

**CITY 3**  
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BY-ELECTION TODAY**OPINION 6**  
WORKFORCE MUST HAVE  
EMPLOYABLE SKILLS**WORLD 10**  
PAKISTAN'S RULING COALITION  
REJECTS IMRAN'S OFFER

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# India gets new temple of democracy

The new Parliament isn't just a building, it is a symbol of the aspirations of 140 cr people of India, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a 'tryst with destiny' moment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday delivered his first speech in the new Parliament affirming that the august complex would "witness realisation of our developed India resolution" and the new building will become a means of "realising the dreams of our freedom fighters and will witness the sunrise of a self-reliant India."

Inaugurating the new Parliament, Modi first installed the scared 'Sengol' in the Lok Sabha chamber, right next to the Speaker's chair, after seeking the blessings of the 'Adheenams' from various temples in Tamil Nadu. Amid Vedic chants by priests from Karnataka's Shringeri Math, Modi performed "Ganapati Homam" to invoke the gods to bless the inauguration of the new Parliament building. A multi-faith prayer was also held to mark the occasion.

In the second-leg of the event, Modi addressed packed new Parliament receiving a standing ovation from the attendees. He described the occasion as one that is "immortal". In the development journey of every country, some moments come which become immortal. 28th May is such a day, said Modi amidst thunderous applause. "The new Parliament isn't just a building, it is the symbol of the aspiration of the 140 crore people of India. It gives a message to the world about India's determination", he said.

"The new building will become a means of realising the dreams of our freedom fighters and will witness the sunrise of self-reliant India. This new building will see the fulfilment of the resolutions of a developed India", Modi announced amid



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla lights a lamp at the inauguration of the new Parliament building, in New Delhi, Sunday

PTI

repeated thumping of desks. "New models can be established only by treading new paths", Modi remarked as he highlighted that the "new India" is realising new goals and paving new ways. "There is a new energy, new zeal, new enthusiasm, new thinking and a new journey. There are new visions, new directions, new resolutions and a new trust", Modi said.

Prime Minister said that the world is looking towards India's determination, its citizens' vigour and the life of human power in India with respect and hope. "When India moves forward, the world moves forward", he remarked. He underlined that the new Parliament House will invoke the development of the world from the development of India.

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## Insult to tribal Prez, disdain for House procedures: Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Sunday continued with their criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he inaugurated the new Parliament building, saying a "self-glorifying authoritarian PM with utter disdain for Parliamentary procedures" opened the new complex.

Around 20 Opposition parties, including the Congress, boycotted the event alleging that President Droupadi Murmu has been denied the right to inaugurate the building

and called it an insult to the first woman President from the tribal community. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said democracy does not run from the buildings but functions through the voice of the people. Jairam Ramesh, the Congress general secretary, said, "On this day, May 28th: Nehru, the person who did the most to nurture Parliamentary democracy in India, was cremated in 1964. Savarkar, the person whose ideological ecosystem led to the killing of Mahatma Gandhi, was born in 1883." Ramesh also said it is on the

same day that President Droupadi Murmu -- the first woman from the tribal community to become President -- is not allowed to perform her Constitutional duties and inaugurate the new Parliament building. Trinamool Congress said the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the installation of the historic Sengol in the Lok Sabha chamber Sunday showed the tendency of the PM to "hog the entire limelight" during such a solemn occasion.

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## Sengol will inspire us in our duty, says Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted the significance of Sengol as a symbol of transfer of power saying that the sceptre will continue to inspire the parliamentarians in their duty. In his address in the Lok Sabha chamber of the new Parliament to mark the inauguration of the building, Modi said the Sengol in 1947 symbolised of transfer of power under the guidance of Rajaji and the Adheenams. On the contrary, Congress has been claiming that there has been no documented evidence of Lord Mountbatten, C Rajagopalachari, and Jawaharlal Nehru describing the sceptre as a symbol of transfer of power by the British to India.

"I believe it is our good fortune that we have been able to restore the dignity of the sacred Sengol. Whenever proceedings begin in this Parliament House, Sengol will continue to inspire us all," Modi said. After the Sengol was installed in Lok Sabha Sunday morning, he said, "In the great Chola Empire, Sengol was considered a symbol of path of duty, the path of service and the path of nation service." PNS



Photo by PTI

## BJP raps RJD for 'coffin' dig at new Parl building

New Delhi/Patna: The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Sunday likened the architecture of the new Parliament building to a coffin, drawing a sharp response from the BJP which said people will bury the Bihar party in such a coffin in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

As the new building was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ruling party in Bihar put out a tweet that showed a coffin and the new legislature building side by side and asked, "What is this?" The BJP's Bihar unit responded to the tweet saying, "The first picture is your future and the second is of India. Understood?" Hitting

out at the RJD for the tweet, the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi said nothing could be cheaper and shameful than this.

"They have tweeted two pictures, one of the new Parliament and the other of a coffin. The picture of the new Parliament shows the future of India. Picture of the coffin shows the future of the RJD," he added. Lashing out at the RJD and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for protesting the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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## Focus now shifts to VP Enclave, new PM Office

New Delhi: With the new Parliament building inaugurated, the focus now shifts to the construction of the Vice-President Enclave, Common Central Secretariat buildings, Defence Enclave, MPs' chambers, and the Prime Minister's new residence and office. Infrastructure firm Larsen & Toubro Ltd is constructing the Executive Enclave housing the PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, India House and the National Security Council Secretariat at an estimated cost of Rs 1,189 crore.

## Wrestlers' protest: FIR against organisers, others for rioting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Sunday removed tents and other installations set up by the protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar as they were detained for allegedly breaching the security cordon and not following the directions issued by the law enforcement agency. The wrestlers were trying to move towards the new Parliament building for a planned women's Mahapanchayat.

Later in the evening, the Delhi Police booked the organisers of the wrestlers' protest at Jantar Mantar and their supporters on charges of rioting and obstructing public servant in discharge of duty. The police said 700 people were detained across Delhi, including 109 protesters at Jantar Mantar. According to a senior police officer, the FIR has been registered under Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly



Security personnel detain wrestler Vinesh Phogat during wrestlers' protest march towards new Parliament building, in New Delhi on Sunday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

promulgated by public servant), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 353 (assault or use of criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his

duty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Sections 352 (assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation), 147 (rioting) and 149 (unlawful assembly) of the IPC have also been invoked.

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## Opp raps Govt over wrestlers' detention

New Delhi: The Opposition, including AAP, TMC, DMK, CPI (M) and RLD on Sunday criticised the Narendra Modi Government over the detention of protesting wrestlers by the Delhi Police as former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said with the "coronation" over, the "arrogant king is crushing the voice of the people" on the streets.

The Congress has sought a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the allegations of the wrestlers. Rahul in an apparent reference to the inauguration of the new Parliament building said in a tweet in Hindi, "The coronation is over -- the arrogant king is crushing the voice of the public on the streets!" Along with his tweet, he tagged a video montage of police detaining champion wrestlers.

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## 40 militants killed in violence-hit Manipur since ops began: CM

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday said nearly 40 armed militants involved in torching houses and firing at civilians have been killed by security forces since they began an operation to bring peace to the north eastern State beset by ethnic rioting.

Separately, police officials said on Sunday said at least two persons were killed and 12 injured in different instances of firing upon civilians and clashes between militants and security forces since the early hours of the day. At Phayeng in Imphal West district, one person died and another sustained bullet injuries after being fired at by suspected Kuki militants, police officials said. The latest clashes began after the army and para-military forces

commenced combing operations to de-arm communities in order to bring peace, officials said. The Chief Minister who was interacting with the media persons at the State secretariat, claimed the latest round of "conflict is not between communities but between militants and security forces".

Singh also said there had been cases of Armed militants firing at civilians with AK-47s, M-16 and sniper rifles. These militants were targeted by security forces in counter-attacks.

The CM appealed to the public not to hinder the movement of security personnel and urged them to have "faith in the Government and support the security forces." "We have experienced hardship for so long and we will never allow the state to disintegrate," Singh said.

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## Rahul gets new passport, heads for US today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi received a new ordinary passport on Sunday, two days after a local court granted its "no objection" to the issuance of the same, sources said. They said the passport office had assured Rahul in the morning that the passport would be issued to him on Sunday and he got it in the afternoon.

The former Congress president is set to travel to San Francisco in the United States on Monday evening where he will start his three-city tour. He had applied for an ordinary passport after surrendering the old diplomatic passport issued to him when he was a Member of Parliament. Rahul was disqualified as an MP following his conviction and two-year sentence by a Gujarat court in a defamation case over his Modi surname remark.

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## CAPSULE

### IPL FINAL WASHED OUT, TO BE PLAYED TODAY

Ahmedabad: The final of the Indian Premier League 2023 was on Sunday moved to the reserved day after relentless rains delayed the toss and subsequently the start of the summit showdown here. The announcement was made at 10:55 pm local time. The title clash between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings, thus, will be played here at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Monday.

### COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR GSLV LAUNCH

Srinharikota: Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday at 7.12 am commenced the 27.5 hour countdown for the launch of a navigation satellite on board a GSLV rocket here on May 29. The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency is all geared up to launch the second-generation navigation satellite series, a significant launch which would ensure the continuity of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) services — an Indian regional satellite navigation system.

### CENSUS UNLIKELY BEFORE LS POLLS

New Delhi: The decadal Census, which was postponed for an indefinite period due to the pandemic, is unlikely to be held before the next Lok Sabha elections that are due in April-May 2024, officials said. Access to smartphones, Internet, laptops, computers, cars, two-wheelers, main cereal consumed are some of the 31 questions to be asked in the Census.

### DAMODAR MAUZO GETS JNANPITH AWARD

Panaji: Goan writer Damodar Mauzo Goa has received the prestigious Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary honour, from Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai. Addressing a gathering after presenting the award the governor said Mauzo is "epitome of Konkani literary culture."

## Old art adorns new Parliament

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The new Parliament building is home to nearly 5,000 artworks, including paintings, wall panels, stone sculptures and metal murals. The artworks on display in the new building narrate the stories of India's democratic traditions from the Vedic period to the present day.

The growth of democracy in the country is depicted through a series of exhibits in the Constitution Hall on the new Parliament building, which itself is inspired by the Sri Yantra, used for worship in the Hindu traditions and considered a source of pure energy. The Constitution Hall,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives standing ovation as he arrives in the Lok Sabha chamber of the new Parliament building, in New Delhi, on Sunday

PTI

which has a digitised copy of the Indian Constitution, has a touch of modernity as it also houses a Foucault's Pendulum to demonstrate the rotation of the earth. The Foucault's Pendulum hangs from a large skylight from the triangular roof of the Constitution Hall

and signifies the idea of India with that of the universe. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers boast of a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics, and state-of-the-art audio-visual systems to ensure effective legislative proceedings.

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## Twitterati rave about 'Akhand Bharat' mural

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A mural in the new Parliament building depicting the influence of ancient Indian thought in its immediate neighbourhood went viral on social media on Sunday with many claiming it represents the resolve for an Akhand Bharat, described as a "cultural concept" by RSS.

The mural marks important kingdoms and cities of the past, and shows the influence of ancient India.

See P9

## Prannoy wins Malaysia Masters title, breaks jinx

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy ended a six-year long title drought with a three-game win over China's Weng Hong Yang in a pulsating men's singles finals at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament here on Sunday.

The 30-year-old Indian showed great composure and resolve during a 94-minute battle to notch a 21-19 13-21 21-18 victory against China's world number 34 Weng Hong Yang, a 2022 Asian Championships bronze medalist.

See P12



India's HS Prannoy poses on podium with runner up China's WH Yang after winning the men's singles finals match against Yang at Malaysia Masters badminton tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Sunday

AP/PTI



# 7.30L kids to be given polio drops

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar inaugurated the Pulse Polio campaign in Lucknow on Sunday by administering polio drops to a child. He asked people to make sure their children take the polio drops.

District immunisation officer MK Singh said 7.30 lakh children in the age group of 0-5 years are being targeted under the campaign. "Today is the 'booth diwas' and booths have been set up where children will be given polio drops. From May 29 to June 3, teams will be going door to door, giving polio drops to children. On June 3, plans will be made for the children having been left out during the campaign and they will be covered on June 4 and 5," he said.

There are 2,783 booths and 2,204 teams that will go door to door. Besides, there are 131 mobile teams, 227 transit teams, 593 supervisors, 6,650 vaccinators, and 14 divisional-level officers for inspection. Polio booths have been set up as per requirements.

"The number of booths had been increased and set up close to residential areas to



District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar administering polio drops to a child in Lucknow on Sunday

Pioneer

make it convenient for people. Polio drops have been procured from the state government which has got the same from the Central government," he pointed out.

Asked if they are expecting any resistance, he said it's no longer the case as people are aware. "There used to be resistance by people in some areas in the beginning," he added.

Singh said they would be targeting people working or staying in brick kilns and construction sites apart from nomads and migrating population under the campaign.

He pointed out that in 2014, the World Health Organisation had declared India polio-free.

"There has been no case of polio in the last 13 years, and

the last case was found in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad district in 2010," he recalled.

"Currently, polio cases can be found in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Mozambique. Since people from these countries visit India, the campaign is still being carried out here to make that the children are immune to any threat," Singh said.

## Western disturbances give a cooling effect to May

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The frequent western disturbances occurring every two to three days have brought about a cooling effect to an otherwise scorching month of May when hot winds would dish out sizzlers almost relentlessly. Experts say that this is a recent phenomena and will continue in the coming years too. MET director said that this phenomena has been noticed since 2019. "The monthly average temperature for the month of May has come down in the past three years. This may have been because of the passage of western disturbances which bring rain and make the temperature plummet," he pointed out.

The origin of the western disturbance takes place in the middle east and it reaches India from there. "This is a semi-permanent feature and the passage of western disturbances takes place every year. However, there is variation in the intensity and frequency. Sometimes it is more frequent but less intense and does not have much impact. At other

times, the frequency is less but the intensity is more. The one which lashed many parts of the state yesterday (Saturday) was intense and it caused thunderstorm and rains," he said.

"Apart from frequency and intensity, location of the western disturbance also matters," he added.

Climate change expert, Prof Vibhuti Rai of Lucknow University's geology department, termed the entire phenomenon as 'climatic chaos.'

"Nothing is working the way it should be. Sometimes it is unbearable heat with temperature going up to 45 degrees and the next day, there are strong winds and cyclonic conditions like yesterday. When there are few days of high temperature, there is a wind system which goes up because of the heat and surrounding winds are dragged in, and that is how these storms are generated. We will be having similar conditions in the next few months," he said.

About the absence of hot and dry westerly winds (loo), he said there is moisture in the air which is keeping the dust

down. "Unless there is a major, the same conditions will prevail every year. The occurrence of the western disturbance depends on several factors. It is also related to how much it snows and what kind of things are happening in the north of Himalayas, and the precipitation of rains in the Ganga plains. It is the combination of all these factors," he added.

Prof Naveen Arora of Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University said these patterns can sometimes happen because this is the year of La Niña.

