clear who carried out the bombing. Police are looking for the perpetrators.

The incident happened late on Monday night. It is said that between 12 and one o’clock in the night, some youths reached near Jwala Devi Vidya Mandir School located in Civil Lines and hurled two bombs one after the other. The explosion caused panic among the people around. When the school opened on Tuesday, the school management came to know about it. The police reached the

spot and investigated. After this a case was registered against the unknown on the complaint being given by the principal.

It is not clear who hurled the bomb outside the school. Police said that CCTV footage is being scrutinized. Some suspicious pictures have been found. After proper identification, necessary action will be taken after arrest.

There is also an RSS office in the Jwala Devi Vidya Mandir College premises located in Civil Lines in Prayagraj. In such a situation, it is also being feared that the incident of bombing might have done to target the Sangh office. School Principal Ramji Singh has informed the police about all the aspects related to the incident. The police are also investigating keeping this angle in mind.

ADOPTED CHILD CAN’T BE DEPRIVED OF RIGHTS: The Allahabad High Court has said in an important judgment that a child as a human has the right to know

who their parents are. They also have the right to grow up in a family environment with his siblings. At the same time, the child also has a legal right to be under the protection of their birth parents till one attains majority. The child has the first right to know his true identity, and also the right to know who has raised him/her.

The Allahabad High Court said that the adopted child also has the same right. The child cannot be deprived of his/her legal right. Along with this, the court has directed to hand over the custody of the five-year-old girl living with her maternal uncle to the parents who gave birth. At the age of three and a half years, her maternal uncle was taking care of her. The court said that the all-round development of the child can be done only in the company of the parents who gave birth. This decision has been given by a division bench comprising Justice Sunita Agrawal and Justice Sadhana Rani Thakur on the appeal of

Nasreen Begum and Mohammad Sajjad. The court has said that the family court Aligarh should complete the proceedings of handing over the girl living with her maternal uncle to her natural parents. The court also said that the court will look after the interest of the child. This can also be done against her will. The will of the child does not matter to its well being. The court has ordered that whenever the parents come to the country or once or twice a year, the maternal uncle should be allowed to visit the child. Professor Mohammad Sajjad was childless. He had taken a relative’s child but he took it away. Seeing their grief, Nasreen Begum’s sister gave birth to a three-and-a-half year old girl. They went abroad. When they came to India, they were not allowed to meet the child. So the family went to court. The court refused to hand over the child to the mother who gave birth. An appeal was filed against this order.

Health camp inaugurated

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

MLA Ratnakar Mishra said

for noble cause spirit of dedication is a must and Bharat Vikas Parishad is an example which has been serving the devotees during Navratri for years. He said this while inaugurating the free health camp set up at Kali Khoh on Monday. He said that it was the credibility of the organisation that other organisations like NIMA, Arogya Bharti and Chemist Association also associated with the pious job. He assured organisers to help if needed at any stage. He asked the administrative authorities to provide all basic amenities for proper running of the camp. Dr Ravi Dubey, Dr Ganesh Awasthi, Dr Arvind Srivastava, Akhilesh Bahadur Singh, Vishnu

Malviya, Goverdhan Tripathi, Ashutosh Soni and others were present.

Meanwhile Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rajendra Prasad said a mega camp to administer precaution dose of Covid vaccine is being organised in the district on September 29. He said the target of the day was 30,000 through 16 CHCs, 53 PHCs and 326 subcentres. He said total 16 lakh people were to be covered in the district in which only 4,65,000 had been vaccinated. CMO said still Covid patients were being identified so it was the need of the hour that all those identified for vaccination should avail themselves of the facility on priority.

WOMAN DIES: A woman devotee died in a train

accident on Monday. As many as 150 devotees from Rae Bareilly had come to Vindhyachal by bus to perform the rituals in the temple. On the day Asha Devi (34) was hit by the train near Rehda Chungi while crossing the railway track. Her companions informed the police about it and they took her body in their possession.

NAVRATRI MELA: The entire administrative machinery has thrown itself for ensuring proper arrangements at the Navratri Mela in Vidhyachal. On first day of Mela DM Divya Mittal reached the temple early in the morning and inspected the arrangements. The DM inspected the routes, Ganga ghats and other temples of the area, including Ashtabhuja and Kalikoth. The DM interacted with devotees

and sought suggestions. To become aware of the problems of devotees divisional commissioner stood in the queue of devotees and paid his obeisance to the Goddess Vindhyavasini. SP Santosh Kumar Mishra took over the command of security and checked all security points.

SEMINAR: Principal KB PG College Dr Ashok Singh while addressing a seminar at BED department on Monday as the chief guest said unity in diversity was the strength of Indian society.

He said it was the Sanatan culture of our society which kept the entire nation as intact. The seminar was also addressed by Dr Bhavbhuti Mishra, Dr Ramesh Chandra Ojha, Dr Kuldeep Pandey and Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh.

Setback for AAP

Aam Aadmi Party's vicious campaign against Delhi's Lieutenant Governor backfires

The Delhi High Court's decision to restrain Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its leaders from leveling "false" allegations against Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena is a rap on the knuckles for the Arvind Kejriwal-led party. More so because the court has also directed them to take down all libelous posts, videos, and tweets against him on social media. This is not the first time that AAP and its leaders have been forced to retract after making all sorts of allegations against senior leaders of various parties. From Nitish Gadkari to Arun Jaitley, Sheila Dikshit to Kapil Sibal, Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia to Ramesh Bidhuri, the AAP has a record of making unfounded allegations against its political rivals. At the height of the Anna Hazare movement, Kejriwal and his associates missed no opportunity in targeting their political rivals by doing everything possible to tarnish their images in a bid to project themselves as crusaders against corruption. After they came to power in 2015, leaders of the fledgling outfit were burdened with a slew of defamation cases. Realizing that the majority of his allegations were unsubstantiated, Kejriwal and senior leaders of his party went on an apology spree". It was expected that having learned their lessons and acquired some degree of political maturity over the years, the AAP leaders would be far more restrained in leveling allegations without producing any evidence. But the hit-and-run squad of the AAP seemed to still thrive on mudslinging. Delhi LG VK Saxena was this time the target of the AAP after he ordered a CBI inquiry into Delhi's excise policy. AAP leaders not only targeted Saxena but also tried to drag his daughter into their net.



Without producing a shred of evidence, they accused Saxena of laundering nearly ₹1,400 cr of demonetized currency in 2016 allegedly by putting pressure on employees of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, when Saxena was its chairman. The fact remains that Saxena had ordered an inquiry into the laundering of around ₹17lakhs by the KVIC treasurer and another employee. It is incomprehensible how AAP leaders arrived at the figure of ₹1,400 cr and flung it without a second thought at a constitutional functionary. Saxena not only rubbished the charges but also approached the Delhi HC against this mudslinging at him by AAP, its leaders Atishi Singh, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Durgesh Pathak, Sanjay Singh, and Jasmine Shah. Saxena has also sought damages and compensation of ₹2.5 crore along with interest from the political party and its five leaders. Saxena had earlier sent a legal notice to AAP and its leaders asking them to issue a press release "directing all members of the party and all persons associated with it, whether directly or indirectly, to cease from spreading and circulating false, defamatory, malicious and unsubstantiated statements". Now that the HC has ruled in his favor, AAP leaders may have a tough legal battle on their hands against the LG.



Tourists being welcomed with flower petals at the Agra Fort on World Tourism Day, in Agra PTI

Jaishankar's US visit

On an official visit, the Minister is taking on the US media and the administration alike

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is on 11-day US visit and his visit is turning out to be an exercise in plain speaking. The foreign minister arrived in the US on Sunday to attend the United Nations General Assembly. He took on the US media as well as the US administration for their anti-India stand. Right from the day, he arrived in the US Jaishankar has been meeting Indian Americans, and US press and met his US counterpart Antony Blinken. The reason for his visit officially is to 'enable a high-level review of the multifaceted bilateral agenda and strengthen cooperation on regional and global issues to further consolidate the India-US strategic partnership.' However, it is turning out to be a significant official visit that can redefine the US-India relations. To put things in perspective the Joe Biden administration has not been supportive of the Modi government's policies and practices. In fact, to make things worse the US press has been rather critical of Prime Minister Modi for his right-wing stance and rising hate crimes in the country. But then it is not about the Indian government but the country they are being critical of. Whatever happens in India must be resolved back home and in this regard, S Jaishankar's visit can be seen as critical.

The External Affairs Minister took on the US media in a hilarious way saying that they would report only the negatives and shun the good part. He also retorted to the US media's concerns about the situation in Kashmir. Ahead of a meeting with his US counterpart Antony Blinken, foreign minister S Jaishankar made no bones about India's concerns over the \$450 million sustanment package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Saying Washington was 'not fooling anybody' by claiming the fighter jets were meant for counter-terrorism purposes in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Jaishankar also said that the US-Pakistan relationship did not serve the interests of either country. In the present geopolitics, the US and India are natural allies as China's expansion is a big cause of concern for India and cannot be contained without the US on its side. The US also needs India to counter Putin's threats and use India as a mediator if need be, given India's proximity to Russia. But at the same time, India must assert its positions and make clear its national interests which Jaishankar is doing right now.

his US counterpart Antony Blinken, foreign minister S Jaishankar made no bones about India's concerns over the \$450 million sustanment package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Saying Washington was 'not fooling anybody' by claiming the fighter jets were meant for counter-terrorism purposes in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Jaishankar also said that the US-Pakistan relationship did not serve the interests of either country. In the present geopolitics, the US and India are natural allies as China's expansion is a big cause of concern for India and cannot be contained without the US on its side. The US also needs India to counter Putin's threats and use India as a mediator if need be, given India's proximity to Russia. But at the same time, India must assert its positions and make clear its national interests which Jaishankar is doing right now.

Facts, factoids and their interpretation

Though both sound similar, there is a vast difference between facts and factoids, and we must differentiate between their implications as well

The fact always states something actual as opposed to the imagination, whereas a factoid means an inaccurate statement or statistic believed to be true because of broad repetition. Now the question arises as to whether the facts can be affected by the deliberate spread of factoids. And here comes the issue of the problem of interpretation.

Any standard issue can be interpreted positively on negatively. Deliberate bias (the purposeful misrepresentation of data to advance an agenda) of the interpreter can negatively present a situation. Because of the importance of the tool of interpretation in influencing behavioural and electoral dynamics, some universities keep the problem of interpretation as a subject in a political science course.

The problem with interpretation is that it can present a factoid as a fact with continuous repetitions. The deliberate misrepresentation of facts or its distortion with bias or vendetta can precipitate unwanted situations undermining the position of the society, government, or nation. Freedom of expression doesn't confer the right to distort the facts, as this may foster serious implications.

Norman Mailer actually coined the word factoid. He used this word in his book Marilyn in 1973. He stated that factoids are news that have no existence before appearing in a newspaper or magazine meant to manipulate emotions in silent majority. Factoids though appear as facts but actually are not. Without exaggeration, it can be stated that the fangs of factoids or fake news can damage the democratic process and as such enormous part of public safety. Factoids also create mistrust affecting the social matrix. As it is Democratic system is always a soft target.

Factoids or fake information can be put under check by many regulatory bodies like the Press Council of India and the News Broadcasters Association



etc. Relevant sections of I.P.C can be attracted and used to curb factoids or fake news. Apart from that section 66 of the I.T Act, 2000, the use of civil and criminal cases of defamation can put wane on its spread. Many provisions of acts and laws can directly or indirectly control the spread of fake information.

