

CITY 2
AKHILESH ELECTED SP
PRESIDENT AGAIN

OPINION 6
THE KEY TO WILD
LIFE CONSERVATION

WORLD 10
PEOPLE TRAPPED, 2.5M WITHOUT
POWER AS IAN DRENCHES FLORIDA

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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**BUMRAH OUT
OF ICC MEN'S
T20 WC 2022
12 SPORT**

'All women entitled to safe, legal abortion'

Now, SC extends provision of MTP at 24 weeks to single ladies too

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark order, the Supreme Court held on Thursday that all women are entitled to safe and legal abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, and making any distinction on the basis of their marital status is 'constitutionally unsustainable'. The apex court also said that the meaning of offence of rape must include marital rape for the purpose of the MTP Act.

A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, JB Pardiwala and AS Bopanna said the rights of reproductive autonomy give similar rights to unmarried women as that to married women.

The Bench, in its verdict, said the distinction between married and unmarried women under the abortion laws is "artificial and constitutionally unsustainable" and perpetuates the stereotype that only married women are sexually active.

Under the MTP Act provisions, the upper limit for the termination of pregnancy is 24 weeks for married women,



THE CATEGORIES OF WOMEN MENTIONED IN RULE 3B OF THE MTP RULES FRAMED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest
- Minors
- Change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce)
- Women with physical disabilities, major disability as per criteria laid down under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- Mentally-ill women including mental retardation;
- The foetal malformation that has substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born it may suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped;
- Women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations as may be declared by the Government.

special categories including survivors of rape and other vulnerable women such as the differently-abled and minors. However, the time period

is 20 weeks for widows and unmarried women, who are or were in consensual relationships, for allowing abortion under the statute.

The Bench delivered the verdict on the interpretation of the MTP Act and whether unmarried women or single women can be allowed like their married counterparts the benefit of abortion up to 24 weeks.

The Bench, on August 23, had reserved its verdict on interpretation of the MTP Act provisions which makes a distinction between married and unmarried women on the issue of abortion.

Observing there is a need to "fine-tune" the provisions in the MTP rules, the top court had also said it would like to add a category of women, who suffer desertion irrespective of marital status, to the seven categories of women eligible to seek abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy.

Continued on Page 9

Gehlot out of prez race, Digvijaya gets Cong nod

Rajasthan CM apologises to Sonia, but fate seems uncertain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ending days of speculation ahead of the Congress' forthcoming presidential polls, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Thursday reportedly got the nod from the party High Command to contest the election for the AICC's top post as the party's "official" candidate in place of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Gehlot, who met Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday, has paid the price for failing the "loyalty" test and publically humiliating the party. The Congress High Command is unlikely to forgive him anytime soon for orchestrating a rebellion in Jaipur against the party's central leadership.

After meeting Sonia, the Rajasthan Chief Minister announced that he was out of the race for the presidential elections. Gehlot also said he apologised to the Congress chief for the developments on Sunday, when MLAs supporting him defied the central observers and thwarted their move to hold a meeting of party legislators. Gehlot may



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot addressing media persons after a meeting with party interim President Sonia Gandhi, at 10 Janpath in New Delhi on Thursday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

have apologised to Sonia, but his fate seems uncertain now. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal has said the party president will decide on the Rajasthan Chief Minister's post within a day or two.

Gehlot, a three-time Chief Minister, described himself as a disciplined soldier of the party and expressed his sadness over the turn of events in the State.

Asked if he will continue as Chief Minister, Gehlot said Gandhi will decide on the issue.

"For the last 50 years, I have worked as a loyal Congress soldier from the time

of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Narasimha Rao, and Sonia ji, be it becoming a Central Minister or State unit chief, general secretary, or Chief Minister for the third time. I cannot forget that. The events that happened (on Sunday) have shaken all of us. Only I know how hurt I am because a message went out that I want to remain Chief Minister," Gehlot said.

"I have apologised to Sonia ji because a simple resolution, which is our tradition and which we always pass, could not be passed as a situation emerged. I, as a CLP leader, whatever the reasons, could not

get the resolution passed," he said.

Meanwhile, talking to the media at the AICC headquarters Digvijaya Singh said he has collected the nomination papers and will most probably file them on Friday. Asked if he was acting at the behest of the party leadership, he said, "I am responsible for myself."

More than 10 Congress legislators from Madhya Pradesh will reach Delhi to be the proposers for Digvijaya Singh when he files his nomination. Singh, arrived in Delhi late Wednesday night leaving the Bharat Jodo Yatra midway.
Continued on Page 9

₹5 cr fine on PFI for damage during strike: Kerala HC

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Popular Front of India (PFI), which was banned for five years by the Union Home Ministry on Thursday, got another jolt in the form of an order by the Kerala High Court (HC) to deposit ₹5.2 crore with the Additional Chief Secretary (Government of Kerala), towards the damages estimated by the State Administration as well as the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation on account of its flash strike on September 23.

The PFI observed the strike across Kerala to protest arrests of its leaders from different places in the State on September 22.

A Division Bench of Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and C.P.Mohammed Nias ruled that the PFI and its general secretary were "wholly and directly" responsible



Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR) and Bandi Mukti Committee members being detained by police during a protest against the ban on PFI and its affiliate organisations, in Kolkata on Thursday
PTI

for the injuries inflicted by their supporters on the citizens as also for the damage caused to public and private properties.

The PFI activists had rioted across the State on September 23 and forced shop-

keepers to down their shutters and blocked roads.

Their damaged commodities stored in the shops of traders who refused to oblige them.

Continued on Page 9

Oracle fined \$23 mn for bribing officials in India, Turkey and UAE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on September 27 fined tech giant Oracle \$23 million for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) for creating slush funds for bribing officials in India, Turkey and the UAE.

This is the second time Oracle has been accused of engaging in corrupt practices in India. In 2012, the SEC had fined Oracle for corrupt practices in India in relation to the contracts with the Ministry of Information Technology in 2006-2008.

As per the 10 page order by SEC, \$3,92,000 (₹2.8 crore) was the slush funds created by Oracle India to bribe an Indian Railway owned Transport firm

in 2019.

Detailing the company's India operations, the SEC said Oracle India's employees used "an excessive discount scheme" in connection with a transaction in 2019 with a transportation company owned by the Ministry of Railways.

However, the order by SEC did not specify the name of the transport company.

The page 6 of SEC's order details the Oracle operation in India with a headline "Improper Conduct at Oracle India". It said in 2019, Oracle India sales employees also used an excessive discount scheme in connection with a transaction with a transportation company, a majority of which was owned by the Indian Ministry of Railways (Indian SOE).
Continued in Page 9

UP to hold Global Investors' Summit from Feb 10-12

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh is going to organise Global Investors' Summit for three days starting from February 10 to 12, 2023.

The decision was taken in a high-level meeting in which Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the preparations for organising the proposed Global Investors' Summit in February 2023. Giving necessary guidelines regarding the preparations, he said the Global Investors' Summit would give flight to the aspirations of 'New India, New Uttar Pradesh' as UP was moving towards becoming the second economy from the sixth economy of the country.

"This time we have to work with an investment target of Rs 10 lakh crore," the chief minister said, adding that the three-day Global Investors' Summit would be unprecedented and historic and would give a new "flight to the aspirations of



Uttar Pradesh

He said it was overwhelming that Singapore, France, the United Kingdom and Mauritius had spontaneously sent proposals for their participation as partner countries in the Global Investors' Summit.

"Communication should be established with the ambassadors/high commissioners of Netherlands, Canada, USA, Japan, Israel, Sweden, Thailand, France and Singapore in this regard," he said.

The chief minister said the Global Investors' Summit of Uttar Pradesh was a great platform for establishing the state's

brand image. "Prepare to organise road shows in various countries before the summit to invite investors from all over the world to invest in Uttar Pradesh. The cooperation of industrial organisations like FICCI and CII should also be sought in organising the road shows," he said.

"Through road shows, a conducive environment will be created in the industrial sector of different countries for the Global Investors' Summit of Uttar Pradesh. The detailed route should be decided by selecting the countries and cities for the road show. Wider publicity should be given to the Global Investors' Summit," he said. Road shows should be organised in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai in addition to overseas, the chief minister said, adding that the necessary planning should be finalised on time.

CAPSULE

INTEREST RATES HIKE ON SMALL SAVING SCHEMES

New Delhi: The Government on Thursday raised rates on some small savings schemes by up to 30 basis points in line with the hardening interest rate in the economy.

SC ORDERS NAVLAKHA'S HOSPITALISATION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Talaja Jail Superintendent to immediately shift activist Gautam Navlakha, jailed in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case, to Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital for treatment.

TWIN BLASTS RATTLE UDHAMPUR

Udhampur: The garrison city of Udhampur, housing Indian army's Northern command headquarters, was rattled by the twin bomb blasts inside passenger buses.

6 airbags in cars mandate put off by one year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday announced that the implementation of "the proposal mandating a minimum of six airbags in passenger cars (M-1 category) would be from October 1, 2023." Earlier it was planned to be implemented from this October.

"Considering the global supply chain constraints being faced by the auto industry and its impact on the macroeconomic scenario, it has been decided to implement the proposal mandating a minimum

of six airbags in passenger cars (M-1 Category) w.e.f October 01, 2023," Gadkari said in a statement released by the Ministry.

The Road Ministry had earlier announced mandatory six airbags from October 1, 2022.

Earlier in September, MoRTH issued draft rules to make it mandatory for car makers to install an alarm system for rear seat belts.

Besides, there has to be a speed alert system to check over-speeding and manual override for the central locking system.
Continued on Page 9



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of 36th National Games in Ahmedabad on Thursday
PTI

4 regions of Ukraine to be annexed by Russia today; Kyiv defiant

KYIV ■ AP

Russia confirmed on Thursday it will formally annex parts of Ukraine where occupied areas held Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" on the living under Moscow's rule that the Ukrainian Government and the West denounced as illegal and rigged. Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend a ceremony on Friday in the Kremlin when four regions of Ukraine will be officially folded into Russia, spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Peskov said the pro-Moscow administrators of the regions will sign treaties to join Russia during the ceremony at

the Kremlin's St. George's Hall.

Administrations in the four regions of southern and eastern Ukraine claimed on Tuesday night that 93 per cent of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87 per cent in the Kherson region, 98 per cent in the Luhansk region and 99 per cent in Donetsk.

However, an adviser to Ukraine's President said that Ukraine was determined to reclaim territory that Russia will annex and takes seriously Moscow's threats to use nuclear weapons in the war with its neighbour.
Continued on Page 9

Ammonia leakage in meat factory; dozens of female workers fall ill

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a shocking incident in Aligarh, about one hundred of workers, mostly women, fell ill after inhaling ammonia gas that leaked in a meat factory on Thursday morning.

The workers were rushed to a nearby hospital after they complained of breathing difficulties following leakage of ammonia gas.

DIG Range Aligarh Deepak Kumar said, "Around 60 female workers were admitted to hospital and all of them are stable currently."

The incident took place at

the Al-Dua meat factory that falls under the jurisdiction of Roravar police station. Several women are engaged in the factory for packaging-related work.

Sources, however, maintained that about 100 workers were rushed to different hospitals of Aligarh after they started fainting following ammonia gas leakage.

"Information was received about an ammonia gas leak in a meat factory in the Roravar area where women workers are engaged in packaging work. Around 60 workers were admitted to a medical college hospital after they complained of breathing difficulties. Doctors confirmed that everyone is stable," DIG Range Aligarh Deepak Kumar said.

The doctors said that everyone who was in the factory was brought to the medical college hospital and they are being treated. "Everyone is out of danger and there is nothing to worry about as of

"INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED ABOUT AN AMMONIA GAS LEAK IN A MEAT FACTORY IN THE RORAVAR AREA WHERE WOMEN WORKERS ARE ENGAGED IN PACKAGING WORK. AROUND 60 WORKERS WERE ADMITTED TO A MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL AFTER THEY COMPLAINED OF BREATHING DIFFICULTIES. DOCTORS CONFIRMED THAT EVERYONE IS STABLE"

now," they said.

The fire brigade personnel were also summoned to avert any eventuality.

The factory is reportedly owned by one Haji Zaheer and the local police so far managed to pick up one of the managers to grill him regarding the cause of the gas leakage.

It may be mentioned that in a similar incident in 2020, two senior officials working at

the Phulpur plant of Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) in Prayagraj died while 13 others fell sick following a gas leak. The PF-1 unit of the IFFCO plant located around 25 km from Sangam city in the trans-Ganga area of Prayagraj had developed an issue and ammonia gas began to leak. The leakage was later stopped by experts at the plant.

BJP govt running on lies, propoganda: AKY ... asks SP workers to be ready to fill up jails

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Son Thursday, launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party and said that the ruling party was running on the basis of "lies and propoganda".

Akhilesh Yadav, who was unanimously elected SP chief for the third consecutive time, alleged that the BJP and its machinery snatched power from the SP as it knew if it lost power in Uttar Pradesh it would also lose power in Delhi.

"This (BJP) government is not made by the people; even people don't know how it (BJP) formed the government again. The BJP and its machinery snatched away the government from the SP because it knew if it lost power in UP it would lose power in Delhi also," he said.

"Those who know about Hitler's time would know that there used to be a propoganda minister in his government. There was only one propoganda minister, but here if we see the work of the BJP, it seems that the whole party is running on the basis of lies and propoganda," he said.

Akhilesh further targeted the BJP, saying that the party was against farmers. "By introducing black farm laws, the BJP has proved that it is against farmers. Hundreds of farmers lost their lives and farm loans were not waived. If you are bringing industries to Gujarat then why can't you bring them to states like UP and Bihar?" the SP chief questioned.

"Why is there so much bias against UP? This state has made your government and you are showing your bias against this state now," he said.

Akhilesh Yadav also alleged that the Election Commission "deliberately" reduced the votes of Yadavs and Muslims by 20,000 in almost every assembly seat on the "diktat" of the BJP and its allies.

"If a probe is conducted, it will be found that the names of many people were removed (electoral rolls)," the SP chief said.

The SP chief called upon party cadre to be ready to fill up jails. Quoting Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav), Akhilesh said this was the only way out when someone was denied justice.

"Samajwadi people should be ready to fill up jails as the time has come. Even Netaji had said that when you are not getting justice then this is the only way out," Akhilesh Yadav said as he addressed the party workers at the event.

Earlier, the decision to elect Akhilesh Yadav as national president of the SP was taken unanimously at the national convention of the party being held at Ramabai Ambedkar Maidan in Lucknow.

On getting re-elected for the third consecutive time, Akhilesh Yadav said, "This is not just a post, you have given me a huge responsibility. This responsibility has been given to me at a time when our constitution is in danger. I assure you that I will prove my worth for the post which you people have elected me to. Even if I have



Akhilesh a brand ambassador of lies, propoganda: Bhupendra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a scathing attack on Akhilesh Yadav, Bharatiya Janata Party state president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary said the Samajwadi Party national president was the brand ambassador of spreading lies and spreading propoganda.

"The public will expose the SP's lies again in 2024 as the Samajwadi Party will fail to win even a single seat in the next election," the BJP state president said.

He said corruption, jungle raj and appeasement was in the DNA of the SP. He said the people had punished SP only because it had failed to live up to the expectations of the masses and the fault with the SP was that its leadership could not see beyond the family.

"The just concluded national convention of the SP is an example of this as the party has repeatedly chosen the same person as leader for the post of party's nation-

al president despite the party losing elections under his leadership," Chaudhary said and added that this showed that one family does not want workers from the rank and file to grow politically.

The UP BJP chief said that Dalits were the most oppressed in the SP government, and Dalits had not forgotten this even today. He said the SP had deviated from the ideology of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia.

"Among backwards, people belonging to only one caste walked away with the government facilities during the Samajwadi Party regime," he said.

"Things have changed in the BJP regime. Youth are being recruited in a transparent manner. The double-engine government of the BJP is working on the basic mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas," the BJP state chief said.

to work day and night for this responsibility, I will not hesitate. We samajwadi people have to work hard for the next five years to make a new history."

Akhilesh Yadav was elected SP president for the first time in Lucknow on January 1, 2017, replacing party founder and his father Mulayam Singh Yadav. The second time, Akhilesh was unanimously re-elected as the national president of the party on October 5, 2017 in the national convention held in Agra.

The former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday said that though recent poll results were not favourable for

the party, it had been proved that only the SP could defeat the ruling BJP in UP.

Yadav said the SP had worked hard to win the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls held earlier in the year, but "those in power used every trick, misused the official machinery and we did not succeed".

The SP had contested the assembly polls this year in an alliance with smaller parties but failed to stop the march of the BJP. Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, political circles are abuzz about the possibilities of unity among the opposition parties on the initiative of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

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प्रवेश सूचना

मौ शीतला देवी त्रिजुनी नारयण महाविद्यालय अरौल, कानपुर नगर - 209202 (अल्पसंख्यक संस्था) प्रवेश सूचना

प्रवेश सूचना

एस.जे. एजुकेशन सेंटर कानपुर नगर - 209214 (अल्पसंख्यक संस्था) प्रवेश सूचना

आवश्यकता है

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आवश्यकता है

कलासंकाय स्नातक स्तर पर हिन्दी साहित्य, अंग्रेजी साहित्य, अर्थशास्त्र, समाज शास्त्र, राजनीति शास्त्र, ग्रह विज्ञान चित्रकला विषयों हेतु सहायक आचार्य प्रत्येक एक पद परस्नातक स्तर कला संकाय हिन्दी साहित्य, ग्रह विज्ञान तथा चित्रकला विषयों में सहायक आचार्य एक-एक पद

आवश्यकता है

देवाशु समाज कल्याण सेवा महाविद्यालय महादेव नगर सौरिख, कन्नौज आवश्यकता है

कलासंकाय स्नातक स्तर पर सहायक आचार्य हिन्दी साहित्य, अंग्रेजी साहित्य, अंग्रेजी भाषा, राजनीति विज्ञान, समाज शास्त्र, अर्थशास्त्र तथा संस्कृत विषयों में प्रत्येक एक पद

आवश्यकता है

सनातन स्तर पर विज्ञान संकाय हेतु सहायक आचार्य भौतिक, रसायन, जन्तु एवं वनस्पति विज्ञान तथा गणित विषयों में योग्यता NTA नेट या पीएचडी प्रत्येक एक पद

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

In my daughter Shristi Singh (scholar number :11036) registration form who study in Jyoti Niketan school my name is written incorrect as Shandhya Singh but my correct name is Sandhya Singh. Residential address Chandesar, Azamgarh.

NOTICE

My self Sardar Ahmad declares that I have lost the original sale deed dated 07/04/1942 as serial no.1041/1042 and sale deed dated 03/06/1942 as serial no.1620/1621 and sale deed dated 19/09/1947 as serial no.2293 of my Property No. 91/73. If anyone tries to use it for any cause it will be considered illegal and void

आवश्यकता है

विशाल विधि महाविद्यालय, इकदिल इटावा आवश्यकता है

OBITUARY

NAIK LAYAPPA CHIKKATTI 01 JUN 1985 - 18 SEP 2022 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK LAYAPPA CHIKKATTI WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH COMMAND HOSPITAL PUNE.

OBITUARY

SUBEDAR PRADEEP KUMAR CHAUHAN 02 SEP 1972 - 17 SEP 2022 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SUBEDAR PRADEEP KUMAR CHAUHAN WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MILITARY HOSPITAL MEERUT.

OBITUARY

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

SP chief's love for Ambedkar just a gimmick: Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, on Thursday, launched a scathing attack on Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, saying that he was pretending to be an Ambedkarite.

"This love of theirs is just a gimmick. His Dalit love is just like 'muh mein Ram, bagal mai chhuri'," the BSP supremo Mayawati tweeted on Thursday.

The Samajwadi Party's attempt to project itself as Ambedkarite was the same pretense, drama and deceit as other parties often do for the sake of selfishness of votes. Their love for Dalit and Backward Classes was just on their lips and not in the heart, she added.

Mayawati said that in reality there was no party except BSP or government which could uplift the interests and welfare of crores of poor, downtrodden, backward,



neglected people of the country by fulfilling the constitutional and humanistic ideals of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. "The entire history of SP has been anti-Dr. Ambedkar and anti-Bahujan," she added.

Mayawati said that during the SP regime, the followers of Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar were neglected and atrocities were committed on them. She said the names of new districts, universities, grand parks, established by the BSP government in the memory of great men were also changed due to casteist hatred. "Is this Dr Ambedkar's love for SP?" she asked.

Rules of business of assembly to be simplified: Mahana

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana said the rules of business for the conduct of the proceedings of the UP Assembly would be simplified for further increasing the participation of all members of the state legislature in the proceedings of the House.

He said the issue would be placed before the rules committee of the House. Mahana said the Vidhan Bhawan would complete 100 years of its existence on December 15 next.

Addressing a press conference on completing six months in office on Thursday, Mahana said the perception of the people about the state assembly had changed after a series of innovative measures taken by the state legislature.

He said the Uttar Pradesh Assembly had sent a positive message across the country and many state assemblies were keen to implement the UP model like the e-Vidhan portal in their respective states.

Mahana said this had been made possible with the cooperation by the treasury benches, leader of opposition Akhilesh Yadav and leaders of other opposition parties.

Mahana said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given some tips for smooth conduct of the state assembly. He said following the advice of the prime minister, innovative measures were taken by the UP Assembly.

He said for the first time in the history of UP Assembly, groups of MLAs were formed on the basis of their profession and formal interaction was organised. He said a day was



devoted to the participation of only women members in the assembly proceedings in the recent monsoon session which concluded on September 23. He said a booklet of the proceedings of the women's session would be published soon and sent to all the state assemblies.

"I have so far interacted with 170 MLAs in specific groups and I hope to interact with all the members by the end of March next year," Mahana said.

He said it was a new tradition and it had given very positive results. He said earlier members complained of not getting enough opportunities in the House to speak but now all members vied with each other to put across their points in the House and all were getting opportunities.

The assembly speaker said the state legislature also intended to contribute in realising the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the

Eight killed in separate mishaps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Eight people died in separate mishaps during the last 24 hours in the state.

Three people were killed and seven others were injured when the e-rickshaw they were travelling in was hit by a truck on Ayodhya-Prayagraj national highway in Amethi district, police said on Thursday.

The accident happened on Wednesday night when a troupe of musicians was returning to Sultanpur after performing a musical programme in Pratapgarh, Deputy Superintendent of Police Lallan Singh said.

A government spokesman in Lucknow said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the deaths in the accident and directed officials to ensure proper treatment to the injured.