"This is the reason so many western disturbances are taking place. The hot winds were blowing earlier but then western disturbances intervened and made the temperature drop. When the easterlies intervene, the temperature does not drop as much. For a few days, the temperature was 40 degrees or above, but then it came down," he pointed out.

Talking of western disturbances, he said they come from the side of Central Asia or even beyond that, like the Mediterranean region.

## Purse-snatcher nabbed at metro station

Lucknow (PNS): A timely response by police and officials of Lucknow Metro led to the arrest of a purse-snatcher. The accused had deprived a woman of the purse containing gold earrings near Bhootnath station in Ghazipur police station area on Sunday.

The high-resolution CCTV cameras installed in the station premises and inside the train did the trick for the police. The police said they first identified the accused and then tracked his movement. He was nabbed by the staff soon after he reached the Durgapur station.

Meanwhile, an air passenger was detained for changing his name and also that of his father, date of birth and address in his passport. Reports said immigration official Girish Chand Joshi was busy doing his work at counter number 4 of the Lucknow airport when a passenger named Mohammed Zahid of Deoria district reached there. "During checking, it came to the fore that he had changed his name, his father's name and other details in his new passport," Joshi said. He recommended detention of the passenger for violation of Passport Act.

## Man jumps into funeral pyre of his friend; dies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Depressed by the death of a friend due to cancer, a 40-year-old man ended his life by jumping into the funeral pyre of his friend on the banks of the river Yamuna in Firozabad on Saturday. According to Sirsaganj CO Praveen Tiwari, 42-year-old Ashok of the Nagla Khangar police station area was suffering from cancer and died on Saturday morning.

Tiwari said that Ashok's last rites were held on the banks of the river Yamuna around 11 am and his friend Anand (40) was among those present. When people started leaving the cremation ground, Anand suddenly jumped into the funeral pyre and sustained over 90 per cent burns before he was rescued by the relatives of his friends. He was rushed to the district hospital from where he was referred to Agra medical college hospital. However, Anand succumbed to burns on the way.

Meanwhile in Ballia, a 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually molesting his minor niece on Sunday, police said. The eight-year-old victim narrated the ordeal to her mother on Saturday following which she filed a complaint and the man was arrested, SHO (Sikandarpur) Dinesh Pathak said.

## Roadways set to run e-buses

Lucknow (PNS): In view of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's emphasis on the operation of electric vehicles for the convenience of the citizens of Uttar Pradesh as well as for the protection of environment, the UP Roadways is set to launch electric buses.

It is worth mentioning here that hundreds of electric buses are already being run in the urban areas of the state through the Urban Development department. As part of the pilot project, there is currently a plan to run 100 electric buses on selected routes in Lucknow and Ghaziabad.

Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Transport (Independent Charge) Dayashankar Singh said, "The UP State Road Transport Corporation has plans to run 100 electric buses on selected routes in Lucknow and Ghaziabad. In the first phase, these buses will be run on a pilot basis. Later it will be started in other districts of the state as well."

The transport minister further stated, "Soon the people of the state will have access to excellent and affordable transportation services. Until now, the approval for 2x2 seating arrangement buses was grant-

ed for AC buses, but now the plan is to contract the bus service with a new arrangement of 3x2 seating under the new contract bus scheme."

"The fare for buses with 3x2 seating capacity will be Rs 1.63 per km, while the fare for 2x2 seating arrangement buses equals Rs 1.93 per km. This will make a total difference of 30 paise per km and affordable AC bus service will be available to the people," Singh added.

He said letters of intent had been issued for 1,235 buses, including ordinary and AC buses, out of which 770 buses had already started operating in the areas.

## Students' wing of AAP dissolved

Lucknow (PNS): The Aam Aadmi Party's students' wing was dissolved after a meeting of the office-bearers at the state office of the party in Lucknow on Sunday.

State president Vanshraj Dubey said the student wing would create a new strong organisation in UP. After the urban local bodies elections, the AAP is working to strengthen the organisation in Uttar Pradesh and with this in mind an important meeting of Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, the student wing of the AAP, was held on Sunday in which state president Vanshraj Dubey was present. Addressing the meeting, Dubey said the AAP students' wing in Uttar Pradesh would connect the youth and expose the misuse of the Yogi Adityanath government. The meeting was also addressed by AAP leaders Vishal Dubey, Shekhar Dixit and Anil Rawat.

## Prof suspended for seeking sexual favours from student

Jaunpur (PTI): TD College here on Sunday suspended a professor for allegedly seeking sexual favour from a girl student, an act which was recorded on video and appeared on social media.

"The accused professor Pradeep Singh has been suspended and a five-member committee has been formed to probe the matter. The team will give its report in 15 days," College Manager Raghvendra Pratap Singh said.

Management will take further action on the matter after the report of the probe committee, Raghvendra Pratap Singh said. Students of TD College created a ruckus on Friday after a video in which Pradeep Singh is purportedly seen asking sexual favour from the girl in lieu of ensuring that she clears the BED-TET examination turned up online. An FIR against Pradeep Singh was registered at Line Bazar Police Station here on Saturday, officials said.

## Mango grower ends life following losses inflicted by storm

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 42-year-old mango grower ended his life at his house around 1 am on Sunday following the damage caused to his crop by the thunderstorm which lashed the state capital on Saturday. Identified as Sushil Singh aka Anna, he was found hanging from the ceiling in his room. Police sent the body for autopsy while further probe was underway.

Initial investigation revealed that Sushil had bought a pick-up van for business but could not pay loan installments on time. He was planning to foreclose the loan by selling the mango crop, but the thunderstorm on Saturday played a spoilsport. His family said he cried over the loss and then went to his room. Sushil's daughter found him hanging around 1 am on

Sunday. Meanwhile, a 35-year-old man was killed in a road mishap in Bakshi-Ka-Talab police station area. Reports said Dinesh Verma of BKT was found injured on the road near a petrol pump and was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed later. Brother Sunil Verma said Dinesh had gone out on May 26 evening but did not come back. He added that Dinesh was a liquor addict.

In another case, a teenager was found hanging at his house in BKT police station area on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. Reports said Karan Kanauiya (19) of Rajapur Indaurabagh was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around his neck. The teenager was a bachelor and worked as a labourer.

## High-density tech profitable for mango orchardists

Lucknow (PNS): The Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) technology of high-density orchard may lead to sustainable income from mango orchards.

The Malihabad region of Lucknow is known for mangoes as it has more than 30,000 hectare area for mango cultivation. Dussehri, which is bearing the unique GI tag, occupies the largest area among mango varieties in the area. Apart

from Dussehri, there are other varieties such as Langra, Chausa, Safeda, etc which are grown in this region.

However, CISH director T Damodaran said the continuous low income due to senile old mango orchards is a cause of concern in the region where high-density orchard technology can be a ray of hope.

"A team of CISH scientists has standardised the high-density technology in which the orchards accommodate 7-8 times more trees per hectare than in the traditional system. The trees under this system start early bearing fruits in three years' time unlike those in the traditional orchards which take 6-7 years," he said.

Damodaran said that with the technical support of ICAR-CISH (Lucknow) scientist KK Srivastava, the team provided technological guidance to mango grower Vijay Kumar Shrotia, who started high-density orcharding in Hardourpur, Bakshi-Ka-Talab.

"The institute intervened with the varietal replacement using dwarf nature, high-yielding, high-quality and regular bearing varieties like Amrapali, Arunika, and Ambika. Fertiliser dose was also provided and drip-irrigation system was used. The team also helped in training, pruning, and canopy management. Farmers of adjoining areas are now visiting the orchard and also adopting the same technology," he pointed out.

## Youth embarks on foot journey to Mt Kailash

Lucknow (PTI): Inspired by Shihab Chottur, a Keralite who travelled a distance of more than 8,000 kilometres on foot to perform Hajj at Mecca, a young man has embarked on a similar journey to Mount Kailash in the Tibet region from Uttar Pradesh.

Shivam Yadav, a 23-year-old resident of Surajpur in Greater Noida in the National Capital Region (NCR), who began his journey on May 11, is heading towards Bahraich from Ayodhya via Gonda on Sunday from where he will enter Nepal through the Rupediha border.

When asked whether he has taken permission from the Indian and Chinese governments before setting out on this journey, he said, "No. But I am confident that my faith

will take me to the abode of Lord Shankar."

To enter China and travel to the Mount Kailash region, a Chinese visa along with a Tibet Travel Permit is mandatory as the mountain is located in the farthest corner of Tibet, which is a restricted area.

Hundreds of Indian pilgrims undertake Kailash Mansarovar yatra in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China every year negotiating the mountainous terrain. The pilgrimage is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs from June to September through two different routes — Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim.

Yadav said, initially, Pakistan had refused to give

Visa to Chottur as well, but later, the neighbouring country had to kneel before his devotion. Chottur, who started his journey from Malappuram in Kerala in June last year, entered Pakistan via the Wagah border on February 7. He was welcomed by Sarwar Taj, who had filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court on his behalf, and Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation Pakistan chairman Imtiaz Rashid Qureshi. The 29-year-old has recently entered Saudi Arabia.

Yadav, who calls Chottur his guru, is confident that seeing his devotion and faith, China will not stop him.

His mother Manju said Shivam has been an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva since childhood and that is why

when he sought her permission to trek to Mount Kailash, she could not stop him despite knowing the risks and difficulties involved in the 1,850-kilometre journey.

Yadav covered a distance of 600 kilometres to Ayodhya, where he stopped to visit the Ram Temple. Shivam, who left his house with a few clothes and some other essential items, shared that he is getting help from people at every stop on the way.

"Everyone who hears about my story comes forward to help me in whatever capacity possible," he said. Yadav said, he often stays at dhabas for the night and sets out on his journey early in the morning, adding that he covers an average of 35 to 40 kilometres daily.



Candidates coming out of UP PSC examination hall after taking prelims on Sunday

Pioneer

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# New Parl building symbolises fulfilment of new India’s hopes, aspirations: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday as a historic moment and a glorious chapter in the history of Indian democracy and said that the new building symbolised fulfilment of new India’s hopes and aspirations.

Chief Minister Yogi, who attended the inaugural ceremony of the new Parliament building in New Delhi on Sunday, also described the sacred Sengol as a symbol of India’s justice, fairness, sovereignty and strength.

Congratulating the people of the country on the momentous occasion, Chief Minister Yogi wrote on his Twitter handle, “Historic moment! The symbol of fulfillment of the hopes, expectations and aspirations of ‘New India,’ the magnificent, glorious and inspiring new Parliament building has been dedicated to the nation today by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Heartfelt congratulations to all the residents of the country!”



Describing the sacred Sengol as a symbol of India’s justice, fairness, sovereignty and strength, the chief minister further wrote, “The establishment of the sacred Sengol in the new Parliament building today, amid Vedic chants, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a combined expression of respect and belief of the people of the country in India’s rich cultural heritage and strong democratic values. In the era of India’s independence, this adds a new glorious chapter to the his-

tory of Indian democracy, further enhancing the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. Jai Hind.”

Chief Minister Yogi also said that the honouring of labourers who contributed to the construction of the new Parliament building symbolised the supreme authority of ‘people’ in democracy and celebrated labour and the spirit of ‘Shramev Jayate’.

The chief minister extended heartfelt congratulations to all the labourers on the occasion.

# BJP hits out at SP Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party has lashed out at Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya for accusing the Centre of inviting only Brahmin gurus for the installation of the Sengol in the new Parliament building and ignoring religious leaders of other faiths. SP leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Sunday accused the BJP-led Centre of inviting only “Fundamentalist Brahmin gurus” for the inauguration of the new parliament building while ignoring other religious leaders.

“The allegation of Brahmanism made by the SP is comical and reeks of ignorance. These adheenams are run by communities that come under Backward Class and Other Backward Classes categories. They have a rich history of Tamil literature that worships Lord Shiva,” sources in the government said.

The remarks were termed as an insult to the adheenams (chief priests of Shaivism mutts) and to the diversity of Hinduism. “It is an insult to these holy adheenams and to the diversity of Hinduism to make such comments,” the BJP said.

Maurya, in a tweet, said, “It is extremely unfortunate that only fundamentalist Brahmin gurus of the South were called in the installation worship of Sengol. If the BJP government had faith in India as a secular sovereign nation, then all the religious leaders of the country, such as Buddhist dharmacharyas (monks), Jain acharyas (sages), Guru Granthis, Muslim religious leaders (maulana), Christian religious leaders (pastor) etc. should have been invited.”

“By not doing so, the BJP has shown its corrupt mentality and disgusting thinking. Although the BJP government is going on the path of monarchy by establishing the Sengol, it is also trying to establish Brahmanism by calling the Brahmin religious leaders of the South,” Maurya added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday dedicated the new Parliament building to the nation by unveiling a plaque and installing the Sengol in the Lok Sabha chamber. The prime minister felicitated some of the workers involved in the construction of the new Parliament building. He handed over mementoes to them.

Prime Minister Modi installed the sacred Sengol in the new Parliament building, right next to the speaker’s chair, after performing puja.

Modi also performed sashtang pranam (prostration) before the Sengol as a mark of respect during the ceremony.

## USE OF NEW PARL BUILDING SHOULD BE IN INDIA’S INTEREST: MAYAWATI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supreme Mayawati on Sunday congratulated the Centre for the inauguration of the new Parliament building and said it should be used in the interest of the country. “Congratulations to the Centre on the inauguration of the new Parliament House today. It would be appropriate that this new building should be used in the interest of the country and its people as per the humanitarian thoughts of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and the noble intention of the holy Constitution made by him,” she said in a Tweet in Hindi.

# 4 of a family die while cleaning septic tank

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tragedy hit Kushinagar district after four people of the same family, including a father-son duo, died after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning the septic tank of their house on Sunday morning.

One more family member is undergoing treatment in a critical condition.

Senior police and administrative officers rushed to the spot after learning of the incident and assured help to the family members. They also pacified the villagers who were agitated as the ambulance arrived very late resulting in two deaths.

Expressing grief over the accident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced financial relief of Rs 4 lakh each for all the deceased.

The incident took place in Bahora Ramnagar gram sabha area of Padrauna tehsil in Kushinagar. Reports said that Nandkumar Kushwaha (45) of Tola Khapardhikka found the septic tank of his toilet overflowing so he along with his son Nitesh Kushwaha (24) entered inside to clean the tank on Sunday morning. Their condition started deteriorating after they inhaled poisonous gas. To rescue them, their relatives Anand Kushwaha (26), Dinesh Kushwaha (38) and Rajkumar also entered the septic tank but they fell unconscious.

Later local villagers somehow pulled out the victims from the tank but by then, Nandkumar Kushwaha and Nitesh were already dead.

The villagers called the ambulance and informed the local police but as the ambulance reached very later, Anand and Dinesh were also pronounced dead upon reaching the community health centre at Kotwa. The condition of 26-year-old Rajkumar Kushwaha was stated to be critical. He was shifted to the district hospital.