Factoids or fake news (sophisticated disinformation campaigns) pose a threat to any system including a democratic one. Fake news factors have been researched in six different ways by E.C Tandoc and others. These include news satire, news parody, news fabrication, photo manipulation, advertising, and public relations and propaganda. Whatever manifestation it does appear, it does harm society and the nation. Examples are many in regard to the spread of factoids and fake news causing enormous damage to individuals and the country. In regard to the Problem of Interpretation, it can be said that all philosophies, both actual and possible, rest on cognitive activity either as correctly conceived or as distorted by mistaken orientations. Coming to the definition part, an Interpretation may be stated as the act of explaining,

IN LEXICON SEMANTICS, INTERPRETATION AS SUCH MEANS EXPLAINING; EXPLICATING; ELUCIDATING AND PROJECTING THE HIDDEN MEANING OF A PARABLE

reframing, or otherwise showing someone's own understanding of something. In lexicon semantics interpretation as such means explaining; explicating; elucidating and projecting the hidden meaning of a parable. Interpretation enables effective communication between people all over the world. Proper interpretation of facts and their dissemination paves the way for a proper appreciation and perception of things for their appropriate utilisation. Any healthy developing nation needs (free flowing) dissemination of factual news sans distortion.

Positive interpretation has an affirmative connotation in any system of government. A half-filled up glass can be delineated either way as half full or half empty. A deliberate attempt to create perceptual distortion is deplorable. In any developing nation, the role of media (including social media) becomes important so as to present the right picture before the people discern reality and pursue socio-economic advancement.

What is the solution to this problem?

There is a saying that when communication stops, grapevine starts, meaning

thereby that when communication stops, rumours establish their obnoxious existence. Frequent announcement of facts over media is a must to throttle rumours or any kind of misinformation. The second point is that immediate appropriate legal action/actions should be taken against the persons responsible for creating smoke screens. Moreover, such deliberate actions should be nipped in the bud thereby giving no scope to anybody for spreading falsehood and going with impunity. Especially in any crisis situation not only the government but citizens should come forward to build up the confidence of the people with positive information.

In the case of factoid, there lurks the ugly intention for misinterpretation to the detriment of individual/society or the nation. Whereas dissemination of correct information based on facts along with positive solutions is not only the duty of the media but also every single citizen to get over the problems of intended misinterpretation and misrepresentation.

(The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BAN RABID OUTFIT PFI

Sir — The second round of crackdown on the Popular Front of India (PFI) continues with fresh arrests in a follow-up to the September 22 raids in a multi-agency operation spearheaded by the NIA for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country. Whenever the name of PFI is in the news, one can be sure that something terrible has happened somewhere in the country; such is the legacy of this outfit. Often, its members can be seen swearing by the Indian Constitution calling for upholding 'secular' ideals and democracy. However, in reality, PFI is a radical Islamic extremist organisation whose members have indulged in rioting to murder.

It also shares close links with banned Islamic terrorist organisation Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). The PFI is also accused of brainwashing Hindu women and marrying them off to Muslim men in order to change the nation's demography. In 2012, the Kerala Government had informed the State High Court that PFI's activities are inimical to the safety of the country and that it is "nothing but a resurrection of the banned outfit SIMI". It's high time the rabid outfit is banned just like its predecessor, SIMI.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

CONGRESS IN CATCH-22 SITUATION

Sir — Whatever is happening in Rajasthan Congress is due to the faulty planning of its Central leadership without keeping in mind the ground reality. It may be the first time that the State leadership has challenged the Central leadership and the MLAs refused to meet the Central observers one on one, preferring to meet them collectively. Instead of meeting the observers, the legislators met the Speaker and submitted their resignations to him. These MLAs do not want that Deputy Chief Minister Rajesh Pilot be declared the Chief Minister.

Top honour for Asha Parekh



Dadasaheb Phalke Award shall be presented to her at the 68th National Film Awards in Vigyan Bhawan. In a career spanning almost five decades, Asha Parekh started off as a child artiste at the age of 10 with *Maa* under the screen name Baby Asha Parekh, which was directed by Bimal Roy for Bombay Talkies.

Bimal Roy was asked to come to Bombay from Kolkata to direct the film for the studio, which was going through bad times. Producer Subodh Mukherjee and writer-director Nasir Hussain cast her as the heroine in *Dil Deke Dekho* opposite Shammi Kapoor, which made her a huge star. In 1992, she was honoured with the Padma Shri for her contribution to cinema. Three years later, Asha featured in *Andolan* and subsequently changed her boots after her cameo appearance in the 1999 film *Sar Aankhon Par*.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

This happened in Punjab also last year when Channi was made the CM ignoring the sentiments of majority Congress leaders; the result is before us and Congress won only 18 seats whereas it earlier had 78 seats. Rahul Gandhi is already on the Bharat Jodo Yatra but there is an urgent need for course correction in the party, otherwise the purpose of this Yatra will be defeated. The Congress should adopt the midway path in Rajasthan so that both the groups are pacified. Keeping in view the nation's interests, the Opposition parties should contest the forthcoming parliamentary elections sincerely and unitedly.

Yash Pal Raihan | Jalandhar

NEED FOR SMART MEASURES

Sir — Our Finance Minister always seeks solace from others' failures. She never bothered to give an explanation about what went wrong with the economy, or why rupee is historically at the lowest today. The RBI has been deploying the dollar reserves to defend the cur-

rency and has exhausted billions of dollars of currency assets towards this end. The fundamental observations on India's continued devaluation of the rupee against the dollar show it is not a good sign. The reason remains the same: Energy, at the bottom of the inflation pyramid, must be secured at all costs.

Power is still very expensive and that'll drag India down and it'll have to step up the nuclear mix. Then there's the need to keep food, fuel and fertiliser costs under control and the rest will automatically follow. The same applies to inflation, hovering around 7-7.5 per cent whereas it's at least 8-9 per cent in the west and elsewhere. A kilo of vegetable costs ₹100 or more; all the food grains and other articles which are grown locally have also become costlier. It has become difficult for common people to survive.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I am travelling to Tokyo to participate in the State funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe, a dear friend and a great champion of India-Japan friendship.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



Capitalism without competition isn't capitalism. It's exploitation... That's why I mobilized my entire administration to promote it in our economy.

US President —Joe Biden

Bollywood has been an inspiration to the global cinematic platform for its glorious cinematography, talented actors, timeless tunes, and storylines and I am proud to be a part of it.



Actor —Kajol



Peter Della Penna has shown up what was really happening at the non-striker's end. That is why the law is in place.

Cricket commentator —Harsha Bhogle

Today, billions of loans of big industrialists are being waived. But if a farmer or small trader is unable to repay, then he is put in jail.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

THE RECIPE FOR ANARCHY

Moonlighting cannot be justified, for it fails loyalty test to contracts



PRAMOD PATHAK

Right and wrong, fair and unfair, ethical and unethical are no longer subjects that have standard definitions. Logic, convenience, personal interests, hedonism are the determining features that influence the judgment or opinion about an action or conduct. Universal benchmarks are missing.

These are strange times. No one likes to be wrong so everyone thinks he is right and defends his viewpoints with logic which veers largely around commerce. We are into an era of commerce. The moonlighting issue of the IT services is no different. It is also about commerce. But the matter needs to be discussed in a wider perspective. Ends cannot justify the means.

One big IT company chairman has recently admitted that the company has fired 300 of its employees in the past few months for working for direct competitors. Now here comes another question. Does it imply that the employees working in one industry can work beyond office hours or weekends in some other industry that is not in the same business?

Not easy to answer because it cannot be considered ethical. Quite intriguing why this matter is not discussed in that context and even the chairman who described moonlighting as cheating is trying to soften his stand. It is not clear what he means when he says that employees can have a transparent dialogue with the organisation about their second or weekend work.



Why this ambiguity? Will the disclosure allow people to work for two different companies? Even if some companies may like to take a more generous view of the phenomenon, the fact remains that the practice of moonlighting cannot be a fair practice.

Rightly, some CEOs said that moonlighting is an ethical issue. Every employee who joins a company enters into a contract which has two aspects. An explicit one which is the appointment letter that mentions about the job conditions, duties and responsibilities, etc. But there is also an unwritten contract, the implicit one which requires that the employee should be devoted and loyal to the company.

Holding two jobs may thus be antithetical to this. Even if moonlighting may not exactly be about one person having two jobs, it certainly is some kind of opportunity cost that the company will have to bear. Full-time employment should not go along with part time employment. Conflict of interest of one kind or the other is likely to arise. And we have seen what kind of damage conflict of interest can do.

Moonlighting, of course, is not something which is a new phenomenon and has been a concern in the past, too. The only difference was that in those times people engaging in moonlighting would do it in a hush-hush manner as they realised fully well that it was not fair.

From teachers to doctors, earning extra money outside the scope of the respective jobs was happening. But people were not seeking approval for the act as its fairness was always under the cloud. Conscience during those days still existed. However, as commerce is driving everything these days, such values do not count.

Ethics is something that these days is only for the sake of writing essays or being taught in schools and colleges. It is no longer a practice. And even bigger irony is that some sections want it to be legalised and are creating pressure groups to justify moonlighting.

The big question is where is society headed for? Anomie ultimately leads to anarchy.

(The author is a former professor of management, IIT-Dhanbad)

Free fertiliser industry by removing controls



UTTAM GUPTA

A prospective buyer will have to think a hundred times before deciding to buy a fertiliser Public Sector Undertaking as these are prone to inefficiencies

In a big-bang approach to privatisation of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) announced in the Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had divided them in two broad categories - strategic and non-strategic. The strategic includes four subgroups: atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services, non-strategic includes all other sectors such as industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing, etc.

As per the plan, the government would privatise all CPSUs in the non-strategic sector (all loss-making enterprises in this category will be closed). The government has made some initial moves in taking this forward. The CPSUs are undertakings in which the Union Government has majority ownership and control with shareholding of 51 per cent or more.

A Committee of Group Officers (CGO) headed by NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer has reportedly prepared a note mentioning eight PSU firms in the fertilizer sector which may be taken up for privatization. These include among others Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCFL), National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL), The Fertilisers And Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd (FCIL), besides Projects & Development India Ltd (PDIL) whose privatisation is already under way.

Given the importance of plant nutrients in raising crop yield and achieving food security, for decades, successive political dispensations had considered fertiliser to be a strategic sector and encouraged setting up of fertiliser plants in the public sector besides formulating policies to attract private investment.

At the core of these policies, the government controls the maximum retail price (MRP) of fertilisers at a low level, without any relation to the cost of production and distribution which is higher. To ensure that the manufacturers don't suffer loss and remain viable despite shortfall in realization from sale to farmers, it reimburses to them the excess of cost over MRP.

Prior to the 1990s, for urea as well as non-urea fertilisers (around two dozen types of phosphate and potash fertilizers), manufacturers got reimbursement of the cost/subsidy on 'unit-specific' basis taking into account efficiency norms such as capacity utilisation, energy consumption, capital related charges or CRC, including return (albeit guaranteed) on shareholders funds, other fixed cost, delivered cost of gas and other inputs, etc.

Following decontrol of non-urea fertilisers (1992), the government progressively moved towards giving 'uniform' subsidies on per nutrient basis for all manu-



PSUs ARE PRONE TO INEFFICIENCY AND POOR MANAGEMENT COURTESY, BABUDOM AND POLITICAL INTRUSIONS. THIS WAS ADMITTED BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WHICH, IN A RECENT ORDER, BARRED THE PSUs TO BID FOR OTHER PSUs

(The author is a policy analyst)



facturers of these fertilisers (since April 2010) even as they are free to fix the MRP. In case of urea, reimbursement of subsidy on unit-specific basis continues.