The truck driver fled the spot after the accident, the DSP said, adding efforts were on to nab him. Two of the deceased belonged to Sultanpur and one to Ambedkar Nagar, the police said.

In another mishap reported from Mathura, a tractor-trolley full of villagers was returning from the dargah of Kamal Khan in Agra when it overturned in a ditch and two of its occupants were killed while about a dozen others were seriously injured.

The accident happened near Dangoli village of Mathura district on Thursday afternoon. The injured were admitted to various hospitals.

Idu, a resident of Badanpur village in Thana Mant area of Mathura district, had taken 30 villagers on his tractor-trolley to Agra on Wednesday evening for offering 'chadar' at Kamal Khan's dargah. On Thursday afternoon, they were returning to their village when the mishap took place. Shabbir Khan's daughter

Sonia (22) and Alamuddin's son Sanjit Khan (25) died on the spot. Santo, Idu, Shan Mohammad were admitted to the district hospital.

In another similar mishap, eight people from village Sarayalti under Mainpuri Kurawali police station, Nagala Dhari village of Etah, and Nagla Kandi under Mirhachi police station were going to worship Mother Kali at Karnavas Belon Devi temple in Kadarabad village of Junawai area. On Thursday morning, when the tempo full of devotees reached Asadpur police station area, the driver lost control over the wheels and the tempo overturned on the road. Hearing screams, local people rushed and rescued the victims and admitted them to the community health centre. The doctor pronounced Natho Devi (55-years), a resident of Nagla Kanhi village under Mirhachi police station of Etah district dead. Surajmukhi (65), Kiran Baby (36), Bablu (40), Shivam (11), Ranveer Singh (45), Rajni (40), all residents of village Nagla Dhari village and Avagarh village of Etah district were referred to Aligarh after their conditions turned critical.

On getting information about the incident, the police also reached the spot. Meanwhile in Kharagpur locality of Sitapur, a woman and her son were electrocuted to death after they came in contact with a fan through which electric current was passing.

According to reports, Nandram, a resident of Kharagpur, works as a labourer in Lucknow. On Wednesday evening, Nandram had come to Lucknow with his two daughters. There was a dance-song programme late on Wednesday night. Everyone watched the programme and came home around 7 in the morning on Thursday. Nandram's wife

Reena started making tea when her 10-year-old son Shivam went to switch off the fan and got electrocuted. Seeing the son screaming for help, she also rushed and tried to pull him and in the process she was also electrocuted.

Later her other sons rushed and immediately disconnected the power supply but by then the woman and her son had already turned unconscious. They were taken to hospital where the doctors pronounced them dead upon arrival.

On getting information, Sun-Divisional Magistrate Misrikh Anil Kumar, Kalli police outpost incharge Harshit Kumar Singh, along with other officials reached the spot for inspection.

They sent the bodies for post-mortem. Further investigations are on.

COURT NOTICE (BY ADVERTISEMENT) (Chapter XXX, Rule-21) IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD ORIGINAL JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 77 OF 2022 IN THE MATTER OF THE GOODS OF Late Bimal Kishore Prasad Sinha R/o 78/4-A Pushpanjali Nagar Bhanwar, Tehsil Sadar, District Prayagraj, Deceased. Rakesh Sinha and 2 Others... Petitioners. WHEREAS an application has been made by Rakesh Sinha, Rakesh Sinha and Ritesh Sinha all sons of Late Bimal Kishore Prasad Sinha all residents R/o 78/4-A Pushpanjali Nagar Bhanwar, Tehsil Sadar, District Prayagraj, for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Bimal Kishore Prasad Sinha deceased, who died at Srijan Vatsalya Hospital Pvt Ltd, Allahabad on 09.06.2017 AND WHEREAS, the 21st day of November, 2022 has been fixed for hearing of the said application. THIS CITATION is issued calling upon all persons Claiming to have any interest to come and see the proceedings if they think fit before the grant of probate (or Letters of Administration). Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 19th day of September, 2022. DEPUTY REGISTRAR HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD Mohan Lal Pandey Advocate Counsel for the Petitioner

Woman killed for dowry by husband, in-laws

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband and in-laws for dowry in Saadatganj, two months after a family court settled their dispute by ordering her husband to take her along. Preeti Poonam of Barabanki got married to Banshilal of Saadatganj in 2018. She was allegedly being harassed and tortured for dowry ever since. Her brother Tej Kumar Soni alleged that Banshilal and his family members were demanding Rs 5 lakh as dowry.

"They wanted Banshilal to open a shop but wanted the money from us. I had given them enough gifts and cash at the time of marriage. Banshilal and his parents turned Poonam out of the house," he alleged. He said Poonam was not ready for divorce due to social stigma. She started living with her parents in Barabanki.

"On May 27 last, Banshilal moved family court and

accused us of not sending Poonam home. The dispute was settled in the family court on July 27 and we sent her to Banshilal's house," Tej Kumar said. He said he was informed about Poonam's death on September 28. "Banshilal and other members in his family did not allow Poonam to talk to us ever since they took her along. They killed Poonam for dowry," he alleged.

In another incident in Gosainganj, a man, with the help of his brother, killed their father due to his abusive behaviour with his wife for giving birth to a girl child. Police claimed this following the arrest of the prime accused and his brother on the complaint of their sister Renu. Ramesh Chand Rawat was found murdered on September 24. The police had initially claimed that the man was attacked by his companions during a booze session. On the night of September 28, Renu lodged a complaint and named her brothers Awadhesh and

Rajnish. However, they went into a hiding. The police launched a manhunt for them and nabbed them on Thursday. Police said Ramesh Chand was abusive towards Awadhesh's wife who had given birth to a girl child and even attempted to kill the newborn. In a fit of rage, Awadhesh, with the help of his brother Rajnish, killed their father with a sharp-edged weapon.

SUICIDE

The only son of a retired woman review officer ended his life at his house in Mahanagar police station area on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. His father Raj Nath Nigam of Old Mahanagar said Anant Nath Nigam aka Shivam (17) was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around his neck. He was rushed to Bhaurao Devras Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Shivam had passed class XII earlier this year.

No let-up in sexual assaults on women after CM's warning

Lucknow (PNS): Even after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has warned of stern action and no interim bail to those indulging in sexual offences against women and children, reports of gang-rape continue to pour in. In two fresh such incidents reported from Basti, a minor girl was kidnapped and gang-raped when she sleeping in the verandah of her house while another woman was given sedative and raped.

The first incident took place in Walterganj police station area where a 14-year-old minor girl sleeping in the verandah of her house was kidnapped by four youths and raped by threatening her of her life. The victim was later abandoned in an unconscious state. A local village woman found the girl lying unconscious and informed the local police about the incident. After regaining consciousness, the victim returned to her house and informed the family members about her trauma. The police have registered a case against

Akash Chaudhary, Himanshu and two others.

The second incident took place near Katra water tank in Basti district. A woman went shopping in her village Ganeshpur on Wednesday evening. After shopping, she was waiting to go to her house when the accused, identified as Shiva Kumar, approached her and claimed to be the panchayat secretary of Ganeshpur. He offered her lift in his car to the village and on the way he offered her a cold drink mixed with some sedative. After taking the drink, the woman fainted. The accused then took her to an unknown place where he raped her for the entire night and also looted her ornaments and Rs 8,000 she was carrying, before dumping her near a temple under the Kaptanganj police station on Thursday morning. On the complaint of the victim, a case was registered by the police. The accused, Shiv Kumar, was also arrested and sent to jail.

All dists to have at least one state-of-the-art bus stand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to provide better facilities to the commuters, Uttar Pradesh is soon going to have at least one state-of-the-art bus stand having all facilities in each district. "In the first phase, 24 bus stands will be developed in 16 districts under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with facilities for passengers' convenience at par with international standards," a government spokesman said here on Thursday.

UP State Road Transport Corporation Managing Director Sanjay Kumar said the demand for bus services was high, given their easy availability and comparatively cheaper fares and this was why well-equipped bus stations were the need of the hour.

"The top priority will be provision of clean drinking water for passengers," he said. He said bus stations would be repainted, timetables and fare tables would also be put up. Along with making proper lighting arrangements, air-conditioners would also be installed at the bus stands. Besides, toilets would be cleaned regularly to ensure hygiene and cleanliness. In addition, facilities like proper waiting rooms would also be provided.

Kumar said that a complete action plan had been formulated. In October, tenders would be issued for identification and development of 24 bus stands in 16 districts in the first phase. In the second phase, 35 bus stands would be developed.

"In pursuance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's

directives for providing airport-like facilities to bus passengers, work is being carried out in a phased manner," he said.

The Transport Department will provide the land for bus stands and then a private party will operate the modern bus stands. The Transport Department has fixed a period of 35 years for the maintenance which might get extended further as per the need. About 70 per cent area of the bus stand will remain for the buses to operate while 30 per cent of the space will be utilised for construction of building.

"The focus of the government is on improving the quality of services for the passengers as buses are one of the most commonly used means of transport when it comes to both interstate and intrastate travel," he said.

Police personnel urged to quit tobacco

Lucknow (PNS): A sensitisation workshop was organised under the National Tobacco Programme in police lines. All those present on the occasion were made aware of the ill-effects of tobacco and consumption of tobacco products. Information was also given about the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003. Nodal officer of National Tobacco Control Programme Dr Rajendra Kumar Choudhary said that all the police personnel should insist on making their respective areas tobacco-free.

"Khaini, zarda, hookah, gutka, bidi, cigarette and other smokeless tobacco products contain more than 4,000 toxic and carcinogenic elements, which can cause oral cancer. About 95 per cent of oral cancers happen to people using tobacco or tobacco products," he said. He further pointed out that there are other diseases too such as TB, diabetes, blindness, paralysis, lung and respiratory ailments. "Tobacco use in adolescence can lead to impotence. Consumption of alcohol, drugs, tobacco also affects a person's mental health," he said.

Consultant of the Tobacco Eradication Centre at Balrampur Hospital Dr Rajnigandha Srivastava said they counsel people about the need to quit tobacco and also give them free medicines.

District Advisor of National Tobacco Control Programme Dr Mayank Chaudhary informed all the police personnel about all the sections of COTPA Act-2003 and the process of challans. He said smoking in public places is an offence under the COTPA Act, 2003. "There is a complete ban on direct and indirect advertisements of tobacco products, selling tobacco to a person below the age of 18 years and by a person is prohibited," the police personnel were told.

Girl student alleges indecent behaviour by teacher

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A teacher of a prominent school in Gomti Nagar was accused of misbehaving with and inappropriately touching a class VI girl student during an exam on September 24. A case was registered in this connection and the accused was fired by the school administration.

The parents were asked to reach the school on September 26 when the accused would also be presented. However, the teacher in question played truant even as the girl's parents

reached the school. They then lodged a case in this connection. In their complaint, the parents alleged that their daughter was taking the exam on September 24 when the incident took place. "My daughter complained about the incident to her class teacher and later to the school coordinator but her plea was not taken up," the girl's mother

alleged. She said the college administration asked her to contact police. She said the school administration initially opted for dilly-dallying tactics and later heard the plea. The police said a case under Section 354 of IPC (molestation) was registered against the accused who was also booked under POCSO Act.

also came to the fore that Deepak had taken an exam on behalf of another candidate in the past. He came in contact with Surendra at a coaching centre in Gorakhpur. The police said Deepak is a pawn of the gang providing solvers to job aspirants looking to crack competitive exams.

Man held for taking exam for another candidate

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Bihar native was nabbed for taking a Railway Board exam for another candidate at a centre in Saipur police station area in Lucknow on Thursday. The accused, identified as Deepak Kumar of Rohtas in Bihar, is

said to have cracked several competitive exams in the past. Earlier, Amit Kumar Yadav, an employee of a company conducting the exams at AP Computer Centre on IIM Road, informed police. The accused had disclosed his name as Virendra Kumar of Gorakhpur and was taking

the exam on behalf of one Surendra Kumar. A police team later quizzed the accused who spilled the beans. It surfaced during interrogation that Deepak had taken Rs 50,000 for the favour. The police were looking for Surendra Kumar who is said to have absconded. It

also came to the fore that Deepak had taken an exam on behalf of another candidate in the past. He came in contact with Surendra at a coaching centre in Gorakhpur. The police said Deepak is a pawn of the gang providing solvers to job aspirants looking to crack competitive exams.

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Lucknow unit of ABUVM adopts 3,600 TB patients

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow unit of Akhil Bharatiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal adopted 3,600 tuberculosis patients of the district in a meeting which held at the CMO office.

Officials said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved a make the country TB-free by the year 2025. "Under this programme, industrial organisations or units, voluntary organisations, political parties or any person can adopt and provide nutritious food to patients suffering from tuberculosis. They have been named 'nikshay mitras'," a senior official said.

The representatives of the Lucknow unit of Akhil Bharatiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal met Chief Medical Officer Dr Manoj Agarwal and 3,600 TB patients were adopted by 72 sub-units of Lucknow unit.

The CMO said that the adoption of such a large number of TB patients simultaneously by any organisation is a positive step towards eradication of the disease and a matter of inspiration for other organisations and institutions.

The CMO said that by joining this scheme, social workers, business capitalists and others who want to adopt TB patients can register by visiting NIKSHA 2.0 portal.

"One can register by visiting the 28 TB unit in the city. Through this portal, one can adopt the patients according to their choice and help in the availability of nutritious food to the poor patients during the course of their treatment. At the same time, during the treatment under the Nikshay Nutrition Scheme, a sum of Rs 500 is sent to each TB patient's account every month by the government," the CMO said.

Dalit literature a big draw at National Book Fair

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Dalit literature is a big draw at the National Book Fair. Kapil Bodh from Samayak Prakashan said their stall has always attracted readers.

"We have the Constitution in Hindi and English hardcover as well as in pocket size. We have brought 12 volumes of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's life and philosophy written during his times. The books on Ambedkar from the Central government are also in huge demand," he pointed out.

Bodh said that a mixed category of books in Bahujan literature are selling at the fair. "The literature of great personalities in Bahujan literature is selling well because people want to know about it. Fiction in Dalit literature is also selling but the demand is comparatively less," he said.

"History is another element which is catching the

attention of readers. A book titled 'Indica of Megasthenes' is in great demand' while books on the scrutiny of history are also selling well. Another book called 'Khoye Huye Buddha Ki Khoj' is attracting readers," he said. He pointed out that all categories of people are buying these books because everyone wants to read Dalit literature. "The great personalities who people want to know more about include Jyotiba Phule, Narayan Guru, Shahuji Maharaj, Savitribai Phule, Jhalkaribai and Periyar," he said, adding their publication only sells Dalit literature.

Bodh said the most expensive book at the stall is 'Dhampad' of Buddha which costs Rs 5,000.

"This is the main 'granth' and this book has been published maximum times. We have the book in six types in the range of Rs 20 to Rs 5,000. There is less matter in the Rs-



20 book while the one costing Rs 1,250 is an academic book. The Rs-5,000 book is a deluxe edition. Dhampad is found in all languages and we are selling it in Hindi and Pali. We have sold two books of Dhampad costing Rs 5,000" he explained.

"Apart from books, the posters which have been put on display are also in big demand. We are selling various symbolic pins and tags as well as key

rings. We have brought them in big numbers because these items have always been in huge demand," he said.

Amongst other books which are available include 'Glory to the Bodh Tree', 'Corona, Karma and God', 'Ambedkar Messiah of the Downtrodden', 'Lekhon Ka Sangrah', 'Kurmi Samaj', 'Atheism', 'Bharat, Bhartiya Aur Bhartiya', 'Tibet Mein Bauha

Dharma' and 'Shaheed Bhagat Singh'. Book fair convener Manoj Chandel said the footfall has picked up though they had missed out on early visitors because of rains in the last weekend. "We are expecting a good footfall this weekend," he added.

'APNA RAASTA KHUD BANAYEN'

Stall No. 61 at the book fair stands out for its fine quality of Hindi and English literature, especially the book titled 'Apna Raasta Khud Banayen' by Pandit Hari Om Sharma 'Hari'. All the books written by Sharma are selling well at the fair. 'Apna Raasta Khud Banayen' holds a special appeal for the adolescents and youth and its ideas are being eagerly lapped up by parents, students and teachers. Till date, 344 copies of this book have been sold out, according to stall manager Rajendra Chaurasia.

CITY BRIEFS

CMS STUDENT'S STORY PUBLISHED IN 'THE WHISPERS OF THE DARK'

'Predatory', a story by Raghav Pathak, a class IX student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Extension, has found a place in the literary publication of best young authors of the country — 'The Whispers of the Dark'. This book has been published under the aegis of Scholastic Writers Academy. Stories of only the best 14 young authors from all over the country have found a place in the book. Of these 14 authors, Raghav is the only one from Lucknow. Earlier in 2021, Raghav's story, 'The Bright Darkness', was published in the 'Golden Light'.



products. Meanwhile, CSIR-CDRP employees and their meritorious wards were felicitated on the occasion.

ANNUAL MAJLIS

The annual majlis and 'Bazm-e-Musalma' was organised by Prof Syed Ali Hamid and Syed Masoom Raza at Saltanat Manzil near city station. In this 42nd year, 14 poets from different parts of the country recited their 'kalam' on 'misra-e-tarah' — 'Le ke shamshere-e-tabassum Ali Asghar nikle'. The programme began with recitation of Quran by Nadeem Najfi. Thereafter, a majlis was addressed by Maulana Syed Arshad Jafri. The programme concluded with the presentation of 'Khan Bahadur Nawab Syed Hamid Husain Khan Award' to Dilkash Ghazipuri.

CEREMONIAL PARADE

A ceremonial parade was held at Officers Training College (OTC), Army Medical Corps Centre and College in Lucknow on Thursday as part of the training curriculum of Senior Cadre Course. As many as 104 non-commissioned officers who are trained in Officers Training College and will be assuming higher ranks in times to come participated in the parade. The ceremonial parade was witnessed by relatives of course NCOs, course officers of Medical Officers Senior Commanding Course (MOSCC) and Basic Nursing Officers Course (BNOC). The parade,



marked by military precision and customary elegance, was reviewed by Maj Gen JP Prasad, Commandant and Chief Instructor, Officers Training College, AMC Centre & College.

WORLD HEART DAY

On the occasion of World Heart Day on Thursday, celebrations and informative sessions were held at SKD Hospital & SKD Academy. Senior cardiac surgeon Dr Manish Jha and Dr Amit Chaudhary spoke about ways to keep the heart healthy. He said oily food should be avoided and people must exercise daily, have green vegetables, protein, pulses, etc.

PLAY STAGED

A play titled 'Kalchakra' was staged at Sant Gadgeji

Maharaj Auditorium on Thursday evening by Akanksha Theater Arts under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Department of Culture, Government of India. Directed by Prabhat Kumar Bose, the play featured an old couple suffer from diabetes. They are adopted by another couple as they are treated shabbily by their own son and daughter-in-law.



बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया BOI Bank of India		POSSESSION NOTICE	
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest, Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a Demand Notice, calling borrower to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of same. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section 13 (4) of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the dates mentioned hereunder. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India for mentioned amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
S. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers & Guarantors	Description of Immovable property mortgaged / Owner of the property	Amount o/s as mentioned in the Notice u/s 13(2) Date of Demand & Possession Notice
Branch: Syseend			
1	Borrower: Mrs. Rekha Bhaskar W/o K.K. Bhaskar	All the part and parcel of the property situated at Gata No. 324 (Khata No. 225), Village-Dewariya Bharswa Pargana Nigohan and Tehsil Mohanlalganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Area: 0.277 Hect., Owner: Mrs. Rekha Bhaskar W/o K.K. Bhaskar, Boundaries: East: Remaining part of Khasra No. 324, West: Kharanja Road, North: Remaining part of Khasra No. 324, South: Remaining part of Khasra No. 324.	₹ 20,15,819.57 + Interest & other expenses w.e.f. 31.01.2022 Demand Notice dt. 02.04.2022 Possession Notice dt. 27.09.2022
Branch: Malhore			
2	Borrower: 1. Mr. Faisal Khan S/o Mohd Raees, R/o SD 601/Q6th Floor, Q Block, Sharda Apartment, Sector 4, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow. 2. Mrs. Shajiyaa Fatima W/o Faisal Khan, R/o SD 601/Q6th Floor, Q Block, Sharda Apartment, Sector 4, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow. Guarantor: Shri Mohd Tauseef S/o Shri Mohd Rafeeq, R/o 56, Ujariyaon, Vijay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. SD 601, Block Q, 3 BHK, Type -2, Sharda Apartment, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow, Area: 144.72 Sq. Mtr., Owner: Mr. Faisal Khan and Mrs. Shajiyaa Fatima, Boundaries: On Top: SD/701 7th Floor Block Q/3bhk/Type-2, At Bottom: SD/501 5th floor, Block Q/3bhk/Type-2.	₹ 49,06,397.23 + Interest & other charges Demand Notice dt. 13.07.2022 Possession Notice dt. 27.09.2022
Date: 30.09.2022, Place: Lucnow Authorised Officer, Bank of India			

Vision 2047: Suggestions invited from people

PNS ■ KANPUR

Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar informed that under Kanpur Smart City Project the district administration had invited suggestions from people of the city as to how they visualise Kanpur by 2047. He said all those who were interested to give their suggestions can forward them suggestions on visionkanpur2047@gmail.com. He said once the views of Kanpurites were compiled they will be uploaded for general masses. He said all details on the macro and micro level will be made available for Kanpurites. He appealed to the people to be part of this vision.

He said it was true that more the participation of the

masses the better shape can be given to the vision 2047 and added that role of every individual was equally important. He said the more the people showed their eagerness for a beautiful Kanpur of their dreams they will be able to give a push to their vision and collectively it can convert Kanpur to one of the most developed and smartest city of the country.

He said the prominent issues that Kanpur currently needed were better traffic management, tourism, cleanliness, educational skill development, entrepreneurship, startup, happiness index, smart policing, housing and city development, urban planning and other economic factors. He said it had also been decided to make the

best use of social media platform and digital medium and efforts will be made to promote them in the right earnest. He said it was highly essential to include the youth and students of the city so that future Kanpur can be brought forth.

Dr Shekhar said Kanpur was gradually metamorphosing and will be one of the finest cities of the country in a short span of a decade. He said the beginning has already been made and with dedication and determination this will be made a reality. He said it was highly essential to have a positive attitude and remain determined as this will work wonders in the times to come. He appealed to people to start writing on "Kanpur of their dreams".