On receiving information, District Magistrate Ramesh Ranjan, Superintendent of Police Dhawal Jaiswal, Additional Superintendent of Police Ritesh Singh, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Sadar) Mahatma Singh and other officers reached the spot and enquired about the incident.

They claimed that prima facie all the deaths were due to the poisonous gas built up inside the tank. A case was registered and further investigations were on. The bodies were sent for autopsy.

# Uttar Pradesh numero uno in implementing welfare schemes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a remarkable achievement for the Uttar Pradesh Government, the state has secured the top position nationwide in effectively implementing eight welfare schemes for the underprivileged and the needy. This achievement also highlights Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s sensitivity towards common people.

The eight schemes include Prime Minister SVANidhi Yojana among others, which seeks to uplift street vendors by providing them interest free loans for running their businesses.

Uttar Pradesh tops in the country by providing the benefits of the scheme to maximum number of street vendors. Madhya Pradesh ranks second and Telangana third in taking the welfare scheme to the people.

An official spokesman of the government said that the chief minister’s regular monitoring and reviewing of implementation of a variety of central government’s schemes in the state had put Uttar Pradesh at the forefront in delivering its benefits to people.

State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) director Anil Kumar said that Chief Minister

Adityanath Yogi’s aim was to provide benefits of state and central schemes to every section of the society in the state irrespective of caste or creed. He had given clear instructions to all the departments to take the benefits of the schemes to the people without any kind of discrimination.

On the basis of applications received so far in the state, the first installment of loan under PM SVANidhi Yojana was distributed to 9,57,771 street vendors, the second to 2,29,014 and the third to 3,391 beneficiaries in the state. Loans amounting to Rs

1,452.74 crore were distributed to 11,94,176 beneficiaries in the state. Madhya Pradesh has disbursed loans to 7,05,300 beneficiaries and Telangana to 5,09,590.

Anil Kumar further said that along with PM SVANidhi, the street vendors and their families were also availing benefits of PM Jeevan Jyoti, PM Suraksha Bima, Jan Dhan Account, One Nation One Ration Card, Janani Suraksha Yojana, PM Matritva Vandana Yojana, PM Shramyogi Maandhan and Registration under BOCW. The benefit of this scheme was being given in the state under the Swanidhi se

Samridhi program, in which 17,37,641 people were given the benefit of the scheme in the first phase, 3,19,260 in the second and 17,549 in the third.

So far, the benefit of eight central schemes has been given to 20,74,450 beneficiaries in the state. At the same time, Uttar Pradesh is also on top in the country in terms of digital transactions done by vendors. At present there are 4,90,240 digitally active vendors in the state, who have carried out digital transactions of Rs 63,78,24,790 so far. Maximum digital vendors are active in Varanasi, Firozabad, Prayagraj,

Jhansi and Lucknow.

In a review meeting regarding PM SVANidhi, CM Yogi directed officials to prioritise promotion of digital transactions by making digitally inactive vendors with zero transactions under PM SVANidhi active. Along with this, instructions were given to run a campaign to update the UPIID and mobile numbers of vendors using IDs other than the UPIID received from the bank on the portal. The campaign will seek to motivate vendors for digital activity in weekly camps every month under “Main Bhi Digital Abhiyan” and “SVANidhi Se Samridhih.”

# Polling for Council by-election today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Voting for the by-election to two seats of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council from the state assembly constituency will be held on Monday.

Samajwadi Party, by fielding two candidates in the bypoll, has forced polling. Usually the ruling party candidates are elected unopposed and opposition never fields its candidate.

The Bharatiya Janata Party candidates in the bypolls are Padmasen Chaudhary and Kunwar Manendra Singh. The BJP candidates are comfortably placed in the contest and are likely to easily sail through.

The strength of the UP assembly is 403 MLAs. The BJP has 255 MLAs. BJP ally Apna Dal (Sonela) has seven MLAs and NISHAD Party has six members.

Opposition SP has 109 MLAs and its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal has six MLAs. The other MLAs are two of Congress, one of Bahujan Samaj Party, one of Jansatta Dal and six of Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party. Two MLAs, Irfan Solanki of SP and Abbas Ansari of SBSP, are in jail.

The SP, for underlining its caste based identity, has fielded two candidates, one from Other Backward Classes and one from Scheduled Caste community.

The Election Commission of India had announced the bypoll on May 4. The by-election was caused by the resignation of sitting BJP MLC Lakshman Acharya, who has been appointed as the Governor of Sikkim, and the death of another sitting member Banwarilal Dohra.

In a bid to corner the OBC leaders of the BJP, the SP candi-

dates have written letters to these leaders seeking their support for their candidature. The SP candidates have written a letter to Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, his ministerial colleagues and BJP leaders urging them to listen to their conscience and support them.

The letter signed by both the SP candidates –Ram Jatan Rajbhar and Ramkaran Nirmal – says their party works for the uplift of backward and Dalits communities and promotes them, therefore all the members of the legislative assembly should support them in the council by-elections.

Among those to whom the letter has been sent include state cabinet minister Ashish Patel, a leader of BJP’s ally Apna Dal (Sonela); ministers Swatantra Dev Singh, Anil Rajbhar, Laxmi

Narayan Chaudhary and Dinesh Khatik. They have also written a letter to Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party leader Om Prakash Rajbhar, appealing for cooperation in the by-elections.

Meanwhile, the BJP, for keeping its flock of MLAs together, held their meeting on Saturday. A mock drill for training the MLAs in casting votes was also held on Sunday. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna conducted the training for the MLAs. Six MLAs of NISHAD Party, an ally of the BJP, will vote for the ruling party candidates.

The SP has also marshaled its MLAs and allies to be present in Lucknow and to vote for its two candidates. Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Chaudhary, an ally of the SP, was in Lucknow on Sunday. He said that the RLD would support the SP candidates.

# CM for immediate relief to those hit by rains, thunderstorm

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday instructed officials to carry out relief work with full promptness in view of loss caused due to rains and storms in various districts.

Yogi Adityanath directed senior officers of the district to visit the affected areas, keep an eye on the relief work and provide help to the affected people.

He gave instructions to provide the admissible relief amount of Rs 4 lakh to each affected family without any delay.

He said that those whose houses were damaged or animals were harmed should be provided immediate financial assistance.

The chief minister also gave instructions that after assessing the damage caused to the crops, the report should be made available to the government so that further action could be taken in this regard.

He also instructed the officials of the district administration to make arrangements for proper treatment of the injured by immediately shifting them to hospital.

# Three including a couple killed in ambulance-truck collision

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a road accident on Bijnor-Muzaffarnagar road in Muzaffarnagar on Saturday night, three people, including a patient, were killed and four others were injured when an ambulance collided with a speeding truck.

Giving this information on Sunday, local police officials claimed that Rishipal of Mohanpur, Bijnor, was having severe pain in his spinal cord so his family called an ambulance to shift him to hospital late Saturday night.

Rishipal’s brother Mamraj, his wife Baby, and a relative, Paramjeet, left home on the ambulance driven by Ponta Gamadi of Subhash Nagar in Muzaffarnagar. When the ambulance reached near Tissa village on Jolly Marg in Bhopa police station area, a speeding truck coming from the front collided with the ambulance, killing three people and seriously injuring two medical staff.

The local residents reached the spot on hearing the screams of the injured and immediately

informed the police about the accident. After getting information, the police reached the spot and with the help of the local people pulled out the people trapped in the ambulance and shifted them to hospital.

The condition of two of the injured was stated to be critical.

Local police station in-charge Sunil Kasana said that Rishipal (30), his wife Baby (28) and ambulance driver Subhash (26) were killed in the accident and the injured were undergoing treatment. The truck driver abandoned the vehicle and fled after the mishap. A case was registered in this regard and the bodies were sent for post-mortem. Efforts were being made to nab the truck driver.

Meanwhile, four people, including a man and his son, died in two separate road mishaps in Maharajganj.

In the first accident, a 35-year-old man and his son were killed and another son suffered serious injuries after their motorcycle was run over by a speeding tractor, police said on Sunday.

The accident occurred in the district’s Brijmanganj area at 8

pm on Saturday, police said.

Ajay was returning to the village with his sons –five-year-old Krishna and three-year-old Kanhaiya –when a speeding tractor allegedly ran over their motorcycle, the police said.

Ajay and Krishna died on the spot while Kanhaiya suffered serious injuries. He is undergoing treatment in a hospital and his condition is stated to be stable. Brijmanganj SHO Sanjay Kumar Mishra said the victims’ bodies were sent for post-mortem.

In another accident, two men were killed and one was injured when their car crashed into a road divider and overturned, police said on Sunday.

Kotwali Sadar SHO Ravi Kumar Rai said, “Three people were headed to Pharenda from Maharajganj in their car. The vehicle hit a road divider after losing control and overturned late on Saturday.”

Shivam Verma (25) and 23-year-old Abhinav Prajapati died on the spot while the third occupant, who sustained serious injuries, is undergoing treatment, Rai added.

# Kashi set to host G-20 Dev Ministers’ Meet from June 11

Lucknow (PNS): After the successful G-20 conference held in Varanasi last April, the Yogi Adityanath government gears up to host the G-20 Development Ministers’ meeting in Kashi from June 11 to June 13.

Uttar Pradesh is ready to welcome the guests from 20 powerful countries from around the world. A total of 11 G-20 meetings will be held in four cities in UP, including Greater Noida,

Lucknow, Agra and Varanasi, out of which six meetings will take place in Kashi alone.

A dinner will be organised on June 11 to welcome more than 40 ministers from different countries, heads of various departments, 160 foreign delegates and more than 100 foreign journalists who will reach Varanasi.

On June 12, the foreign guests will also participate in Ganga Aarti through cruise. After this,

on June 13, all the guests will visit Sarnath (the place where Lord Buddha preached) and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Hastkala Sankul, where they will be acquainted with the unique handicrafts of the Purvanchal region and the artisans.

Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra is personally monitoring the entire event and has given necessary guidelines to the officials of Varanasi. The city

commissioner is responsible for the decoration of Varanasi city, ADM (Protocol) is responsible for protocol logistics, hotel management, tourism and excursions.

The ADM will be responsible for the venue of the programme and the vice-chairman of Varanasi Development Authority has been deployed for public participation. The district magistrate and the divisional commissioner will review the work.

इंडियन बैंक (एनएस ईएस एनएस)			Indian Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking)		e-Auction	
ALLAHABAD						
Zonal Office: 10/379 Rameni (Tarauns), Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh - 210301						
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties [See proviso Rule 8 (6)]						
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets 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/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank), Zonal Office: 10/379 Rameni (Tarauns), Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh - 210301 as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 29.06.2023 for recovery of Bank's dues from Borrowers and Guarantors to the Secured Creditor. The details are described as below:						
No.	Name of Borrower/ Branch/Phone No.	Name of Property owner/Mortgagor	Bank's Dues	Details of Property	Reserve Price Earnest Money	Details of the encumbrance known to the Bank
1.	<b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Shubham Gupta S/o Mohan Lal Gupta, R/o Banda Sagar Road, Collector Ganj, Aboonagar Fatehpur, Branch: Abunagar, Fatehpur	Shubham Gupta S/o Mohan Lal Gupta R/o Banda Sagar Road, Collector Ganj, Aboonagar Fatehpur,	O/s as on 12.10.2022 <b>Rs. 8,01,541.00</b> + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses from 13.10.2022	One residential plot situated at Gata No. 2743 M, Revenue Village-Qasba Fatehpur north Known as Mohalla Ayodhya Kuti, City Fatehpur in the name of Shubham Gupta S/o Mohan Lal Gupta, <b>Area: 93 Sq. mtr.</b> <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Plot of Soni Gupta, West: Plot of Ram Autar Verma, North: Rasta Kachha 24 feet wide, South: Plot of Deegar, Property ID No.: <b>F0113333233742</b>	<b>Rs. 14.50 Lacs</b> <b>Rs. 1.45 Lacs</b>	-
2.	<b>Borrower :</b> Anil Singh S/o Prem Singh, <b>Borrower :</b> Saraswati W/o Prem Singh, <b>Both R/o</b> Behind the Prekshagrah, Civil Lines, Fatehpur <b>Branch: Abunagar, Fatehpur</b>	Anil Singh S/o Prem Singh, R/o Behind the Prekshagrah, Civil Lines, Fatehpur	O/s as on 13.01.2023 <b>Rs. 25,61,808.00</b> + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses from 14.01.2023	A residential plot at Part of Arazi No. 63, Village-Bakandha, Pargana, Tehsil & District- Fatehpur, in the name of Anil Singh S/o Prem Singh <b>Area: 93 Sq. mtr.</b> <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Land of Manoj Yadav, West: Rasta Kachha 20 feet, North: Plot of Rubi Bano, South: Plot of Seller Property ID No.: <b>F0113286534946</b>	<b>Rs. 22.50 Lacs</b> <b>Rs. 2.25 Lacs</b>	-
3.	<b>Borrowerr:</b> Shri Rohit Singh S/o Sahab Singh S/o Vijay Bahadur Sing <b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor:</b> Shri Sahab Singh S/o Vijay Bahadur Sing <b>Both R/o</b> Korra Kanak, District- Fatehpur <b>Branch: Abunagar, Fatehpur</b>	Sahab Singh S/o Vijay Bahadur Singh R/o Korra Kanak, District- Fatehpur 212661	O/s as on 19.01.2023 <b>Rs. 15,97,375.00</b> + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses from 20.01.2023	A residential Plot situated at Gata No. 436/4, 5 Village Sathariyaon, Pargana, Tehsil and District - Fatehpur in the Name of Sahab Singh S/o Vijay Bahadur Singh <b>Total Area: 99 Sq. mt.</b> <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Plot of Deegar, West: Rasta 20 Feet, North: Plot of Sudhir Singh, South: Plot of Vendor Property ID No.: <b>F0113282605956</b>	<b>Rs. 15.87 Lacs</b> <b>Rs. 1.587 Lacs</b>	-
4.	<b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor:</b> Shri Dinesh Kumar S/o Rajaram and <b>Borrower:</b> Smt. Sudha Devi W/o Dinesh Kumar, <b>Both R/o</b> Village Dhamina, Pargana Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur <b>Branch: Abunagar, Fatehpur</b>	Shri Dinesh Kumar S/o Rajaram R/o Village Dhamina, Pargana Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur	O/s as on 08.12.2022 <b>Rs. 12,61,804.00</b> + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses from 09.12.2022	One Plot Over Building of Ground Floor has been Constructed and Situated at, Khnasal/ survey Number- Gata No. 2812, Revenue Village Qasba Fatehpur South Known as Moh. Ayodhya Kuti, City Fatehpur, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur <b>Area: 93 Sq. mtr.</b> <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Plot of Vendor, West: Rasta Kachha 6 meter, North: Plot of Vendor, South: Plot of Vendor Property ID No.: <b>F0113276084190</b>	<b>Rs. 18.78 Lacs</b> <b>Rs. 1.878 Lacs</b>	-
5.	<b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor:</b> Shri Laxminarayan S/o Gaya Prasad and <b>Borrower:</b> Shri Ajay Kumar S/o Laxmi Narayan <b>Both R/o</b> Jail Road, Tambeshwar Nagar, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur <b>Branch: Abunagar, Fatehpur</b>	Shri Laxminarayan S/o Gaya Prasad R/o Jail Road, Tambeshwar Nagar, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur	O/s as on 12.10.2022 <b>Rs. 12,99,651.91</b> + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses from 13.10.2022	Plot/Gata number- 88 and 89 , revenue village- Habibpur (Rishi nagar) City Fatehpur., Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur in the name of Laxminarayan S/o Gaya Prasad <b>Area: 93 Sq. mtr.</b> <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Rasta Kachha 25 feet, West: Plot of Chandra Prakash, North: plot of Ranno devi, South: plot of Vijay Laxmi. Property ID No.: <b>F0113301210755</b>	<b>Rs. 15.80 Lacs</b> <b>Rs. 1.58 Lacs</b>	-
6.	<b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor:</b> Smt. Prabha Srivastava W/o Indresh Chandra Srivastava and <b>Borrower:</b> Shri Indresh Chandra Srivastava S/o Lt. Avinash Chandra <b>Both R/o</b> 44/40 Jaidoon Mohalla, Fatehpur <b>Branch: Abunagar, Fatehpur</b>	Smt. Prabha Srivastava W/o Indresh Chandra Srivastava R/o 44/40 Jaidoon Mohalla, Fatehpur	O/s as on 27.10.2021 <b>Rs. 35,50,855.00</b> + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses from 28.10.2022	One residential Plot at Mohalla- Aboonagar, Survey Number 173/156, G.T. Road , City- Fatehpur, U.P. <b>Area: 53 Sq. mtr.</b> <b>Boundaries:</b> East: House of Anand Swaroop Pandey, West: House of Keshav Agnihotri, North: Plot of Smt. Sadhna Mishra, South: G.T. Road. Property ID No.: <b>F0113276084190</b>	<b>Rs. 44.47 Lacs</b> <b>Rs. 4.447 Lacs</b>	-
7.	<b>Borrower:</b> Shri Shivmilan S/o Vijay Kishore and <b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor:</b> Shri Vijay Kishore S/o Chunku Prasad <b>Both R/o</b> Tambeshwar Nagar, Habibpur Fatehpur <b>Branch: Abunagar, Fatehpur</b>	Shri Vijay Kishore S/o Chunku Prasad R/o Tambeshwar Nagar, Habibpur Fatehpur	O/s as on 21.11.2022 <b>Rs. 23,96,003.00</b> + interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses from 22.11.2022	A residential plot at Part of Gata Number 303, Mohalla- Habibpur, qasba, Pargana, Tehsil and District Fatehpur, U.P. <b>Area: 70 Sq. mtr.</b> <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Plot of Raju, West: Rasta Kachha 15 feet, North: Plot of ram Shiromani, South: Plot of Bhaiyan Property ID No.: <b>F0113276800670</b>	<b>Rs. 22.76Lacs</b> <b>Rs. 2.276 Lacs</b>	-
Date & Time of submission of process Compliance form & EMD - 27.06.2023 upto 11 A.M. at and Date & Time of e-auction 29.06.2023 from 10.00 AM - 4.00 P.M with unlimited extension, with Bid incremental Amount. Rs. 10000/-						
For further details and Terms & Conditions Contact: Gaurav Johri (Auth. Officer) Mo. No. 9415102238 e-mail:- zohamirpur@indianbank.co.in				For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: 1. www.indianbank.co.in 2. https://www.ibapi.in 3. https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auCTIONhOme/ibapi		
Bidders are advised to visit the website ( <a href="http://www.mstcecommerce.com">www.mstcecommerce.com</a> ) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd. please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and condition please visit: <a href="https://ibapi.in">https://ibapi.in</a> and for clarification related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131						
Corporate Office: Avvai Shanmugam Salai Royalpettah, Chennai-600014						
Date: 29.05.2023		Place: Fatehpur			Authorized Officer, Indian Bank	