The policies led to proliferation of capacities in both the public and private sector (besides plants set up by cooperative giants such as Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd or IFFCO). Meanwhile, majority of the fertilizer CPSUs have shown below par performance (for instance, during 2019-20, six CPSUs reported profit of a mere Rs 1,293 crore) even as a number of them especially those under FCIL and Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation of India Limited (HFCL) have been incurring losses year-after-year.

Some plants—Ramagundum (in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh), Talcher (Odisha) and Haldia (West Bengal) set up in the late 1970s/early 1980s—were babies born sick. These CPSUs have been on the ventilator for long with the Union government pumping in thousands of crores of rupees to keep them alive. But it was under the Narendra Modi-led Government that revival plans of the plants viz Sindri (Jharkhand), Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Barauni (Bihar), Talcher (Odisha) and Ramagundam (AP) were approved about five years back and commissioned in 2021/2022.

Now, as per the 2021-22 policy, all fertiliser CPSUs need to be put on the block. Having pumped in thousands of crores on their revival (close to Rs 40,000 crore in the aforementioned five plants), the Government's decision to privatize them is anomalous. Such a sale won't yield an

amount anywhere near the money invested in their revival. Yet, the sale has to happen as the policy demands so. There is another compelling reason.

The PSUs are prone to 'inefficiencies' and 'mismanagement' courtesy, bureaucratic and political interference. This was admitted by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) which in a recent order barred PSUs to bid for other PSUs. It observed that the "transfer of management control of the undertaking from the Government to any other Government organization or state Government will result in continuation of the "inherent inefficiencies" of state-run firms".

But it is not going to be a cake walk. A major impediment has to do with the lengthy and cumbersome process of approvals and red tape. Under the extant procedures, the Niti Aayog identifies companies for strategic disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself. It then goes to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) —a group of ministers, including those of Finance and Road Transport & Highways—for approval. Strategic divestment involves around 12 steps, which inevitably lead to delays in starting the process. And when the Government enters the market, the conditions may not be favorable. Another major impediment has to do with the very fact of all pervading control on almost every aspect of fertilizers viz. manufacturing/ import, handling, movement, distribution, pricing (this covers both the price paid by the farmer or MRP as well

as the price to the manufacturer), subsidy, including payment mechanisms. Each of these factors affects the financial health of a fertilizer firm.

In case of urea, the 'unit-specific' system of allowing cost and in turn, subsidy (cost minus MRP) makes the firm even more vulnerable to the whims and fancies of the bureaucrat (and his team of CAs) who determines how much of each of the cost components such as CRC, other fixed cost, delivered cost of gas and other inputs, etc., is to be allowed for subsidy payment.

A prospective buyer will have to think a hundred times before deciding to buy a fertiliser PSU as his ability to make a decent profit (despite his own high efficiency in running the plant) will depend on his ability to manage the bureaucrats. Being under PSUs where cost of plants were inflated resulting in high retention price, the dependence and resultant vulnerability post-acquisition will be even greater.

Given the current state of affairs, prospects of selling fertiliser PSUs are bleak. Things can change only if the government plays hardball to remove the two impediments. It should unshackle the process of share sale from red tape. It may set up a holding company (HC) where all its shares in PSUs are vested. The HC should be fully empowered to take all decisions with regard to valuation, quantum of shares, timing of sale, etc. Secondly, it should unshackle the fertiliser sector by removing all controls and giving subsidies directly to farmers.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY AGAIN THAT THE CLP MEETING WAS CALLED ON REQUEST OF THE CHIEF MINISTER. —CONGRESS IN-CHARGE FOR RAJASTHAN AJAY MAKEN



THE CLP WAS CALLED BY THE HIGH COMMAND AS PART OF A CONSPIRACY TO REMOVE (ASHOK) GEHLOT AS THE CM. —RAJASTHAN PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER SHANTI DHARIWAL

Playtime is key to intelligence, academic success

Playtime must find place of importance in the day's routine of children, for key life lessons are learnt in this manner

The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights recognises play as a fundamental right for every child. Play time must be looked at as an opportunity to enhance overall development of children and not something that is adopted at the expense of academic achievement. Thus, play is not an antithesis to brain and whole child development, but an important aspect of it.

Very often, children are told that they can play once they finish their homework. In other instances, play time is used synonymously as organised sports classes. However, play is characterised by choice, wonder, and delight. Hence, children have to be provided with adequate



SMRITI PARIKH

(The author is head of literacy, The Acres Foundation)

opportunities both for structured and unstructured play.

Unstructured play, also known as free play, is predominantly child-led. Children design these experiences for themselves to seek moments of happiness and excitement. These opportunities look like making up games and creating rules of fair play. Play-time structured or led by adults, while beneficial, reaps limited benefits.

The idea is to make children participate in experiences that are self-directed moments. Research indicates that it is the unstructured moments in which children experience wonder and delight. During real play, children shape the meaning they derive from their worlds and

ascribe the same to other experiences.

In choosing types of games, critical thought and self-awareness are required. Children's day is scheduled for the routine of the day or the timetable of the school. Children get limited opportunities to experience agency and choice. While engaging in playtime, children are not only making conscious choices about who to play with but also what and how to play. They even make decisions regarding team members; when does one win, and strategize about how they can win. These decisions which seem insignificant are building blocks of executive functions.

Same skills are employed when organising self-study,

choosing careers, and also when making emotional life choices. Exposure to decision making and evaluating provides a framework for thinking.

Children acquire tools such as pros and cons, logical reasoning and even organising their emotions. They learn to collaborate with peers to arrive at a conclusion.

Unstructured play gives students the language to communicate their own thoughts respectfully and negotiation tactics. Furthermore, team-based play inculcates essential leadership skills as well.

Play time, which engrosses children in a state of wonder, develops key areas of the brain responsible for constructing thought and imagination. These skills

are also useful for projection into the future. A child who can imagine make-believe scenarios during play would also be adept at imagining his or her success in the future. They would be able to think through who they want to be when they grow up. A core component of achievement is the ability to set vision and goals for an unknown tomorrow.

Playtime builds this awareness of scenarios that feel joyful and motivating. Such awareness helps them take better steps towards personal achievement, such as, staying in friendships, which bring a feeling of happiness and safety, choosing subject areas which instil pride, and eventually staying in professions, which harness

one's full potential.

Delight is an underrated aspect of a child's life. Much like adults, experiencing happiness provides encouragement to take on challenging situations and embrace resilience. Feeling truly satisfied empowers the child to do more.

When they experience delight, they find it within their potential to do something just a tad bit more challenging than what they could do the last time. So, the arena for hide and seek becomes larger or the introduction of special powers during play is often seen. Building the schema of tackling tough tasks after experiencing joy is essential for other aspects as well. One may notice children doing

simpler content before attempting to study the more difficult subjects. One might also notice children being able to do more challenging work when they are working with their friends. It is the feeling of happiness that propels them forward.

As long as we continue to look at playing as the opposite of academics, we are doing a disservice to children. As adults, we engage with play too, through board games or other party games. Try and remember how you felt in that moment, and how it might have impacted your functioning. Now imagine how much children could benefit if they got to experience that consistently. How well it might prepare them for a complex, challenging world.

US, India vow to strengthen defence ties

Defence & security cooperation key pillar of India-US ties, tweets Jaishankar after meeting US Def Secy Austin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

India and US have resolved to further strengthen their defence and strategic ties with focus on new opportunities for bilateral defence industrial co-operation. The two countries also committed to expanding information sharing and logistics co-operation for deeper operational co-ordination between the two militaries.

These two issues were the main takeaways from the talks on late Monday between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Defence



Secretary Lloyd Austin in the US capital. Jaishankar drove down to the Pentagon for a meeting with Austin. The US has emerged as one of the biggest weapons supplier to India having sold equipment worth over 15 billion dollars in the last ten to 15 years. These include C-17 transport planes, P-8 I long range maritime reconnaissance aircraft and C-130 J planes besides other weapon platforms. Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting

"Defence and Security cooperation is a key pillar of the contemporary India-US partnership. We noted the steady progress in policy exchange, interoperability, defence trade, service exercises and military-industrial cooperation." "Exchanged perspectives on the Ukraine conflict, Indo-Pacific developments, maritime challenges and regional issues," he added. The two leaders reviewed priority lines of effort to deepen bilateral

defence cooperation, as the United States and India progress toward a more advanced stage in their partnership, according to a Pentagon readout of the meeting.

Austin and Jaishankar committed to expanding information-sharing and logistics cooperation to drive deeper operational coordination between the US and Indian militaries.

"They also discussed new opportunities for bilateral defense industrial cooperation in support of India's contributions as a regional security provider, including the launch of a new defense dialogue later this year as the United States and India work more closely together across space, cyber, artificial intelligence, and other technology areas," the Pentagon said.

During the meeting, the two leaders underscored the value of the deepening collaboration between the US, India,

Australia, Japan, and European partners. In this context, the US looks forward to working with India and like-minded partners to promote security, prosperity, and transparency throughout the region, including through the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness, the Pentagon said.

Welcoming Jaishankar to the Pentagon, Austin recollected his recent phone call with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. They exchanged perspectives on a range of issues of shared interest, spanning recent developments in East Asia, the Indian Ocean Region, and the global reverberations of the Ukraine crisis, the readout said.

The Pentagon said Austin and Jaishankar reaffirmed their commitment to working together as steadfast partners to advance the United States and India's shared vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Nadda may get extension till Lok Sabha 2024 polls

BJP president can get two consecutive terms of three years each under BJP's amended constitution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Opposition Congress makes moves to elect its new party president, the ruling BJP leadership is expected to give its incumbent national president JP Nadda an extension till the conclusion of the Lok Sabha polls by April-May 2024.

According to sources, Nadda whose tenure has witnessed big wins in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand-beating anti-incumbency- will not be disturbed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the middle of fast and furious poll preparations for the General Elections.

Nadda, who took charge of the BJP from Shah in 2020, is likely to get an extension and the party may not be "changing the horse midstream", sources said. Nadda's three-year term is scheduled to end on January 20, 2023.

A spate of states is also to elect new assemblies from later this year to the time of Lok Sabha polls including Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh (Nadda's home state), Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha - some of which are BJP-ruled. It is going to be a tough contest for the saffron party.

Under the amended BJP constitution, the party president can get two consecutive terms of three years each. There is also a provision that after the organisational elections are held in at least 50 per cent of the state units, the process of election of the



national president can start. Shah was also given extension as the BJP president in 2019 till the Lok Sabha elections. Earlier, some speculations were rife that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan could be given the charge if Nadda is not to get the extension. Another name which was doing the round was that of Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav.

BJP chief discusses ways to strengthen party in meet with State in-charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Back from his hectic tour in different States, including Kerala, BJP president JP Nadda, who will again be on a two-day visit to Odisha this week, held a meeting here with party's State in-charges on Tuesday and discussed ways to strengthen the organisation and prepare for the 2024 general elections which are barely 18-months away.

This was Nadda's first meeting with the party's newly-appointed State in-charges. Nadda would be visiting Odisha from September 29 to "strengthen the organization" in the State.

Besides Nadda, BJP's general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh was also present in the meeting that took place at the party headquarters here, they said.