Fire in bike accessories godown

PNS ■ KANPUR

A bike accessories godown caught fire due to an electric short circuit in the basement of a two-storey building in Saket Nagar on Thursday morning. Seeing the towering flames and thick smoke, people present in the premises raised an alarm. As many as 14 students (boys and girls) studying in the coaching centre on the second floor remained confined to their spot. Immediately five fire tenders rushed to the spot and rescued all the students through the ladder. After efforts of around 1.5 hours, the fire was brought under control. In the two-storey building of Vivek Sachan, a bike accessories godown of Sumit Mishra is situated in the basement. On the ground floor, there is a diagnostic centre and Justial office on the first floor. On the second floor, there is Global Career Academy. Around 10.15



A bike accessories godown in Saket Nagar caught fire on Thursday morning.

am on Thursday, a fire broke out in the godown due to a short circuit. When godown workers failed to control the fire, they informed the owner and police control room. People present in the diagnostic centre and the Justial office escaped out of the premises raising an alarm. On hearing the noise 11 students of the

coaching centre came out in the gallery but four of their colleagues remained trapped inside it. Immediately, chief fire officer MP Singh along with five fire tenders reached the spot.

After getting the power supply disconnected, fire fighting jaws rescued all the 14 students through the ladder and

controlled the fire. Commissioner of Police BP Jogdand and the District Magistrate Vishakh G Iyer also reached the spot.

CP BP Jogdand said the fire broke out in the basement of the building. All students of the coaching centre were safely rescued. There was no casualty in the incident, he added.

Special vax drive to continue till October 15

PNS ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Alok Ranjan on Thursday informed that a special drive has been launched to vaccinate children for DPT-TD and this drive will continue till October 15. He said under the drive all children above five years will be vaccinated. He said it had also been decided that children in the age group of seven to 16 years will be also vaccinated and this drive too will continue till October 15. He said a total of 218 teams had been deployed for success of the drive and added that 2,143 DPT and 4,479 TD vaccination had already been given to children.

He said special campaign was being carried out and special awareness campaign was being launched in all primary and high schools so as to ensure that all children were vaccinated. He said barring Wednesday and Saturday the vaccination drive will be carried out regularly. He said teams have also been directed to identify children who had been left out.

He said DPT vaccine was a combination vaccine used for immunisation against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. He said DPT vaccine protected the child and helped them to develop immunity against these deadly diseases. He said it also helped to reduce the reservoir of pertussis in the population at large and thereby potentially decreasing exposure of individuals at increased risk for complicated infection. He said diphtheria was a localised infection of mucous membrane or the skin caused by corynebacterium diphtheria and it was also suspected to be associated with the formation of pseudomembrane at the site of infection. He said systemic effects were due to production of diphtheria toxin, a gene for present in specific corynephages.

He said TD vaccine can prevent tetanus and diphtheria and said tetanus entered the body through cuts or wounds and diphtheria spreads from person to person. He said similarly whooping cough pertussis was a highly contagious acute infection of respiratory tract caused by bordetella pertussis. He said the drive will immunise children up to 16 years of age.

36-yr-old found dead in jungle

PNS ■ KANPUR

After a duel with wife, a man went out of his house and was found dead in the jungle in Bedipur village of Bilhaur Kotwali police station area late on Wednesday night. Empty liquor quarter and a water bottle were also recovered from the spot. After quizzing his wife, police have started investigations. Ranjit Gautam alias Chhote (36) of Bedipur village was a labourer and lived with wife Vijay Laxmi and sons Vivek Babu and Avansh. He was living separately from father and brothers. Nephew Ajit said after a duel with wife around 4 pm on Wednesday, Ranjit went out of the house. When

he did not return home till late evening, family members started searching for him in the village. Late at night, he was found dead under a shisham tree in a jungle, one km away from the village. Police sent the body for an autopsy. Inspector Atul Kumar Singh said as there were no injury marks on the body of the deceased, it appeared as if he had consumed some poisonous substance which led to his death. On the basis of the autopsy report, further action would be initiated in the matter, he said.

BATTERED TO DEATH: Suspecting love affair with daughter, a man and his son battered her paramour to death in Rampur

Ludhakheda village, Ganga Barrage under Gwaltoli police station area late Wednesday night. After killing the youth, the body tied with bricks was dumped into a pond. On the complaint of the deceased's father, police lodged a case and arrested the guilty man while his son and other accused were still absconding. At the behest of the accused, police also recovered the body of the youth from the pond. Saurabh (14) of Rampur Ludhakheda, Ganga Barrage, was a student of class VII. Udan Nishad of neighbouring Natthapurwa village used to suspect Saurabh's love affair with his daughter. Following the suspicion Udan Nishad along with his son

Aman battered Saurabh to death on the outskirts of the village late on Wednesday night and dumped the body into a pond. On finding his son missing, Bablu Nishad lodged a complaint with the police which after registering a case arrested the named accused Udan Nishad and recovered the body from the pond on his behest. Aman and his accomplices were still absconding. ACP Colonel Ganj Amarnath Yadav said on the complaint of Bablu Nishad, FIR had been lodged against Udan Nishad and his son Aman for the murder of Saurabh. While Udan had been arrested and raids were on to nab the other accused, he said.

Statues of great leaders & freedom fighters should be cleaned: DM



District Magistrate Vishakh G Iyer holding a review meeting for preparations for Gandhi Jayanti.

PNS ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Vishakh G Iyer while addressing a special meeting on Thursday for preparations for Gandhi Jayanti celebrations in the city said on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti all statues of great leaders and freedom fighters must be cleaned and said this can be carried out in a planned manner so that not a single statue of the great leaders was left out. He said this will facilitate the people of the city to pay floral tributes to all great leaders on October 2.

He said the sacrifice of Mahatma Gandhi was known worldwide and thus it was the duty of teachers and elders to ensure that they apprise all facts of great leaders to the youth and make them emulate as well. He said it was highly essential that the current day youth needed to tread the path as shown by Mahatma Gandhi. He said floral tributes should be paid to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri as well. He said it was the duty of the school to ensure they organised seminars on the life of both the

great leaders. The DM said that Tricolour should be hoisted on all the government buildings and at all offices. He said principals or directors of schools and institutes should pay floral tributes to the portrait of the two great leaders. He said Gandhi Jayanti was a proud day for Indians and thus it needs to be celebrated on a large scale. He said especially in this 75 year of Independence and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav it becomes all the more important to celebrate it in a grand manner.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
29, IIE, IT PARK SAHASTRADHARA ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248001
Ph No. 0135-2607282, 2708100, 2680897 Fax No. 0135-2708109 Web site: www.siidcul.com

Notice for Recruitment on Deputation Basis - 03/2022

Applications are invited from eligible candidates in the prescribed form for recruitment of following vacant post through deputation basis initially for one year in SIIDCUL which may be extendable.

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	Pay Band and Grade pay (as per 6th pay commission)	No. of posts
1	Assistant General Manager (Civil)	15600-39100(Grade pay-6600)	03 Nos.
2	Manager (Civil)	15600-39100(Grade pay-5400)	03 Nos.
3	Manager (Electrical)	15600-39100(Grade pay-5400)	02 Nos.

Candidate must submit their application through proper channel alongwith No Objection Certificate, Vigilance Clearance from his/her Competent Authority. Last date for submitting the application is 20th Oct. 2022, till 5.00 PM. Applications received after due date will not be entertained. For details regarding qualification, experience, age, application format and other details and instructions please visit company website www.siidcul.com. In future all corrigendum will be published on same website www.siidcul.com

Managing Director (SIIDCUL)

कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार
पत्रांक- 1357 / सौचैव(नगनिहरी) / 2022-23 दिनांक- 29.09.2022

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम हरिद्वार द्वारा कावड मेले में सफाई हेतु आउटसोर्सिंग के माध्यम से कर्मियों को रखे जाने हेतु ई-बिड (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से www.uktenders.gov.in पर पुनः अल्पकालीन (7 दिवस) ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचना www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसार है:

S.No.	Scheduled/Information	Date	Time
1	Date of Online publication	30.09.2022	04:00 PM
2	Document Download start Date	30.09.2022	04:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	30.09.2022	04:00 PM
4	Bid submission End Date	07.10.2022	02:00 PM
5	Offline Submission of Hard/ Original copy of Document End date	07.10.2022	03:00 PM
6	Bid opening Date	07.10.2022	04:00 PM

उपरोक्त तिथियों में कोई भी संशोधन/परिवर्तन मात्र www.uktenders.gov.in वेबसाइट पर ही Publish किया जायेगा।

सहायक नगर आयुक्त
नगर निगम हरिद्वार

APPENDIX IV A
(See proviso to Rule 8(6))
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of immovable asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to Dhani Loans and Services Limited [formerly Indiabulls Consumer Finance Ltd.] [CIN: U74899DL1994LPC062407] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" on 21.10.2022 from 02.00 PM. to 04.00 PM., for recovery of Rs. 26,00,743/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Seven Hundred Forty Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HILALUK00464103, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 22.09.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 23.09.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Narvesh Kumar Mangal (Proprietor, Kalyani Udhog), Anu Rachna and Divyansh Mangal.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 3,52,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Two Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 35,20,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Twenty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Part of Property bearing Number 38A/443 admeasuring 737 Square Yards equivalent to 616.20 Square Meters comprised in old Kharsa Number 79/2, new Kharsa Number 11G situated in Sewla Jat, Tehsil and District Agra, Agra-282001, Uttar Pradesh and which is bounded as follows:-

East : Gwalior Road
West: Part of Property 38A/443 Brijendra Kumar Mangal
North: Part of Property 38A/443 Narendra Kumar Mangal
South : Property Military Dairy Farm.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.dhani loansandservices.com ; For bidding log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

Date : 27.09.2022
Place : AGRA

Sd/
Authorized Officer
DHANI LOANS AND SERVICES LIMITED

GM presents awards to many at BLW

PNS ■ VARANASI

General Manager (GM) Ganjali Goyal presented awards to several officers and employees who did excellent work in the field of Rajbhasha at the Award Distribution and Closing Ceremony of Hindi Fortnight held at Technical Training Centre (TTC) auditorium under the auspices of Rajbhasha department of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Thursday. The function started with lighting

of lamps by the chief guest and GM, along with some heads of departments and then Saraswati Vandana was presented by Dr Shashikant Sharma. In her presidential address, while highlighting the importance of Hindi, the GM said that in view of the important role of Hindi in the freedom movement, our Constituent Assembly accepted Hindi as the Rajbhasha (official language) on September 14, 1949.

CT angiography has emerged as a boon for heart patients: Sinha

PNS ■ KANPUR

Noted cardiac surgeon, Naxmipat Singhania, Institute of Cardiology, associated to GVM Medical College, Dr Santosh Sinha on World Heart Day informed that the objective to celebrate World Heart Day was to raise awareness regarding cardiovascular diseases and to timely prevent and treat it. He said this year the theme was "Use Heart for Every Heart". He said the annual number of deaths from CVD in India was 4.77 million (2020). He said CT angiography has emerged as a boon for heart patients and to identify dormant conditions. He said it was a medical test that combined a CT scan

with an injection of a special dye to produce pictures of blood vessels and tissues in a part of one's body. He said the dye was injected through an intravenous (IV) line started in one's arm or hand. He said computerised tomography (CT) coronary angiogram was an imaging test that looked at the arteries that supplied blood to the heart and used a powerful X-ray machine to produce images of the heart and its blood vessels and this test is used to diagnose a variety of heart conditions. He said one may need this medical test if one had an abnormality that involved the blood vessels of your brain, heart, lungs, kidneys or other

parts of your body and on the basis of the report the doctors tap the information to learn more about one's condition and decide the best way to treat. He said information from CT angiography may help prevent a stroke or a heart attack. He said chest pain or discomfort, upper back or neck pain, indigestion, heartburn, nausea or vomiting, extreme fatigue, upper body discomfort, dizziness and shortness of breath and palpitations were some symptoms. Dr Sinha said heart failure often known as congestive heart failure occurred when the heart muscle did not pump blood as well as it should and when this happened, blood often backed up and fluid can

build up in lungs causing shortness of breath. He said certain heart conditions such as narrowed arteries in the heart (coronary artery disease) or high blood pressure gradually leave the heart too weak or stiff to fill and pump blood properly. He said proper treatment can improve signs and symptoms of heart failure and may help some people live longer. He said lifestyle changes as losing weight, exercising, reducing salt (sodium) in one's diet and managing stress can improve quality of life. He added that heart failure can be life-threatening and people with heart failure may have severe symptoms and some may need a heart transplant or

a ventricular assist device (VAD). Dr Sinha said coronary artery disease was one of the most common causes of death worldwide. He said significant advancements in CAD treatment had been made. He said the existing treatment was medical, surgical or a combination of both depending on the extent, severity and clinical presentation of CAD. He said the collaboration between different science disciplines such as biotechnology and tissue engineering had led to the development of novel therapeutic strategies such as stem cells, nanotechnology, robotic surgery and other advancements. He said these treatment modalities

show promising effects in managing CAD and associated conditions and added that research on stem cells focused on studying the potential for cardiac regeneration while nanotechnology research investigates nano-drug delivery and percutaneous coronary interventions, including stent modifications and coatings. He advised people to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and fewer processed foods. He said eating lots of foods high in saturated fat and trans fat may contribute to heart disease. He said eating foods high in fibre and low in saturated fats, trans fat and cholesterol can help prevent high cholesterol.

PMG honours Hindi contest winners

PNS ■ VARANASI

Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav said that Hindi is not only literature but also the language of science to communicate revolution, information technology and innovation. "Hindi is our mother tongue as well as Rajbhasha (official language), so for its development it is necessary that we give priority to Hindi language in practical activities as well as in official work. Hindi is one of the leading languages of the world in terms of creation and expression and it is the second largest spoken language in the world today," he said, while presiding over the Hindi workshop and felicitation function held at the Regional Post Office here on Wednesday. Chief guest Prof Satyapal Sharma, Department



PMG KK Yadav felicitating a winner at Regional Post Office in Varanasi on Wednesday.

of Hindi, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) said that in the freedom movement of India, Hindi made a historic contribution in the formation of national unity as a link language and after independence, Hindi was given the status of Rajbhasha. Assistant Director (Rajbhasha) Brijesh Sharma informed that many compe-

titions were organised by the Department of Posts during Hindi Pakhwada (fortnight), in which the employees and officers enthusiastically participated and contributed in making the fortnight a success. On this occasion, poet Dan Bahadur Singh recited his poems. Those who were honoured on the occasion getting top three places in dif-

ferent competitions respectively included Abhilasha Rajan, Ramchandra Yadav, Ajita Kumari (essay), Shashikant Verma, Rahul Kumar Verma, Rakesh Kumar (Hindi noting and writing), Shambhu Prasad Gupta, Sriprakash Gupta, Manish Kumar (Hindi translation and word knowledge), Ramchandra Yadav, Rahul Kumar Verma, Abhilasha Rajan (Hindi grammar), Rakesh Kumar, Ajita Kumari, Manish Kumar (Hindi typing) and Prashant Pandey, Akhilesh Maurya, Indrajit Gautam (Hindi writing). Superintendent Post Office PC Tiwari, Senior Accounts Officer MP Verma, Assistant Accounts Officer Santoshi Rai, postal inspector Shrikant Pal, VN Dwivedi, Rajendra Yadav, Sriprakash Gupta and other departmental officers and employees were also present.

V-C releases book on Mahamana

PNS ■ VARANASI

The book titled 'Making of a great teacher Mahamana in his thoughts and deeds' was released by Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain at VC Lodge here on Wednesday. Prof Shantanu Kumar Swain, Dean of the Faculty of Education was also present on the occasion. The book written by Prof Sunil Kumar Singh was published by Bharat Book Centre, Lucknow this year and its forward is written by Dr Karan Singh, former Chancellor of BHU and ex-Union Minister. This book is based on the work of Prof Sunil Kumar Singh, first D Litt of the

Faculty of Education, BHU. He was awarded the D Litt degree in the year 2019 and his advisor was Prof RP Shukla. This book self illuminates the new dimensions of BHU's founder Bharat Ratna Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya who establishes him as a great teacher. The book shows that every common man can establish a record by building his own character by uplifting his consciousness. A person can create a vision and give it a practical form in this life. To give practical shape to this vision, religion should be the basis. This research based book will act as a guiding light especially for the youth of 21st century.

Court posts Oct 7 as next date for hearing in Gyanvapi case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The hearing on the demand of carbon dating of shivling, claimed to have been found in wuzu khana of Gyanvapi Masjid, by the experts of Archaeology Survey of India (ASI) was on Thursday completed and the Varanasi court posted the date of October 7 for the next hearing. It is expected that the court will deliver its order on that day.

It is learnt that during the commission survey in Gyanvapi Masjid complex which was conducted in May last, an object was found in the wuzu khana of the mosque and the plaintiffs claimed that it was shivling of Avī Mukteshwar (Baba Vishwanath), while the defendant claimed that it was fountain.

The plaintiffs in the case of Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri have filed a plea seeking carbon dating of shivling, claimed to have been found in the wuzu khana of Gyanvapi Masjid. Both the plaintiff and defendant completed their arguments on it and the court of District Judge Ajay Kumar Vishvesha posted the date of October 7 for the next hearing and it is expected that the court will deliver its order on the plea on that day. During the hearing, the plaintiffs deman-



An advocate of Hindu side telling about court proceedings in Gyanvapi case in Varanasi on Thursday.

ed the carbon dating of shivling by the experts of ASI, while the defendant argued that there was a fountain and not shivling and so, there was no need of its carbon dating.

It is learnt that five women Lakshmi Devi, Sita Sahu, Rekha Pathak, Manju Vyas and Rakhi Singh had filed a civil suit in the court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ravi Kumar Diwakar of Varanasi seeking the unhinderance right to offer prayer of Goddess

Shringar Gauri, located outer wall of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Masjid complex and other visible and invisible deities located on the complex. On the order of the court, the advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra had conducted video-survey of the complex on May 6 and 7 last but he had been removed by the court later on the question of its fairness raised by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (defendant in the

civil suit), which looks after the management of Gyanvapi Masjid.

The court appointed Vishal Singh and Ajay Pratap Singh as special advocate commissioner and assistant court commissioner respectively for the survey.

Both conducted surveys on May 14, 15 and 16 and submitted their reports on May 19. The advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra also submitted his report.

NR mulls high-speed train between Prayagraj and Lko

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Due to the important offices and headquarters of various departments including the High Court, a large number of travellers come to Prayagraj from the capital Lucknow. Despite this, no speed train is available in the morning so that passengers can come to Prayagraj from Lucknow in the morning.

Now preparations have started to solve this problem. Northern Railway is working on an action plan to run a fast train between Prayagraj and Lucknow. The most important thing is that this train will be such that it will reach Prayagraj between 9.30 am to 10 am. Apart from people coming to government offices, people coming for work relat-

ed to the High Court will also get relief.

There is a shortage of trains in the morning to reach Prayagraj from Lucknow. The trains that come from Lucknow take noon to reach here. Intercity Express departs from Lucknow at 7.35 AM but arrives at Prayagraj at 11.38 AM. Apart from this, other trains are not available in the morning, due to which people have to use other modes of transport.

There are several trains that run from Prayagraj Sangam to Lucknow. Due to which it is easy to reach Lucknow. There are trains like Lucknow Intercity, Triveni, Ganga Gomti, Nauchandi, Prayag-Bareilly Express etc. to reach Lucknow from Prayagraj. In this, Ganga Gomti leaves from here at 5.40 am and reaches

Lucknow at 10.10 am.

Ashwini Srivastava, ADMR of Lucknow Division of Northern Railway said that we are considering a train that runs between Lucknow to Prayagraj and reaches Prayagraj between 9.30 am to 10 am. There is a High Court in Prayagraj, there are headquarters and offices of many departments, but despite that, there is no good connectivity for the morning. Preparations are being made for this. Board proposal will be sent for this.

PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMERCIAL MANAGER OF NCR FELICITATED: Principal Chief Commercial Manager North Central Railway Shashikant Singh was felicitated with Railway Minister Rajbhasha Silver

Medal.

Shashikant Singh, who is also Chief Rajbhasha Officer was awarded with Railway Minister Rajbhasha Silver Medal by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Railway Board Mr VK Tripathi. He has been given this award for the excellent use and dissemination of Rajbhasha. It is worth mentioning that Mr Singh had played a special role in promotion of Rajbhasha while working as Divisional Railway Manager, Khurda Road. Presently, he is working as Chief Rajbhasha Officer of North Central Railway and efficiently discharging the important responsibility of progress and propagation of official language Hindi in the entire North Central Railway.

Man attacks sub inspector

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Police Response Vehicle (PRV) Sub Inspector (SI) Pramod Kumar, who arrived at Gadiwan Tola of Khuldabad in Prayagraj on Wednesday night on the information of a dispute, was attacked by a man, injuring him. After the incident, accused Saurabh Dwivedi fled from the spot.

On receiving information about the attack on the SI, the force of Khuldabad police station reached the spot and investigated. A case has been registered against the accused in Khuldabad police station.

It is being said that Saurabh Dwivedi, who lives in Gadiwan

Tola, was quarreling with the family members on Wednesday night under the influence of liquor. After the assault, his sister informed the police, after which PRV's Sub Inspector Pramod Kumar along with his team reached the spot. He was investigating when he was attacked due to which he fell to the ground and suffered a face injury. Seeing the bleeding from the nose, a panic gripped among the people present there.

On receiving the news, the police force reached but by then the accused had fled from there. The police took the injured SI to the hospital and got first aid. Khuldabad police said that action is being taken

by setting up a case in the matter. Soon the accused will be arrested.

SP EX-MLA'S SON ARRESTED IN RAPE CASE: Kavi Ahmed, son of former Samajwadi Party MLA Saeed Ahmed, has been arrested in a rape case. Last year, a case of assault was filed against him in Civil Lines itself for sexually assaulting a woman resident of Minto Road and threatening to make a video viral.

He was absconding since the filing of the case. Anticipatory bail was then granted by the Allahabad High Court but the district court had issued a non-bailable warrant against Kavi.

Finally the police of Civil

Lines police station arrested Kavi Ahmed on Thursday morning.

The woman alleged that Kavi, the son of Phulpur's former MLA Sayeed, sexually assaulted her after making her a partner in a beauty parlor business in Lucknow, made a video and started blackmailing her, threatening and assaulted her on being protested by her. On the complaint of the woman, the police started the search for the accused Kavi by writing a case at the Civil Lines police station here. Recently, after getting bail from the High Court, the District Court had issued a non-bailable warrant in which the arrest was made.