# Youth kills paramour, commits suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A youth, after killing his paramour with the sharp-edged weapon, committed suicide under the wheels of a train in Harrisganj under the Rail Bazar police station area late on Saturday night. He had an affair with the woman for the past three years. The woman used to often talk to her lover and refused to mend her ways despite efforts of her in-laws and husband.

According to a report, Barkha alias Versha (31) of Kyora, Nawabganj, was married to an electrician Krishna Kant Saini of Sakrapur, Vidhnu, about 13 years ago. She has two sons, Mayank and Keshav. She had affair with a local e-rickshaw operator Deepak Gupta (26) for the past three years. Her brother-in-law Santosh Saini said on the ‘teharvi’ of her

maternal uncle, Barkha had arrived at her parent’s house in Kyora, Nawabganj, on Saturday. Late at night a strange youth also arrived here and returned after some time. When her sister Kalpana heard Barkha’s children crying, she went to the room and found her dead with her throat slit.

The kin immediately informed Barkha’s husband Krishna Kant and the police about the incident. ACP Mohd Akmal Khan along with Nawabganj police and forensic team reached the spot and carried out investigation. Meanwhile, when a call was made to Barkha’s lover from her cellphone, a constable of GRP Central received it and informed that Deepak had committed suicide under the wheels of a train near Harrisganj railway track. ACP Colonelganj Mohd Akmal

Khan said the woman was killed by her paramour. On the complaint of her husband, an FIR had been lodged against Deepak Gupta, he said.

**MAN KILLED IN ACCIDENT:** An unidentified man was killed while two others were seriously injured when two trucks, after colliding head on rrammed into roadside handcart and a kiosk (betel shop) in Ghatampur police station area on Sunday morning. Both the injured were referred to the Kanpur hospital. A truck was coming from Hamirpur on Kanpur Road on Sunday morning. It knocked down another truck coming from Kanpur near Bhitargaon trisection and then rrammed into roadside handcart and the kiosk. In the incident Dharendra Shukla and Dipu Chandel alias Sandeep Singh of Basant Vihar locality

were injured. Besides, a man suddenly came under the wheels of the truck and was charred to death. His identity could not be ascertained. The police sent both the injured to the Ghatampur CHC from where they were referred to the LLR (Hallet) Hospital, Kanpur. The truck driver escaped while police have taken an elderly man present in the vehicle into custody. He is stated to be the cleaner of the truck. It took around one hour to retrieve the charred body of the man crushed under the truck wheel. With the help of a crane, men police got the truck removed from the spot, the body of the unidentified man could be retrieved. Inspector Ashok Kumar Dubey said injured were under treatment at the hospital while efforts were on to ascertain the identity of the deceased.

# Man killed as car rams into stationary truck

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

An elderly man was killed while four others were seriously injured when their uncontrolled car rrammed into a stationary truck on the roadside near Madhavbagh Bazar under Vidhnu police station on early on Sunday morning. The incident took place when the car driver dozed off and lost control over the vehicle. The police rushed to spot and admitted all the injured to hospital. Shyam Sunder (65) of Veerpur, Hamirpur, was going to Lucknow along with wife Ashok Rani, son Arvind, daughter-in-law Anita and driver Lalit for treatment. Around 4 am near Madhavbagh Bazar his uncontrolled car suddenly rrammed into the truck on the roadside. As a result all the five persons were seriously injured. The police admitted them to Vidhnu community health cen-

tre (CHC) and from there they were referred to the LLR (Hallet) Hospital. During treatment Shyam Sunder succumbed to his injuries while the condition of the other injured was also stated to be critical. Station House Officer (SHO) Satish Rathaur said as the driver dozed off the car rrammed into a stationary truck from behind. On the basis of complaint, a first information report (FIR) will be lodged and action will be taken in the matter, he said.

**SEARCH ON:** Two cousin brothers had gone to a pond for bathing in Belatal village of Mahoba on Sunday morning. While doing so one of them went into the area where water was deep and the other tried to rescue him and started slipping into the area where the water was deep. While one of them somehow rescued himself while efforts to trace the other youth

till late evening. Fire brigade and divers’ team were pressed into service. Hari Om Ahirwar of Lamaura of Kulpahar Kotwali, is posted in SP, Oraí office, as a constable. His son Kuldeep (16), a student of class XI, along

ter anyhow managed to come out of the pond and informed the kin. Villagers with the help of divers made a futile attempt to recover Kuldeep from the water. Thereafter, the fire brigade and divers carried out



with cousin Dharendra had gone for bathing in Belasagar pond on Sunday. During it Kuldeep went deep into the water. When Dharendra tried to rescue him, he himself started slipping into the deep. The lat-

the rescue operation with the help of the net and barbed wires but failed to recover the youth even after several hours of the incident last reports said. Senior police and district administration officers also reached the spot.

# Tablet distribution programme held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush, Food Safety and Drug Administration Dr Daya Shankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’ on Sunday said that the youths would technically be efficient from the ‘digishakti’ (digital power). He was speaking as chief guest in the tablet distribution programme held in Harishchandra PG College in Maidagin here under the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme i.e. digishakti scheme.

These gadgets have more importance to get better education in the present digital era especially after the corona pandemic when the mode of study has become online, Dayalu said, adding that this scheme will bring digital revolution and the students will technically be efficient from this scheme. He suggested the beneficiaries use the tablets to make their career.

The Principal of college Prof Rajneesh Kunwar exhorted the students to be careful from cyber crime and advised them to install digiapp in their tablets. To have technical knowledge is the need of hour in today’s digital age, he said and added that today, India is being equipped with the modern technical knowledge with the conventional knowledge. Prof Prabhakar Singh of UP Rajarshi Tandon Study Centre informed that as many as 76 tablets were distributed in the tablet distribution programme. Sanjay Srivastava conducted it, while Prof Pankaj Singh, Prof Anupam Shahi, Prof Anuradha Rai, Dr Sumit



UP Minister Dr Daya Shankar Mishra ‘Dayalu’ with the beneficiaries who got tablets in Harishchandra PG College.

Kumar, Dr Roshan Jaiswal, Dr Ramashish Yadav, Nidhi, Prof Anil Kumar and others were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, as many as 253 tablets were distributed among the students in a programme held in the auditorium of Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on Saturday under the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest and former state minister Dr Neelkanth Tiwari said that each and every sector is witnessing

change nowadays while registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh said that the information technology has brought revolutionary change in the society and this scheme will prove a milestone in the positive building of the nation. The rector Prof VK Shukla presided over it.

The dean of Student’s Welfare Prof Anupam Kumar Nema informed that the smartphone will be provided to the graduate students and tablets will be provided to the postgraduate students and research scholar under the

scheme and added that as many as 235 tablets were distributed among the postgraduate students and research scholars of the institute in the programme, while a total of 1,075 tablets are to be distributed under the first phase of the scheme.

The Director of institute Prof AK Tripathi welcomed the guests and the dean of science faculty Prof SM Singh conducted it. Assistant registrar Kamala Prasad, student counselor Nityanand Tiwari and others were present on the occasion.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A youth, missing since past two days, was found dead on the railway track in Ghatampur police area on Sunday morning. The Government Railway Police (GRP) sent the body for an autopsy and informed the kin of the deceased. The father of the deceased alleged the killing of his son. The deceased was identified as Manish Sachan alias Gore, a resident of Yogendra Vihar, Naubasta. GRP sub-inspector Devendra Singh said after sending the body for an autopsy, probe was on in the matter. The son of Kailash Nath, Manish had left house on May 26 morning to deposit the electricity bill. When he did not return home till late in the evening, his family members tried to look for him but failed. The next morning, Kailash Nath lodged a complaint about his son going missing at the Hanumant Vihar police station. He alleged that some unidentified persons had killed his son. SHO Ghatampur Ashok Kumar Dubey said as the complaint for youth’s missing was lodged with the Hanumant Vihar police, the latter will probe the matter.

Meanwhile a middle-aged man was killed while five others, including his wife and daughter, were seriously injured when their auto overturned after being knocked down by a speeding car near Hansemau village under Bhognipur police station area of Kanpur Dehat on Sunday morning. The police sent all

the injured to hospital. Chhotelal (52) of Dudiamau village in Baraur police station, along with wife Saroj (50) and daughter Anjali (17) was going to Bichhrauli, Jalaun, to meet his relatives. They boarded the auto from Baraur for Bhognipur. On the Bara-Kalpi highway, the auto overturned on being knocked by a speeding car near Hansemau village of Bhognipur police station area. This led to killing of Chhotelal while his wife and daughter along with Santosh

youth was killed while his elder brother was seriously injured when their bike suddenly slipped on the Bundelkhand Expressway in Auraiya on Sunday noon. Both had arrived here to attend sister’s marriage.

After sending the body of the victim for autopsy, police informed his kin. The incident took place when they were returning to Delhi from Karbi (Chitrakoot Dham) on bike. After their bike skidded near Mihauli, it dragged them up to 50 metres and after colliding

Karbi (Chitrakoot Dham) along with elder brother Shivam (24) had proceeded for Delhi around 9 am on Sunday. Pawan was employed in a private firm by living with elder brother Shivam in Delhi. In order to attend their sister Laxmi’s marriage, both had arrived in the village from Delhi on a bike. While returning to Delhi, they met with an accident near Mihauli village in Auraiya district on the Bundelkhand Expressway around 12 noon and were seriously injured. At the dis-



(60) of Baraur, Rama alias Ramrani (60) wife of Ramesh of Saidlipur and auto driver Afzal (35) of Kailai village were seriously injured. The Bhognipur Kotwali incharge Ajay Pal rushed to the spot and sent all the injured to the district hospital.

In yet another incident a

with a road divider, younger brother sustained injury in his chest and succumbed to it on the spot. The injured elder brother was referred to the Medical College, Safai, from the district hospital. According to reports, Pawan (22), son of Chintamani of Sitapur Bandh Talab village,

trict hospital, Pawan was declared dead while Shivam was referred for the Saifai Medical College. Sadar Kotwali Incharge Pankaj Mishra said kin of the deceased and injured had been informed. He said the incident took place after their bike skidded.

# Divyangs keep audience spellbound

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divyangs (persons with disabilities) from six states kept the audience spellbound presenting a variety of cultural programmes and yoga in the Divyakala Shakti Programme organised by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh jointly in association with Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRC), Lucknow at Rudraksh Convention Centre, Sagra here on Saturday evening.

In the programme, Divyangs from UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa showcased their potential. Showing their talents, Rini Bhattacharya presented a programme on piano and won the hearts of all. The classical music by Ananya Bhardwaj, singing by Shahista Parveen, group dance by students of Jeevan Jyoti Special School (Varanasi), yoga performance by participants of Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang University, Chitrakoot and group dance by the students of Nava Vani School (Varanasi) enthralled the audience.

Besides, the presentation of dances by Rimpi Rai and Korok Vishwas, Bharatnatyam dance by Manasi Srivastava, group dances by participants of Institute for the



Persons with disabilities presenting a cultural programme in Varanasi on Saturday evening.

Handicapped and Backward People and Kiran Society (Varanasi), folk dance by a group of Jharkhand and dance performance by Satya Sagarika received a lot of appreciations from the audience.