Extensive discussions took place during the meeting on strengthening the organisation and preparing for 2024 elections, sources said. Former chief minister of Gujarat Vijay

Rupani, former Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb, BJP's general secretaries Arun Singh, Vinod Tawde, Tarun Chugh, Prakash Javadekar and Sunil Bansal were also present.

Earlier this month, the BJP appointed Tawde as its new in-charge for Bihar, Rupani for Punjab and Deb for Haryana. BJP MP Harish Dwivedi continues to be co-incharge for Bihar, the party had said.

Bansal will act as a regional in-charge and will look after BJP's work in West Bengal, Telangana and Odisha, it had said. Party spokesperson Sambit Patra was named the coordinator for eight north-eastern states while national secretary Rituraj Sinha was appointed the joint-coordinator, the BJP had said in a statement.

Nadda held 'Lok Sabha pravas' meet too which was attended by B L Santhosh, Dharmendra Pradhan, Sambit Patra, Vinod Tawde and G Kishan Reddy among others.

Modi, Kishida meet, discuss bilateral ties



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TOKYO

India and Japan on Tuesday renewed their commitment to further strengthen their strategic ties and global partnership during a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Fumio Kishida in Tokyo.

The two leaders also discussed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties and Modi conveyed his deepest condolences over the sudden demise of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The Prime Minister underlined the late Japanese leader's contributions in strengthening the bilateral partnership as well as his vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Modi, who arrived here to attend the state funeral of Abe, met Kishida ahead of the ceremony and the two leaders renewed their commitment towards further strengthening the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, and in working together in the region and in various international groupings and institutions.

"The two leaders had a productive exchange of views on further deepening bilateral relations. They also discussed a number of regional and global issues," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a brief statement. Paying respects to Abe, Modi said "I am feeling very sad about the sudden death of former premier Abe... He took Japan-India relations to a greater level and also expanded it in many areas." Modi

recalled that when he visited Japan last time, he had a long conversation with Abe. "India is missing Shinzo Abe," he added. "I am confident that under your leadership, India-Japan relations will deepen further and achieve greater heights," Modi told Kishida.

"Along with Abe San, you in the role of Foreign Minister have taken the India-Japan relationship to new heights and also expanded it further in many areas. And our friendship, the friendship of India and Japan, also played a major role in creating a global impact. And for all this, today, the people of India remember Abe San very much, remember Japan very much. India is always missing him in a way.

But I am confident that under your leadership, India-Japan relations will deepen further, and scale to greater heights. And I firmly believe that we will be able to play an appropriate role in finding solutions to the problems of the world," Modi said.

On his part, Kishida thanked Modi for taking India-Japan ties to new heights and assured that he will continue to cooperate with him to realise the vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Kishida visited India for the annual summit in March while Modi visited Japan for the Quad Leaders' Summit in May. "These meetings underscored the two leaders' commitment towards deepening India-Japan ties, particularly in the context of shaping a post-pandemic regional and global order," Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said on Monday ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to Japan.

Rajnath reviews upcoming DefExpo 2022 preparations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With less than a month to go for the prestigious event, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday reviewed the preparations of the forthcoming DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat at a meeting here. The five-day international exhibition starts on October 18.

He also called upon the Indian defence industry to identify and manufacture state-of-the-art cost-effective products and technologies to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'New India' that not only caters to its own

needs, but also fulfils international requirements. Addressing fifth annual session of Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) here, he asserted that the government fully understands the importance of a fool-proof security apparatus and is constantly working towards bolstering all dimensions of national security to take the country to greater heights.

"Only a secure and strong nation can achieve the heights of success. No matter how rich or knowledgeable a nation is, its prosperity is threatened if national security is not ensured. We are focussing on national security and economic pros-

perity to make India one of the strongest countries in the world," he said. Meanwhile, during the review meeting for the DefExpo, the defence minister was briefed by officials about the extensive arrangements being made by multiple stakeholders for the event, officials said.

The 12th edition of DefExpo will be the biggest ever as a record 1,136 companies have registered for the event as on September 27, 2022 and the numbers are expected to rise. The event is being planned in largest ever total area of over one lakh sqm (previous edition being 76,000 sqm).

Murmu nod to Haryana law which declares all child marriages void

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to a legislation of Haryana under which every child marriage that has been solemnised will be considered as "void ab initio" (having no legal effect from inception), thus making a marital relationship between a man and a girl aged between 15 and 18 years illegal. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2020 was enacted following a Supreme Court ruling.

The apex court had declared that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, being a special law, prevails over the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and sex with a minor wife aged between 15 and 18 years, in accordance with the prevailing exception 2 of section 375 of the IPC, is arbitrary and violative of the Constitution.

The apex court invalidated the existing exception 2 of section 375 of the IPC, under which sexual intercourse between a man and his wife aged between 15 and 18 years



does not amount to the offence of rape as defined under section 375. But according to the provisions of section 6 of the POCSO Act, this falls within the definition of rape.

The Supreme Court has also observed that it would be wise for all the state legislatures to adopt the route taken by Karnataka to make child marriages void and thereby, ensure that sexual intercourse between a minor girl and her husband is a punishable offence under the POCSO Act and the IPC. "Accordingly, the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2020 was enacted and the legislation has now received the presidential assent," a home ministry official said.

SC reserves verdict on pleas challenging 10% EWS quota in Govt jobs, admission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the validity of the 103rd Constitution amendment providing 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections (EWS) persons in admissions and government jobs.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit reserved the verdict on the legal question of whether the EWS quota violated the basic structure of the Constitution after hearing a battery of senior lawyers including Attorney General KK Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta in the marathon hearing that lasted for six-and-half-day.

Academician Mohan Gopal had opened the arguments in the case before the bench, which also comprised Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi, and J B Pardiwala, on September 13 and opposed the EWS quota amendment by terming it as "deceitful and a backdoor attempt" to destroy the concept of reservation. Senior lawyers including Ravi Verma Kumar, P Wilson,



Meenakshi Arora, Sanjay Parikh, and K S Chauhan and advocate Shadan Farasat also assailed the quota, saying it also excluded the poor belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) categories, and defeats the creamy layer concept.

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, also opposed the EWS quota, saying the economic criteria cannot be the basis for classification and the top court will have to revisit the Indira Sawhney (Mandal) judgement if it decides to uphold this reservation.

Attorney General and

Solicitor General vehemently defended the amendment, saying the reservation provided under it was different and had been given without disturbing the 50 per cent quota meant for the socially and economically backward classes (SEBC).

Mehta argued that the EWS quota was "necessitated" to benefit the general category poor, a "large segment" of the population not covered under any existing reservation scheme.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, appearing for NGO 'Youth for Equality', supported the EWS quota scheme, contending it was "long overdue" and a "right step in the right direction."

The top court heard as many as 40 petitions and most of the pleas, including the lead one filed by 'Janhit Abhiyan' in 2019, challenged the validity of the Constitution Amendment (103rd) Act 2019.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cleared the bill on January 8 and 9 in 2019 respectively and it was then signed by then President Ram Nath Kovind. The EWS quota is over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation to SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

IN SHORTS

CONSTITUTION BENCH TO HEAR ON DEMONETISATION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday constituted another five-judge constitution bench which will hear five crucial cases including the challenge to the Central government's 2016 decision to demonetize Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes.

ED RAIDS CODA PAYMENTS INDIA THREE PREMISES

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday raided three premises pertaining to Coda Payments India Pvt Ltd in connection with an ongoing investigation under PMLA, 2002 against Coda Payments India Pvt Ltd, 'Garena Free Fire' mobile game and froze bank account balance of Rs 68.53 Crore

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS SHORT RANGE MISSILE



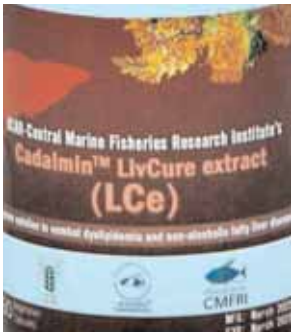
New Delhi: The DRDO on Tuesday conducted two successful test flight of Very Short Range Air Defence System missile from a ground based portable launcher at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.

CMFRI scientists develop herbal remedy for fatty liver

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian scientists from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have developed a herbal remedy from seaweeds, also known as "wonder herbs of the ocean", to treat non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), a condition in which excess fat deposits in the liver. A leading cause of chronic liver, NAFLD prevalence in India is about 9 per cent to 32 per cent.

Named as CadalaminTM LivCure extract, the product is a unique blend of 100 percent natural bioactive ingredients extracted from seaweeds with an eco-friendly green technology to improve liver health, said Kajal Chakraborty, Principal Scientist at the Marine Biotechnology, Fish Nutrition and Health Division of the Central Marine Fisheries



Research Institute (CMFRI), a CSIR lab. Pre-clinical trials showed that LivCure extract proved to have the potential to inhibit different enzymes and various target receptors associated with dyslipidemia and pathophysiology leading to NAFLD, he said.

Bioactive pharmacophore leads from seaweeds were used to develop the nutraceutical product. "This helps improve liver health, reduce the dispo-

sition of fatty substances, and maintain other liver/lipid parameters within the clinically acceptable limits", the expert explained.

The nutraceutical does not have any side effects as established by detailed preclinical trials. "It has proved that long-term oral administration of this product will not lead to general organ or systemic toxicity", Chakraborty added.

The CMFRI will soon transfer the technology to the interested pharmaceutical firms for commercial production of the nutraceutical. A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI said. He added that "Seaweeds are often termed as the wonder herbs of the ocean due to their potential pharmaceutical properties. Recently, this marine macroflora is gaining immense attention in nutraceutical industries due to its protective function against

various chronic diseases", he said.

CMFRI scientists have been developing a plethora of nutraceuticals based on marine plants aiming to combat a series of lifestyle diseases, such as type-2 diabetes, arthritis, cholesterol, hypertension, hypothyroidism and osteoporosis, and to improve immunity, an official statement said here. Out of these nutraceuticals, eight products are from seaweeds and one from green mussels.

In a bid to cash in on the huge potential of seaweed farming, India has already launched various seaweed cultivation plans in several coastal states, aiming to provide employment to 6-7 lakh people, particularly women. Known as 'miracle plants of sea', seaweeds can be used for medicine, fertilizer, animal feed and food and in many other sectors.

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a move that might invite protests from the animal welfare activists, the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has recommended that stray dogs may be used for new vaccine trials and challenge studies of the Committee.

Incidentally, the proposal has come at a time when there have been increasing reports of stray dogs' attacks and bite cases.

The panel has warned that before deploying them (stray dogs) in the vaccine trial process they must be quarantined and rehabilitated so that the trial process is effective. The suggestions also come in the

backdrop of various vaccines being developed against a range of zoonotic diseases like Covid-19, Monkeypox and Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle. Besides, many vaccine research projects are in the pipeline.

The panel in its 101st meeting, "recommended that stray dogs may be used for new vaccine trials and challenge studies of vaccines, however, they must be quarantined and rehabilitated as per the guidelines of CPCSEA."

In cases of the batch testing of established vaccines except for challenge studies, dogs coming to the clinics can be used for safety and/or potency trials, it said in a circular, signed by CPCSEA member-secretary Dr SK Dutta, Joint Commissioner (Animal Welfare in the Ministry) to all registered research and other establishments and nominees of the Committee. According

to the mandate of the CPCSEA, the panel is duty bound to take all such measures as may be necessary to ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering before, during or after performance of experiments on them.