Thousands throng Durga Mandir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Famous Durga Mandir at Durgakund saw the rush of thousands of devotees on the fourth day of Sharadiya Navratri on Thursday as the incarnation of Maa Kushmanda is located in this temple. Right from the wee hours till late night hours, the temple witnessed heavy rush of devotees. As usual, this temple sees a rush of devotees throughout both the Basantik and Sharadiya navtaras but on the day of Maa Kushmanda, the rush was bigger than the other days. There was also a big rush on the first day of Navratri and it is expected that similarly, thousands of devotees will also throng there on the auspicious occasion of Ashtami.

Braving scorching heat, the devotees waited for a long time to reach the temple and offer prayers as long queues of devotees from both Bhelapur and Lanka sides were seen throughout the day. The rush was heavy both during morning and evening hours. This holy city is a rare place where there are separate temples of all the nine Gauris and Devis where



Devotees offering prayers at Maa Kushmanda at Durga Mandir in Varanasi on Thursday.

the devotees reach to offer prayers on different days during Basantik (Chaitya) and Sharadiya Navratri respectively.

Elaborate security arrangements were made on the occasion to maintain law and order situation and in view of the rush of devotees, the traffic was diverted. The entire area witnessed a festive scene as huge

quantities of coconut, flowers and other puja materials were sold. Besides, hundreds of devotees rushed to Vindhyaachal 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, Sheelta Mata Mandir at Adalpara (near Chunar, Mirzapur) and others.

Though the water level of river Ganga was recorded steady in the city during the day as per the report of Central Water Commission (CWC), the river saw rising in its level slowly and as the water level is still very high, the devotees reached Sheelta Mata Mandir at Dashashwamedh Ghat only after passing through the submerged stairs of the ghat.

Anganwadi Kendras being run in pvt buildings to be shifted to govt buildings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Anganwadi Kendras which are being run in the private buildings, will be shifted to the government buildings. The District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma has directed the concerned officers to conduct a survey of the nearest health centres, primary schools and Panchayat Bhawans to find out the places to construct rooms to shift the centres being run in private/rental buildings. Such government buildings should also be enlisted, he added while chairing a meeting regarding the Anganwadi Kendras at his

camp office here late Wednesday.

On being informed that a total of 1,606 Anganwadi Kendras are being run in the private/rental buildings while a total of 2,308 centres are being run in as many as 2,496 government buildings in the district, the DM directed the district programme officer to conduct a survey of the nearest schools, health centres and Panchayat Bhawans to find out the places to construct rooms to shift the centres being run in private/rental buildings.

The government buildings where the places are to be

found available during the survey, should also be enlisted, he added.

The renovation work of the Anganwadi Kendras being run in as many as 2,308 government buildings, is being carried out, the DM was apprised. The DM directed the district programme officer to seek consent letters from the owners of private/rental buildings in the rural and urban areas for the renovation work of the centres. If the owners themselves make the renovation work of the centres, prepare a list of such centres, the DM directed, adding that a separate list of such centers should be made which

owners deny giving their consent so that the district administration could get their renovation work.

The painting work of Anganwadi Kendras will be made as per the directive issued by the Governor Anandiben Patel, the DM asked and directed the CDPOs to conduct an inspection of the centres of their respective jurisdictions and mention the faults, if found, in their reports as point-wise.

The reports should be made available by October 1, he directed and cautioned that their responsibility would be fixed later.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court has said that the victim or the complainant does not have the right to withdraw the cognizable offense and it is the duty of the state government to investigate the crime against the society and punish the offenders.

The court said that it is a matter between the government and the accused. It is the responsibility of the state government to maintain law and order and prosecute the accused.

Justice Sameer Jain has given this order on the petition of Bundu and 13 others of Garhmukteshwar Hapur. In the petition, there was a demand to end the criminal case on the basis of agreement between the parties. The court has refused to interfere.

In this case against 14 people, there is an allegation of murderous attack on two people. The petitioners are accused of injuring them by firing with country-made pistols. The court also took cognizance of the police charge sheet. After this, the complainant Inam and the injured Danish made a settlement. On this basis, a petition was filed in the High Court under Section 482 Code of Criminal Procedure and demanded that the case be quashed.

The petitioner said that a crime has been committed in a mutual quarrel. There is no crime against the society. Supreme Court judgments also say that cognizable offenses can be quashed on the basis of compromise. But the court did not accept this and said that attempt to murder by firing is a crime challenging the society and law and order, which cannot be abolished by agreement.

MAN DUPED OF RS 1 LAKH IN CYBER FRAUD: No matter how careful people may have been in the awareness efforts on the part of the police and cyber cell, but scammers are somehow becoming successful in making them victims. This is proved by two recent incidents.

Some people cheated about Rs 1 lakh rupees from advocate Shivam Yadav in the name of insurance policy. Distressed by this, the advocate has filed a case against Deepak Rastogi, Gaurav Kaushik and many others associated with Bharti Axa Life Insurance at Colonelganj police station. Shivam, a resident of Elanganj, alleged that he got a call from a number. Caller said that his policy was about to lapse. After this, when he talked to the manager Deepak, he talked about securing the money through a dummy policy, but the fraud was done by depositing the money.

In the name of selling a car, a person cheated Rs 80,000 from Steno Dilip Kumar Saroj of ADM City. The victim told the police that he had seen a car on Facebook. When contacted on the number given to him, the young man named himself as Bhanu Pratap Sharma and said that he is a soldier.

After talking to Dilip, he talked about buying a car and sent the money to his account. In the meantime, a call came that the car broke down in Fatehpur, so he should send more money. On this, Dilip came to know about the fraud and then filed a case.

Meanwhile, the incident of threatening to kill the transporter Shailesh Kumar for not getting the extortion has come to the fore. On the orders of the court, the police have registered a case against Jhansi resident Jitlal Tiwari and 10 of his associates.

Victim Shailesh, a resident of Tularam Bagh, alleged that he has ancestral property in Jhansi's Bandhwa Tahirpur. A few days ago he was getting the house built. Then Jeet Lal came with many people and said that if the house is to be built, then Rs 50,000 will have to be given. When he reached there after getting information from the laborers, he was threatened with abuse and being implicated in a fake case. The police did not listen to the complaint, after which they had to approach the court.

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Eight robbers arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Vindhyaachal police have arrested eight thieves and recovered nine stolen mobile sets along with Rs 10,200 cash on Wednesday. In view of Navratri Mela cops have been deployed who are keeping a close vigil over chain snatchers, pickpockets as well as other criminals through CCTV cameras and other devices. During patrolling Vindhyaachal police intercepted a group of a suspicious people who could not justify their purpose to come to the mela. After proper interrogation the suspects confessed that they were habitual criminals and used to take away goods during festivals and for had come to Vindhyaachal this very purpose and were planning to commit theft. The police nabbed them and after frisking the police recovered nine mobile phones and Rs10,200 cash. For good work the SP have awarded the police team with cash reward of Rs 20,000. Police sent the accused identified as Sanjai Kumar, Rambaran, Lavkush, Lalchand, Manoj Kumar, Guddu, Sriram and

Banjari of Gonda to jail.

In another incident Shivpoojan Kol (18) of Rahkala village was on the way on his motorcycle when he fell into a canal at Samsadiya minor losing control over the vehicle. SO Santnagar Kamal Tawari said the victim lost control over the bike while trying to save a cyclist and fell into the canal. The SO said the victim was sent to a local hospital but was declared as brought dead by the doctor due to head injury. The police took the body into possession.

SET UP: On the initiative of DM Divya Mittal a temporary rain basera was set up near Atal Chauraha on Wednesday. The DM during routine patrolling in Vindhyaachal Mela area saw that some devotees were sleeping at the chauraha and asked the ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla to find a solution. The ADM roamed in the area with ASP Srikanth Prajapati, fixed a place near Rehda and made all arrangements to set up a rain basera equipped with all basic amenities. The DM directed the DSO to arrange a stall where food items could be available at cheaper rates.

Meanwhile DIG Police RP Singh directed SP Bhadohi to strengthen the local intelligence unit of the district to take action against rumour mongers. He issued such instructions while reviewing the crime control measures taken under Aurai zone of Bhadohi in his office on Wednesday. The DIG expressed dissatisfaction with the policing of Aurai circle under which several investigations into crimes against women were found unnecessarily pending.

Reviewing each case, the DIG directed the CO to hold regular meetings of investigating officers and settle the cases without any delay. He asked the CO to regularly monitor cases and initiate action against the criminals.

In view of Durga Puja and Dussehra he instructed all police stations to ensure that there is no scuffle during the festival.

TEMPLE DECORATED: Vindhyaasini temple is being decorated with foreign flowers this Navratri. A devotee involved in pharmaceutical business approached the district administration. After the consent of local priests the administration okayed the proposal. After getting the approval of the administration a team of more than three dozen artists is camping at Vindhyaachal. As per the team camping in temple premises flowers had been brought from Germany, Switzerland and other countries. The artists said they had the experience to decorate temples at another places and were working with dedication in the direction of giving the temple a facelift. They said all decoration work was being carried out following the traditions of the temple and local management was also giving full support to the work. GM Aimal Pharmaceutical India Pvt Ltd YS Kapoor interacting with the media on Thursday said on the direction of its founder KK Sharma the company was doing such work in main temples across the country. He said on Panchami of Navratri the three temples of Vindhyaachal, including Kalikhoh and Ashtabhujia, will be decorated in a new look. The GM was accompanied by the company's local representative Mayank Pathak.

Gang of thieves busted, five held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The police on Thursday claimed to have busted a gang active in committing theft at closed houses and arrested its five members with a pistol, cartridges, cash and ornaments.

Talking to the presspersons at her office in Police Lines here, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Varuna Zone Aarti Singh informed that some cases of theft had taken place during the last few days and taking a serious note of it, the concerned police officers were directed by the Commissioner of Police A Satish Ganesh for

working out the cases and arresting the criminals at the earliest.

The police teams were constituted to work out the cases and the team members took the help of CCTV footage, electronic surveillance, etc to reach out the criminals.

In order to search for the criminals, the Sarnath police got a tip-off about the presence of some criminals near late on Wednesday night at an underpass in Hridaypur planning to commit a crime. Acting on the information, the cops of Sarnath police raided the place and succeeded in

nabbing five criminals identified as Vishal Kumar, Chiranju Kumar, Shani Dharkar, Irshad and a minor.

During the investigation, Vishal Kumar, hailed from Azamgarh and living at a rented house in Baraipur, informed the police that he has criminal background and was released from jail about six months earlier.

He committed crime after forming a gang and after being released from the jail, he reformed the gang and again started committing crime. He along with gang members committed theft at a locked

house Buddha City Phase-I in Sarnath on September 20 last and decamped with Rs 1,60,000, a pistol, five cartridges and ornaments. Earlier, he and gang members had committed theft at some houses too.

His gang mainly targeted the shops which were closed from outside, the DCP informed.

The DCP informed that the police recovered the pistol of .32 bore, five live cartridges, Rs 15,500 in cash and ornaments from the houses of the criminals and added that all the arrested criminals have criminal background.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Incongruity

The Govt slams freebies and yet extends the free ration scheme for three months

The Government's move to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) for a further period of three months, from October to December 2022, flies in the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stand on freebies. The incongruity appears starker against the backdrop of resistance by the Finance Ministry to the extension. Under this scheme, 5 kg of food grain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The PM-GKAY came into being during the first wave of Covid-19 over two years ago to provide food security to the poor, needy, and the vulnerable households. Even after the pandemic subsided and normalcy restored, the Government kept extending the scheme. The Finance Ministry also said that since the pandemic has abated considerably, distress for which relief was given doesn't appear to be prevalent. Financial implications for the Central Government have been about Rs 3.45 lakh crore so far. The latest extension will cost about Rs 44,762 crore. The official press release announcing the latest extension called it a "welfare scheme." This may not be a very accurate description, for the economy is back on track with hardly any restrictions on people and businesses. The rationale offered by the Government for the extension is that major festivals like Navratri, Dussehra, Milad-un-nabi, Deepawali, Chhath pooja, Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti, Christmas, etc., are forthcoming. Another extension would help people "celebrate [these festivals] with great gaiety."



At best, this is a specious justification: the festive season arrives every year, but that doesn't mean that government, at the Centre or in states, should start distributing one thing or the other for free. The business of government is governance, not distributing freebies, especially when the fiscal situation is strained and when the economy is facing global and domestic headwinds. This is the reason that the Finance Ministry talked about the fiscal pressure due to the Russia-Ukraine War, effect on fuel prices, and rise in other subsidies. The Finance Ministry is also worried that the continuation of the scheme for a long period could give the impression of its permanent or indefinite continuation. FinMin bureaucrats seemed to be echoing great economist Milton Friedman's famous quote, "Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government programme." The Finance Ministry has made some very valid points, but are the powers that be listening? The answer may not be very comforting. It seems that all the fuss the Modi Government and the Bharatiya Janata Party have been making about freebies is politics; there may not be any genuine desire to restrain the evidence of freebies. Otherwise, the Government would not have continued with the scheme of free rations for another three months. What was a welfarist measure a couple of years ago has become a freebie. One can only hope that the PM-GKAY doesn't get another extension.

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PICTALK



Commuters cross the Ganga river during sunset, in Patna

The key to wild life conservation

Wildlife conservation cannot be achieved by ad hoc measures, it should involve people and have a grounded policy framework



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

The African cheetahs arrived in India earlier this month amid great fanfare and political hoopla. They have been kept in an enclosed area for now but will soon be released in the hope that they will boost efforts to conserve India's threatened and largely neglected grasslands. However, many wildlife conservationists believe that the introduction of these cheetahs not only goes against national conservation priorities but will also not have any impact on protecting grasslands and open forest ecosystems as has been claimed. Conservation scientists like Ravi Chellam contend that a quicker and more efficient way to conserve the grasslands would be to stop categorising them as wastelands and delete them from the Wasteland Atlas of India. This would enable a more focused conservation plan for them.



But has protecting habitats always been the prime consideration behind all decisions related to wildlife conservation? If yes, why was the Galathea National Park, an iconic nesting site of the leatherback sea turtle, located in the Great Nicobar Island, denotified in 2021? Entire sanctuaries have been denotified and erased off the map of India in the name of development, says Prerna Bindra, author and former member of, the National Board for Wildlife. The denotification of the Galathea National Park coincided with the development plans for Great Nicobar put forward by the NITI Aayog, the government's public policy think tank. Little thought was given to where the leatherbacks would nest once their site was destroyed for a shipping project and how this would accelerate the steep decline in their population, contends Bindra.

Securing the Wild
Protecting habitats for the leatherback turtles assumes critical importance as their numbers are decreasing sharply. These are the world's largest turtles and the only species without scales and a hard shell. Named after their tough rubbery skin, leatherback

turtles have existed in their current form since the age of the dinosaurs. As leatherbacks are migratory, some of them swim over 10,000 miles a year between nesting and foraging grounds. The chances of survival for these turtles making this arduous journey and then finding their nesting grounds destroyed are bleak.

Shouldn't this project have been stopped by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), the government institution constituted to protect wildlife, sanctuaries, and parks? Bindra points out that instead of exercising its authority and taking corrective action, the NBWL allowed this to happen.

While denotification of the Galathea National Park could not be prevented, a move to denotify a wildlife sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh to set up a cement factory was scuttled thanks to a newspaper report by award-winning veteran journalist Usha Rai.

Why Stories Are Important
This was not the only time Rai used her pen to stop the destruction of wildlife in the name of development.

It was Rai's story on how

the rich and powerful like industrialist Sameer Thapar, owner of JCT Mills, Phagwara, would fly in helicopters and shoot at wildlife in the Corbett National Park that sent shockwaves across the country with the issue even being raised in Parliament. A case was lodged against Thapar for flouting environmental norms by landing a helicopter inside the Corbett Tiger Reserve, a protected area.

These stories are part of an absorbing book that chronicles fifty years of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. This is what makes the book, titled 'Wildlife India @50,' a great read. The book has been edited by Manoj Kumar Misra, a former Indian Forest Service officer, this 517-page Rupa publication.

Conservation Champions
It is a fact that policies alone cannot protect wildlife. An informed community is perhaps the biggest conservation champion. This has been seen over and over again across the country. In Arunachal Pradesh had it not been for the commitment of the community, the red panda, an endangered species, found only in the eastern Himalayas,

may have become extinct much like the cheetahs. Engaging the community constructively has worked not only in Arunachal Pradesh but also in Kerala. Realising the importance of tapping the potential of the community in planning and management of conservation of wildlife habitats paid rich dividends in Kerala's Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. Making forest management inclusive and participatory was key to sustaining the protection of wildlife habitats. For the first time, forestry students, local scientists, naturalists, photographers, and the local tribal community along with the staff of the Reserve were involved in planning which areas needed to be categorised as buffer zones.

The sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has underlined that India's human vulnerability. Climate change coupled with a 'development-at-any cost' attitude is a double whammy for India's fragile ecosystem and wildlife.

(The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views expressed are personal.)

IT IS A FACT THAT POLICIES ALONE CANNOT PROTECT WILDLIFE. AN INFORMED COMMUNITY IS PERHAPS THE BIGGEST CONSERVATION CHAMPION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW CDS

Sir — The Appointment of New Chief of Defence Staff, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (Retd), military adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), is the most timely and most needed one, he will be the 2nd CDS of the country after the sad demise of 1st CDS Gen Bipin Singh Rawat in a helicopter crash. Lt Gen Anil Chauhan is a highly experienced army officer who has held significant positions like that of the GOC of the eastern command, Director Of Military Operation, and has extensive counter-insurgency experience in J and K and NE, he has wide experience in strategic and national security issues.

India's prevailing security environment is marked by regional instability with a nuclear overhang, on the western front is Pakistan and on the eastern sector is China and both have a common agenda of destabilizing India, they can't see India inching towards becoming a global economic power. The appointment of the 1st CDS was a significant step to carry out India's most significant military reform since Independence. The post of CDS is an institution that carries tremendous responsibility for modernizing the Indian military, hence more than ever before, it is now necessary for the national security decision-makers to be given 'single-point military advice that takes into account the operational strengths and weaknesses and the inter-dependence of each of the armed forces. New CDS Lt Gen Anil Chauhan has a Hercules task to carry forward the unfinished agenda of his predecessor Gen Rawat, who was pushing forward the agenda of the modernisation and reorganization of the armed forces into the integrated theatre commands.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

TOKENISATION IS SAFE AND SIMPLE

Sir — Tokenisation is a welcome mandate of RBI. Tokenisation is a safe, secure, simple, and fast method for online payment. It is the replacement of actual card details with a unique configurable token

Healthcare must be digitalised



The Covid-19 pandemic has made the healthcare industry worldwide realize the need for speeding up its infrastructure on digital transformation. The 2018 Digital Trends report from Consultancy, a leading Digital Marketing organization in London, reveals that only seven percent of healthcare and pharmaceutical com-

panies have gone digital, compared with 15 percent of companies in other industries. ('Digitised healthcare depends on faster connectivity', Sep. 26). The pandemic has taught a lesson to the healthcare industry on the value and importance of digitalization of medical service, which provides dual benefits of lower costs and higher quality. In fact, in Austria, e-Medication has been successfully running for years, with Electronic Medical records allowing patients there to view all their e-Results anytime and anywhere.

Similarly, doctors in Sweden and Denmark send e-prescriptions to pharmacies. Also, the National Health Service in the UK is working with Google to deploy Artificial Intelligence in the medical field. Digital transformation in medical services will allow patients to manage their treatment independently and share data with doctors. Medical history is critical in emergencies when a physical copy may not be available. In such a scenario, digitization helps by keeping the doctor informed about the patient's medical history in every situation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

without exposing the sensitive card details of consumers.

With the help of this, our sensitive card details will be safe and cannot be stolen. It will have benefits such as two-factor authentication like OTP (One Time Password). It is simple to use with just three easy steps, First - Punch in your card number, Second - Agree to securely save your card one time, Third - Enter the OTP received via SMS. Like this merchants can't access consumers' data. Thanks to the RBI for a great mandate.

Somya Agrawal | Ujjain

MOONLIGHTING A BIG NO-NO

Sir — Bottom line is that the issue of moonlighting is simply a mess and a lack of authentic information spoils the show. If you pay all your employees well no one will moonlight. And it is quite common sense that no one wants to trade extra 4 hours of sleep and 48 hours of the week-

end if your primary employee takes good care of you and your family. Instead of sacking their employees, they need to stop exploiting them and thereby reduce the workload and provide them with the best way possible.

This raises the question of why their employees were forced to or even motivated to engage in such risky, work-life balance and ultimately a career in health-impacting behaviour. Same competency, double delivery, two different laptops, same WiFi and thereby catering to two different clients - all from the comfort of their own home, in their hometown. In the background, India is integrating all of its islands of excellence in the best way possible. Moonlighting should not fade the light at the end of the tunnel.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

We have, we have never thought that it was an easy process. But we do believe that the need for reform cannot be denied forever.



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

We will continue to work with allies and partners to bring even more pressure on Russia and the individuals that are helping support its attempted land grab.

US State Dept spokesperson —Ned Price

I take feedback from my sons a lot. They have a very incredible rage. They have watched all kinds of cinema. They have a very refined perspective. And think, that is the perspective we need.



Actor —Hrithik Roshan

While the pool matches might not have gone in the side's favour in the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup, the fact that the team was still alive in the competition is all that mattered right now.

Indian women hockey team captain —Savita

Being daughter-in-law of Vadera family, she (Priyanka) is no more member of Gandhi family as per Indian tradition.



Congress MP —Abdul Khaleque

Real face of PFI

PFI is not as clean as it claims; the truth is that it hides behind a carefully constructed veil

Fans of psychological thrillers rate Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde as one of the best novellas ever written. The story published in 1886 by RL Stevenson is about Dr Jekyll, a gentleman, and Mr Hyde a murderous criminal, and a series of murders that shook society. It turns out that Jekyll and Hyde are the same person with Jekyll transforming into Hyde with the help of a chemical concoction. A real-life drama of the Jekyll and Hyde genre is being staged in India with the Popular Front of India and the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) as the main characters. The SDPI is the political face of PFI, a terrorist organisation that is responsible for murder and mayhem in the many States of India. Nobody was surprised when the National Investigation Agency and Enforcement Directorate swept down on the leaders of the PFI and SDPI across the country on Thursday and arrested nearly 100 prominent faces of these outfits. The PFI called for a hartal in Kerala last Friday to protest against the raids and arrests of its establishments and leaders respectively. Unlike the previous hartals, the one on Friday turned out to be the most violent.