Apart from the same, along with Rani Khanam as the choreographer, her team provided excellence to all the Divyangians to showcase their divine talents. Earlier, welcoming the guests Joint Secretary Rajeev Sharma said that today all the Divyangian are rejoicing after receiving the great affection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In his address, Kamla Kant Pandey of Rehabilitation Council of India said that the

government is continuously creating new educational, vocational and skill-rich programmes for the disabled persons.

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam said that our effort is to build a beautiful, clean and accessible Kashi with the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. While speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, Secretary, Disabled Empowerment department, Rajesh Agrawal said that at present, the best empowerment of disabled people is taking place as per the intention of the PM. “Yoga based presentation was the most beautiful among the presentations. On the occasion of World Yoga Day on 21st

June, we will register a record in the Guinness Book of World Records by making more than 3,000 Divyangians do yoga together in Secunderabad. Today, 100 per cent empowerment of Divyangian is taking place,” he said.

Director CRC (Lucknow) Ramesh Pandey proposed the vote of thanks. In the program, more than 1,500 spectators from different states were present and the programmes were watched by thousands through YouTube.

Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal and Prof SS Pandey of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) were also present.

# ‘Stage performance a medium of overall development’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The stage performance is not only a presentation but also is a medium of the overall development. These words were expressed on Saturday by the speaker in the inaugural function of a 40 days drama training workshop being held at Bhartiya Shiksha Mandir in Englishia Line here by Banaras Youth Theatre Academy in association with Sanskriti Bharati.

The workshop of stage performance is a small school of personality development for the participants, the social activists Rekha Sharma and



Upendra Vinayak Sahastrabudde expressing his views in the inaugural function of 40-days drama training workshop.

other speakers said, adding that the workshop would also explore the talents. The president of Academy Utkarsh Upendra Sahasrabudde threw light on the utility of Sanskrit drama.

The principal of Bharatiya Shiksha Mandir Tharu Chandra Tripathi and member of the Sanskriti Bharti Trust Prof Rachana Dubey mainly expressed their views. Dr Upendra Vinayak Sahasrabudde conducted it and Pramod Pathak offered a vote of thanks. The posters of Prerana Chitra Bharti Film Utsav were also released on the occasion.

# T-20 cricket championship to be organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Sir Padampat Singhania Sports Academy (SPSSA) will organise an inter-club T-20 cricket championship of Division A for the first time in the city. All the matches will be played at the Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre ground with colour dress, live streaming and runout camera. Teams interested to participate in the tournament may contact the organising committee at mobile no 8303442342 till May 31 for registration. This has been informed by Ashish Chauhan of SPSSA in a press released issued on Sunday.

**TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP:** As many as eight EWS players of The Sportz Hub, who passed the

belt promotion test organised by the Kanpur Taekwondo Association, were awarded the belt and certificates on Saturday. In white to yellow belt test, Samar, Ishu Kumar and Anshu Sonkar were declared successful while Shreyas Singh passed the yellow to green test. Divyanshi Nigam and Aryan Shukla passed in green to green one test while Priyanshu Shah and Priya, in red to red one test. Aryan Shukla had won the silver medal in KSS Taekwondo Championship in U-14 category while Gazal Singh bagged the gold medal in ISC State Trial Championship. TSH Director (Operations) PK Srivastava congratulated the players and wished them a bright future.





# RSS leader: Awakening spirit of nationalism our aim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prant Pracharak (Kashi) of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Ramesh Chandra said that the awakening of the spirit of nationalism is the main aim of Sangh Shiksha Varg (education wing). He was speaking at the inaugural session of this education wing here on Saturday. He said that the Sangh Shiksha is the name of making one from Swayamsevak (volunteer) to Karyakarta (worker).

He further said that along with the development of qualities of a person, training involves the purification of mind, body and soul. "Training is necessary to increase the goodwill of the worker," he said, adding that the training programmes in the Sangh are organised in four stages, first (primary) of seven days primary, second of 20 days (first year), third again of 20 days (second year) and finally, the fourth one of 25 days (third year) which is held in RSS headquarters at Nagpur.

The RSS leader said that every swayamsevak should come out innocent through training, "This is the main



Shiksha Varg training of RSS being held in Varanasi on Saturday.

feeling, how to convert the disorders of the mind into sanskars (culture), this is the subject of training," he said, adding that the Sangh Shiksha Varg does not train big mysterious things, but small ones. "Sanskars are given to the participants as it is the duty of the swayamsevak to follow the information literally. Collective life, collective thoughts, collective living is the unique style of the Sangh," he said.

Earlier, the programme started by lighting the lamp in

front of the picture of Bharat Mata.

The lighting of the lamp was done by chief speaker Ramesh along with Kashi Prant's Sah Prant Sangchalak Angraj and Sangh Shiksha Varg (first year Varg Adhikari) Puneet Lal. Sah Prant Karyavah Rakesh introduced the officers present in the class system. A total of 318 students are receiving training in the class.

Learners from four departments of Kashi province, Kashi, Jaunpur, Sonbhadra and

Vindhyachal departments are present in the class. In the inaugural session, Satchidananda was announced as Varg Karyavah.

The Varg will conclude on June 15. Many office-bearers of Kashi Prant unit of Shiksha Varg present including Sah Prant Pracharak Munish, Varg Palak Adhikari Ramchandra, Mukhya Shikshak Pravesh, Sarv Vyavastha Pramukh Gauri Shankar and Baudhik (intellectual) Palak Adhikari Krishnachandra.

# 3 killed as tractor-trolley overturns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Three people, including two women, were killed when a tractor-trolley carrying 30 people became uncontrolled and overturned in a canal late on Saturday night. All the injured were admitted to Koraon CHC. When the condition of four was found to be critical, they were referred to Prayagraj. The incident occurred at Barhula Kala of Koraon police station. Buddha Sen's sister Gudiya Devi of Madfa Kala, Koraon, Yamunanagar gave a birth to a boy. Buddha Sen along with 30 of his relatives had gone to his sister's village on Saturday. After performing a ritual there, everyone was returning home when the tractor-trolley overturned in the canal.

According to the police, there were about 30 to 35 people in the tractor-trolley. A bike rider coming from the front on the Barhula Kala Canal track

collided with the side of the tractor due to which its driver lost control over the steering. As a result the tractor along with the trolley overturned in the canal. Due to commotion, the people of the nearby village ran to the spot and informed the police. After which the people trapped in the tractor-trolley were pulled out. The police called an ambulance and sent everyone to the CHC Koraon. Where the doctors declared Buddha Sen's wife Rita Devi (40) of Madfa Kala, Suman Devi (42), wife of Anil Kumar of Tudiya, Koraon and Ashish alias Golu (15) of Madfa Kala, Koraon, dead on arrival. The treatment of the rest of the injured has been started.

Among the injured, Shivkumari (35) of Madfa Kala, Koraon, Ramchandra (50) of Manikpur, Lalganj, Mirzapur, Hareram (45) son of Goput and Lalta Prasad (21) son of Ramjanak of Madfa Kala,

Koraon are said to be in a critical condition and were referred to the SRN Hospital. The rest of the injured are undergoing treatment at Koraon CHC.

Inspector Koraon Dharendra Singh said in the investigation it came to the fore that tractor driver was drunk. The bike rider was pushed from the side. Due to which he had increased the speed of the tractor in panic. Suddenly there was a turning point due to which he could not understand and the tractor-trolley overturned in the canal.

**VIDEO GOES VIRAL:** A video of the insult of the tricolour has surfaced in the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation's house. In the meeting hall of the House, where the mayor's chair is placed, the tricolour has been put in place of the curtain in the window behind it. The video went viral on the social media.

Earlier there were 80 wards in Prayagraj Nigar Nigam. Earlier there used to be 80 corporators. The number of wards has increased to 100 in the Municipal Corporation General Election 2023. Seating arrangements are being made for 20 increased corporators. and the work of renovation is going on.

The House Hall is being further beautified and painting and whitewash work is also going on. There is a large window in the middle of the House Hall just behind where the mayor's chair is placed. Instead of the curtain, the tricolour has been put up.

When it was discussed with the Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani he said painting work of the Sadan Hall is going on. Someone has done this act in ignorance.

Strict action will be taken against whoever has done it, he added.

# Mutant 6 virus of polio found in drain water

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The mutant 6 virus of polio has been found in the drain water of Gaughat. Random sampling of water was done by WHO and Health department. It has been confirmed in it. Since then the health department has been alerted. Its report has also been sent to higher officials.

Joint Director (Health), Dr VK Mishra, explains, "The polio virus enters the body through a person's mouth and exits through the anus. They will go to the sewer only, the sewer will be connected to some drain only. This is the reason why sampling of drain water is done to identify this virus. Recently, its sampling

was done by WHO. When it was examined, it has been confirmed that the mutant 6 virus has been found."

He explained further, "From Sunday the campaign to administer polio drops has started and it will last for six days. Special focus is being laid on such places where the risk of getting this virus is high.

Instructions have been given to the Prayagraj team from Delhi WHO to increase surveillance in the city. Polio dose should be given from house to house. A WHO official said there is no danger just by confirming the mutant, but if ignored then it can be dangerous. This Mutant-6 has come out of the feces of a child. Dr Mishra said India is free from polio. Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Mozambique are the three countries in the world that are not polio free. There people are avoiding polio drops. Pakistan is the neighboring country of India. People come and go to India from there. That's why India is more at risk than Pakistan. This is the reason why sampling is done regularly by the department. It is seen that there is no danger of polio here.

Experts say that there are three types of polio virus. WPV-1, WPV-2 and WPV-3 viruses. Talking about Uttar Pradesh, the last case of WPV-1 was detected here on January 13, 2009 in Moradabad city. The last case of WPV-2 was found on October 24, 1999. Similarly, the last case of WPV-3 virus was found on April 21,

2010 in Firozabad.

The WHO declared India a polio-free country on March 27, 2014. No polio case has been reported in India since 2011.

The last case of type-1 of polio was reported in Howrah district in 2011. After this WHO had removed India from the list of polio affected countries in 2012.

The polio campaign was started for the first time on October 2, 1994, in Delhi. This campaign was named "Do Boond Zindagi Ke Liye". Polio drops campaign is conducted every year in the country. To ensure that the country remains polio free, these campaigns are carried out even after the country is declared polio free.

# CMO launches pulse polio drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary inaugurated the campaign by administering polio drops to the children on Booth Day organised at Badagaon Primary Health Centre (PHC) here on Sunday. The CMO said that polio drops were administered to children at the booths during the day in the entire district and from Monday to June 2, the health department team will go door-to-door to administer polio drops.

Under the campaign, a target has been set to give anti-polio drops to 5,68,511 children from zero to five years in the district. "The polio medicine is completely safe and effective," he said, appealing to the parents to give polio drops to their children from birth till the age of five years apart from all the vaccines of regular vaccination on time according to their age.

District Immunization Officer (DIO) Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma said that polio drops were administered to children from birth to five years in health centres, primary schools and composite schools on Sunday. Pulse polio drops are given at the time of birth. Apart from this, this drop is also given at six, ten and fourteen weeks. Its booster dose is given at 16 to 24 months.

ACMO Dr AK Maurya,



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary giving pulse polio drops to a child in Varanasi on Sunday.

Deputy DIO Dr Yatish Bhawan Pathak, MOIC Dr Manoj Verma, Dr Varun, Dr Kunal, Dr Satrupa from WHO, Pradeep Vishwakarma and Dr Shahid from UNICEF, Ashutosh Mishra from UNDP and other officers and health workers were present on the occasion.

On the other hand, children were administered polio

drops at Kashi Vidyapeeth CHC, Manduadih PHC, Bhati, Malaria, Tarapur, Madarva health centres, Lahiya Primary School in Araziline block, Latauni Anganwadi centre in Cholaapur and other booths. Dr Ajay Singh, who reached Kashi Vidyapeeth CHC, gave polio drops to his one and a half year old girl. "We have full faith in government vaccines. Everyone

must give polio medicine to their children and also complete regular vaccination," he said.

Preeti, who reached Manduadih PHC, administered polio drop to her one and a half month old child and said that that all types of vaccines have been administered from the government vaccination centres.

# RPF arrests 648 persons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

While taking action against unauthorised chain pulling in passenger trains running under Prayagraj division, 648 persons were arrested by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) from January to May 25 this year.

Public relations officer (PRO), Prayagraj Division Amit Singh said the Indian Railways has installed emergency alarm chains in all the coaches of passenger trains for the convenience, safety and use of its passengers in case of an emergency. But many times chain pulling is done unnecessarily by the passengers and the drive is against them. A total

amount of Rs 9,145 was realised from 82 persons at the Prayagraj Junction, 58 persons were fined Rs 8,795 at the Kanpur railway station, 79 persons were fined Rs 6,820 at the Etawah railway station and 105 persons were fined at the Aligarh railway station with a total sum of Rs 27,975. By conducting awareness campaigns from time to time in the schools and villages around the station, it is explained by the RPF not to pull the alarm chain without proper reason.

Legal action is being taken against those who are involved in unauthorised chain pulling by registering cases under Section 141 of the Railway

Act. In the said act there is a provision of fine of Rs 1,000 or imprisonment of one year, or both, explained the PRO.

**DM'S DIRECTIVE:** Instructions have been issued by the district magistrate to stop ultrasound in three big hospitals here. It also includes a hospital located in Civil Lines. The registration of ultrasound centres of a hospital located in Jhalwa and of a hospital operated in Koraon has been cancelled.

Nodal officer of ultrasound centres Dr Arun Kumar Tiwari said that these three ultrasound centres did not renew their registration despite completion of five years. While the rule is that it is mandatory to

renew the registration of ultrasound centres every five years. He said that one should have applied for the renewal process a month ago but negligence has been done on the part of all the three hospitals.

In the District Advisory Committee meeting, approval was given to open 26 new ultrasound centres here similarly approval has been given for renovation of 11 old centres. The operators for four centres had applied before the committee for change of location of their centres which has been approved.

Dr Tiwari said that about 250 ultrasound centers are being operated in the district.

# Rare heart surgery at SSH BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For the first time not only in Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH) of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) but in the entire Purvanchal (eastern UP), an aortic root replacement (ARR) was successfully done when Prof Sanjay Kumar, Head of the department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU when his team operated a 56 years old female patient with Bentall procedure.

Prof Kumar said that the patient was diagnosed with severe incompetence of aortic valve, dilated aortic root and ascending aorta of the heart. "She was suffering with progressive shortness of breath and chest pain over last year. This heart condition is deadly and if left untreated it leads to poor quality of life and demise of the patients due to heart failure," he said and added, "Aortic root replacement consists of replacing valve, sinuses of valsalva with varying amount of the ascending aorta or combination thereof and this also involves re-implantation of the coronary artery and technically challenging."