According to the norms, animal research plays a key role in developing successful vaccines for humans. Before promising vaccine candidates can be tested in humans, they must first be tested for safety and effectiveness in animals as required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

To do this, scientists first determine whether a vaccine candidate can stimulate an adequate and safe immune response.

This important step is often conducted using small and then, potentially, larger animal models of disease. Mice are frequently used because they

reproduce rapidly, have a well-characterized immune system and a defined genome. Syrian hamsters are another important animal model for Covid-19 because disease in those animals closely resembles the disease in humans.

As far as stray dogs are concerned, their number is estimated to be around 1.6 crore in India while there were around 17.01 lakh dog bites in 2021. The highest number of street dogs is in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Odisha, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

The four states with the highest incidents of street dog bites are Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Gujarat. India accounts for 36 per cent of the world's rabies deaths. Around 20,000 people die annually in the country due to rabies, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Once bitten, twice shy: India to boost firepower at LAC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Even though stand-offs have ended at most of the friction points at the Line Of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Ladakh, India is not taking any chances and has further bolstered its firepower by deploying artillery weapons including rockets and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). More than 100 K 9 Vajra howitzers will also be deployed there soon. Some Vajra are already positioned there.

The artillery units of the Army have deployed K-9 Vajra

Tracked Self-Propelled Howitzers, ultra-light M-777 howitzers, Pinaka rocket systems and Dhanush gun systems, sources said here on Tuesday while outlining plans for operational readiness to meet any challenge.

The Army plans to equip its Artillery units along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) with a range of up to 90 kms.

The Army is looking at procuring UAVs having a range of 15-20 kms as well as those having capabilities to carry out surveillance at a range of up to 80kms having

an endurance of four hours. At present, almost all UAVs in the Army's inventory are being operated by the Army Aviation units.

Sources said the Army is set to procure a new batch of 100 more K-9 Vajras howitzers, in addition to 100 such guns ordered in 2017.

The Defence Acquisition Council(DAC) has cleared the proposal for ordering 100 more K9 Vajras. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued soon.

The K9 Vajras were originally procured for deployment in deserts, but following the eastern Ladakh standoff,

the Army deployed a significant number of the howitzers in that high-altitude region. Minor adjustments were made for deployment of the tracked howitzers in eastern Ladakh.

The Army is also procuring winterisation kits so the howitzers work in sub-zero temperature, sources said adding the Vajra guns are roaring in high altitude area along Northern borders.

They also said the Army is in the process of procuring Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System(ATAGS) and Mounted Gun Systems (MGS).

Induction of more advanced Pinaka weapon sys-

tems is in the offing, adding six more regiments of the systems are being procured and their delivery would commence soon.

The new Pinaka regiments will be equipped with electronically and mechanically improved weapon system capable of firing variety of ammunition over longer ranges, sources said.

One regiment of Pinaka has been inducted along Northern borders in high altitude area after extensive validation, they said, adding the defence ministry has already approved procurement of guided extended range rockets

for Pinaka.

The Army is also in the process of procuring 'Loitering Munition System' thereby augmenting its surveillance, target acquisition and precision strike capability.

On the indigenously developed ATAGS, sources said it is in advanced stages of trial. This gun system has many firsts to its credit -- 25-litre chamber, long range, as also rapid and sustained rates of fire. User trials on the gun systems have been satisfactorily conducted and that there are few procedural issues that are being taken care of, they added.



Agencies being misused against us: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday targeted the central agencies for 'victimising and humiliating' senior Trinamool Congress leaders including Firhad Hakim and late Subrato Mukherjee by arresting them on frivolous charges.

The Chief Minister who was inaugurating the Durga Puja of Ekdalia Evergreen Club once patroned by Mukherjee said the veteran Bengal politician --- who passed away last year --- was felt immensely humiliated after he was arrested by the CBI. The central agency had arrested in Narada pay-off case.

Mukherjee who subsequently got bail is known to



have told his Cabinet colleague Hakim who too was briefly arrested in the case that he felt like killing himself and those who arrested him. "Bobby (Hakim) quoted Subrato da as saying that he wished he had two bullets ... one to shoot his tormentors and the one to shoot himself," the Chief Minister said.

"Even they have filed cases against me ... they are doing it to many senior politicians ...

though this is not the time for raising political issues one cannot forget the humiliating that was heaped on Subrato Mukherjee just a few months before his death," the Chief Minister, one of whose senior cabinet colleagues Partha Chatterjee recently went to jail on charges of corruption in school level recruitments said.

"The people who are sending agencies against us will do this till there is that 'umbrella' on their heads ... once that umbrella goes then they too will fall down," Banerjee said while from a similar Durga Puja inaugural programme at Tridhara Sanmilani Club in South Kolkata.

Attacking her critics the Chief Minister said "there are some people whose only busi-

ness is to spread disinformation against us ... they sit in the television channels and spread canards for cash."

Stopping short of naming the opposition BJP, the Chief Minister said "they only give us bad name without doing anything constructive for the State whereas there own government up there is selling out everything to the private players."

Banerjee on Tuesday electronically inaugurated 400 Durga Pujas throughout Bengal. She also physically inaugurated many more Pujas in Kolkata as a part of her public relations exercise. This year Durga Pujas have received special attention in the wake of its recognition as a world heritage event by the UNESCO.

HC bars CID from probing coal scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday barred the Bengal Criminal Investigation Department from investigating the multi-crore coal smuggling case saying once the Central Bureau of Investigating the case the State agency had no business to intervene in the matter.

The Court of Justice Rajshekhar Mantha said that as the case was already being investigated by the CBI there was no need for the CID to intervene. The Judge also directed the Bengal agency to share its information with the CBI.

Gujarat tops SDG-3 health index: UN-Niti Aayog report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

Gujarat has emerged the top performers on overall health index among the States as per the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3) India for the year 2020-2021 titled Good Health and Well Being.

The dashboard report has been prepared jointly by the United Nations and Niti Aayog where 21 States and all UTs bagged a position in the category of Front Runners (score range between 65 and 99, including both). No State or UT was in the category of Aspirants (with Index score

less than 50). Gujarat topped amongst the States under the Goal 3 Index Score between 59 and 86 whereas under the UT Delhi figured between index of 68 and 90 for UTs.

Under the overall performance criteria while India scored 57, Gujarat scored 4th and under the SDG -3 Gujarat too emerged with a ranking 17 against India's 52.

Gujarat SDG excelled even in the categories of reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

"These indicators have been selected based on the availability of data at the sub-national level and to ensure comparability across States and UTs. Good health is essential to sustainable development and the Agenda 2030 reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of the two.

It takes into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanisation, threats to the climate and the environment, the continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, and emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases," said the report.

FROM PAGE 1

UDDHAV JOLTED! SC LETS EC DECIDE ON REAL SENA

Shiv Sena break up had resulted in a slew of petitions getting filed in the Supreme Court by the rival factions, and the apex court referred those to a five-judge bench on August 23, saying the conflict had raised several Constitutional questions related to defection, merger and disqualification. It had asked the EC not to pass any orders on the Shinde faction's plea that it be considered the "real" Shiv Sena and granted the party's poll symbol, the bar which was lifted on Tuesday.

Though the Shinde faction has formed a coalition Government with the BJP in Maharashtra and enjoys the support of an overwhelming majority of MLAs who had won on Shiv Sena tickets, the Election Commission cannot recognise it as the original party simply on that basis.

The EC will have to consider the support each faction enjoys in the party's legislative and organisational wings. In such cases, the poll panel also goes through the party constitution and the list of office bearers submitted to it by the party when it was united.

INDIA, PAK BOTH US PARTNERS WITH DIFFERENCE, SAYS PRICE

These are both partners of ours with different points of emphasis in each."

He said, "We look to both as partners, because we do have in many cases shared values. We do have in many cases shared interests. And the relationship we have with India stands on its own. The relationship we have with Pakistan stands on its own."

Early this month, the Biden Administration approved a USD 450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump Administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens for the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

"We also want to do everything we can to see to it that these neighbours have relations with one another that are as constructive as can be possible. So that's another point of emphasis," Price said in response to a question.

Responding to another question, Price said it is not in Pakistan's interest to see instability and violence in Afghanistan. "The support for the people of Afghanistan is something we discuss regularly with our Pakistani partners; our efforts to improve the lives and livelihoods and humanitarian conditions of the Afghan people, and to see to it that the Taliban live up to the commitments that they have made," he said.

Pakistan is implicated in many of these same commitments: The counterterrorism commitments, commitments to safe passage, commitments to the citizens of Afghanistan, Price said.

"The unwillingness or the inability on the part of the Taliban to live up to these commitments would have significant implications for Pakistan as well. So, for that reason, we do share a number of interests with Pakistan regarding its neighbour," Price said.

170 PFI ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN PAN-INDIA CRACKDOWN

As many as 46 PFI cadres have been convicted in NIA cases till so far and 355 persons have been chargesheeted by the agency.

The synchronised searches were conducted by police teams that fanned out across their respective States on Tuesday and made arrests in a swift manner.

While 25 persons each were arrested in Assam and Maharashtra, 57 were detained in Uttar Pradesh, officials said. In Delhi, 30 people were detained followed by 21 in Madhya Pradesh, 10 in Gujarat and six in Maharashtra's

Pune. Besides, several persons were also arrested in Karnataka.

In Uttar Pradesh, the raids across 26 districts were jointly carried out by the Anti-Terrorist Squad, Special Task Force and the local police simultaneously. Documents and evidence were collected. Additional Director General (law and order) Prashant Kumar said.

Further action will be taken based on the evidence collected, Kumar said while adding that 57 people were taken into custody.

There was no immediate reaction from the PFI, which was formed in 2006 and claims to strive for a neo-social movement ostensibly for the empowerment of marginalised sections of India. It is, however, suspected by the security agencies to be involved in insidious activities and promoting radical Islam. The organisation was formed in Kerala and moved its headquarters to Shaheen Bagh in the national Capital in 2008.

Following the continued crackdown against PFI, the outfit is likely to be banned across the country.

Of the 25 PFI activists arrested in Assam in the fresh crackdown, 10 were held in Goalpara, five were nabbed in Kamrup (Rural) and three in Dhubri, followed by arrests in Bapeta, Baksa, Darrang, Udalguri and Karimganj.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier said his Government has been urging the Centre to ban the outfit for allegedly creating an eco-system for terror activities.

In the national Capital, Delhi Police's Special Cell carried out the searches in multiple locations, including Nizamuddin and Shaheen Bagh.

"We have conducted raids at multiple locations in the national Capital, including Shaheen Bagh and Nizamuddin. So far, we have detained 30 people associated with the PFI," a senior police officer said.

Paramilitary forces were deployed in several places in the city where the raids were conducted.

"We have taken preventive measures and as part of it, we have deployed paramilitary forces in respective areas of the districts to ensure law and order situation and maintain peace and tranquility in the area," a senior police official said.

No case has been registered as the investigation is underway, police said. The operation started after 12.30 am and continued till early morning, police said.

In Maharashtra, 25 activists were arrested from six districts, including Aurangabad, Thane and Nanded. Other than this, Pune police detained six people linked to the PFI and its political wing Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), officials said.

The Madhya Pradesh Police detained 21 people from eight districts for their links with the PFI, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra said.

These people were detained on the basis of interrogation of the PFI activists arrested last week, Mishra, who is also the Madhya Pradesh government's spokesperson, said.

In Gujarat, at least 10 people were detained from different parts of the State in raids conducted by a joint team of the state Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the NIA.