Police looked the other way when the Popular Front of India workers damaged the Karnataka SRTC buses and made shopkeepers down the shutters. Shop owners who refused to heed the hartal call saw their shops and establishments getting destroyed. Policemen were attacked and there were a couple of attempts on the lives of policemen who were on patrol. It was the suomoto intervention of

the Kerala High Court which made the police take action against the hartal mongers. Strangely, neither chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan nor the Opposition Congress were heard condemning the widespread rioting by the PFI activists. The recent rallies staged by the PFI and which were attended by lakhs of activists stand out for the kind of slogans raised by the participants. All one could say is that they were despicable of the highest order. The SDPI, the political arm of the PFI plays a double game by washing its hands off the words and deeds of the latter. This is a ploy to facilitate the growth of the PFI, an organisation known for its religious bigotry. There is no space in Indian society for organisations that promote religious hatred and communal divide. It is time we identified real cancer that is eating up the age-old Indian psyche.



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA HEADS G20 AMID FLUX

Multilateralism is pushed to the wall as world order looks fluid



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been a busy man in the last few months, more so, last week when he managed marathon meetings at the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting participants suggest India's new foreign policy stance of finding allies and strategic partners around the globe. India met with its QUAD (US, Australia, and Japan) partners, also Libya, Syria, Cuba, renewed its commitment to France, India, Australia trilateral and France, India UAE strategic partnership.

France, Australia, UAE trilaterals with India are relatively new, born out of the need to find allies post pandemic and keep a check on China in the Indo Pacific region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a short visit to Japan this week to attend the funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The focus was Indo Pacific, shared interests and building on the India Japan bilateral.

Clearly, the world order has undergone a significant shift since 2020 with two course altering events, the Covid pandemic and Russia's military attack in Ukraine, thereby shattering the myth of no war in the Eurozone.

If the Covid pandemic and the subsequent disruption in global supply chains (mostly concentrated in China) hadn't dented the existing order, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent push to annex territories has created a shock in energy and food prices around the globe. There are multiple streams of evolving partnerships which will forever shape the way planet earth emerges in the 21st century.



First, faced by a clear danger of nuclear-powered Russia in the backyard, the larger European countries are rethinking their nuclear strategies. Most of them except for France had given up the nuclear shield to be under US-led NATO providing them umbrella cover. Meanwhile in the eastern hemisphere, Japan faced by a belligerent neighbour, China, is also rethinking its nuclear celibacy strategy.

The US and the UK have already come together to provide Australia with nuclear capabilities in the Indian Ocean region to prevent China from being adventurous. The headwinds are a clear indication of a world again looking at nuclear weapons as a go to deterrent/safety net in case of full-fledged war.

Second, global energy prices, threatening to put almost all of Europe through a very cold and dark winter of 2022, will shape the way the hastily glued western alliance against Russia will behave in 2023.

A clear and present danger in Russia is forcing ideological shifts in Europe. Meanwhile, the energy and food prices have pushed a couple of nations (including two in India's neighbourhood) in Asia and Africa on the verge of economic breakdown and are looking at institutions such as the IMF for bailouts.

Third, there is a huge drop in acceptance for multilateral institutions as platforms for sorting global common problems. China has been persistently denying India and a couple of other large economies from taking their rightful positions as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

There is a huge lack of consensus globally on ways to reap the dividends of a digital economy and therefore effectively tax the technology companies.

This leads to India's presidency of the G20 beginning towards the end of the year. The current Indonesia presidency ends in November and depending on the outcome the baton will be passed on to New Delhi to shape the global narrative. This will be at a time when India would be the most populous democracy, besides being the fifth largest economy in the world. It must find innovative ways of negotiating a consensus on most pressing world issues.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

Freebie powers the AAP Govt in Delhi



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

The State of Delhi stands out for all the ills plaguing the politics of freebies across the country, for many people have been deprived of basic amenities

To speak against distribution of freebies, of course, will attract the wrath of those who benefit from them. That is, if we say that electricity, water, travel should not be made free or that television sets or other types of temptations by political parties are wrong and they should end, then it is possible that people unaware of the possible consequences of announcements of such freebies may not like it.

After Independence, the emphasis has generally been on development, poverty alleviation, better social services, drinking water, road, rail, etc. But now some political parties have started making promises to provide electricity, water, transport, television sets and even mangalsutra, all for free, despite poor economic conditions of the states.

Result of such freebies is that states are coming under huge debts and the quality of public services is the major victim. Significantly, Delhi is a prosperous region of the country. The per capita income here is second highest in the country, after Goa. Due to this, the revenue of Delhi is also very high.

A large number of migrants also live in Delhi, who have migrated from other states in search of employment. Their economic conditions are not so good, which can be gauged from the fact that a large number of people had to leave for their villages, as soon as the lockdown was imposed due to the pandemic. The sight of a large number of migrants going on foot, on bicycle or in buses, with just one bag, still haunts us. Most of the migrant labourers are daily wage earners, or engaged in micro businesses. A large number of them live in horrible conditions, where even basic facilities are lacking.

In such a situation, there is usually no question of their families joining them. The number of such migrant labourers in Delhi is not less than 50 lakhs. The labourers who bring their families with them are living in very pathetic conditions in Delhi. Schools, colleges and other educational institutions are needed for them and their families.

There is also a need for a better sewerage system and good health facilities. Roads, flyovers, etc., are also needed for their movements. But all these works require huge expenditure. It is seen that due to lack of funds, Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi is not able to provide a budget for development and maintenance.

After assuming power in 2015, till date the AAP-led Delhi government has not been able to build any new school, college, hospital, flyover, etc. In such a situation, the plight of the poor can be easily imagined. The roads, water and sewage system are also not being taken care of properly. Lack of finances is the main reason for this. It is not that the



THE TOTAL REVENUE OF DELHI FOR 2021-22 IS ESTIMATED AT ₹53,070 CRORE, WHICH IS 3 PER CENT OF THE REVENUE OF ALL STATES. IN 2019-20, IT WAS ₹47,136 CRORE AND, IN 2014-15, IT WAS ONLY ₹29,584 CRORE

(The author is Professor, Department of Economics, DAV College)



revenue of Delhi is deficient. The fact is that the per capita revenue in Delhi is much higher than the rest of India and is increasing continuously.

The total revenue of Delhi for 2021-22 is estimated at ₹53,070 crore, which is 3 per cent of the revenue of all states. In 2019-20 it was ₹47,136 crore and in 2014-15, it was only ₹29,584 crore.

But along with this increasing revenue, the expenditure on free electricity, water, and transport of the Delhi government is increasing. The expenditure on free electricity was ₹1639 crore in 2015-16, which increased to ₹2968 crore in 2021-22. The Power Department has demanded ₹3200 crore from the Delhi government for this power subsidy for 2022-23. That is, it can be understood that the burden on the budget is increasing in the name of making electricity free by the Delhi government and it has almost doubled between 2015-16 and 2022-23. By huge spending on free electricity, water and transport, there is always a shortage of funds for essential civic amenities.

As a result of the exercise of Delhi Government towards reducing water bills to zero, both the deficit and debt of the Delhi Jal Board are mounting. In the first three years of the Kejriwal government, the loss of Delhi Jal Board tripled from ₹220.19 crores in 2015-16 to ₹663 crores in 2018-19.

According to the CAG report, in 1998-99, ₹26,620 crore was lent to the Delhi Jal Board, out of

which only ₹351 crore was returned and till March 31, 2018, ₹26,269 crore was outstanding. Meanwhile, the Delhi government has given ₹41,000 crore as loan to Delhi Jal Board in the last five years. The deteriorating conditions of Delhi Jal Board can be gauged from the slow pace of its development works and poor water system. It is believed that the financial conditions of the Delhi Jal Board have become very bad due to the Delhi government and the free water policy.

Slow pace in water connection in unregulated colonies by Delhi Jal Board and poor conditions of sewer system is primarily because of poor financial health of Delhi Jal Board. The opposition parties have also been making allegations of alleged corruption in Delhi Jal Board.

Apart from this, free travel for women in Delhi Transport Corporation buses is yet another freebies scheme run by the Delhi government. Thousands of crores of rupees are lost by the government through freebies. It is natural that due to the limited resources, this freebies policy puts pressure on the government finances and many essential expenditures are sacrificed.

At present, the AAP, which is in power, promised in its election manifesto in the year 2015, about opening 20 new colleges in Delhi, providing free Wi-Fi, building 20000 public toilets, constituting women security force, installation of three lakh CCTV cameras,

expansion of health facilities, among others.

There were 69 such promises, including creation of eight lakh jobs, skill training of one lakh youth every year by Delhi Skill Mission, which either remained mere promises or in which progress was very slow. It may be noted that prior to AAP government, 15 years between 1999-2000 and 2014-15, growth in capital expenditure was 19.6 per cent per annum (increase from ₹ 510.5 crores to ₹7430 crores), which declined to hardly 9.2 per cent in the first five years of the AAP government (increase from ₹7430 crores to hardly ₹11549 crores). It can be easily understood that the main reason behind the stalling of Delhi's development was lack of resources, as more and more resources are being used for giving freebies.

If it is said that these freebies schemes are targeted at the poor, then it will not be right. In 2021-22, in Delhi, where per capita income at current prices was ₹401,982 per year, out of 54.5 lakh electricity consumers, 43.2 lakh people are being provided electricity either free of cost or at half price. A big chunk of those, who can easily pay for electricity, are also being given electricity free. The facilities are being badly affected and the debt on the government is increasing, so it cannot be justified.

Not only this, 20,000 liters of water per month is also being provided free of cost to 5.3 lakh households.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS ALWAYS DISCIPLINE INSIDE THE CONGRESS... SONIA GANDHI IS OUR PRESIDENT. I HAVE APOLOGISED TO HER.
—RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER
ASHOK GEHLOT



MAXIM OF ONE 'ONE PARTY, ONE POST' WOULD BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.
—CONGRESS LEADER
JAIRAM RAMESH

BJP will play up the question of Modi-versus-who?

The Opposition dreams of unity but has a decisive disadvantage as it is still searching for a challenger to Narendra Modi

Political parties in India have begun advance planning for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. However, it is early yet; the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the Opposition parties have been vying with each other in their preparations. They are making and remaking strategies according to the political climate. The stage is set for the next general elections in 2024.

The regional parties might threaten the Bharatiya Janata Party. While the ruling BJP plans a hat-trick for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Opposition is trying to unseat him. Both sides are strengthening with a 350-plus target in a Modi-versus-all scenario.

The Opposition dreams



KALYANI SHANKAR

of unity but has a decisive disadvantage as it is still searching for a challenger to Modi. This lack of a prime ministerial candidate may hurt the Opposition—and the BJP will play up the question of Modi-versus-who.

With Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Nitish Kumar in Bihar, K Chandrasekhar Rao, MK Stalin in the south, and Arvind Kejriwal in the north, the BJP has formidable contests from different regions. There are more than 200 seats in the Opposition strongholds. Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat vote later this year, and next year six key states—Karnataka, Tripura, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh—go to the polls. The BJP is yet to con-

quer the southern states (129 seats).

While Aam Aadmi Party chief Kejriwal takes on the PM on the corruption issue, others plan to corner the BJP on price rise and unemployment.

Secondly, right or wrong, the BJP is clear about its ideology, has a compelling narrative and poll preparedness, active cadres, and huge finances to fight the poll. Modi has the Government machinery and welfare schemes and works to show while the regional satraps are pretty strong in their states.

Modi has not only kept his flock together but, despite criticism, has also broken other parties and lured them into the BJP. More importantly, he has fulfilled the

core agenda of the Sangh Parivar, like Ram mandir, removal of Article 370 in Kashmir, and triple talaq. He is likely to take up the issue of a uniform civil code soon. All these will keep his committed voters intact.

However, the recent Parliamentary Board revamp and JD(U) exit in Bihar last month triggered some unrest within the BJP. Still, leaders bank on the BJP's ability to make course corrections. The BJP also needs to get more allies.

The party has begun aggressive preparations for the general elections. It held a meeting recently in Delhi to draw a blueprint for strengthening its position in 144 Lok Sabha weak constituencies. The party also proposes to

focus on the 70 Lok Sabha seats it never won.

On the other hand, the Opposition is not coherent and is a mixture of different ideologies. They all must adopt a give-and-take posture. While regional leaders have performed well in their respective states, they must work out a common minimum programme acceptable to all partners.

Despite their indifferent health, Deve Gowda, Lalu Yadav, Nitish Kumar, and Sharad Pawar may collaborate to unite the former Janata constituents. With the Congress, they could consolidate across multi-party states such as Haryana, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. That's nearly 200 Lok Sabha seats. Rahul

Gandhi's current Bharat Jodo Yatra might help the Congress if it clicks.

The Samajwadi Party, a solid regional party in UP, focuses on strengthening its organisational structure. On the other hand, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has targeted 75 seats for the BJP, which has 80 Lok Sabha seats.

The BSP has launched a massive membership drive with a target of making 75,000 members from each assembly segment as the first step. BSP chief Mayawati has been facing defeat after defeat in the past decade but has a solid Dalit vote bank.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has warned his MLAs to perform or perish. He has

also launched a door-to-door visit of his legislators. Telangana chief minister K.Chandrashekhar Rao also plans to launch a national party, seeking a national role.

It will be a thrilling ride until 2024 for all players.

Modi will have ten years of anti-incumbency behind him, but the BJP depends on his magic. But there are many questions, like will Modi perform a hat-trick? Will the Opposition unite? Will Rahul emerge as a successful challenger?

In politics, one week is said to be a long time. We have 18 months to go before the 2024 polls. The picture will become clear when we get near the elections. Till then, political pundits will whistle in the dark.

Have procedure to punish officers for adultery: SC to Armed forces

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said Armed forces must have some kind of mechanism for disciplinary proceedings against their officers for adultery as "this is a conduct that can shake up the life of officers".

The top court said adultery creates "pain" in a family and it should not be treated in a lighter manner. "In uniformed services, discipline is of paramount importance. This is conduct that can shake up the life of officers. Everybody is ultimately dependent on the family as a unit of society. The integrity of society is based on the faithfulness of one spouse to another."

"This (adultery) is going to shake the discipline in the Armed forces. Armed forces must have some kind of assurance that they will take action. How can you cite Joseph Shine (judgment) and say it cannot



be," said a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph. It said the apex court 2018 judgment, which declared penal provision on adultery as unconstitutional, cannot be referred to halt disciplinary proceedings against guilty. "Adultery creates pain in a family. We have held so many sessions as judges in the high courts and seen so families are torn. We are telling you that do not treat this in a lighter manner."

There was one incident where the mother, who committed adultery filed a habeas

corpus plea seeking custody of her children. They (children) refused to talk to the mother. That's the kind of hate that happens," the bench observed.

The top court, on a plea filed by NRI Joseph Shine, in 2018 had struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, dealing with the offence of adultery while holding it unconstitutional.

The observations by the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and C T Ravikumar came after Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan, appearing for the Centre, submitted a plea seeking clarification of the 2018 judgment has been filed by her.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) had moved the apex court saying that the September 27, 2018 judgment striking down adultery as an offence could come in the way of armed forces personnel being convicted for adulterous acts.

She told the bench that disciplinary actions were taken against certain army personnel for adultery, however, the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) quashed such proceedings in many cases, citing the Joseph Shine judgement. "We are seeking that striking down of section 497 will not come in the way of armed forces taking action against officers for unbecoming conduct," Divan said.

The ASG informed the apex court that disciplinary actions taken in the Army are gender neutral and even if a female officer is found to be indulging in adulterous activities, she will also face action for misconduct.

The top court said there was nothing in the 2018 judgment which precludes the armed forces and it can challenge the individual orders of the AFT. The ASG sought time to go through the 2018 judgment in detail. The top court then posted the matter for hearing on December 6.

Def Min visits LAC, reviews security preparedness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China in Arunachal Pradesh and operational readiness of the Armed forces to meet any challenge.

He visited the forward areas of 3 Corps in Anini, a village in Dibang valley of Arunachal Pradesh and made an on-the-ground assessment of the country's defence preparedness along the LAC by taking stock of the entire gamut of security-related aspects, defence ministry officials said here.

Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Eastern Command chief R P Kalita and other senior officers accompanied the defence minister who also interacted with the troops posted in the area. After his visit to the forward areas, Rajnath had an interaction with armed Forces personnel in Tezpur, Assam. In his address, he commended the dedication and sacrifice of the soldiers posted at the borders, bravely protecting the sovereignty,



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets troops during his visit to Anini village, in Dibang valley, Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday PTI Photo

unity and integrity of the country. Strengthening India's military prowess has been the government's top priority ever since it came to power since 2014, with focus on equipping the Services with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment through an 'Aatmanirbhar' defence industry, he said. The defence minister appreciated the fact that the government's efforts have resulted in making a strong military which is fully capable of protecting the nation from all kinds of threats. As part of the day's engagements, Rajnath also interacted with the members of second religious expedition to Athu Popu, an annual trek of local Idu Mishmi

tribe, which is being facilitated by the Indian Army since 2021 as part of outreach and continued efforts towards supporting the locals and development of tourism.

On Wednesday, he had visited army formation in Dinjan, Assam. He is on a three-day visit to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh till September 30.

During the visit, the defence minister reviewed the operational readiness of the formation in the easternmost part of the country. He was briefed on infrastructure development along the LAC as well as capability development and operational preparedness.

'India strives to have relationship with China built on respect'

New Delhi/Washington: With most of the stand-offs ending at the border in Ladakh after two years, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said India strives to have a relationship with China that is built on mutual sensitivity, respect and interest.

His remarks late Wednesday in the US capital came on a day when Chinese envoy to New Delhi Sun Weidong said the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is moving towards being "normalised".

He also called for India and China to work more closely together to resolve differences, in a speech marking the 73rd anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese Ambassador's statement comes weeks after the two sides agreed to disengage at Patrolling Point (PP) 15 at the LAC, one of several "friction points." PNS/AGENCIES

India, Australia agree to enhance Defence ties

New Delhi: India and Australia reviewed the entire gamut of their defence ties and agreed to further enhance collaboration during talks between Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Chief Vice Admiral Mark Hammond in Australia during his three-day visit there.

Giving details of his visit ending Wednesday, Navy officials said here on Thursday it was the first official visit of Admiral Kumar to Australia after he assumed charge as the Navy chief nearly 10 months back. Besides holding talks with his Navy counterpart,

Kumar also held parleys with Vice Chief of Australian Defence Forces Vice Admiral David Johnston, Secretary of Defence Greg Moriarty and Chief of Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Air Marshal Robert Chipman.

"During these meetings, the leaders expressed their commitment to pursue collaborative activities in several areas of bilateral convergence," the Navy said in a statement.

The discussions also highlighted the need for raising the level of synergy and focused efforts for overcoming the challenges of maritime environment, the Navy said.

'India has all along called for cessation of hostilities between Russia-Ukraine'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that "today's era is not of war" do not reflect a change in India's position on the conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

Clarifying this position, he also said late Wednesday in the US capital that India has all along called for early cessation of hostilities between the two countries.

ED raids Chinese firms, freezes ₹9.82cr

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted search operations and frozen account balances of Rs 9.82 crore of various Chinese-controlled entities maintained with payment gateways, in connection with an investigation relating to the misuse of App-based token named "HPZ" and other similar applications by several entities.

The searches under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) were conducted against Comein Network Technology Private Limited, Mobicred Technology Private Limited, Magic Data Technology Private Limited, Baitu Technology Private Limited, Aliyeye Network

Technology India Pvt Ltd, Wecash Technology Private Limited, Larting Private Limited, Magic Bird Technology Private Limited and Acepearl Services Private Limited.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR dated October 8, 2021 filed under various IPC sections by Cyber Crime Police Station, Kohima, Nagaland, against HPZ token and others. "The HPZ Token was an 'App-Based Token', which promised users of large gains against investment by declaring the same as 'investing in mining machines for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies,'" the ED said in a statement.

Researchers develop algorithm to decode brain scans

New Delhi: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rishikesh, have developed an algorithm that they said can help decode brain scans to identify the occurrence and type of epilepsy. In epilepsy, a neurological disease, the brain emits sudden bursts of electrical signals in a short amount of time, resulting in seizures, fits, and in extreme cases, death.

Based on the point of origin of the brain's erratic signals, epilepsy is classified as either focal or generalised epilepsy. Focal epilepsy occurs when the erratic signals are confined to a specific region in the brain.

If the signals are at random locations, then it is termed as generalised epilepsy. To identify whether a patient is epileptic,

neurophysiologists need to manually inspect EEGs (electroencephalograms), which can capture such erratic signals, an IISc statement said.

Visual inspection of EEG can become tiring after prolonged periods, and may occasionally lead to errors, says Hardik J Pandya, Assistant Professor at the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering (DESE) and the corresponding author of the study published in 'Biomedical Signal Processing and Control'.

In their study, the team reported a novel algorithm that can sift through EEG data and identify signatures of epilepsy from electrical signal patterns.

"The algorithm aims to differentiate EEG of normal subjects from epileptic EEGs. Additionally, the developed algorithm attempts to identify the types of seizures." PNS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of various projects, in Bhavnagar on Thursday PTI Photo

175 drug peddlers held after CBI raids on narco networks

Nationwide raids held to dismantle, disrupt networks with int'l linkages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday carried out a massive nationwide crackdown on narcotics networks in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Interpol and police in multiple States. The searches led to the arrest of 175 alleged drug peddlers and seizure of narcotics.

The CBI carried out the

raids as part of "Operation Garuda" which started earlier this week to "disrupt, degrade and dismantle" drug networks with international linkages, the CBI said in a statement.

The global operation was planned through a "rapid exchange" of intelligence on narco-trafficking and coordinated actions with enforcement agencies across international jurisdictions through Interpol, it said.

The police of eight States and Union Territories, including Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Maharashtra, and the NCB tracked around 6,600 suspects during the operation. The agencies filed 127 FIRs and arrested 175 people, including six absconders and proclaimed offenders, the CBI said.

"Drug trafficking networks with international linkages require law enforcement cooperation across international jurisdiction. Operation Garuda, CBI-led global operation, seeks to target drug networks with international footprints for action against handlers, operatives, production zones and support elements," it said.



The CBI and NCB worked with intelligence agencies and police of different States for information exchange, analysis and operational information, they said. "Illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, including 5.125 kg heroin; 33.936 kg ganja; 3.29 kg charas; 1.365 gm Mephedrone; 33.80 gm of smack; around 87 tablets, 122 injections and 87 syringes of Buprenorphine; 946 Alprazolam tablets; 105.997 kg Tramadol; 10 gm hash oil; 0.9 gm Ecstasy pills, 1.150 kg opium, 30 kg poppy husk; 1.437 kg intoxicant powder and 11,039 pills/capsules were recovered," the agency added in its statement.