Prof Kumar said that ARR including various valve surgeries, coronary artery bypass surgery, redo surgery, congenital cardiac surgery, surgery for aorta and vascular surgery are done on routine basis at the SSH in BHU. The team of doctors which performed this successful ARR with Bentall procedure was led by Prof Sanjay Kumar and supported



Surgeon Prof Sanjay Kumar along with patient after a successful rare heart surgery at SSH BHU in Varanasi.

by surgeons Dr Dev Biswas, Meghna Banerjee. The team comprised Prof RB Singh who led the anaesthesia team, Dinesh Maiti, Soumyajit Roy and Akhlesh Maurya (perfusion team) and Trivendra Tyagi, Rahul, Chitranjan and Vikas (all nursing staff).

"The patient recovered well and will be discharged soon from the hospital," Prof Kumar said, adding that the procedure is a complex open-heart surgery. He said that the patient has been able to resume her usual routine within seven days of her surgery. "The procedure like ARR is an important landmark development as SSH BHU has become the only hospital in Purvanchal to have this facility. The SSH BHU caters to the need of a large population from parts of

Bihar, UP and adjoining state Madhya Pradesh. Having modern facilities and high success results of open-heart surgery to cure sick patients is a major boon for the healthcare ecosystem here," said Prof Kumar, who has worked in Yale University, School of Medicine, Connecticut, USA as a heart transplant surgeon.

Prof Kumar is keen to start the heart transplant facility in BHU and wants to make SSH, BHU a proud centre in UP as well as in India. He started the regular open heart surgery for the first time in SSH BHU in 2009 and he is playing a consequential role to develop the department of Cardiothoracic surgery. For his successful operation, Prof Kumar was greeted by Rector Prof VK Shukla, IMS Director Prof SK

Singh and SSH Medical Superintendent Prof KK Gupta.

**EYE TESTING CAMP HELD:** The Punjab National Bank (PNB) in association with Centre for Sight Eye Care Hospital Network organised an eye testing camp at its divisional office here.

The divisional head and DGM Rajesh Kumar inaugurated the camp by getting his eye tested by a team of doctors. The officers, employees and other staff of the bank got their eyes tested besides the staff of other offices and common people.

The doctor's team of the Centre for Sight Eye Care Hospital Network advised the bank staff and others to care for their eyes and also distributed requisite medicines among them.

# Annakshetra empowering women: Mahant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Kashi Annapurna Annakshetra Trust, run by Annapurna Mata Mandir, will provide certificates and sewing machines to about 120 women on the completion of the free training in sewing. The sewing machines and laptops will be distributed at a function to be held at Arya Mahila Post-Graduate College, Chetganj here on June 1. Giving this information while addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Mahant of Annapurna Mandir Shankar Puri said the Annakshetra Trust is empowering women and making them self-reliant. He further said that the sewing machines, which could not be distributed to the 104 participants of the training session held in 2020-21 due to the lockdown, will also be distributed in the function. He said that with the aim to make the women self-reliant in the society, Trust has been doing social work and it would continue to do so in the future.

He further said that after the completion of the free computer training session run by the organisation, laptops will also be given to the areas which get first position in the computer training DCA course



Mahant Shankar Puri (right) of Annapurna Mandir addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Sunday

and tele course. Manager Kashi Mishra said that this time the sewing machines will be given to the women who have passed away two years ago due to the noble initiative of Mahant Shankar Puri so that their future can be made bright.

**HELPLINE NO. ISSUED FOR ELDERS:** Those who torture the elders, can now face the music and even legal action could be taken against them as the Social Welfare department has issued toll free helpline number-14567 for their help. The Social Welfare department has issued a toll free helpline number-14567 under

a scheme of the central government to check the exploitation of the elders and address their problems under which the department and police will jointly take action. If any elderly person faces any problem, can lodge his/her complaint at the helpline number and the senior citizen officer of the Social Welfare department will reach the victim's house to address the problem. The officer will also do the counseling of the elders. The legal action could also be taken against those who torture the elders.

**EXAM OF SHASTRI & ACHARYA TO BE HELD**

**FROM JUNE 16:** The main examination of Shastri and Acharya of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) and affiliated colleges will be conducted from June 16 to 18. The varsity administration has announced the schedule of the examination. The examination committee of the SSU met with the Vice-Chancellor Prof Hareram Tripathi in the chair and decided to conduct the main examination of Shastri and Acharya from June 16 to 28 in two shifts from 7 am to 10 am and from 2 pm to 5 pm, the Controller of Examination Prof Sudhakar Mishra informed. The examination committee also decided to conduct the main examination of Madhyama, Pre-Madhyama and Post-Madhyama from June 17 to 27 in two shifts from 7 am to 10 am and from 2 pm to 5 pm. The main examination of Shastri and Acharya (second and fourth semester) of SSU and affiliated colleges will be conducted from June 16 to 18, while the examination of Madhyama, Pre-Madhyama and Post-Madhyama of the affiliated colleges of other states will be conducted from June 16 to 27 at various examination centres together, the V-C informed



## Respect the temple

Leaders say Parliament is the temple of democracy, so they should not desecrate it with pandemonium

The inauguration of the new parliament building and installation of a historic sceptre 'Sengol' near the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with other related activities on Sunday, will continue to be debated for some time. Supporters and members of the Government and Bharatiya Janata Party will reiterate grandiloquent statements, lauding the very idea of getting a new Parliament, its symbolism-heavy architecture and furnishing, and so on. The Opposition, on the other hand, will continue to make barbed remarks about the entire affair, as it has been in the last few days. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor had earlier quoted Articles 60 and 111 of the Constitution, claiming that as head of Parliament, the President should have inaugurated the building. The TMC's reaction was a mix of condemnation and ridicule: the Prime Minister inaugurating the new Parliament building was akin to "I only love myself day," party MP Derek O'Brien said on Sunday. It is indubitable, however, that the country needed a new Parliament. The need was felt not just by this Government but also earlier. In 2012, Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar had constituted a high-powered committee to recommend an alternate complex to the old Parliament building. But the need was just on the grounds of functionality, though these were sufficient enough for the alternate building. The old structure, made a century ago, could not cope with the requirements that have arisen in this period. The Prime Minister rightly said that the new Parliament is not just a building but a reflection of the aspirations and dreams of 140 crore Indians.

"This is a temple of our democracy that gives a message of India's resolution to the world," he said. "This new Parliament building connects planning to reality, policy to realisation, willpower to execution, and sankalp to siddhi," he added. He went on to say, "India is not only a democratic nation but also the mother of democracy." For, he asserted, democracy is not just a system that is practiced in India but it is a culture, thought and tradition. The roots of democracy in our country, he correctly said, go back to the Vedas and Vaishali in modern Bihar. Parliament has been called the temple of democracy by many people, both from the Government and the Opposition. So, it is the duty of all political parties and leaders to ensure that the sanctity of this temple is upheld by everyone in every circumstance all the time. This temple should not suffer any desecration. It means that business is conducted in both Houses in the best traditions of democracy. Senior leaders should ensure that when an opponent is speaking, he or she is allowed to say whatever they want to, that they are not shouted down. Also, all parliamentarians should respect the chair, speak within the timeframe that is provided to them, and so on. This will strengthen our democracy.

### PICTALK



Kashmiri Pandit devotees light earthen lamps during the Kheer Bhawani Mela, at Tulmala in Ganderbal district. PTI

## Battling cultural taboos in Uttarakhand

The need for comprehensive menstrual education, access to hygienic sanitary products, and an end to discriminatory practices is paramount

Although menstruation is a natural process for women and girls, it continues to be associated with deep-rooted stigma, imposing daily challenges, and hindering their growth. Lack of scientific menstrual awareness and management pushes adolescent girls in most parts of India to seclusion and torment within their own homes, making it a harrowing experience. In villages that are tucked away in the hilly states, the situation is quite shocking.

Disha (name changed), a 16-year-old from Pothing village in Bageshwar district, Uttarakhand, shares her distressing experience, "At times, I hide from my parents while I menstruate because it's a torture to stay in a cowshed. Often, I go through severe cramps, but as I don't inform my parents about getting periods, I refrain from sharing my pain. But I cannot put up this act every month because my mother ends up suspecting pregnancy."

Culturally in India, women and girls still face discrimination and inhumane treatment during menstruation, and Uttarakhand is no



exception. The practices around menstruation differ in each village but there are certain rules across the region that menstruating girls and women have to follow.

In Pothing village, for instance, when a girl gets her period for the first time, she is banished to a cowshed outside the house for 21 days. Consequently, these girls spend a total of 60 days each year eating, sleeping, and studying with cattle. During this time, they not only stay away from their homes but are also forbidden from using the household toilet. "The most dreaded times are the bitterly cold months of December and January when we have to go to the river at 4-5 AM in the morning to take a bath. We try to use fewer blankets during winter

nights as washing them every day is quite laborious," reveals Nisha Gadiya, another adolescent girl from the village.

Aside from the unsanitary conditions, the girls lack essential support during their periods. "During this time, we do not even receive timely meals, which leaves us feeling weak. Because of this, we can't study properly. Moreover, sanitary pads are not readily available even at the chemist shops located quite far away from our village, and affording them is another challenge. We resort to using clothes during our periods," adds Nisha.

These practices have turned the menstrual cycle into a traumatic experience for adolescent girls as they fear staying alone outside their homes. "Younger girls are usually afraid to sleep alone away from home in the cowshed at night. When we were young, we dreaded being imprisoned for a few days each month, as if we had committed a crime. We would cry alone at night, thinking how good it would have been if our period had never come at all," expresses 17-year-old Maya.

The villagers firmly believe that menstruating women are impure, and any physical contact during this period will make the other person fall sick. Purification rituals involving cow urine are performed to counter such perceived impurities. While highlighting the deep-rooted nature of these superstitions, Chandra Gadia, a teacher from the village, shares, "There is an urgent need to challenge these 'man'-made laws. It is imperative to put an end to any form of violence inflicted upon women and adolescent girls in the name of customs and rituals," emphasizes Chandra. The need for comprehensive menstrual education, access to hygienic sanitary products, and an end to discriminatory practices is paramount. Advocacy and awareness programs should be implemented, not only in Pothing Village but throughout the region, to combat these deep-seated taboos and foster a society that embraces menstrual health and dignity.

(The writer is a recipient of the Sanjoy Ghose Media Awards 2022) Charkha Features



DOLLY GADIYA



FIRST COLUMN

## ‘SENGOL’ GETS ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE

The ‘Sengol’ has been installed next to the Speaker’s chair by the PM in new Parliament



THIRUVANNATHAPURAM S **RAMAKRISHNAN**

‘Sengol’ has been quoted in Tamil literature very extensively for the various attributes it presents. The essential meaning of righteousness for SENGOL refers to a ruler’s dispensation of justice to his citizens, even if it is detrimental to the King or the King’s family. If the King fails in his duty either due to failure to cross-verify the facts, deliver justice in haste, overlook the facts before him, or due to circumstantial evidence or sheer human error, he is bound to fall from the grace of people, and he is also expected to face the punishment for failing to give justice, which must be imposed on him by himself.

This is where the King is expected to have the grace of the Almighty in acquitting himself well while delivering justice in extremely complicated cases. There were times when to know the truth, the King prayed to the Almighty to give a clue of what went on at the crime scene, and when he got the clue, he gave the right judgement. A lady was pierced with an arrow and died when she was under the tree with her husband.

The husband noticed a hunter with a bow and arrow in the surroundings, and he accused the hunter of killing his wife with his arrow. But the hunter firmly denied that he did not shoot the arrow. The King came to know the truth with the Divine Grace: the arrow had been pierced in one of the leaves of the tree earlier, and when the couple was resting under the tree, it fell on the lady, and thereby the lady lost her life.



When the King delivers a wrong judgement, even an ordinary citizen may reach out to him in his assembly and raise the wrongdoing of the King with evidence. When Kannaki’s husband was wrongly executed by the then Pandya King for stealing the anklet of the Queen, she proved before him that her anklets were made of rubies, whereas the Queen’s anklets were made of pearls. The Pandya King realised his mistake of delivering wrong justice, fell from his seat, and expired instantly after uttering, “I am not the King, and I am the thief”. The SENGOL also gave dutiful power to the King to punish those who disturb the peace in society and those who resort to heinous crimes of theft, robbery, and murder.

The lyrics written by SANGAM lady poet Avvaiyar indicate the prosperity angle of Sengol’. In her lyrics, she said, “When the paddy field embankment height increases, the water level in the field raises, thereby the paddy crop grows well, resulting in a high yield, and that will raise the economic condition of the citizens (farmers in particular), and as a result, the Senkol’ will raise, and ultimately it will result in the increase in the status of the King himself. In a democratic setup, we rule ourselves; the king refers to the citizenry, and hence, as the paddy field embankment rises, the SENGOL rises, and the country and its citizenry will prosper.

The Sengol’ embodied the good governance, prosperity, justice and fairness, unity, safety, security, and well-being of the citizens, as well as the authority, might, legitimacy, unity, integrity, and sovereignty of a nation. It is befitting on the part of the Indian government to bring back the Indian pride from Prayagraj Nehru Museum and install it as Sengol’ next to the Lok Sabha speaker in the new Parliament Hall.

*(The author is a Public Policy Analyst)*

# Ever increasing threat of transnational terrorism



DR SUDHIR **HINDWAN**

The purpose of terrorism is to create an state of extreme fear among target groups to alter their behaviour and bring about a radical change



The recent attacks by terrorists in Rajouri that killed 4 soldiers and a few days earlier ambushed an Army vehicle in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir in which 5 Army Soldiers have been martyred ahead of G 20 meeting have confirmed that terrorists were down but not wiped out. The purpose of these attacks is to destabilize security and create a vulnerable atmosphere in the region. This is not an isolated incident but just an addition to the long saga of terrorist violence in the region. Earlier the series of terrorist attacks in Sopore, Budgam, Chadoora, Noorbagh and Dooru Shahabad raised serious concerns for security agencies.

Both the Central and State Governments have done an excellent job to resolve the issues but terrorists are deliberately creating problems as they work to the tune of outsiders. Besides, to a large extent, clinging to terrorism provides livelihood to terrorists who have nothing to lose except their lives for some money and self-generated fake popularity among their masters as a bonus. Be it the case of Ajmal Kasab and a few others who were misled and driven to commit a most heinous crime in Mumbai. Although the central government has made efforts to find a solution to the problem plaguing the region by initiating talks with Pakistan and addressing the grievances of the separatists yet insurgent activities against the government and clashes between terrorists and the Army have continued unabated.

The region provides an excellent base for the rebels to carry out guerrilla activities. Several security officials have died in controlling the terrorist onslaught for many years. World over, the new breed of terrorists seems to be reasonably confident of their access to vantage points.

Moreover, their strategies have become more sophisticated and they are successful in acquiring more lethal weapons from across the border. The rapid international transportation and use of sophisticated weapons like assault rifles and plastic explosives (RDX) have helped to facilitate the expansion of terrorist networks around the world. Besides, the new suicide squads of terrorists have left the entire security apparatus of the affected states in a state of shock.

The recent incidents in Europe and Asia and Africa need to be understood properly. History bears testimony to various such tragic events.