"They have detained at least 10 people for questioning from different parts of Gujarat with the help of the state police and ATS," an official in Ahmedabad said.

The SDPI opened an office in Ahmedabad a few months back. In Karnataka, officials said several PFI leaders were detained in urban and rural areas of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts early in the morning. PFI leaders were taken into custody from Mangaluru, Ullal, Talapady and other areas in Dakshina Kannada district.

Five PFI persons were taken into custody by the Udupi district police in raids conducted in their houses. The raids were also conducted at Hooode, Gangolli, Byndoor and Adi Udupi.

The police department has been monitoring the activities of the detained leaders for the past six months and they have been taken into cus-

tody to prevent any untoward incident, the sources added.

The Maharashtra ATS on Monday told a court in Mumbai that it wanted to probe the links of five of the 20 persons arrested last week with organisations including Al Qaeda and the Islamic State and also investigate electronic evidence.

Four PFI activists were also arrested from Kerala's Kottayam district and one from Kollam for allegedly engaging in violent activities during the State-wide hartal called by the organisation on September 23. The strike had followed the nationwide raids on their offices and arrests of their leaders on Thursday.

SHASHI IN RACE, BANSAL PICKS FORM; NO WORD ON RAJ CM'S CANDIDATURE

Gehlot spoke to Sonia and tried to explain that he had no role in rebellion by the Congress MLAs. The date for scrutiny of the nomination papers is October 1, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 8.

The final list of candidates will be published at 5 pm on October 8. The polling, if needed, will be held on October 17. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 19 and the results will be declared the same day.

In the last 24 hours Sonia met several leaders, including Mistry, who handed over her QR-coded identity card for the party president's election. He also briefed Sonia about how many people have collected the nomination forms and about the delegates.

Sonia also held meetings Ambika Soni, KC Venugopal, Girija Vyas, Mukul Wasnik, Verrappa Moily and Mohsina Kidwai whereas a separate meeting with AICC in-charge for Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla and HP PCC president Pratibha Singh regarding elections in poll bound Himachal, sources said.

Mistry posed with the Congress president poll voter ID cards of Manmohan Singh, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Mistry said he would deliver Singh's card on Tuesday. Priyanka's card will be delivered soon and Rahul will be handed over his card during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, he added.

GEHLOT OFF THE HOOK, BUT HIS LOYALISTS TO PAY PRICE

Disciplinary action had been sought against Dhariwal, who had figured prominently in the rebellion by the party legislators, Minister and Congress Chief Whip in the Assembly Joshi and Rathore for holding a parallel meet of MLAs and not allowing the Congress Legislature Party to meet.

AICC sources said the report drafted by Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken did not hold Gehlot responsible for the developments in the state since Sunday afternoon.

On his part, Gehlot spoke to the Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday evening and told her that he has no role in the political crisis in the State triggered by refusals of nearly 90 Congress MLAs to attend a CLP meeting and accept Sachin Pilot as Gehlot's successor.

The telephonic talk between Gehlot and Sonia was first after the high drama in Jaipur last Sunday when nearly 90 MLA defied the directive of the High command and paid no heed to central observers Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge as well.

There are clear indications that both Gehlot and Congress leadership in Delhi did not want to go for a showdown. Sources said senior leader Anand Sharma and Ambika Soni met with Sonia and then spoke to Gehlot to resolve the crisis. Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, who flew to Delhi on Monday, met Sonia. He is also reported to have talked to Gehlot.

media platforms of the defendants no.7 and 8 respectively, as set out in documents 10 to 13 of the documents filed by the plaintiff, and any other allegations, hashtags, videos of press conferences/interviews, posts, tweets, re-tweets, comments, captions and taglines similar thereto," Justice Amit Bansal of the Delhi High Court said in his 13 page order.

Disposing the matter the Court observed,"On a prima facie view, the variousstatements/interviews/pressconferences/tweets/retweets/hashtags made by the defendants are per se defamatory. "They have been made in a reckless manner, without any factual verification, in order to tarnish the reputation of the plaintiff. It cannot be gainsaid that the reputation of a person is earned after years and the same cannot be tarnished by any other individual in a casual manner. The damage caused to the reputation of an individual is immediate and far-reaching on the internet."

MAN KILLS WIFE FOR REFUSING TO WEAR BURQA

Late on Monday evening Zara's parents learnt that she had been attacked. Her parents rushed to her new rental residence where they found Zara in a pool of blood with several stab wounds on her neck and hands. They rushed her to the state-run Rajawadi Hospital at Ghatkopar in north-east Mumbai, where she succumbed to stab injuries.

Eyewitness accounts revealed that Shaikh had assaulted Zarar fatally and fled the scene of crime.

The Tilak Nagar Police have arrested Shaikh and booked himfor alleged murder of Zara.

SC HEARINGS' LIVE-STREAMING A HIT, DAY 1 DRAWS 7L VIEWS

In a unanimous decision taken at a recent full court meeting headed by the CJI Lalit, the apex court decided to live-stream proceedings of all Constitution bench hearings from September 27, four years after the path-breaking announcement by Justice Misra.

On August 26, for the first time since its inception, the Supreme Court live-streamed proceedings of a bench headed by then Chief Justice (since retired) N V Ramana through a webcast portal. It was a ceremonial proceeding as Justice Ramana was to demit office that day.

DADA SAHEB PHALKE GOES TO ASHA PAREKH

Parekh, an eminent actor whose career spans close to five decades, started her acting career at the age of 10.

Known for starring in over 95 films that include "Dil Deke Dekho", "Kati Patang", "Teesri Manzil", "Baharon Ke Sapne", "Pyar Ka Mausam", and "Caravan", she is considered one of the most influential actresses of all time in Hindi cinema.

She started her career as a child artist with the 1952 film "Aasmaan" and went on to star in Bimal Roy's "Baap Beti" two years later.

Parekh made her debut as a leading lady in Nasir Hussain's 1959 movie "Dil Deke Dekho", in which she starred opposite Shammi Kapoor.

Also a director and producer, Parekh had helmed the acclaimed TV drama "Kora Kagaz" in the late 1990s.

The screen legend also served as the first female chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) from 1998-2001.

She came out with her autobiography, "The Hit Girl", co-written by film critic Khalid Mohamed, in 2017.

She was also honoured with the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award of the country, in 1992.

Patrol spots Chinese, Russian naval ships off Alaska island

AP ■ ANCHORAGE

A US Coast Guard ship on routine patrol in the Bering Sea came across a guided missile cruiser from China, officials said Monday.

But it turned out the cruiser wasn't alone as it sailed about 138 kilometers north of Alaska's Kiska Island, on September 19. The patrol boat, known as a cutter called Kimball, later discovered there were two other Chinese naval ships and four Russian naval vessels, including a destroyer, all in single formation.

The Honolulu-based Kimball, a 127-metre vessel, observed as the ships broke formation and dispersed. A C-130 Hercules provided air support for the Kimball from the Coast Guard station in Kodiak.

"While the formation has operated in accordance with international rules and norms, we will meet presence with presence to ensure there are no disruptions to US interests in the maritime environment around Alaska," Rear Adm. Nathan Moore, Seventeenth Coast Guard District commander said. The Coast Guard said



Operation Frontier Sentinel guidelines call for meeting "presence with presence" when strategic competitors operate in and around US waters.

The Kimball will continue to monitor the area. The Coast Guard did not immediately respond to questions about the incident from The Associated Press.

The Chinese and Russian formation came a month after NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned about

China's interest in the Arctic and Russia's military buildup there.

Stoltenberg said Russia has set up a new Arctic Command and has opened hundreds of new and former Soviet-era Arctic military sites, including deep-water ports and airfields.

China has declared itself a "near Arctic" state and plans to build the world's largest icebreaker, he said.

"Beijing and Moscow have also pledged to intensify prac-

tical cooperation in the Arctic. This forms part of a deepening strategic partnership that challenges our values and interests," Stoltenberg said in a visit to Canada's north.

This wasn't the first time Chinese naval ships have sailed near Alaska waters. In September 2021, Coast Guard cutters in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean encountered Chinese ships, some about 80 kilometers off the Aleutian Islands.

Xi appears in public first time after returning from SCO summit

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday visited an exhibition of the Communist Party, appearing in public for the first time after his return from the SCO summit on September 16, which sparked rumours about his absence from the limelight ahead of next month's key Congress of the ruling party.

Xi on Tuesday visited an exhibition on the great achievements of the Communist Party of China and the country over the past decade, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Speaking at the exhibition, he called for concerted efforts to forge ahead determinedly toward a new victory of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the report said. Accompanied by No. 2 leader and Premier Li Qiang and other top CPC officials, Xi went around the exhibition.

In his speech, Xi highlighted CPC's and China's achievements under his leadership during the past 10 years.

The Party and the State have made historic achievements and undergone historic changes, providing a more per-



fect system, a more solid material foundation and more active spiritual power to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, he said.

"We should widely publicise the strategic initiatives, transformative practices, breakthroughs and landmark achievements over the past 10 years, and publicise the milestone significance of the great changes" in the last decade in the history of the Party, the history of new China, he said.

This is the first time official media reported on his public appearance after his return home from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on September 16.

Appeals ruling leaves Trump fate in defamation suit in flux

AP ■ NEW YORK

A federal appeals court asked a Washington DC appeals court Tuesday to help it decide whether the United States should be substituted for former President Donald Trump as the defendant in a defamation lawsuit brought by a woman who says he raped her over a quarter century ago.

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan in a 2-to-1 decision reversed a lower court ruling that had concluded Trump must face the lawsuit brought in Manhattan federal court by columnist E. Jean Carroll. But it stopped short of saying the US can be substituted for Trump as the defendant in the lawsuit. Instead, it asked The DC Court of Appeals, the highest court in the District of Columbia, to decide whether Trump's public statements denying Carroll's rape claims occurred within the scope of his employment as president.

Carroll maintains Trump defamed her with public comments he made after she wrote in a 2019 book that Trump raped her during a chance encounter in the mid-1990s in a Manhattan department store.

Trump denied the rape and questioned Carroll's credibility and motivations.

The 2nd Circuit said Trump would be entitled to immunity by having the U.S. Substituted as the defendant in the lawsuit if it was decided that his statements came within the scope of his employment.

But it said courts have been inconsistent in previous rulings and that the D.C. Court of Appeals might be in the best position to answer the question.

Roberta Kaplan, an attorney for the longtime advice columnist for Elle magazine, alerted a Manhattan federal court judge in August that she plans to sue Trump in November when the Adult Survivor's Act take effect. The law offers a one-year "look back" to enable adult survivors of sexual attacks to bring civil claims when they otherwise would be barred by time requirements.

The law, signed by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul in May, was modeled after the Child Victims Act, which provided a similar window to bring lawsuits for people who had been sexually assaulted when they were children. That law expired a year ago.

Tense Japan holds funeral for ex-leader Abe

AP ■ TOKYO

A tense Japan prepared Tuesday for a rare and controversial state funeral for assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the longest-serving leader in his nation's modern history and one of the most divisive.

Tokyo was under maximum security, with angry protests opposing the funeral planned around the capital and nation. Hours before the ceremony began, dozens of people carrying bouquets of flowers queued at public flower-laying stands at nearby Kudanzaka park.

Thousands of uniformed police mobilized around the Budokan hall, where the funeral is being held, and at major

train stations. Roads around the venue are closed throughout the day, and coin lockers at main stations were sealed for security. World leaders, including US Vice President Kamala Harris, were in town for the funeral.