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Activists hail SC's verdict on abortion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after the Supreme Court's historic verdict allowing married and unmarried women to seek abortion at 24 weeks of pregnancy under the law, abortion right activists and advocates across India hailed it as a 'progressive' move, one that will let women make decisions regarding their own body.

Dr Chitra Ramamurthy, senior consultant and infertility specialist noted that the judgement addresses the challenges in situations where abortion is illegal or highly restricted, and women resort to unsafe means to end unwanted pregnancies.

"Safe abortion practice has been a concern in our country, and with this judgement we can expect a reduction in morbidity and mortality associated with unsafe abortion practice. Nonetheless, awareness on contraceptive measures and safe sexual practices need to be a

sustained and continued practice," she said. Ashutosh Kaushik, CEO, FRHS India and CAG member for Pratigya Campaign echoed similar views, saying, "The judgement has shown some light towards the safe abortion practice that a pregnant person wants to take, free of stigma, free of disrespect, free of abuse."

Dr Rinku, senior consultant Obstetrics & Gynaecologist from Rainbow Children's Hospital, Delhi, agreed with Kaushik. She said, "This means a lot for women emancipation and emphasizes the right to reproductive autonomy. When a woman goes for abortion she is already in a very vulnerable position. Abortion has many social and psychological implications for her."

"It's much-awaited move as girls were visiting unsafe and shady clinics at the cost of their health for abortion to avoid unnecessary questions, Dr Vaishali Sharma, a gynecologist, opined.



Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy celebrating Bathukamma flower festival at Kartavya Path in New Delhi. Archana Jyoti/PNS

IN SHORTS

PFI TWITTER HANDLE TAKEN DOWN

New Delhi: The Twitter handle of the Popular Front of India (PFI) was taken down on Thursday, a day after the group was banned by the government for five years for allegedly having "links" with global terror organisations like the ISIS and trying to spread communal hatred in the country. "Account Withheld." PFI's official account has been withheld in India in response to a legal demand, a message in the page read.

DCGI ALLOWS MALARIA VACCINE EXPORT

New Delhi: India's drug regulator has allowed the export of the first produced-in-India vaccine against malaria, developed by scientists at the University of Oxford and manufactured by Serum Institute to the UK, official sources said on Thursday. The DCGI has granted permission to send two lakh doses of the vaccine.

EX-IAF CHIEF UP NODAL OFFICER FOR DEF

New Delhi: Former IAF chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhandari (Retired) has joined as Chief Nodal Officer of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.

D MURMU HOSTS IFS TRAINEES AT PREZ HOUSE

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said India's leadership in several fields has become unchallenged now and the country plays an important role as a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. She was addressing a group of IFS trainees who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

MUKESH GETS Z PLUS SECURITY COVER

New Delhi: The Home Ministry has upgraded the security cover of Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani to 'Z plus' from the current 'Z' category. The cost of security will be borne by Ambani. Ever since the Antilia explosive incident, an upgrade was in the offing.

CJ RECOMMENDS ORISSA CJ TRANSFER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit is learnt to have recommended to the Centre the transfer of Chief Justice (CJ) of Orissa High Court, Justice S Muralidhar, as the CJ of the Madras High Court.

No efforts made for decades to develop Guj coastline, says Modi

PTI ■ BHAVNAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said although Gujarat has the longest coastline in the country, no attention was paid for its development for decades post-Independence, but 'honest attempts' were made in the last 20 years by the BJP Government to turn it into the country's "door of prosperity".

He said the BJP Government in Gujarat implemented several big-ticket projects along the state's coastline without wasting money on publicity.

Modi also said the BJP always fulfils the promises it makes because it believes that



power is only a means to serve the people.

He was addressing a public rally at Jawahar Maidan in Bhavnagar city of Gujarat's Saurashtra region after inaugurating and performing the ground-breaking ceremony of projects worth more than Rs

6,000 crore meant for Bhavnagar, Botad and Amreli districts. Some of these projects in Bhavnagar included the world's first CNG terminal, development of a brownfield port and a cargo container manufacturing unit.

"Gujarat has the longest coastline in the country, but no attention was paid for its development for decades after India gained independence. As a result, the coastline created challenges for the people living along it," he said in a veiled attack on the Congress.

But honest attempts were made in the last 20 years to turn the State's coastline into India's door to prosperity, he said the massive gathering.

Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014. Since May 2014, he has been serving as the Prime Minister of the country.

"We have developed many ports and modernised several others. Today, there are three LNG terminals and a petrochemical hub on the Gujarat coast. Apart from playing a crucial role for the export and import sector, Gujarat's coastline has created employment opportunities for lakhs of youths," the prime minister said.

According to him, the State's coastline has now become synonymous with the renewable energy sector and hydrocarbon ecosystem.

DREAM city project will make Surat safest, convenient diamond trading hub: PM

Surat: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said once the Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) city project is completed, Surat will emerge as the safest and convenient diamond trading hub in the world.

Addressing a rally after laying the foundation stone and inaugurating a host of projects here in Gujarat, Modi said in the last 20 years Surat has progressed by leaps and bounds. PTI

Twin blasts in 8 hours rock Udhampur

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The garrison city of Udhampur, housing Indian Army's Northern command headquarters, was rattled by the twin bomb blasts inside passenger buses in a span of 8 hours in which two civilians received injuries in the last 24 hours.

According to Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh, "the first blast took place late Wednesday night around 10.30 p.m inside a bus parked near the petrol pump in Domel chowk of Udhampur while the second blast was reported early Thursday morning around 6.00 am at an old bus stand in Udhampur".

In both the cases the passenger buses were empty and



no loss of life was reported.

Singh said, both the injured were out of danger. They have been identified as Sunil Singh and Vijay Kumar, both the cleaners. They were present inside the bus when the first blast was triggered. Due to the intensity of the blast several buses parked in the close vicinity also suffered major damages.

The fact that the blasts took place ahead of the three day long visit of the Union

Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir beginning October 3 is keeping the entire security apparatus on its tenterhooks across the region.

This is the third incident of a similar bomb blast in the Udhampur city this year. Earlier, a street vendor was killed when a blast ripped apart his cart leading to his death and injuries to at least 17 others present in the busy market area of Udhampur on March 9.

Last phase of Cong's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala ends

PTI ■ MALAPPURAM

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday concluded his Kerala leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which entered the State on September 10 and will resume the foot march from Tamil Nadu in the afternoon.

After the yatra ended its Kerala phase at Vazhikkadavu here, Gandhi and senior Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Digvijaya Singh thanked the KPCC and UDF leaders, party workers and everyone else who participated in the foot march during the over 18 days it spent in the state.

"Home is where you get love, and Kerala is home for me.

No matter how much affection I give, I always get more in return from the people here. I am forever indebted. Thank you.

"I would also like to wholeheartedly thank the Congress & UDF leaders and workers, Kerala police, media personnel & every individual who has been part of the #BharatJodoYatra in this beautiful state. The support you have given us makes our resolve firmer & our strides stronger," Gandhi, who was accompanied by a huge crowd of supporters in the morning phase of the yatra, tweeted.

Ramesh, the AICC general secretary in-charge communications, tweeted, "Day 22 of

#BharatJodoYatra is last day in Kerala. Padayatrīs are walking from Nilambur to Vazhikkadavu this morning. From Vazhikkadavu we cross to Gudalur in Tamil Nadu by vehicle thro Nilgiris hills. We are extremely grateful to people of Kerala for their goodwill and response."

Senior Congress leader and national coordinator of the yatra, Digvijaya Singh tweeted, "All PCs in other States should come and learn the organisational work of Kerala PCC. Finally a Big Thank You to the People of Kerala and all Congressmen of Kerala for their tremendous support and response. #BharatJodoYatra @INCKerala @INCIndia

@Jairam_Ramesh."

He also said in his tweet that "today we leave Kerala after 22 days of warm hospitality of PCC Kerala. The tremendous response of the people of Kerala was most encouraging."

"All our Bharat Yatrīs loved the lovely green terrain and also enjoyed the Boat Race. Thank you PCC President K Sudhakaran ji and our most active State Coordinator K Suresh ji for responding to all our requests," he further said. The foot march -- which resumed from Marthoma College Junction at Chungathara here -- took a break at CKHS Manimooly at Vazhikkadavu after covering around 8.6 km.

'Foreign ultras in Valley below 200'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outgoing CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh on Thursday said despite a slight upward trend in the number of foreign terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir post the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan last year, the overall strength of jihadis in the Valley is just below 200.

He said all the security forces operating in Kashmir are working in a coordinated manner and terrorist incidents have gone down post the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile State in 2019.

"This is a challenge... After Afghanistan, this challenge has grown in many forms and you can see it... Also like the number of foreign terrorists



goes up and sometimes down. However, the total number of terrorists in J&K is less now...

It is under 200 now as compared to the earlier times when it used to be 230-240," Singh said when asked during a Press conference about the killing of locals and Kashmiri Pandits by lone wolf terrorists.

The 1986-batch IPS officer of West Bengal cadre took charge as the CRPF DG last year in March. He will retire from service on Friday.

Farewell parade for outgoing CRPF DG stirs row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The farewell parade for the outgoing CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh has stirred a row with a section of officials pointing to the violation of the BPR&D manual for drafting over a battalion strength of the Force for his send off.

As a custom and tradition, outgoing chiefs of three services and also of the Paramilitary Forces such as BSF, CRPF, CISF etc are given ceremonial farewell on the day they demit office.

The instructions for such farewell parades have been given and institutionalised in BPR&D Drill manual 2012, which stipulates a designated strength of officers and jawans for such farewell parades.

However, through an order issued last month, the CRPF ordered its formations to pool "excessive" manpower including commanding rank officers from the field units to host this farewell parade against the norms, said personnel involved in the scheduled farewell function for Friday.

FROM PAGE 1

'ALL WOMEN ENTITLED TO SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION'

The Centre, represented by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, had told the top court that discrimination, if any, is not in the Act passed by Parliament and if the court is willing to intervene, then it should do so in the MTP Rules, 2003. Bhati, appearing for the Centre and assisting the court on the issue, had said there is no discrimination under the MTP (Amendment) Act of 2021 and that categorisation has been provided in the relevant rules under the Act.

She had said experts have their own views on these issues and according to them categorisation has been done to avoid the misuse of laws including the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act due to sex determination of the foetus. "One thing, we should make it clear that we are going to draft our judgment in such a way that we are not going to dilute the provisions of PC-PNDT Act," the court had said.

On July 21, the top court had expanded the scope of the MTP Act to include unmarried women and allowed a 25-year-old to abort her 24-week pregnancy arising out of a consensual relationship. "A woman's right to reproductive choice is an inseparable part of her personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution and she has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity," said the apex court. "Denying an unmarried woman the right to a safe abortion violates her personal autonomy and freedom. Live-in relationships have been recognised by this Court," added the SC.

GEHLOT OUT OF PREZ RACE, DIGVIJAYA GETS CONG NOD

Singh met the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday after collecting nomination papers for the polls. "Received a visit from Digvijaya Singh this afternoon. I welcome his candidacy for the Presidency of our Party," Tharoor said in a tweet. "We both agreed that ours is not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest among colleagues. All we both want is that whoever prevails, @incindia will win!" he said.

Responding to Tharoor's tweets, Singh said, "I agree @Shashi Tharoor we are fighting the communal forces in India. Both belief in the Gandhian Nehruvian Ideology and shall fight them relentlessly, come what may. Best wishes." Tharoor has already declared that he will file his nomination for the post of Congress president on Friday, the last day of the nomination process.

Meanwhile, the Congress leadership warned of strict disciplinary action against all party leaders at any level from making public statements against other leaders or about the party's internal matters. "We are noticing statements of Congress leaders in Rajasthan regarding the Party's internal matters and against other leaders. Strict disciplinary action will be initiated under the provisions of the Constitution of the Indian National Congress if any violation of this advisory is made," Venugopal said in a statement. The terse warning came after Rajasthan Congress leader Dharmendra Rathore, who has been sent a notice for 'indiscipline' by the party leadership, on Thursday accused Sachin Pilot loyalist Ved Prakash Solanki of being a "traitor", producing a video that purportedly proves this.

Considered close to Gehlot, Rathore was served the notice by the AICC for being involved in a parallel meeting held by CM loyalists.

"I will provide proof on who is a traitor and who is loyal. It will come before everyone. Solanki had met BJP president Satish Poonia at a hotel dur-

ing zila parishad election," Rathore, who is the RTDC chairman, said at a press conference here.

He showed a video of Solanki and Poonia purportedly entering a hotel and exiting a hotel room one after the other. Rathore alleged that the two had met to horse-trade Congress members during zila parishad elections.

Speaking at the same press conference, Rajasthan minister Govind Ram Meghwal, who was in charge for zila parishad election held in 2021, told reporters that he had also complained about MLA Solanki harming the party but Rajasthan in-charge Ajay Maken did not act on it.

The Disaster Management and Relief Minister said Solanki "betrayed" the party due to which the BJP won Zila Pramukh election in Jaipur.

Rathore called the press conference after Solanki on Wednesday called him a "broker" between the Congress and the BJP.

ORACLE FINED \$23 MN FOR BRIBING OFFICIALS IN INDIA, TURKEY AND UAE

"In January 2019, the sales employees working on the deal, citing intense competition from other original equipment manufacturers, claimed the deal would be lost without a 70 per cent discount on the software component of the deal. Due to the size of the discount, Oracle required an employee based in France to approve the request," the SEC order said.

"The Oracle designee provided approval for the discount without requiring the sales employee to provide further documentary support for the request. In fact, the Indian SOE's publicly available procurement website indicated that Oracle India faced no competition because it had mandated the use of Oracle products for the project," said the order. "One of the sales employees involved in the transaction maintained a spreadsheet that indicated \$67,000 was the "buffer" available to potentially make payments to a specific Indian SOE official. A total of approximately \$330,000 was funneled to an entity with a reputation for paying SOE officials and another \$62,000 was paid to an entity controlled by the sales employees responsible for the transaction," said the SEC order on the bribery in India by Oracle. The SEC order requires Oracle Corporation to pay more than \$23 million to resolve charges that it violated provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) when "subsidiaries in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India created and used slush funds to bribe foreign officials in return for business between 2016 and 2019," the SEC said in a statement on Tuesday evening.

4 REGIONS OF UKRAINE TO BE ANNEXED BY RUSSIA TODAY; KYIV DEFIANT

Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak insisted that nothing would change on the battlefield if Russia moves to incorporate four regions of southern and eastern Ukraine. "We will liberate our territory by military means," Podolyak said. "And for us, our actions depend not so much on what the Russian Federation thinks or wants, but on the military capabilities that Ukraine has."

The official annexation was widely expected following the votes that wrapped up on Tuesday in the areas under Russian occupation in Ukraine and after Moscow claimed residents' overwhelming support for their areas to formally become part of Russia. The US and its Western allies have sharply condemned the votes as "sham" and vowed never to

recognise their results.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Thursday joined other Western officials in denouncing the votes. "Under threats and sometimes even (at) gunpoint people are being taken out of their homes or workplaces to vote in glass ballot boxes," she said at a conference in Berlin.

"This is the opposite of free and fair elections," Baerbock said. "And this is the opposite of peace. It's dictated peace. As long as this Russian diktat prevails in the occupied territories of Ukraine, no citizen is safe. No citizen is free."

Armed troops had gone door-to-door with election officials to collect ballots in five days of voting. The suspiciously high margins in favour were characterised as a land grab by an increasingly cornered Russian leadership after embarrassing military losses in Ukraine. The Kremlin has been unmoved by the criticism. After a counteroffensive by Ukraine this month dealt Moscow's forces heavy battlefield setbacks, Russia said it would call up 300,000 reservists to join the fight. It also warned it could resort to nuclear weapons.

₹5 CR FINE ON PFI FOR DAMAGE DURING STRIKE: KERALA HC

The justices said that the hartal on September 23 was a violation of the Kerala High Court order of January 2019 that made flash hartals and bundhs illegal since these caused great hardship to the poor who toil from morning till evening to meet the ends of life.

The State Administration represented by the Secretary to the Department of Home told the Court that despite taking preventive measures, the PFI had indulged in violent incidents such as blocking public pathways, preventing vehicular traffic, attacking vehicles, pedestrians, shops and other establishments and throwing bombs at few places.

"The hartal sympathizers also obstructed the police by applying force with an intention to deter them from carrying out their official duty... In addition to the heavy losses suffered by the KSRTC, private vehicles and establishments also suffered from the wrath of the hartal sympathizers," the justices quoted the State Administration as saying in their reply to the Court notice.

The Court asked the PFI leadership to deposit the amount of Rs 5.2 crores within a period of two weeks from September 29 with the additional chief secretary to the Government of Kerala.

"The amounts so realized shall be purely provisional and shall be duly accounted for and held by the State Government in a separate and dedicated account for disbursement to those claimants who are identified by the Claims Commissioner as entitled to such accounts. The respondents (General secretary and PFI) shall also be liable to such further amounts as are found to be payable to the claimants in the adjudication proceedings before the Claims Commissioner," said the Court order.

6 AIRBAGS IN CARS MANDATE MOVED BACK BY A YEAR

The Government has been considering enforcing the use of rear seatbelts after Cyrus Mistry, the former chairman of Indian conglomerate Tata Sons, died in a car crash recently. He was sitting in the rear seat and did not have his seat belt on, local media reported, citing police officials.

According to the proposal, seat belt reminders or alarms will be mandatory in M and N category vehicles, with an audio-video warning in case the seat belts, including the rear ones, are not worn.

'Bharat Jodo Yatra' posters found torn a day before its Karnataka entry

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Some posters put up to welcome leaders to the Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' were found to be torn at Gundlupet in Chamarajanagar district on Thursday, a day before it is set to enter Karnataka.

Reacting sharply, the Congress said, "The 40% Commission Bommai Govt is already getting the jitters".

The BJP's "Bharat Todo Team" of paid goons has been pressed into service to destruct, destroy and tear up posters, the Congress in-charge of Karnataka Affairs, Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged.

"They'll never be able to stop the war cry against Price Rise, Unemployment, Disparity &

Divisiveness", he tweeted.

Congress state president DK Shivakumar alleged that a few posters were torn and burnt by the BJP. "Preparations are afoot to receive the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' but the BJP people have torn and burnt some banners. We will not be cowed down. We have faced enough of such things. They (BJP) should know this," Shivakumar told reporters in Chamarajanagar.

He demanded that the police initiate action against those who tore the banners.

"Let them (police) refuse to take action, then we will speak rest of the things," Shivakumar said.

The Congress lodged a police complaint in this connection in

the police station concerned, sources close to the Congress state president said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said: "All know who is doing 'Bharat Jodo' and who's doing 'Thodo'". Addressing reporters in the district headquarters town of Haveri, Bommai said let Shivakumar comment on the incident, permission must be obtained for putting up posters.

The BJP need not tear the posters of any political party, since people knew "everything," there was no need for him to say much about it, the Chief Minister said. Sources close to Shivakumar said the Congress leaders lodged a complaint at the police station concerned against those who tore and burnt the banners.

Bullet remarks: BJP leader moves court against TMC's number 2

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The political controversy over Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's "bullet in the head" remarks have now spilled over to the court with Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar on Thursday filing a petition against the top TMC leader for his "bullet" remarks.

Banerjee a TMC MP and nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had recently said — in reference to the free-for-all that ensued in Kolkata streets on BJP's Nabanna Abhiyan (Nabanna march) day and subsequent attack on a senior police officer who got a fractured hand — that had he been a senior police officer he would have directed his men to shoot right through the heads of the rampaging BJP men.

"I met the injured officer who

was badly beaten up by the BJP goons and also saw how public properties including police vehicles were set ablaze... I have to congratulate the top officers for the restraint they displayed in the face of saffron attack ...

"If I would have been there I would have asked my men to shoot through the heads of the mischief mongers," Banerjee had said a day after BJP's September 13 Nabanna Abhiyan. Majumdar said that he had earlier tried to file an FIR in the case but the police would not take his complaint following which he moved the court.

"Such statements of top politicians should stop ... this remark of Abhishek Banerjee will only provoke the police to fire at will ... what does he want to convey through such remarks ... does he want to make Bengal a police state ..." Majumdar who personally appeared before the

court subsequently said.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh reacted to Majumdar's action saying having failed to compete with the Bengal ruling outfit politically and electorally the BJP was taking help of the agencies and moving the court in order to "remain afloat" in the news channels.

"They have been rejected by the people in the elections ... they are losing their political relevance in the state and so they are rushing to the court to remain relevant in the state politics," Ghosh said adding Banerjee had never instigated the police "rather he had congratulated ACP Chatterjee for showing restraint."

Meanwhile, in a parallel development the Trinamool Congress leadership had a big relief with the Supreme Court on Thursday setting aside a Calcutta High Court order in a Disproportionate Asset case.

Shift Navlakha to hospital for treatment: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Taloja jail superintendent to immediately shift activist Gautam Navlakha, jailed in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case, to Mumbai's Jaslok hospital for treatment. The top court said receiving medical treatment is a fundamental right of a prisoner. A bench of Justices K

M Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy also allowed Navlakha's partner Sabha Husain and sister to meet him in the hospital. "Having heard the counsel for parties, we are of the view that receiving medical treatment would be a fundamental right. We direct that the petitioner be taken immediately for thorough medical check-up."

"Accordingly, we direct Superintendent Taloja jail to take the petitioner to Jaslok hospital so

that he is able to undergo requisite medical check-up and receive treatment. We make it clear that the petitioner will remain in police custody," the bench said. The 70-year-old activist linked to Maoists has appealed the apex court against the April 26 order of the Bombay High Court dismissing his plea for house arrest over apprehensions of lack of adequate medical facilities and other basic facilities in Taloja jail near Mumbai where he is lodged.

North Korea fires missiles after Harris leaves South Korea

AP ■ PANMUNJOM, KOREA

In a show of defiance, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea on Thursday, hours after U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris flew home from a visit to South Korea during which she emphasized the "ironclad" U.S. commitment to the security of its Asian allies.

It was the third round of missile launches by North Korea this week, extending a record pace in weapons testing as it accelerates a push to expand its arsenal and pressure Washington to accept it as a nuclear power.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North Korean missiles were fired nine minutes apart from an area near the city of Suncheon, just north of the capital, Pyongyang, and flew toward waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. It didn't immediately release more details.

Japan's military said it also detected a launch. North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles on Wednesday, while Harris was in Japan, and fired one before she left Washington on Sunday.



There are also concerns that North Korea may conduct a nuclear test, which would move the country closer to being acknowledged as a full-fledged nuclear power. Visiting the DMZ has become something of a ritual for American leaders hoping to show their resolve to stand firm against aggression.