Mr. Alison Jamieson, a British analyst on organized crime and political violence commented that the distinction between terrorism and organized crime has become very blurred recently. Italian organised crime expert Professor Ernesto says “The goal is different. The terrorist’s goal is an ideological one, while organized crime’s goal is financial, but the instrument is the same. They both need money and arms”. In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers engage in drug trafficking to finance their struggle, in north-eastern India guerrillas kidnap tea planters and hold them to ransom to help fund their fight for independence. In Chechnya, the secessionists were heavily involved in drug distribution. These days terrorists are more confident than ever before of their access to vulnerable points before carrying out any of their attacks and they plan their attack in a heroic manner for the justification and fulfilment of a cause that they think is just.

Thus, they attempt, by their acts, to inspire and manipulate fear to achieve a variety of purposes. William Henry once explained the problem of international terrorism and commented that “some politically motivated acts are rooted so deeply in dedication to a cause that no sanction can deter them, other acts of terrorism spring from frustration of legitimate means, caused in turn by acts of government repression and terrorism.” It is basically a self-created perception of misled people to give an ideological fervour to their misdeeds. Terrorist groups are generally too small and weak to operate successfully against governments.

Therefore, violence is not their immediate goal and that’s why they insist upon psychological rather than practical results.

The purpose of terrorism, therefore, is to create an emotional state of extreme fear among specific groups, and thereby, ultimately alter their behavior and bring about general or particular changes in the structure of society and government. Therefore, scholars working on strategic affairs in the international arena need to examine and analyze the genesis and changing nature of the problem of international terrorism and its causes. It is true that present anti-terrorism laws such as extradition treaties, etc are sufficient enough in handling the problem provided they are implemented promptly and effectively. Besides, Intelligence, Interception and close surveillance are the most effective ways of combating modern terrorism. In this regard the following suggestions may be worth considering:

- (a) Carefully examining important incidents and preparing detailed action-oriented reports on terrorist-affected areas.
- (b) Building a sophisticated communication network as part of a wider modernization drive that gives access to the latest technology.
- (c) Better management of local contacts and sources of assistance. #developing new techniques of security and maintenance of secrecy.
- (d) Developing the capability to anticipate security needs. This is possible by conducting specialized courses for monitoring security situations

Although individual counter-measures have been taken against terrorism, the world is not yet in a position to completely eliminate this curse of human civilization. The important task is to find out the emerging new cause of terrorism or analyze the psychology.

The efforts of the state to maintain security in the face of terrorist threats should go hand in hand with a new international mechanism bolstered by a multi-dimensional and multilayered approach based on coordination and intelligence sharing. The world has got tremendous opportunities and excellent platforms such as G 20 and Quad wherein a lot of sharing and learning can generate a solid combating mechanism.

“

VIOLENCE IS NOT THEIR IMMEDIATE GOAL, AND THAT’S WHY THEY INSIST UPON PSYCHOLOGICAL RATHER THAN PRACTICAL RESULTS

”

*(The writer is the recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award. He is a Professor and an Expert on Strategic Affairs. Views expressed are personal)*

# Transition from road to rail is an opportunity worth exploiting

Chugging along the sustainability track, the railway holds tremendous potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and an opportunity for logistic providers



Transition from Road to rail, a topic of great traction from all quarters, is finally gaining heat with the concerted efforts from all the stakeholders – government, logistics players and the user fraternity. But why is this shift necessary? According to some research estimates, Rail produces 75% fewer CO2 emissions per tonne-kilometre than that of road freight transport. This wake-up call is for the industries to switch to alternative modes of transport.

As per the Boston Consulting Group, “No form of mass transport has more potential to aid in the fight against global warming than rail. It is one of the most energy-efficient transport modes, responsible for 9% of global motorized passenger movement and 7% of freight shipping—but only 3% of transport energy use, according to the International Energy Agency.

In fact, a Niti Ayog study found that the transition would help encourage cleaner fuels, India can save 10 Giga tonnes of CO2, 500-kilo tonnes of particulate matter (PM) and 15 million tonnes of nitrogen oxide (NOx) caused by freight transport by 2050.

Despite having the fourth largest network of railways globally, about 71% of inland cargo transportation in the country happens via road, and just about 17% of cargo is moved via rail. Road transportation is not just time-consuming; it also results in massive greenhouse gas emissions while Rail emits about one-fifth of trucks’ GHG emissions.

**THE PROMISING LANDSCAPE**

As per the Ministry of Railways, the Government has set a target of 33% emissions intensity reduction, with the transport sector being one of the key sectors with substantial emission mitigation potential. One of the most vital transportation emissions mitigation strategies agreed to by the Government of India was increasing the share of Indian Railways in the movement of freight from the current ~35-36% to 45% by 2030.” To achieve this, Indian Railways has prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) for India – 2030.

There has been a massive investment lined up towards the development of Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), which is touted as the most important step towards increasing the efficiency of this sector. The first phase of the DFCs project alone is estimated to reduce emissions by about 457-million-ton CO2 over a 30-year period. Looking at the promising potential this project holds, in this year’s Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated Rs27,482 crore to the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCC) for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). As a result, the regular operation of freight trains has been started on the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), the country’s largest railway line for freight and almost 60% of the freight trains operations on the main New Delhi-Howrah (up to Chunar) have switched on to EDFC.

Additionally, modal integration across, rail, road, and sea freight and the investments for better train-port-road integration are also important factors that will reinforce the Indian rail freight industry. To top it all, robust private sector investments and the public-private partnership for project financing are only accentuating this shift. Railways are also working to improve energy efficiency for both diesel and electric traction to further reduce GHG emissions.

Though capturing a smaller share compared to road transportation as of date, a swift switch from road to rail would mean lesser emissions, lesser congestion on roads, effective utilization of all transportation modes and a highly efficient end-to-end logistical network. With policymakers fast acting to advance the rail infrastructure, a golden opportunity awaits the logistics players to capture major market share by acing their rail freight proposition.



NIKHIL **AGARWAL**

*(The writer is President-CJ DARCL Logistics)*



# Modi chairs meeting with BJP CMs

## Discusses ‘effective implementation’ of Central schemes



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with BJP National president JP Nadda and others dignitaries during 'Mukhyamantri Parishad' meeting, at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States at the party headquarters here discussing 'effective implementation' of the Central schemes in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls.

The meeting which lasted several hours was part of the BJP's good governance agenda with chief ministers sharing their best practices in governance and implementation of various welfare schemes in their respective States.

Chief Ministers gave

feedback to the Prime Minister about the development work in their states, some of which, including Madhya Pradesh, are to go to polls this year.

There was a discussion with all the Chief Ministers regarding the preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, sources said.

BJP national president JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, Goa CM Pramod Sawant, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar, Assam CM Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand CM

Pushkar Singh Dhami, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Nagaland Deputy CM Yanthungo Patton, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Tripura CM Manik Saha were present at the meeting.

UP deputy-CMs Keshav Prasad Mautrya and Brajesh Pathak and Maharashtra Deputy-CM Devendra Fadnavis were also present at the meeting.

The meeting stated after the inauguration of new Parliament and the first address of the Prime Minister before the parliamentarians and other invitees.

# PM hails Savarkar in Mann Ki Baat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday spoke about the contribution of Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary recalling his "sacrifice and courage" as also about 'Yuva Sangam' initiative and construction of 75 'Amrit Sarovars' in each district in the country for water conservation.

Addressing the 101st episode of his monthly radio broadcast, 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi touched on a range of issues, including his visit to Hiroshima. He stressed that the latest edition was the beginning of its "second century" of his radio programme.

Marking Veer Savarkar's birth anniversary, the Prime Minister recalled his "sacrifice and courage".

"Veer Savarkar's personality was one of firmness and magnanimity. His fearless and self-respecting nature did not like the mentality of slavery at all. Not only the freedom movement, whatever Veer Savarkar did for social equality and social justice is remembered even today," said the Prime Minister.

He also hailed late Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu actor NT Rama Rao on his 100th birth anniversary, saying that "Rao left an indelible mark on Indian cinema and politics".

He went on to note that

June 4 is commemorated as the birth anniversary of poet Sant Kabir Das, who "showed us a path which is still relevant today".

The Prime Minister spoke about the new initiative of 'yuva Sangam' unifying the country and spoke with two youngsters one each from Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar who participated in it.

"The first round of Yuva Sangam, about 1,200 youths toured 22 states of the country", said Modi.

"Recently, we talked about Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Mann Ki Baat. Talked about Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam. Kashi Telugu Sangamam was also held in Varanasi some time back. One such unique effort has been made in the country to give strength to the great spirit of Ek Bharat. This is the effort of Yuva Sangam," the Prime Minister said.

Modi appreciated the large audience attracted by 'Mann Ki baat' programme.

"When 'Mann Ki Baat' was broadcast, at that time in different countries of the world, in different time zones... Somewhere it was evening and somewhere it was late night. Despite this, a large number of people made time to listen to the 100th episode," said Modi.

Modi again emphasised on the need for water Conservation Reminding that water is very basic to every one's life.

# LS Speaker calls for discipline, decorum in new Parl building



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday urged fellow lawmakers to establish new standards of parliamentary discipline, decorum, and dignity in the new parliament building and become idols for democratic institutions across the world.

"The newly built Parliament House is an amazing amalgam of our rich culture, ancient heritage and our modern aspirations," Birla said addressing the inauguration of the new parliament building.

The Speaker said unity in diversity was the strength of the country which found expression in Parliament.

"It is in the Parliament, where members speak in one voice in national interest despite regional and ideological differences. This is the strength of our democracy. Parliament is the custodian of this proud democratic heritage," he said. Birla said the existing Parliament building was witness to many historic events, including India's independence and framing of the Constitution.

"It is our responsibility to take care of our precious heritage," the Lok Sabha Speaker said, adding that this was precisely why several parliamentarians had felt the need for a new Parliament House and urged the Prime Minister to build it.

"Parliamentarians will be able to utilise the new engineering and technology in the new Parliament building to improve their skills," Birla said.

# Min Meghwal slams Opp for boycott, calls it cheap politics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Sunday dubbed the decision of various political parties to boycott of the inauguration of new Parliament building as an example of "cheap politics" and also slammed them for questioning the relevance of 'Sengol'.

The law minister said representatives of several opposition parties who had not supported the boycott call attended the event.

Several Supreme Court judges and those holding constitutional posts also attended the programme in Lok Sabha chamber of the new building, he pointed out.

"We kept on requesting them (to attend). Even senior leaders requested. They ignored our requests and boycotted the event. This is an example of cheap politics," Meghwal told PTI Video.

The minister recalled that when Meira Kumar was the Speaker during the UPA rule, there was a discussion on having a new Parliament building. But the idea was rejected and it was said a call will be taken when the next census takes place.

"Now, delimitation is near. The number of members of Parliament will go up. Where will they sit?" he questioned.

Responding to a question, he said those who boycotted the event will also appreciate the building when they see it, though they may not do so openly due to political compulsions.

He said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was making statements out of political compulsions. He also questioned Congress leaders doubting the role and significance of Sengol sceptre when the British transferred power to India.

# 'India faces very complicated challenge from China'

## EAM: Govt has taken steps to ensure no attempts made to change status quo

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said India faces a "very complicated challenge" from China, and the Narendra Modi Government has taken steps to ensure no attempts are made to change the status quo in the border areas unilaterally. This challenge was "very visible" in border areas in the last three years, Jaishankar said on Saturday, adding that both the countries have to find an equilibrium in relationship, but it cannot be on the terms of the other party.

If peace and tranquillity between the two nations is disturbed, their relationship will not remain unaffected, the minister



said, delivering a talk on 'Modi's India: A Rising Power' at the Anant National University here.

"When I talk about big powers, of course we have a particular challenge from China. That challenge is a very complicated challenge, but in the last three years it has been particularly visible in the border areas," Jaishankar said, apparently referring to China's incursions in eastern Ladakh.

"There are clearly responses that are required, and those responses have been undertaken by the government. And a lot of it to ensure that no attempt is made to unilaterally change the status quo in the border areas," he said.

The two countries will have to find some kind of equilibrium, and all the past

governments in their own ways tried to find a balance, the External Affairs Minister said.

"But that balance cannot be on the terms of the other party. Then it is not a balance. There has to be something mutual," he said. Mutual respect, sensitivity and interest have to be the basis of the relationship, Jaishankar said.

"How can we get along long term if you don't respect me, if you are not sensitive to my concerns, if you ignore my interest?" he said, adding that if India sees respect, sensitivity and recognition, it can think of a better relationship with China. "But if we do not, I think we need to stand up for our rights, and we need to be firm in asserting opposition. And that, unfortunately, currently is the situation," he said.

Talking about India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jaishankar stressed on the strengthening of relationship with immediate and extended neighbouring countries. Neighbours like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, which have always been close to India, are today linked with us through roads, railway, waterways and electricity grid connections, he said.

# Modi to flag off Assam's 1st Vande Bharat today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off Assam's first Vande Bharat Express at 12 noon on Monday via video-conferencing, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The state-of-the-art train will provide the people of the region the means to travel with speed and comfort. It will also boost tourism in the region, the statement said.

Connecting Guwahati with New Jalpaiguri, the train will help save about an hour of journey time, compared to the current fastest train connecting the two places. Vande Bharat will cover the journey in five-and-a-half hours, while the current fastest train takes about six-and-a-half hours to cover the distance.

Modi will also dedicate 182 route kilometres of newly-



electrified sections. This will help provide pollution-free transportation with trains running at a higher speed and

reduced running time. It will also open the doors for trains running on electric traction to enter Meghalaya.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate a newly-constructed DEMU/MEMU shed at Assam's Lumding. This new facility will be helpful for maintaining the DEMU rakes operating in the region, leading to better operational feasibility.

The Indian Railways is currently running 34 services of the train, covering 21 states. It has set a target of running at least one service in seven more states by June.

# Journal: 20% healthy adults have pre-diabetes glucose metabolism'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

About 20 per cent or one in five adults considered healthy by medical standards, have glucose metabolism similar to those with pre-diabetes, according to a study published in the journal Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Digital Health.

These healthy adults were identified using a new method of analysis, developed by scientists at Klick Health, a US based life sciences company, that flags a precursor to prediabetes called impaired glucose homeostasis (IGH).

The team has stressed the need for intervention to stop these adults from becoming diabetic.

"For people with diabetes, blood glucose levels can rise and fall like a wild roller-coaster ride with steep drops and peaks," said Jaycee Kaufman, study lead author and research scientist at Klick Labs.

"We found a similar pattern in patients with IGH, albeit those patterns were more like gentle waves than dramatic peaks, but intervention on this population could limit the likelihood of progression to full diabetes," she added.

A total of 384 people were equipped with a continuous glucose monitor for the study and assessed by a physician over a two-week time period.

Participants were diagnosed diabetic, pre-



diabetic, or healthy, according to guidelines outlined by the American Diabetes Association.

After applying the mathematical model, patients were then re-classified into two groups based on their glucose homeostasis parameters: effective or impaired.

"What was most surprising is that 20 per cent of participants, who were assessed using the standard screening tools for diabetes and cleared as healthy by a physician, were then found to have impaired glucose homeostasis-reinforcing it is now possible to provide an earlier, more accurate and sensitive assessment of people's diabetic status," said Yan Fossat, Vice President of Klick Labs.