Opponents of the state-sponsored funeral, which has its roots in prewar imperial ceremonies, say taxpayers' money should be spent on more meaningful causes, such as addressing widening economic disparities caused by Abe's policies.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has been criticised for forcing through the costly event to honour his mentor, Abe, who was assassinated in July. There has also been a widening controversy about Abe's and the governing party's decades-long



close ties with the ultra-conservative Unification Church, accused of raking in huge donations by brainwashing adherents. Abe's alleged assassin reportedly told police he killed the politician because of his links to the church; he said his mother ruined his life by giving away the family's money to the church.

Kishida says the longest-serving leader in Japan's modern political history deserves a state funeral. The government also maintains that the ceremony is not meant to force anyone to honour Abe. Most of the nation's 47 prefectural governments, however, plan to fly national flags at half-staff and observe a moment of silence.

Opponents say Kishida's one-sided decision, which was made without parliamentary approval, was undemocratic, and a reminder of how prewar imperialist governments used state funerals to fan nationalism. The prewar funeral law was abolished after World War II. The only postwar state funeral for a political leader, for Shigeru Yoshida in 1967, also faced similar criticism.

"Spending our valuable tax money on a state funeral with no legal basis is an act that tramples on the constitution," organiser Takakage Fujita said at a protest on Monday.

About 1.7 billion yen (\$11.8 million) is needed for the venue, security, transportation and accommodation for the guests, the government said.

Arizona abortion clinics send women to other states

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

When an Arizona judge ruled last week that prosecutors can resume enforcing a near-total ban on abortion that dates to the Civil War, it fell to the staff at Camelback Family Planning to break the news to the women scheduled for appointments in the coming weeks.

The staff faced "crying, a lot of very, very angry people, denial," nurse Ashleigh Feiring said on Monday. One woman argued, "But I'm only five weeks (along)."

Women seeking abortions across Arizona were forced to find alternatives beyond the state's borders after the ruling, which clears the way for prosecutors to charge doctors and others who help a woman end a pregnancy unless her life is in danger.

The state's major abortion providers immediately



halted procedures and cancelled appointments.

Providers in neighbouring states, already seeing an increase in traffic from other conservative states that have banned abortion, were preparing to treat some of the 13,000 Arizona patients who get an abortion each year.

Planned Parenthood Arizona on Monday asked Pima County Superior Court

Judge Kellie Johnson to put her ruling on hold pending an appeal, saying it created confusion about the status of the law in Arizona.

Lawyers cited conflicts created by the abortion ban dating to 1864, a more recent law banning abortions after 15 weeks, and a variety of other laws regulating the processes and paperwork when terminating pregnancies.

Johnson's ruling lifted an injunction that was imposed after the US Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision guaranteed a right to abortion in 1973.

At the Camelback Family Planning clinic in central Phoenix, a young woman took off from work on Monday afternoon for an appointment to get medicine to help with an abortion. The 20-year-old is afraid she is prone to miscarriage and already miscarried two years ago.

Hurricane Ian lashes Cuba, aims at Florida as possible Cat 4

AP ■ HAVANA

Strengthening Hurricane Ian's rain and winds lashed Cuba's western tip, where authorities have evacuated 50,000 people, as it roared on a path that could see it hit Florida's west coast as a Category 4 hurricane.

Officials in Cuba's Pinar del Rio province set up 55 shelters, rushed in emergency personnel and took steps to protect crops in Cuba's main tobacco-growing region ahead of Ian's expected landfall early on Tuesday as a major hurricane.

The US National Hurricane Centre said the island's west coast could see as much as 14 feet (4.3 metres) of storm surge.

"Cuba is expecting extreme hurricane-force winds, also life-



threatening storm surge and heavy rainfall," hurricane centre senior specialist Daniel Brown told The Associated Press.

After passing over Cuba, Ian was forecast to strengthen further over warm Gulf of Mexico waters before reaching Florida as early as Wednesday as a Category 4 storm with top winds of 140 mph (225 km/h).

As of Monday, Tampa and St. Petersburg appeared to be the among the most likely targets for their first direct hit by a major hurricane since 1921.

Singapore population rises by 3.4 % after 2 yrs of decline

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore's population grew by 3.4 per cent to touch 5.64 million as of June this year, after witnessing two straight years of decline due to the pandemic, according to an annual report issued by the National Population and Talent Division on Tuesday.

The number of citizens rose by 1.6

per cent to 3.55 million in June this year, while the non-resident population grew by 6.6 per cent during the same period, due to the easing of travel restrictions and the government's move to attract talented workforce from overseas.

Nevertheless, it still remained below the pre-COVID levels of 1.68 million in June 2019.

The largest increase was seen for



work permit holders in the construction and marine shipyard sectors, which typically employ a large number of South Asian migrant workers including those from India, Channel News Asia reported, citing the report.

Despite the growth, the total population in Singapore remained slightly lower than the pre-COVID level of 5.7 million as of June 2019, the report said.

Japan protests Russia's expulsion of official, denies spying

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan protested to Russia on Tuesday over the detention of a Japanese consulate official on espionage allegations, denying the allegations and accusing Russian authorities of abusive interrogation.

The official was detained on Sept 22 and interrogated with his eyes covered, his hands and head pressed and immobilised, Japan's Foreign Ministry said, prompting it to

lodge a protest and to demand an apology.

On Monday, Russia's Foreign Ministry notified Japan's Embassy in Moscow that the official had been declared "persona non grata," or an undesirable person, on grounds he conducted illegal espionage activity and it ordered him to leave the country within 48 hours.

"The alleged illegal activity insisted by the Russian side is completely groundless,"

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

Matsuno said Japan's Vice Foreign Minister Takeo Mori summoned Russia's ambassador and strongly protested, demanding a formal apology from the Russian government and measures to prevent a recurrence. The Russian authorities' treatment of the consulate official was "intimidating" during the interrogation, adding that such handling

of consular officials violates the Vienna convention and a Japan-Russo treaty over consular affairs, Matsuno said. "It is extremely regrettable and absolutely unacceptable," Matsuno said. The consular official has since been released with no health problems and is set to return to Japan on Wednesday. The dispute is the latest example of worsening ties between the two countries over Japan's sanctions against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Japan and Russia had expelled a number of diplomats, while Russia scrapped peace negotiations with Japan that includes talks on Russian-held disputed islands that Japan says the Soviets took at the end of the World War II.

Russia said Monday that it had detained a Japanese consulate official based in the eastern city of Vladivostok for soliciting "restricted" information, according to Russian news agencies.

The mobilisation has triggered a massive exodus of men from the country, fueled protests in many regions across Russia and sparked occasional acts of violence. On Monday, a gunman opened fire in an enlistment office in a Siberian city and gravely wounded the local chief military recruitment officer. The shooting came after scattered arson attacks on enlist-

ment offices.

In the latest move to stem the tide of men fleeing Russia to avoid mobilization, Russian officials declared plans to set up a military recruitment office right on the border with Georgia, one of the main routes of the exodus.

And trying to assuage public outrage, numerous Russian officials and lawmakers have acknowledged that mistakes were made during the mobilisation - when military conscription offices were rounding up random people without military experience who weren't supposed to be called up - and promised to quickly correct them.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday once again decried the Russian mobilisation as nothing more than "an attempt to provide commanders on the ground with a constant stream of cannon fodder".

Zelenskyy vowed that the Ukrainian military will push efforts to take back "the entire territory of Ukraine", and has drawn up plans to counter "new types of weapons" used by Russia.

Putin has warned that once the Russia-held regions are absorbed, Moscow will defend its territory with "all available means," including nuclear

weapons, raising fears of a sharp escalation of the seven-month conflict.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, spelled out the threat Tuesday in the bluntest terms yet, reaffirming that Moscow could use nuclear weapons against Ukraine if it sees a threat posed by it as too high.

Medvedev noted that the US and its NATO allies understand that "if a threat to Russia raises above a certain limit of danger, we will have to respond without asking anyone's consent and holding long consultations".

"And it's certainly not a bluff," he added.

Medvedev charged that the US and its NATO allies won't dare to use nuclear weapons against Russia even if it makes a nuclear strike on Ukraine.

Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, said Russia would pay a high, if unspecified, price if it made good on veiled threats to use nuclear weapons in the war in Ukraine.

"If Russia crosses this line, there will be catastrophic consequences for Russia. The United States will respond decisively," he told NBC.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Monday that Putin had told Turkey's president last week that Moscow was ready to resume negotiations with Ukraine but had "new conditions" for a ceasefire.

Even as the voting has continued in Russia-held areas, Russian forces have kept up their strikes across Ukraine. Overnight, Russian missile attacks targeted the southern areas of Zaporizhzhia and Mykolaiv, damaging residential buildings and other sites, officials said.

INDIA'S DEATH BOWLING IN FOCUS VS SA

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India will be looking to round off their T20 World Cup preparation with a marked improvement in their death bowling besides providing crucial game time to its untested players in the three-match series against South Africa, beginning here on Wednesday.

India skipper Rohit Sharma, expectedly, singled out death bowling as an area that requires improvement following the series win over Australia.

The hosts will be without two of their key bowlers, Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who have been rested ahead of the ICC event next month.

Mohammad Shami, who is one of the World Cup reserves, is yet to recover from COVID-19 and will be missing the three games against the Proteas after being unavailable the rubber against Australia.

Harshal Patel did not have the best of times in his comeback series against Australia but he will be expected to get back to his best in the final three games before the World Cup.

His career economy rate stands at 9.05 but he conceded more than 12 runs per overs against the Aussies.

Deepak Chahar, who is also on standby for the World Cup, did not get a game in the previous series and he could get a chance if the team decides to rotate its pacers over the three games.

Arshdeep Singh will return to bolster the team's resources in the slog overs, making an effective combination along-



India vs South Africa
Live from 7:00pm IST
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side Jasprit Bumrah, who will aim to regain his full rhythm after coming back from injury.

In the series decider against Australia, Yuzvendra Chahal showed what he can do if the ball is gripping and turning after looking flat in the first two games. Keeping the Australian conditions in mind, the wily leg-spinner will be looking to up his game on docile pitches.

As Rohit spoke about the importance of giving all the players game time ahead of the World Cup, R Ashwin could get a look in.

In the batting department, K L Rahul would like to make the most of these three games after missing out in the last two games against Australia.

With Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are looking in good touch, it is important that Rahul too is in full flow before the team travels to Australia.

Dinesh Karthik got to play all of eight balls against Australia and Rohit has already said the designated finisher in the squad needs more time in the middle.

World Cup bound Deepak Hooda will end up missing all

the six games before the mega event as he has been ruled out of the South Africa T20s with a back injury. Shreyas Iyer is expected to take Hooda's place in the squad.

Over the next week, India will be competing against a team they are yet to beat at home in a bilateral series. South Africa and India will face each other in a group game in Australia and though conditions are totally different here, both teams can pick out areas to target in the coming three games.

"The pitches in Australia will be different and ground size will be a lot bigger, but as a bowler there is always something you can work on. It is a great opportunity to be bowling at these Indian batters and pick up on a few things and use against them in the World Cup," said Tabraiz Shamsi.

All eyes will also be on the young Tristan Stubbs who has made the World Cup squad on the back of his good show in franchise cricket.

SQUADS

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (captain), Quinton de Kock,

Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah.



Failed to defend targets because of dew: Rathour

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Defending targets in T20Is has been a grey area for the Indian team but batting coach Vikram Rathour surprisingly cited "dew" being a factor which was not the case when the team played in the recently concluded Asia Cup.