At the DMZ, Harris went to the top of a ridge, near guard towers and security cameras. She looked through bulky binoculars as a South Korean officer pointed out military installations on the southern side. Then an American officer pointed out some of the defenses along the

military demarcation line, including barbed-wire fences and claymore mines. He said American soldiers regularly walk patrols along a path.

"It's so close," Harris said. Harris then visited one of a row of blue buildings that straddle the demarcation line, where an American officer explained how the buildings are still used to conduct negotiations with North Korea. Sometimes they pass messages back and forth and sometimes they use a megaphone, he said.

"That's high tech," Harris joked, before adding, "We've stepped into history."

"It's still going," the colonel said.

Harris agreed. "The past and present are happening every day."

She then walked out of the building and up to the demarcation line. On the North Korean side, two figures dressed in what appeared to be hazmat suits peeked out from behind a curtain in a second-floor window. Then they disappeared back inside.

Harris described the North Korean missile launches as provocations meant to "destabilize the region" and said the United States and South Korea remain committed to the "complete denuclearization" of the North. "I cannot state enough that commitment of the United States to the defense of the Republic of Korea is ironclad," she said.

"In the South, we see a thriving democracy. In the North, we see a brutal dictatorship," she said before flying out of the border on a U.S. military helicopter.

Earlier, Harris met with President Yoon at his office in Seoul and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend the South with a full range of its military capabilities in the event of war, Yoon's office said.

They expressed concern over North Korea's threats of nuclear conflict and pledged an unspecified stronger response to major North Korean provocations, including a nuclear test.

India can play stabilising, bridging role: Jaishankar

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said India can play a stabilising and a bridging role at a time when in the world it is not an "optimistic picture" and there is a "worried international community". Underlining the country's growing global stature, he also said late Wednesday in the US capital India can also contribute towards de-risking of the global economy and in political terms, in some way, help depolarise the world.

He said there are more than opportunities for India, because it is a very difficult situation. "I think there are contributions that India can make. I think we have today, a stabilising role today. We have a bridging role. We have a diplomatic role. We have to really see in economic terms, how can we contribute to the de-risking of the global economy? I think in political terms, how can we in some way help depolarise the world?" he said. "I think those are really expectations that a lot of other countries, especially countries of the global south have of us. Obviously, we will try and do what we can, and we remain in touch with all the bottom countries of the world," he said. During his just-concluded trip to New York to attend the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Jaishankar had nearly 100 meetings with world leaders and his counterparts from across the world.

"Today, there is an expectation and here I go back to my UNGA discussion. One of the reasons why there were so many meetings this time. Frankly, there was a lot of demand for meetings. Countries wanted to talk to us," he said.

US: China's overreaction to Taiwan spells danger to peace in Southeast Asia

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is endangering peace in Southeast Asia with its "overreaction" to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, America's envoy Nicholas Burns said on Thursday, while reiterating that there is no shift in America's 'one-China policy' as alleged by Beijing. Pelosi visited Taiwan on August 2, becoming the highest-ranking American official in 25 years to visit the self-ruled island claimed by China, which conducted a series of provocative military maneuvers in retaliation for her presence.

The US has not shifted its stance on Taiwan and remains committed to the 'one-China policy', but Beijing's "overreaction" to Pelosi's visit to Taipei risks a peaceful resolution, Burns said. Burns, who was appointed US Ambassador to China in March, said countries in Southeast Asia should also be concerned about China's aggression in the Taiwan Strait, given its importance as a major shipping route.

"If anyone has changed policy here, it's really the People's Republic of China, with their overreaction, for nearly two months now since Speaker Pelosi's visit," he said speaking at



the Milken Institute Asia Summit in Singapore.

"We've had a median line in the Taiwan Strait (separating between China and Taiwan) for 68 years; it has really kept the peace. [China] tries to erase that: they fired missiles over Taiwan into the Japanese economic zone, they simulated a naval blockade and air blockade," Burns was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post. For days, China has launched massive military drills encircling Taiwan, which it regards as a breakthrough province after Pelosi defied Beijing's warnings and visited the self-ruled island in early August.

It later suspended dialogue with the US on military and climate change matters. For its part, China earlier angrily responded to US pre-emptive remarks that the US forces would defend Taiwan if Beijing tries to invade the self-ruled island, saying it will "strive" for the peaceful reunification of Taiwan with "utmost sincerity" but "reserve all options".

Japan's army issues rare apology over sexual harassment case

AP ■ TOKYO

In a rare admission of sexual harassment in Japan's military, its army chief apologised Thursday to a former soldier for suffering caused by a group of servicemen.

Yoshihide Yoshida, head of Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force, said an internal investigation found evidence that several servicemen were involved in the case brought by former soldier Rina Gono last month.

"Representing the Ground Self-Defence Force, I deeply apologise to Ms. Gono for the pain she had to suffer for a long time," Yoshida told a news conference.

"We offer a sincere apology." The investigation was ongoing and further details, including the assailants and their punishment, were not yet released Thursday.

Japan's Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada earlier this month ordered a ministry-wide investigation into growing reports of sexual assault after Gono brought allegations of harassment of her and others.

Gono came forward in late August to request a reinvestigation of an alleged assault on her in 2021 by former male colleagues.

She also said she had received information from 146 servicemen who said they had been harassed while on duty.



The ministry said the number of various types of harassment complaints rose from 256 in 2016 to 2,311 last year.

In a country where gender inequality remains high, sexual harassment is often disregarded and the #MeToo movement has been slow to catch on. But Japanese women have started to speak up.

Earlier this month, Gono submitted a petition to the Defense Ministry signed by more than 100,000 people seeking a reinvestigation of her case by a third party.

She said three senior male colleagues in August 2021 in a dorm at a training ground pressed the lower part of their bodies against her, forcing her to spread her legs, as more than 10 other male colleagues watched and laughed, but none tried to stop them.

Sri Lanka's Parliament to debate 22nd Constitutional amendment next week

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan lawmakers will debate next week on the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president.

Party leaders agreed to take up the debate on the 22nd Amendment in Parliament on October 6 and 7, Communications Department of Parliament said on Thursday.

The decision was taken at the Business Committee meeting held at Parliament Complex on Thursday morning chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena. If enacted, the amendment would come to be known as the 21st Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka which was first adopted in 1978.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court ruled that the bill seeking the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution can be adopted with a two-thirds majority in the House but some clauses will require a nationwide referendum unless some of the



clauses inconsistent with the Constitution are left out of the Bill. The government responded then saying that debatable clauses would be left out for its adoption in Parliament.

The draft bill on the 22nd Amendment was approved by the Cabinet and gazetted last month. The amendment was formulated amid the ongoing economic turmoil in the country which also caused a political crisis.

It is meant to replace the 20A adopted in 2020 that had given unfettered powers to ex-President

Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment. With protests raging calling for Rajapaksa's resignation since March end, the need to reform the Constitution to reduce absolute power in the office of the President was brought forward by the protest movement.

Rajapaksa had reversed through 20A the features of the 19A which had empowered Parliament over the presidency.

Rajapaksa was ousted in mid-July through the popular uprising against him for mishandling the country's economy.



UN envoy: Israel defies UN resolution on halting settlements

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Israel continued its defiance of a 2016 UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate halt to all settlement activity in lands the Palestinians want for their future state, advancing plans for construction of nearly 2,000 housing units in the last three months, the UN Middle East envoy said Wednesday.

Tor Wennesland told the council that no progress was made by Israelis and Palestinians on other demands in the resolution -- preventing all violence against civilians, refraining from acts of provocation, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, distinguishing between Israeli territory and territories occupied since the 1967 war, and exerting "collective efforts to launch credible negotiations."

He did cite several positive steps during the three-month period ending Sept. 20 -- two contacts between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and high-level Israeli officials in July, Israel's issuance of some 16,000 permits for workers and businesses for Palestinians in Gaza, and a 1.5 per cent increase in imports and 54% increase in exports through the main Kerem Shalom crossing from Israel to Gaza compared to the monthly average for the first two quarters of 2022. But Wennesland said "We continue to see little progress" in implementing the resolution since its adoption in December 2016.

The resolution was approved by the Security Council when the United States, in the final weeks of the Obama administration, abstained rather than using its veto to support longtime ally Israel as it had done many times previously. The Trump administration strongly opposed the resolution. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the council Wednesday that from day one the Biden administration has supported a two-state solution, a position President Joe Biden reiterated to world leaders at last week's high-level meeting at the General Assembly.

At least 6 people wounded in shooting at school in Oakland

AP ■ OAKLAND

At least six people were wounded in a shooting at a school in Oakland on Wednesday, officials said.

The scene of the shooting was "no longer active," according to Alameda County Sheriff spokesperson Lt. Ray Kelly. Paramedics had transported six patients to hospitals, all with gunshot wounds, according to Oakland Fire Department spokesperson Michael Hunt.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf tweeted that all of the



wounded were adults and the shooting happened at Sojourner Truth Independent Study, an alternative K-12 school that is located on the same block as three other

schools. Officials didn't say if any of the victims might be students age 18 or older.

Three of the wounded were in critical condition at Highland Hospital in Oakland, the other three were taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and their conditions were not known, officials said.

John Sasaki, a spokesperson for Oakland Unified School District, said in a statement that district officials "do not have any information beyond what Oakland Police are reporting." He said the

Sojourner Truth Independent Study headquarters has no students. Television footage showed dozens of police cars and yellow tape on the street outside the schools and students leaving the campus.

City Council Member Treva Reid said investigators told her the shooting may be tied to rising "group and gang violence."

Oakland Police Capt. Casey Johnson confirmed in a brief news conference that six people were shot, and didn't answer any questions.

Iraq summons Iranian Ambassador after drone bombing campaign

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Iraq summoned the Iranian ambassador on Thursday to deliver a diplomatic complaint following a deadly drone bombing campaign, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Iranian drones targeted an Iranian-Kurdish opposition group in northern Iraq on Wednesday, killing at least nine people and wounding 32 others.

The strikes took place as demonstrations continued to engulf the Islamic Republic after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman who died while in the custody of the Iranian morality police.

Iran's attacks targeted positions of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan in Koya, some 65 kilometres (35 miles) east of Irbil.

The group, known by the acronym KDPI, is a leftist armed opposition force banned in Iran.

The Foreign Ministry said in its statement that civilians were among those killed. It added that the Iraqi government condemned "this crime, which represented the continuation of Iranian forces' encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty."

The ministry also warned of repercussions on "the societal peace of both countries and on regional security and stability."

Hundreds of children from Ukraine stranded in Russian camps

AP ■ IZIUUM, UKRAINE

The Russian occupation radio and newspaper ads promoted the camps as a summer break from the war for Ukrainian children under their control, free of charge. Hundreds of families agreed in the occupied east and the south, Ukrainian officials and parents say. One bus convoy left Izium at the end of August, with the promise that the children would return home in time for the school year. Instead, Ukrainian forces swept through in early September, driving the Russians into a disorganized retreat and liberating territory that had been in enemy hands for months.

Fifty-two children from Izium and around 250 more from other towns in the Kharkiv region, all between the ages of 9 and 16, are now scattered in camps, according to a Ukrainian intelligence official and a mother who hitchhiked into Russia to retrieve her daughter. Both, like nearly everyone involved in the issue, spoke on condition of anonymity to describe a sensitive and fraught situation.

"Our main goal was to give the children a break from everything that was happening here, from all the horrors that were here," said Valeriya Kolesnyk, an Izium teacher whose 9-year-old is now in Russia. "The problem is that the Russian side does not plan to return the children to us."

That doesn't seem to have been the initial expectation.

People trapped, 2.5m without power as Ian drenches Florida

AP ■ ST PETERSBURG (US)

Hurricane Ian left a path of destruction in southwest Florida, trapping people in flooded homes, cutting off the only bridge to a barrier island, damaging the roof of a hospital intensive care unit and knocking out power to 2.5 million people as it dumped rain across the peninsula on Thursday. One of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit the United States threatened catastrophic flooding around the state.

Ian's tropical-storm-force winds extended outward up to 415 miles (665 km), drenching much of Florida and the southeastern Atlantic coast.

Authorities confirmed at least one storm death in Florida. A 72-year-old man was found dead early on Thursday in water in a canal behind his home in Deltona near Daytona Beach, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

It said he appeared to be using a hose to drain his pool into the wide canal and fell down an incline that was "extremely soft and slippery due to the heavy rain."

Another Florida sheriff said he believed the death toll would be "in the



hundreds." Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno told ABC's "Good Morning America" that his office was receiving thousands of 911 calls from people needing rescue in the county that includes Fort Myers, but roadways were still impassable and bridges are compromised.

"It crushed us," Marceno said. "We still cannot access many of the people that are in need." Emergency crews sawed through toppled trees to reach people in flooded homes, but with no electricity and virtually no cell service, it was impossible for many people to call for help from the hardest hit coastal areas where the surge came in.

As Japan and China mark 50-year ties, moods are mixed

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan and China marked the 50th anniversary of normalization of their ties Thursday as their leaders Fumio Kishida and Xi Jinping stressed the importance of their strengthened relationship over the decades, though they still face difficulties.

On Sept. 29, 1972, then-Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai signed a communique normalizing their ties and pledging peace and friendship. In the communique, Japan expressed remorse over wartime damage on China and acknowledged Beijing as the country's only legitimate government.

Despite the milestone, the ceremony lacks a celebratory mood as the two countries remain at odds over disputed East China Sea islands and China's growing military and economic influence in the region.



Japan considers China a security threat and is promoting security and trade frameworks with the United States and other democracies as a counter to Beijing's growing influence. China's escalating tension around Taiwan is also a growing concern. While Japan-China relations today have a variety of possibilities, they face a number of issues and concerns, Kishida said in a message to Xi, which was shown on a big screen at a ceremony sponsored by Japanese influential business organisations and

friendship groups and held at a Tokyo hotel.

Kishida said he hoped to develop "constructive and stable relations" with China to fulfil a responsibility they share as major powers in contributing to regional and global peace and stability, looking ahead the next 50 years of their ties.

He said it is important to remember their starting point 50 years ago when the normalization was achieved. Xi, in his message sent to Kishida, said normalization of their ties in 1972 opened "a new chapter" in bilateral relations and the two countries have since deepened exchanges and cooperation, bringing welfare to both peoples and peace and development to the region and the world.

He said he attaches "great importance" to the development of their ties and is willing to work with Kishida "to build a China-Japan relationship that meets the requirements of the new era."

Qatar says WC fans do not need Covid vaccination



ing spectators," the ministry said.

All visitors aged over six will have to produce negative Covid-19 tests before taking flights to Qatar for the tournament that starts November 20.

Fans will have to wear masks in public transport but authorities are only recommending the use of masks at the eight stadiums in the Doha region where matches will be played.

Anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 in Qatar will have to isolate for five days, the guidelines added.

BIO-BUBBLE READY

Organisers and FIFA are most worried about the first two weeks of the tournament when four matches a day are planned and the peak number of supporters from the 32 competing nations will be packing stadiums, fan zones and tourist spots.

Some estimates say there could be up to 350,000 visiting fans in Doha at the same time during the weekend of November 26-27.

Officials say Doha airport and the city's roads will be facing peak pressure that weekend.

Because of the pressure on accommodation, only fans with tickets can enter Qatar from November 1, though each person with a ticket is allowed to invite three guests.

Each person entering the country must download a special fan pass, a Hayya card, and Qatar's anti-Covid health application, Ehteraz.

The app has to be shown at the entrance to metro stations and most shopping malls.

"If metro stations and malls want to check the app, then people need to be ready for some queues," said one tourism consultant who is advising a major chain of hotels in Qatar.

Other measures may also be difficult to enforce because of the sheer numbers, experts said.

The ministry is recommending a one metre (three feet) space between diners in cafes and restaurants.

Coronavirus vaccinations will not be mandatory for the million-plus fans going to the World Cup in Qatar this year, the Gulf state said Thursday.

But players and match officials may be forced into a secure "bio-bubble" if Covid-19 cases take off again, with the threat of expulsion from the tournament for those who breach the secure environment, the health ministry said.

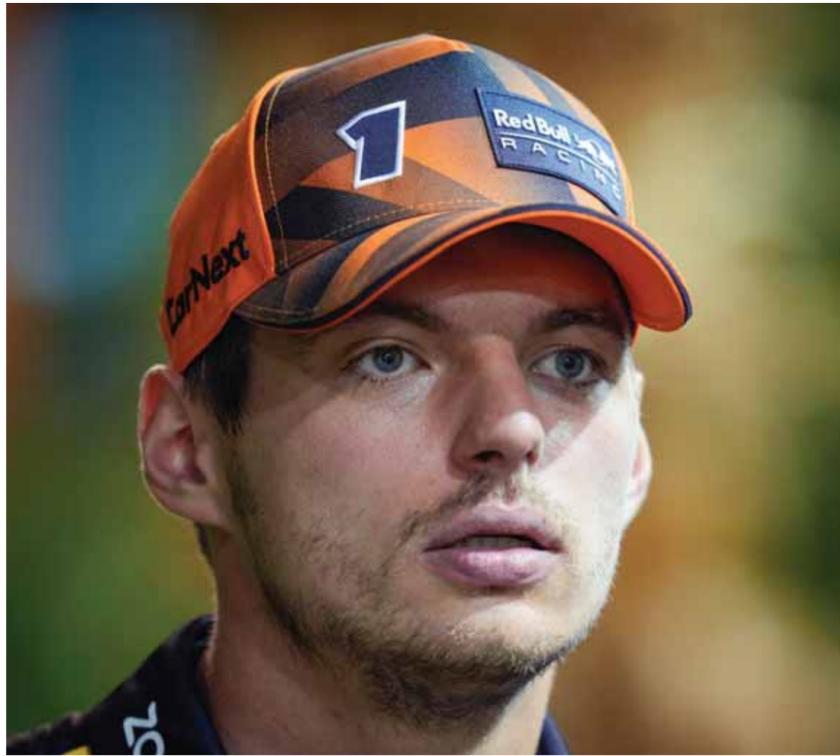
The 29-day tournament will be the first major global sporting event with fans since the eruption in December 2019 of the Covid pandemic, which has since killed more than six million people.

Qatari organisers, who have predicted that more than one million people will pack Doha for the matches, and football's governing body, FIFA, have said they want the event to be a sign the world is getting over the devastating pandemic.

But Qatar's health ministry warned in its World Cup guidelines that special measures would be ordered "in the event of a worsening pandemic situation in the country", such as the emergence of a threatening new variant.

With Covid-19 currently considered under control, "there will be no vaccination requirement for participants and visit-

MAX: I DON'T REALLY THINK ABOUT C'SHIP



AP ■ SINGAPORE

Max Verstappen on Thursday said he thinks he is "quite a long shot" to retain his Formula One world championship at this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix, even though it is mathematically possible.

Red Bull driver Verstappen, who will celebrate his 25th birthday on Friday, is running away with the title battle but must win Sunday's race and then depend on his closest rivals faltering, or the fight will move on to Japan the following week.

"I don't really think about the championship," said the dominant Dutchman, who has won 11 of 16 races in 2022 and the last five in a row.

"It's quite a long shot and I just want to enjoy the weekend and of course try to win it," he told

reporters.

"I need a lot of luck for it to happen here so I don't really count on it." Verstappen admitted he knew the scenario required for him to secure back-to-back championships.

"I need to win and Checo (Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez) needs to finish fourth or lower and (Ferrari's) Charles (Leclerc) eighth or lower."

"So I mean it's a bit unrealistic for it to happen, so I don't really think about it," he said.

Verstappen said he was more concerned about the single-lap pace of the Red Bull at Singapore, where qualifying in pole position is crucial on a track where it is almost impossible to overtake.

"We really need to focus on one lap. This year we've never really been incredible over one lap," he said.

"We've always been good in the race but around here we know that

one-lap performance is very important."

Verstappen has never won Singapore's spectacular night race, which is returning to the calendar for the first time since 2019 because of Covid.

The nature of the city centre circuit and Singapore's tropical heat and humidity means it is the most demanding venue on the calendar, both physically and mentally.

Every running of the Singapore Grand Prix has featured a safety car and the race requires huge powers of concentration.

There are no long straights to give drivers a breather and concrete walls line the bumpy tarmac ready to punish the slightest error.

"We haven't been to Singapore for a while so it will be interesting to see how the track has evolved," said Verstappen, who has a 116-point lead

Hamilton 'feels for fans' as Verstappen runs away with title

AP ■ SINGAPORE

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton on Thursday said that he feels for the fans with Max Verstappen on the cusp of wrapping up the world championship early at this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix.

Last year's title chase saw Verstappen pip Hamilton on the very last lap of a controversial final race of 2021 in Abu Dhabi.

But Verstappen can clinch his second successive world championship for Red Bull on Sunday night with five races to spare if he claims a sixth consecutive win and his rivals finish down the field.

After some patchy results in the first three races of 2022, after which Verstappen found himself 46 points behind Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc, the Dutchman has dominated.

Verstappen has won 11 of 17 races and now has an almost unassailable 116-point lead over Leclerc with just six grands prix to go.

"I definitely feel for the fans because, even for us, last year going right down to the wire was intense for everybody," said Hamilton, who has struggled all season in his Mercedes and is himself out of the championship running.

"So it's never great when the season finishes early," he said.

The 37-year-old Briton said he was "grateful" to have his 2008 season -- when he won his first world title -- right down to the last 17 seconds.

"And obviously last year, pretty much the same thing. Let's

hope for the future, it's a bit better," he said.

Hamilton has grappled all season with a car that has suffered from instability over bumps and bouncing at high speed.

But he said the team now understands the new 2022 car "100 percent" better than at the season's previous street races at Monaco and Baku, and that gives him hope for this weekend.

"We've learned a huge amount about the car," he said.

"I think we're very fortunate that we're in a much better place than I think we have ever been. So I hope we are not that far away."

"We hope that the car works better here but it really depends how bumpy it is. The bumps often set the car off and upset the car in a lot of instances. We do know it will be bumpy."

"They have resurfaced some parts of the circuit so hopefully it is not as bouncy as before. Maybe the car will be fine, maybe it won't."

Hamilton is looking to keep his proud record of winning at least one race in every season since his debut for McLaren in 2007.

"For me, we've still got six races, I'm still enjoying the challenge and proud of the strength and the growth in our team," he said.

"Just seeing how hard everyone works is for me the most inspiring thing. Trying to come up with solutions, trying to crack the code. That's really impressive because it's just relentless."

"I have no expectations at all, just going to try and have the best weekend with whatever we are faced with."

over Leclerc following his victory at the Italian Grand Prix three weeks ago. He is 125 clear of third-placed Perez.