Since the Super 4s of the Asia Cup, India have played six T20Is and won three of them while losing three.

However, all the three defeats -- against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia -- have come while defending targets.

Contrary to Rathour's claims, none of the Indian team members, who spoke to the media after the defeats against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Dubai, blamed it on the dew factor making defending difficult.

"We are working on that area of getting better at defending targets. But to be fair to our bowlers, toss plays a vital role and every time we have not been able to defend are the places where there has been dew, so it gets easier to chase," Rathour said on the eve of the first T20I against South Africa here on Wednesday.

While Rathour might have referred to the match against Australia at Mohali where India couldn't protect a 200-plus target, he was sympathetic to the bowlers despite the kind of criticism they have faced of late.

"I won't be harsh on bowlers as they have been able to push the match till last over, every time, when we are looking to defend. It's one ball here and there but of course we are doing pretty well but hopefully we will get better," the former India Test opener said.

The batting coach also didn't agree that India aren't putting big enough targets when asked to bat first.

Asked if the batters in the middle decide on a possible target, the coach replied, "Definitely, it depends on the surface that we are playing on but when you say we haven't been able to put up good scores, I don't agree with that."

"I think batting first that was one of the concerns during

the last T20 World Cup but since then, we have been putting up par or par plus scores every time that we have batted first. So I don't think that's an issue."

BOWLERS KNOW THEIR PLANS

The batting coach also said that the team management never try to coach people who are playing international cricket but rather encourages them to back their strengths.

Someone like Arshdeep Singh is always told to follow his own plans.

"At this level, we are not telling them anything. Arsh (Arshdeep Singh) has done extremely well in IPL in death overs, so we just support them to follow plans. They know where to bowl to each batter and follow their plans," he said.

"We expect them (bowling unit) to back their strengths. There are no specific areas I want Arshdeep to improve and he has the composure to handle pressure in difficult conditions."

SHIFT IN BATTING PHILOSOPHY

The Indian top three of KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had copped a lot of flak for their outdated approach in the T20Is but Rathour is happy with the shift in mindset since the last ICC tourney.

"There is a very visible shift in the way we are batting. The approach has changed and we are trying to be more aggressive, we are playing with better strike rates and more intent, that is pretty evident. As a batting unit, we have done well."

CHALLENGE

While giving optimum game time to the first team starters in the T20 World Cup is a priority, the other challenge will be to adapt to the Australian conditions.

"Adapting to Australian conditions will be the biggest challenge that we have. We want to give as much opportunities as possible to those playing in the World Cup but how that will happen depends on game situation."

Nepal seeks Interpol's help to find fugitive cricket star

KATHMANDU: Nepali police have sought help from Interpol to locate the country's fugitive suspended national cricket captain, they said on Tuesday.

A Nepali court issued an arrest warrant for Sandeep Lamichhane earlier this month following an allegation of rape by a 17-year-old girl.

But the leg-spinner is thought to have remained in the Caribbean where he was playing in a tournament.

Interpol issued a "diffusion" notice against him on Sunday asking member countries for their co-operation locating him, Nepali police spokesperson Tek Prasad Rai said.

"We hope this will help the arrest of Lamichhane for the investigation of a rape complaint case against him," he said.

Lamichhane had pledged on social media on Sunday to return home "as soon as possible" to fight the accusation.

Without revealing his whereabouts, the 22-year-old posted on Facebook that he was in "isolation" due to his mental and physical condition, saying the arrest warrant had "made me mentally disturbed".

Lamichhane had been a poster boy for the rise of cricket in mountainous Nepal, which gained ODI status in 2018.

His big break came when he was snapped up by the Delhi Capitals for the money-spinning Indian Premier League in 2018, and he has since been Nepal's most sought-after cricketer.

After the arrest warrant was issued he was suspended as captain of the national team and he pulled out of the CPL, where he was playing for the Jamaica Tallawahs.

Facing new ball quite a challenge in India: Bavuma

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma feels facing the swinging ball in the powerplay will be one of the main challenges for his team in the three-match T20 series against India, beginning here on Wednesday.

India relied on their batting might to bounce back from being 0-1 down to post a 2-1 win in the recently-concluded three-T20 series against Australia.

The focus will now shift to an identical match-up against the Proteas, the final dress rehearsal for both the teams before the T20 World Cup in Australia next month.

"Facing the new ball bowlers (in India) is quite challenging, they make the ball to swing and move in quite a bit, a bit more than what we are accustomed to in South Africa. That's obviously a challenge you have to manoeuvre around," the South African white-ball skipper said.

The chinks in India's pace

bowling armour were badly exposed in the three-match T20s against Australia.

In the series decider in Hyderabad on Sunday, the two seasoned pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar together conceded 79 runs from seven overs, with the latter claiming one wicket.

Harshal Patel, who is considered a death over specialist, also was a big letdown and the South African skipper knows what it takes to succeed in India.

"The key is to limit the damage and not allow the wickets to fall and try and get the momentum going. But yeah, Bhuv and Bumrah they always challenge you with the new ball up front," he added.

Bhuvneshwar, by the way, is rested for the series ahead of the World Cup as the pace workload will be shared among Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Patel and Arshdeep Singh.

India's batting looks in safe hands with Virat Kohli's return



to form and Rohit Sharma leading from the front.

"Obviously, those — Rohit and Virat — are big names with big pedigree behind them, and obviously as you saw in their last while their performances have boosted the confidence of the team."

"We expect to come leading from the front, and good for us to come up against the best. You expect those guys to bring a lot of confidence and X-factor into the team," the South African skipper said.

That said, Bavuma will have an 'unfinished business' as their last series — a five-match T20I rubber — ended in a 2-2 result after rain washed out the decider in Bengaluru.

"The last time we were here we were tested, we were challenged, but I think we answered it quite well. We expect this to be a good series, a competitive one as well. This is the last series before the World Cup, we will be looking to fill up the gaps whatever they are," he added.

Harman moves up to fifth in ICC rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Riding on her stupendous show against England, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Tuesday jumped four spots to reach the fifth spot in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.

She leads a bunch of India players who have made rapid gains in the rankings after the team's 3-0 sweep over England.

Kaur smashed a match-winning 143 not out off 111 deliveries in the second match in Canterbury.

Opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma have also moved up in the latest update that considers performances in the last two matches of that series as well as the IWC series between the West Indies and New Zealand.

Mandhana, a formerly top-ranked batter who scored 40 and 50 in the two



matches, has moved up one place to take sixth position while Sharma's unbeaten 68 not out in the third match at Lord's has lifted her eight places to 24th position.

Pooja Vastrakar (up four places to 49th) and Harleen Deol (up 46 places to

81st) are other India players to move up the batters' list while new-ball bowler Renuka Singh has galloped 35 places to take 35th position after grabbing four wickets each in the two matches.

Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, a formerly top-ranked bowler, retired in fifth position.

England's Danny Wyatt, who scored 65 in the second match, has gained two slots to reach 21st position among batters while Amy Jones is up four places to 30th. Charlie Dean has progressed 24 places to get to 62nd among batters and one slot to 19th among bowlers.

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has grabbed the No. 1 position for all-rounders in the ODI format for the first time in her career after aggregating 88 runs and grabbing five wickets in a 2-1 series win over New Zealand.

suggestions and said that no such possibilities might arise at least in next few years.

"Firstly, ECB spoke to PCB about an Indo-Pak series and that's a bit weird. In any case, a series against Pakistan is not something that the BCCI will decide but it is the decision of the government. As of now, the stance remains the same. We only play Pakistan at multi-team events," a senior BCCI official privy to India's position said on Tuesday.

India and Pakistan last played a short bilateral white-ball series back in 2012 in India and the last Test series dates back to 2007.

With the tense political relations between the neighbours, it is a big 'No' from BCCI irrespective of whether it is

played at home, away or a neutral venue.

The newspaper states precisely the reason why ECB made the "generous offer".

"The matches would attract big crowds in the UK, which has a large expat south Asian population," it said.

"The matches attract huge sponsorship revenue and television audiences."

However, the paper made it clear that even "PCB is not keen on playing India at neutral venue but are grateful for the ECB's offer, which shows the growing relationship between the two boards."

It stated that with the big nations again starting to tour Pakistan, it will be a "retrograde step in their eyes" if they happen to play on a neutral venue.

India 'A' crush NZ 'A' by 106 runs in 3rd ODI to sweep series 3-0

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Shardul Thakur's blazing 33-ball 51 was well complemented by debutant Raj Angad Bawa's fine bowling show (4/11) as India 'A' crushed New Zealand 'A' by 106 runs in the third and final unofficial ODI to clinch the series 3-0 here on Tuesday.

Captain Sanju Samson (54 off 68 balls) and Tilak Varma (50 off 62 balls) also scored half-centuries after India opted to bat but it was Thakur's blitzkrieg down the order that took the home side to 284 all out in 49.3 overs.

Thakur struck four boundaries and three sixes during his 33-ball entertaining knock.

Chasing 285 for a victory, the visitors were bowled out for 178 in 38.3 overs despite getting a good start from the openers Chad Bowes (20) and Dane Cleaver (83 off 89 balls).

The 19-year old Bawa, who shone in the ICC Under-19 World Cup earlier this year, ran through the middle and lower order of New Zealand 'A' batting line-up with a four wicket haul.

The young all-rounder picked up three of the last four NZ 'A' wickets to fall for fine figures of 4 for 11 to finish as the best Indian bowler.

Earlier, Abhimanyu Easwaran (39 off 35 balls), brought into the playing XI in place of Prithvi Shaw, and Rahul Tripathi got off to a brisk start. The duo added 55 runs in



8.5 overs.

Samson, who came in at No.3, saw Tripathi (18) fall with the score at 65. The captain joined forces with the talented Tilak Varma to put together an impressive stand.

The two scored briskly and added 99 runs in 106 balls, with neither hesitating to go aerial. Varma fell to the left-arm spin of Rachin Ravindra for an impressive 50.

K S Bharat, playing his first game of the three-match series, did not last long, dismissed by Fisher for 9.

Samson looked good for a big score before falling LBW to medium-pace Jacob Duffy for a 68-ball 54 (1 four, 2 sixes). Bawa fell to the same bowler for 5 and India 'A' slipped to 206 for 6.

Thakur, who batted with aplomb in the second match, came up with a blazing 33-ball 51 and his furious assault left the NZ 'A' bowlers clueless. His aggressive knock helped the host post a challenging total of 284.

For India, apart from Bawa, leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (2/39) and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, grabbed two wickets including that of Robert O'Donnell (6).

Brief Scores: India 'A' 284 all out in 49.3 overs (Sanju Samson 54, Shardul Thakur 51, Tilak Varma 50, Michael Rippon 2/43, Jacob Duffy 2/45) beat New Zealand 'A' 178 all out in 38.3 overs (Dane Cleaver 83, Raj Angad Bawa 4/11, Kuldeep Yadav 2/29, Rahul Chahar 2/39).

England 'offers' to be neutral venue for Indo-Pak Test series, BCCI 'not interested'

PTI ■ LONDON

England and Wales Cricket Board has informally offered to be the hosts if India and Pakistan plan to play a bilateral Test series but BCCI sources said chances of that happening in near future is 'next to nil'.

The UK daily "Telegraph" reported that "Martin Darlow, the deputy chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has held talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board during the current T20 series and offered England's grounds as venues for ideally a three-match Test series in future."

While the ECB has made the offer for its own commercial gains, the powers that be in the BCCI laughed off the