He needs to extend his lead to 138 points by Sunday's chequered flag to secure the earliest championship win since Michael Schumacher won in 2002 with six GPs remaining.

Verstappen needs two more wins

to equal the single-season mark of 13 jointly held by Schumacher (2004) and Sebastian Vettel (2013).

"It will be nice if we get it," said Verstappen. "But for me personally it's not something. It's nice what we've done the last few races but I don't think about it any more."

"I'm just focusing on what we have to do here."

UWW gives 18 World C'ship quotas for Paris Olympics to World Qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The top-five and not top-six wrestlers at the World Championships will earn quota places for the 2024 Paris Games in each of the 18 weight categories, as the world governing body UWW has announced changes to the qualification process for the Olympics.

The 18 quota places taken away from the 2023 World Championships, the first event offering quotas, have been added to the World Qualifiers, which will be the last chance for wrestlers to secure spots for the Paris Games.

United World Wrestling (UWW) President Nenad Lalovic was quoted as saying by the official website of the world governing body on Wednesday that the changes are aimed at creating "further fairness in the distribution between the World Championships and the World Qualifiers."

The World Championships is set to be held in Russia from September 16-24. Apart from the 2023 World Championships, the continental qualifiers (Asia, Africa, Pan-America, Europe) in 2024, and the 2024 World Olympics Qualifiers will also



offer quota for the Games.

Earlier, 108 quotas were awarded at the World Championships (six per Olympic weight) but now 90 quota places will be on offer.

From India Bajrang Punia (65kg), Ravi Dahiya (57kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Vinesh Phogat (53kg) had qualified for the Tokyo Games through the 2019 World Championships in Nur Sultan while Anshu Malik (57kg), Sonam Malik

(62kg) had qualified through the Asian event in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Heavyweight wrestler Sumit Malik (125kg) had qualified through the World Qualifiers in Sofia, Bulgaria.

In Russia next year, all four medalists (gold, silver and two bronze winners) will secure the quotas for their respective nations and the two bronze medal play-off losers will contest for the fifth spot.

A total of 144 wrestlers will qualify for the Paris Games through the continental qualifying events (Asian, African, Pan-American and European). The top two wrestlers in each Olympic weight class will get one spot each for their NOCs.

The quota winners at the 2023 World Championships will not be eligible to participate in the continental qualifiers unless they participate in a different style.

At the World Olympic Qualifiers, three quotas in each Olympic weight class instead of the two previously will be at stake.

Not just the gold and silver medal winners will secure quotas but the bronze medal winners will also get a chance to qualify for the Olympics.

The bronze winners will fight it out for the quota in each of the 18 categories.

Unused quotas due to withdrawal, doping offence, or non-participation, will be transferred to the next best wrestler of that weight category of the tournament.

The deadline for the Olympic Games entries will be July 8, 2024. The wrestling competition will be held from August 4-11.

PM Modi declares 36th National Games open

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The 36th National Games was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a glittering opening ceremony here on Thursday evening in the presence of over 100,000 ecstatic spectators.

In keeping with the Olympic convention, but with a modern twist, Gujarat's swimming star Maana Patel brought in the symbolic Torch of Unity into the arena and handed it over to the Prime Minister.

Watched and applauded by several current and past sports icons, including Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, Olympic medalists PV Sindhu, Ravi Dahiya, Mirabai Chhanu, Gagan Narang, former national hockey captain and new HI chief Dilip Tirkey along with World Championship medalist Anju Bobby George, the Prime Minister placed the Torch on the podium for it to be lit by augmented reality.

When the PM rose to speak, a roar as loud as thousand lions echoed in the stadium, underlining his continued popularity in the state.

"This sight, this ambience can't be described in words. In the world's biggest stadium, one of the world's youngest countries is witnessing India's biggest sports festival," he said.



Messi's form gives Nice defenders reason to fear PSG trip

AP ■ PARIS

Nice's defenders must be hoping their former coach Christophe Galtier is kind enough to rest Lionel Messi for Saturday's game at Paris Saint-Germain.

Messi's two goals for Argentina against Jamaica on Wednesday -- a typical solo goal followed by a free kick -- made it nine goals in his past three games for the national team, taking his international tally to 90.

So far this season Messi has four goals and a league-high seven assists for league leader PSG and his partnership with Neymar is looking much like their Barcelona days from 2013-17.

"We have known each other for a long time, by heart, since Barcelona," Messi told sports channel TUDN in an interview this week.

"We are happy to be together. I love playing with him."

With Messi serving up scoring chances galore thanks to his rare vision of the game and exquisite passing, it is perhaps no surprise that Neymar is leading the league with eight goals and that France star Kylian Mbappé is next with seven.

None of which is good news for a Nice side languishing in 13th place; weakened during the off-season by the sale of key forward Amine Gouiri to Rennes and by Galtier's departure to PSG after Mauricio Pochettino was fired.

A rash of late summer signings seemed like a quick fix and

created an unbalance to the side that Nice coach Lucien Favre has yet to resolve.

Losing Galtier after just one season in charge was a big blow.

His arrival at PSG surprised some observers, as it marked a significant shift away from the club's habit of chasing big-name, fan-pleasing coaches. Galtier's credentials were etched in fact rather than any illustrious reputation. After all, he is a three-time French league manager of the year.

He knocked PSG off its perch when he led Lille to the league title against the odds in 2021, before joining Nice and sending PSG out of the French Cup in Paris.

In a combined five games as Lille and Nice coach, Galtier's sides were unbeaten against PSG without conceding a goal. A remarkable statistic considering the firepower PSG has, and proof of Galtier's shrewd tactical sense.

The fact Galtier's made such a fine start to this campaign, with seven wins and a draw, is also because he knew just how to eliminate the same PSG weaknesses he had exploited.

"I worked a lot on PSG's last season and previous seasons. I also had a lot of my own analysis on PSG," Galtier said. "I worked to find the best system possible to really bring out the incredible qualities of the players."

That has certainly worked with Messi and also with Neymar, who is fitter, leaner and hungrier than for many years.

Injury-hit Barca visit Mallorca with hole in defence

AP ■ BARCELONA

When Xavi Hernández oversaw the remodeling of Barcelona's squad this summer, the coach made sure he was so well covered at right-back that his club could afford to loan out United States defender Sergiño Dest to AC Milan.

But after a spate of injuries that has decimated Barcelona over the international break, Xavi may have a huge hole in his defense ahead of Sunday's game at Mallorca.

Jules Koundé, Ronald Araujo and Héctor Bellerín, who have played at right back this season, are all out for an undetermined period of time. Koundé and Araujo, who can play at center back as well, were hurt while playing for France and Uruguay, respectively, in games to prepare for the World

Cup in November. Bellerín hurt his left leg while training for Barcelona.

That leaves Barcelona waiting to see if veteran Sergi Roberto can recover from a muscle problem that has sidelined him for three weeks in time for the trip to the Balearic Islands.

If not, Xavi may be forced to shoehorn a player with little or no experience at right back into the position, draft a player from Barcelona's youth team, or opt to play with three center-backs and two wing backs.

Barcelona will also be without midfielder Frenkie de Jong and forward Memphis Depay after they were both hurt while playing for the Netherlands. Neither has been a first-choice player for Xavi this season.

Of the injuries, Araujo's appears to be the most serious. The 23-year-old defender



underwent surgery this week in Finland to repair an abductor muscle in his right thigh that he damaged in Uruguay's 1-0 loss to Iran on Friday.

Over the next three weeks, Barcelona faces two Champions League group games against Inter Milan and a clásico against

Real Madrid on October 16.

The only good news for Xavi is that Robert Lewandowski returned in perfect shape from his stint with Poland. The striker leads the Spanish league with eight goals in six games.

Mallorca, coached by

Mexican Javier Aguirre, has lost 12 of the last 13 visits by Barcelona to its stadium. Its only win during that stretch came in 2009 with Barcelona already crowned the league champion.

BENZEMA BACK

Karim Benzema is back for Real Madrid after recovering from a tendon injury and a strained muscle in his right thigh that had kept him off the field for over three weeks.

Benzema led Madrid to the Champions League and Spanish league double last season after scoring 44 goals in all competitions.

But his team has not missed him much and has kept up its perfect record this season of nine wins in as many games in all competitions.

Carlo Ancelotti's side leads the league by two points ahead

of Barcelona before it hosts fifth-placed Osasuna on Sunday.

"I'm feeling very good, comfortable. I'm looking forward to the game on Sunday," Benzema said.

"We've got a great team, although it could be said that we've got two teams. There's no difference between those who start the game and those who come on."

A struggling Sevilla faces a tough test when it visits Atlético Madrid on Saturday. Pressure is growing on coach Julen Lopetegui and the club's leadership, which sold off talented players this summer, after the team has won just once in eight games overall.

Third-place Real Betis plays at Celta Vigo on Sunday, while fourth-place Athletic Bilbao hosts Almería on Friday.

BUMRAH RULED OUT OF T20 WC

Jasprit will be forced out of action for six months due to a back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a back stress fracture, dealing a massive blow to team's chances at the ICC flagship event starting next month in Australia.

A BCCI official told PTI that Bumrah will be forced out of action for six months due to the back injury.

"Bumrah is not going to play the T20 World Cup for sure. He has a serious back condition. It's a stress fracture and he could be out for a period of six months," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Stress fracture is a tiny crack in the bone, caused by overuse and is common in sports persons. When stress reaction (bone bruise) goes undetected for a considerable time, it develops into stress fracture.

Almost 50 per cent of sports injuries are caused by stress fractures.

Back stress fractures do not require surgery but a lot of time to heal. Rest is best solution to treat stress fractures.

It is understood that either Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Shami could replace Bumrah in the main squad. Both were named as stand-by players for the prestigious tournament by the BCCI.

Bumrah, who played the second and third T20 against Australia, had travelled with the team to Thiruvananthapuram for the series-opener against South Africa but left for Bengaluru to be at National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation.

The 28-year-old fast bowler is the second senior star player to be ruled out after Ravindra Jadeja, who is recovering from a knee surgery.

The Indian team is already looking unsettled at the moment and



Bumrah's injury has only compounded the woes for skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid.

"Losing Bumrah and Jadeja will be huge for India. We didn't expect that things will pan out as they have. He was rested for the Asia Cup precisely to manage his workload management. Now it remains a question if he was

even fit enough to play the Australia series," the senior official said.

Many senior players have been given adequate rest, keeping in mind their workload.

What is more interesting is the fact that Bumrah has played only five Tests, five ODIs and as many T20Is in 2022 apart from IPL games for

Mumbai Indians.

"That's not a lot of cricket, considering that he was rested for Asia Cup, West Indies tour and also some of the bilateral cricket played in India. That's a lot of rest.

"As of now he is at the NCA and the rehab will be a long and arduous one. Yes, World T20 is important but

he is still young and India's biggest bowling asset. You can't take risk with him," the official said.

Bumrah, who has a slinging action, puts a lot of pressure on his back during loading. Former West Indies pace bowler Michael Holding had assessed that Bumrah was always a candidate for back injuries.



Arshdeep's focus is on adaptability ahead of T20 World Cup

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Young India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said "adaptability" is the main focus of the team ahead of the T20 World Cup, starting next month in Australia.

The T20 World Cup will be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13, and Arshdeep said the Indian bowlers are geared up for the tough challenge that awaits them.

"Adaptability is the big motive of our team. The main motive is adapting to the situations and demands of the team, whatever the situations and conditions are," said the 23-year-old pacer, who made a sensational comeback after a disappointing outing in the Asia Cup recently.

"When we go there (Australia) we will see how the conditions are. I'm looking forward to doing well."

Arshdeep (3/32) and Deepak Chahar (2/24) broke South Africa's backbone to help India register an easy eight-wicket win over the Proteas in the low-scoring first T20.

"We are trying to tick all the boxes in the practice sessions and trying to execute all our plans on the field. Today (Wednesday) was really a good example of showing a good power play bowling and we are looking forward to do amazing things in the coming days," Arshdeep said at the post-match presentation.

The left-arm pacer, a key arsenal in India's death bowling scheme of things for the ICC showpiece next month, missed the preceding three T20Is against Australia after he was sent to the NCA for conditioning.

"The purpose of the last 10 days was to get refreshed and come back stronger and fitter that will help me in my bowling. I feel really refreshed and look-

ing forward to doing good things on the field," Arshdeep said after his exploits with the ball.

Bowling with the new ball in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep came back with a bang, grabbing three wickets in five balls to reduce South Africa to 8 for 4 inside the second over.

Arshdeep, who made his debut in the tour of England in July this year, said he always strives to give his best on the field without bothering about selection.

"They told me you're in the plan' back end of the IPL, that I'm in the scene... I guess the main motive was to keep doing well whatever opportunities I get, that's my job and I don't think much about the selection part," he said.

Arshdeep had a forgettable Asia Cup campaign in the UAE, where he struggled to get wickets in the power-play and also made headlines for dropping a sitter in their loss to Pakistan in the 'Super 4' stage.

But with some assistance from the Greenfield track, he dismissed Quinton de Kock, Rilee Rossouw and David Miller in the second over to silence his critics.

"Getting the wickets early on was always a great feeling. The plan was really simple, the ball was swinging. I had to pitch it in the right places and it worked well. It was about hitting the right areas and making sure the line was good."

He also credited his senior teammate Chahar for holding up the pressure from the other end.

"We practice in every type of situation, our job is to adapt to the situations and do well for the team. Today (Wednesday) it was more about the new ball and we worked really well as a pair, a lot of credit goes to DC bhai as well," he signed off.



Rauf sends warning to India ahead of T20 WC opener

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf is banking on his knowledge gained from the Big Bash League to outsmart Indian batters in the marquee clash of the T20 World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on October 23.

The arch-rivals, who don't play bilateral series due to geopolitical tensions, will clash for a fourth time in one year at the MCG.

"If I give my best, they won't be able to play me easily. For the upcoming World Cup match, I'm very happy because it is at the Melbourne Cricket Ground," Rauf, who plays for Melbourne Stars in the BBL, said in the post-match interaction after their six-run win over England.

"It is my home ground because I play for the Melbourne Stars, and I have an idea of how the conditions play out there. I've already started planning on how I would bowl against India," he said.

Pakistan took a 3-2 series lead in the seven-match T20I

series here on Wednesday.

Pakistan defeated India by 10 wickets — for the first time in a world tournament — in the last edition of the T20I World Cup in UAE. But recently in the Asia Cup, India secured a clinical five-wicket win before losing to Pakistan in the 'Super 4' stage.

The 28-year-old fed the Indian batters with short-pitch deliveries as he returned wicketless in their first match of the Asia Cup. But in the Super 4 stage, he accounted for the key wicket of India skipper Rohit Sharma.

The 28-year-old ended the Asia Cup with eight wickets from six matches. But in the ongoing series he's been at his best, leading the tally with eight wickets from five matches.

"The match between India and Pakistan is always a high-pressure game. In the World Cup last year, I was feeling so much pressure. But in the past two matches in the Asia Cup, I didn't feel much of it because I knew I just had to give my best," Rauf added.

SKY is now India's highest run-scorer in T20Is in single calendar year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Suryakumar Yadav's status as India's best T20I batter in recent times has been reaffirmed as he became the highest scorer in a single calendar year with 732 runs, surpassing Shikhar Dhawan's 689 back in 2018.

Suryakumar, who scored one of his finest T20I half-centuries against South Africa on a seaming track in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday, is only 24 runs short of completing 1000 runs in the format.

His strike-rate in 2022 is a whopping 180.29, while his career strike-rate is a stagger-

ing 173.35 across 32 games. He has already hit 57 sixes and 88 boundaries in his career so far.

Coming onto bat at No.4 position in the first T20I against South Africa with India being reduced to 17/2 in the seventh over, Suryakumar hit two sixes off his first three balls to give the innings a change in momentum after a slow start.

He remained unbeaten on 50 off 33 balls as India scaled the target with more than three overs to spare and eight wickets in hand.

With the two sixes early in the innings, Suryakumar also went past Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan to record the most sixes in any calendar



year in T20Is. Rizwan held the record for his 42 sixes in 2021 with Martin Guptill also smashing 41 sixes in the same year.

Suryakumar has taken his tally of sixes to 45 in 2022 already, a record in all T20Is, with three more months to widen the gap with Rizwan.

While Rizwan took 26 innings to hit 42 sixes, Suryakumar has broken the record batting five times fewer.

Suryakumar is up to second position in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings with 801 rating points after his half-century in the third and final T20I against Australia in Hyderabad.

SA need to find ways to combat new ball: Maharaj

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj feels the Proteas need to re-assess how to combat the new ball which swung "prodigiously" in the first few overs of the series opener against India.

South Africa's batting unit crumbled as Indian seamers Arshdeep Singh (3/32) and Deepak Chahar (2/24) swung the ball both ways to set up an eight-wicket win for the hosts in the first T20I here on Wednesday night.

"I don't think it's a chapter we need to dwell too much on. However, we do need to chat about how we started," Maharaj said at the post-match press conference.



"The application we saw upfront, we need to re-assess that and find ways to combat the swing. The ball did swing prodigiously in the first couple of overs."

Maharaj, who top-scored for the visitors with a 35-ball 41, feels some adjustment and a change in mindset could help them combat the swing.

"Something that we need to address is the new ball, the way

we are playing it, there is a lot of swing in it. So maybe just adjust our plan and mindset and take it from there," he added.

South Africa were reeling at 9/5 within the first three overs before Aiden Markram (25) and Wayne Parnell (24) steadied the ship before Maharaj took them over the 100-run mark.

"We didn't expect the ball to swing so prodigiously. It wasn't an easy wicket to bat on, it was two paced, the odd balls skidded through, a lot of tennis ball bounce at various points," Maharaj said.

"I don't think we want to dwell too much on what has transpired, but it is something that we can address going forward and hopefully we can rectify that," he added.

Wicket was tricky, it was nice to play a game like that: Rohit



PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Skipper Rohit Sharma said the Indian team got to "learn a lot" while chasing a meagre target on a "tricky track" in the series-opener against South Africa.

Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 50 off 33 balls got India over the line despite KL Rahul's struggles on a track where South Africa were left tottering at 9/5 at the start of the game on Wednesday.

"The wicket was tricky. You learn a lot playing such a game. You understand what the team needs to do in tough conditions. It was nice to play a game like that," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We knew the bowlers will get something seeing grass on the pitch, but we didn't expect help for the full 20 overs."

Rohit admitted that the pitch was a bit damp and that kept South Africa in the hunt despite a paltry score of 106/8.

It was damp. Both teams were in the contest and the team that played better won the game. We started well, got five wickets in quick time and that was the

turning point. It was a perfect showcase of how to bowl when there is help for the pacers."

While Rahul scored a half-century (51) off 56 balls, Rohit said conditions need to be respected.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy. Got to respect the conditions. Lost two wickets and that partnership between KL and Surya got us home."

'SURYA'S HELP'

KL Rahul, whose scratchy batting got papered over by Suryakumar Yadav's regal half-century, said that his partner's attacking intent allowed him to take his own time.

It was because of Rahul's struggles that India scored only 17 runs in six Powerplay overs but Surya's imperious form didn't allow South Africa to make a comeback.

"Definitely, right up there (as the toughest pitch)," Rahul said when asked if it was the toughest strip he has batted on in T20Is.

"We have played in some difficult conditions like this but I haven't got runs. So this was hard work."

He was all praise for Surya's approach.

"It was unbelievable for Surya to come out there and play those shots. We have seen how balls were flying, nipping around, two-paced and everything that can be hard for a batter that was the wicket today."

"And for Surya to come with that approach after the first ball that hit him, he just woke up and wanted to play his shots, be aggressive and take on the bowling. That helped me take my time and play one end."

Rahul also praised young Arshdeep Singh, whose three wickets in his first over set-up the game.

"He's (Arshdeep) growing with each game and with each outing he gets better, he is somebody who has a big heart and I have seen him in close quarters while playing in the IPL. This season what he did for his franchise was phenomenal and to be the number one death bowler in a team (Punjab Kings) which has Rabada speaks highly of him."

"We always want a left-arm seamer and it is great to have someone like Arshdeep," he said.

Buttler & Moeen Ali not in favour of running out batters at non-striker's end

PTI ■ LONDON

England white ball captain Jos Buttler and his deputy Moeen Ali said that running out a non-striker for backing too is not "their thing" and that they would rather call the player back if any of their teammates used it as a mode of dismissal.

Custodians of the laws of cricket MCC have re-affirmed that a non-striker's run out while backing up is within the laws of the game but there has been no end to the debate in the aftermath of the third and final women's ODI between India and England where Deepti Sharma ran out Charlie Dean to complete clean sweep for visitors.

"No, I am calling the batsman back," the 32-year-old Buttler, who is recovering from a calf injury ahead of the World Cup, told *TalkSPORT*.



Incidentally, in IPL 2019, Buttler was at the receiving end as Rajasthan Royals opener when he was dismissed in a similar fashion by veteran Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was back then playing for Kings XI Punjab.

"No one wants to see them (mode of dismissal) in the game because they always create such a talking point when it should be about the battle between bat and

ball and watching great games of cricket. They always seem to happen at unsavoury times."

Moeen, the stand-in captain in their current T20I series against Pakistan, echoed similar sentiments: "No, it's not my thing."

"I don't think I'll ever do it unless I was really angry with someone. It's in the laws and there's nothing illegal so people that do it have the right, but I just

hope it doesn't become a common thing, or something that's regularly done," Moeen told the *Telegraph*.

"You are not really working to get a wicket. At least with a run-out, there's a bit of work that has to be done, and with all the other dismissals. This is just waiting for the guy and taking the balls off. Even when I played cricket as a kid in the garden, it's not my thing to do."

The mode of dismissal currently listed in the MCC's Unfair Play section of the laws (41.16.1) is to be moved to the 'Run Out' section from October 1, when an update to the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

"Whilst (the dismissal) was indeed an unusual end to an exciting match, it was properly officiated and should not be considered as anything more," a statement from the MCC has said earlier.

Naseem Shah tests positive for Covid

AP ■ LAHORE

Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah has tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss the remaining two T20s against England, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday.

Shah was discharged from hospital on Thursday after being diagnosed with pneumonia and the PCB said the fast bowler was feeling "much better."

"Shah is back in the team hotel where he will follow all COVID-19 protocols," the PCB said in a statement.

Pakistan is due to leave for New Zealand next Monday to participate in a triangular T20 series also featuring Bangladesh. The PCB didn't clarify whether the fast bowler will accompany the team to New Zealand.

Shah played only one game in the seven-match series against England in Karachi.