With research suggesting it is possible to reverse diabetes, or at least slow its progression, there is growing demand for screening tools that can flag at-risk individuals.

Screening and monitoring involve reviewing risk factors such as age, BMI, and family history; and diagnosis relies primarily on the blood tests like glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) and Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT).

# GS entertainment, director, CA booked in IDBI bank fraud

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked Mumbai-based firm GS Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., its directors Jaspreet Singh Walia and Guneet Singh Walia and Chartered Accountant Stany Saldanha in a case of bank fraud involving IDBI Bank that had financed 2009 Hindi film Lamhaa.

The case refers to sanction of foreign currency loan to the tune of USD 2.35 million (Rs 10 crore) and term loan of Rs 4.95 crore in June 2008 under the film financing scheme for production of Hindi film "Lamhaa". Later, the loans turned into non-performing asset (NPA).

The outstanding principal and interest to the principal borrower GSEPL stood at Rs 119.05 crore as on June 1, 2021.

The film was directed by Rahul Dholakia with lead actors Sanjay Dutt, Bipasha Basu and Kunal Kapoor as star cast.

Besides principal borrower GSEPL, the company's directors Jaspreet Singh Walia alias Bunty Walia and Guneet Singh Walia alias Jassi Walia, and Chartered Accountant and Statutory Auditor Stany Saldanha as also unknown public servants have been



named as accused in the case of bank fraud, misappropriation of funds and criminal breach of trust among others.

The firm and the individuals have been booked under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery besides relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The CBI registered the case on a complaint dated February 24, 2022 by the IDBI Bank.

As per the original schedule, the film was to be released in May 2009. However, the release of the film got delayed seemingly due to a dispute between promoters and exhibitors from March 2009. The loan account turned NPA on September 30, 2009, according to the IDBI complaint which is part of the FIR.

# After complaints in Australia, Japan, Hoya recalls all units of IntraOcular Lens in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking cue from customer complaints in Australia and Japan with reports of damage (such as scratches) and fragment adhesion on the Hoya Surgical Optics manufactured Hoya Vivinex Toric IntraOcular Lens (IOLs), such units from various batches in India are also being recalled. The top drug regulator DCGI here has issued an alert on a total of 3,822 units manufactured from June, 2022 to January, 2023.

Hoya, the global med-tech company in Tokyo and a leading supplier of innovative high-tech and medical products, informed the DCGI that the

recall is being made following customer complaints received in Australia and Japan with reports of damage (such as scratches) and fragment adhesion on the IOL optic surface.

The company also submitted the recall action notification for the lenses from the Department of Health, Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA), Australian government, along with the alert recalling the product in India. The company has its Indian arm as Hoya Medical India Pvt Ltd, in New Delhi.

In its filing with the TGA, the company said that it has asked customers to place all impacted devices on hold in their inventory system and

quarantine them for collection by its responsible entity in the country. It also recommended that the patients involved, that is the cases where lenses with PP adhesion have been left in the eye, be monitored for the need for any future medical treatment.

Hoya says that Vivinex is made from a novel hydrophobic acrylic, using a proprietary manufacturing process that includes a unique, active oxygen posterior surface treatment. Combined with its square edge design and smooth, regular IOL surface, it has been demonstrated to provide a low incidence of Posterior Capsule Opacification (PCO) in several studies.

# Ground water with arsenic harmful for farm products: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Groundwater should not be used for farming purposes to prevent arsenic (As) exposure for farm products, especially in the case of rice, a team of researchers has said citing the case of West Bengal where arsenic has been found in high content in groundwater. Large-scale arsenic (As) poisoning, mainly through food chain contamination, is deemed to be a lethal problem in the rice-growing areas of the

Bengal Delta Plain (BDP) and other parts of the world.

The study paper by scholars and researchers from the School of Environmental Studies, the National Institute of Biological Genomics and Australia's University Of Newcastle pointed out that since groundwater is more prone to arsenic exposure, farm products produced by using that water also become prone to the same exposure.

To prevent this, the report has suggested stressing on rainy season farming so that rain-

water can be used. This remedy is extremely important considering that West Bengal is among those states which have extremely high arsenic concentration in groundwater. Historically as many as 83 blocks scattered over seven districts in West Bengal have arsenic levels in groundwater higher than the permissible limits.

The report, published in science magazine "Environmental Science & Pollution Research", suggests if rice is cooked using arsenic-



free water equivalent to three times of the quantity of rice being cooked, the level of arsenic exposure in that cooked rice comes down substantially. It has also suggested that

since selenium acts as instruments for combating arsenic, selenium fertilisers should be extensively used while paddy farming.

The research on this count was conducted on paddy varieties collected from Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, and West Midnapore. The research has revealed that of these varieties collected, the danger of arsenic exposure is maximum and also alarming in North 24 Parganas. While that from Kolkata is prone to moderate exposure, the one from West Midnapore

is relatively safe on this count.

Yet another study noted that West Bengal, the largest rice producing state in India, is heavily devastated by the chronic and acute health hazards associated with As. "More than 26 million people across 2600 villages in this state ingest this toxicant from food and water on a regular basis. Residents of rural Bengal consume, on average, 450 g rice per capita per day to meet 73% of their daily caloric needs which, in endemic regions, is found laced with As, it said.



# Twitterati rave about ‘Akhand Bharat’ mural in new Parl

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

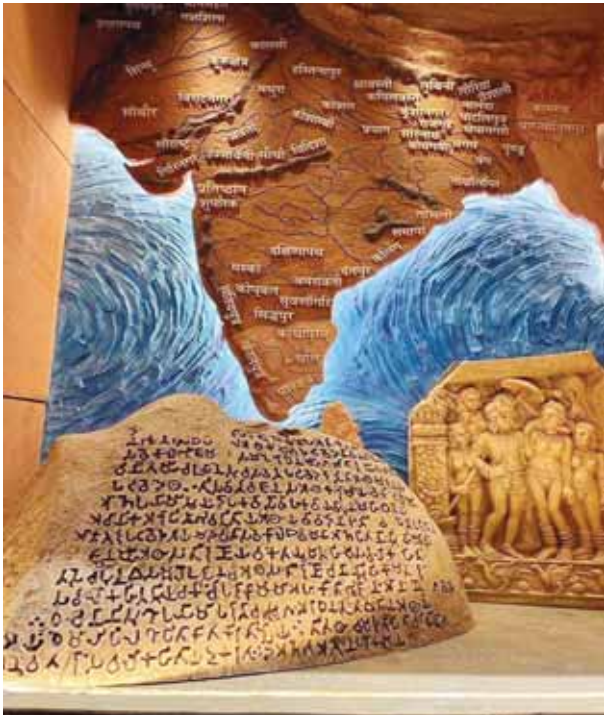
A mural in the new Parliament building depicting the influence of ancient Indian thought in its immediate neighbourhood went viral on social media on Sunday with many claiming it represents the resolve for an Akhand Bharat, described as a “cultural concept” by the RSS.

The mural in the new Parliament building, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, marks important kingdoms and cities of the past, and shows the influence of ancient India in the then Taxila, in present-day Pakistan.

“The resolve is clear - Akhand Bharat,” Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Twitter.

The BJP’s Karnataka unit shared photographs of the artworks inside the new Parliament House, including the murals of ancient India, Chanakya, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and B R Ambedkar and the cultural diversity of the country.

“It is a symbol of the vital-



ity of our proud great civilisation,” the Karnataka BJP said on its Twitter handle.

“Akhand Bharat in New Parliament. It represents our

welcomed the depiction of ‘Akhand Bharat’ in the new Parliament building and wondered whether it was the reason for the Opposition boycott of the function.

“Our idea was to depict the influence of Indian thought during the ancient ages. It extended from the present day Afghanistan in the north-western region to south-eastern Asia,” Adwaita Gadanayak, Director General, National Gallery of Modern Art said.

Gadanayak was involved in the selection of artworks displayed in the new Parliament building.

According to the RSS, the Akhand Bharat concept refers to the undivided India whose geographical expanse was very wide in ancient times -- present-day Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand.

However, the RSS now maintains that the Akhand Bharat concept, in the present times, should be seen in the cultural context and not political given the partition of India on religious lines at the time of Independence.

powerful & self-reliant India,” Manoj Kotak, Lok Sabha member from Mumbai North-East, said on Twitter.

A number of Twitter users

# Rituals performed show country being taken backwards: Pawar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Sunday said that various rituals performed at the inauguration of the new Parliament building in New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi show that the country was being taken backwards by decades.

He said the country’s first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru had envisaged a society having a scientific temperament, but what happened at the new Parliament inauguration ceremony was opposite to that. PM Modi inaugurated the new building this morning at a grand ceremony which included a havan, a multi-faith prayer ceremony and the installation of the Sengol in a special enclosure in the Lok Sabha chamber.

Speaking to reporters in Pune, Pawar said, “There is a huge difference between the country’s first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru talking about the concept of modern India and a series of rituals per-



formed at the new Parliament building today in New Delhi. I fear that we are taking our country backward by decades.” “One cannot compromise on science.

Nehru was persistent about his wish to form a society with scientific temperament. But what is happening today at the inaugural ceremony of the new parliament building is exactly the opposite of what Nehru had envisaged,” he said.

The NCP was among the 20 opposition parties that boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament building over the prime minister and not the president inaugurating the complex.

# Census unlikely before LS polls; citizens to be asked about smartphones, internet, cereals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The decadal Census, which was postponed for an indefinite period due to the pandemic, is unlikely to be held before the next Lok Sabha elections that are due in April-May 2024, officials said.

Access to smartphones, internet, laptops, computers, cars, two-wheelers, main cereal consumed are some of the 31 questions to be asked in the Census, whenever it is held.

The house listing phase of the Census and the exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR) were scheduled to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Census operation continues to be on hold and the government has not yet announced a new schedule.

In January, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India conveyed that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries -- creation of new districts or sub-districts -- has



been extended to June 30, the officials said.

According to the norms, the Census can be conducted only three months after (post September 30) freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, taluks and police stations.

Two to three months will also be required to train the entire 30 lakh government employees/teachers across India who will be engaged as enumerators for the Census.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission will kick start the process for the next general elections such as revision of voter lists, etc.

## FROM PAGE 1

### INDIA GETS NEW TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY

Before the Prime Minister delivered the historic address, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh read out messages from President Droupadi Murmu and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. To mark the inauguration Modi also launched a special Rs 75 coin as India is celebrating the 75th year of its Independence. Along with it, he released a special commemorative postage stamp at the inauguration event held at the Lok Sabha chamber of the new building. As India entered the new Parliament, leaving behind the one built during the British era, Modi said, “Several years of foreign rule took away our pride from us. But today, India has left behind that colonial mindset. India is the mother of democracy. It is also the foundation of global democracy. Democracy is our ‘sanskara’, idea and tradition.”

Recalling his address to the nation from the Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day, Modi said there comes a time in the history of every country when the consciousness of that country is awakened. He underlined that such a time had come in India 25 years before Independence during Mahatma Gandhi’s non-cooperation movement which filled the entire country with a belief. “Gandhi ji had connected every Indian with the resolution of Swaraj. This was the time when every Indian was fighting for freedom,” the Prime Minister remarked as he highlighted that its result was India’s Independence in 1947.

Modi said that the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal’ is a stage in independent India which can be compared to the historic period in the pre-Independent India. The grand event was also attended by former President Ram Nath Kovind, former Prime Minister Deve Gowda, parliamentarians, chief ministers as well as people from different walks of life. Modi said that the new Parliament building is the perfect example of the co-existence of the old and new. “The new Parliament building is a reflection of the aspirations of ‘new India’ and a testament to the dawn of a self-reliant nation,” he said.

“There was a need for new Parliament. We also have to see that the number of seats and MPs will increase in the coming time. A new Parliament was the need of the hour,” he said.

The new Parliament building is designed to enable 888 members to sit in the Lok Sabha. In the present building of the Parliament, there is a provision for the sitting of 543 members in the Lok Sabha and 250 in the Rajya Sabha. Speaking about the newly inaugurated Parliament building, Modi said, “This building is equipped with modern facilities and equipped with the latest gadgets. It has given employment to over 60,000 labourers. We have created a digital gallery to honour their hard work.”

Modi said that when India is celebrating ‘Azadi ka Amrit Kaal’, the people of India have gifted its democracy a new Parliament House. Earlier in the morning, soon after inaugurating the new Parliament, Modi tweeted, “As the new building of India’s Parliament is inaugurated, our hearts and minds are filled with pride, hope and promise. May this iconic building be a cradle of empowerment, igniting dreams and nurturing them into reality. May it propel our great nation to new heights of progress.”

### INSULT TO TRIBAL PREZ, DISDAIN FOR HOUSE PROCEDURES: OPP

The Left parties too hit out at Modi, comparing the inauguration of the new parliament building by him with the coronation of a monarch and relegating the people of the country to “subjects (‘praja’).” Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said Parliament is the voice of the people but the Prime Minister is treating the inauguration of the new building like a “coronation.”

“Parliament is the voice of the people! The Prime Minister is treating the inauguration of the Parliament House as (a) coronation,” Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi soon after Modi inaugurated the building. NCP president Sharad Pawar said that various rituals performed at the inauguration of the new Parliament building in New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi show that the country was being taken backwards by decades. He said the country’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had envisaged a society having a scientific temperament, but what happened at the new Parliament inauguration ceremony was opposite to that as Modi inaugurated the new building this morning at a grand ceremony which included a havan, a multi-faith prayer ceremony and the installation of the Sengol in a special enclosure in the Lok Sabha chamber.

Speaking to reporters in Pune, Pawar said, “There is a huge difference between the country’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru talking about the concept of modern India and a series of rituals performed at the new Parliament building today in New Delhi. I fear that we are taking our country backward by decades.” “One cannot compromise on science. Nehru was persistent about his wish to form a society with scientific temperament. But what is happening today at the inaugural ceremony of the new parliament building is exactly the opposite of what Nehru had envisaged,” he said.

### BJP RAPS RJD FOR ‘COFFIN’ DIG AT NEW PARL BUILDING

The BJP leader said that “such people” should also announce that they will never enter the new Parliament. BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh alleged that the RJD has hurt the sentiments of 140 crore people of the country by the comparison. “It is unfortunate and condemnable. It reflects their mental bankruptcy,”

He also accused the opposition parties of indulging in “cheap politics” at a time when there is a “festive atmosphere” in the country with the inauguration of the new Parliament building. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla termed the RJD’s tweet “disgusting”, while another spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said the coffin belongs to the RJD and Parliament to the Indian system.

“This is the level to which they have fallen. Disgusting. This will prove to be the final nail in the coffin of the RJD’s politics. Trikon or Tribhuj (triangles) has much significance in the Indian system. By the way, the coffin is hexagonal or has a six-sided polygon,” Poonawalla said on Twitter. Bhatia said, “Today is a historic moment and the country is proud. You are merely a ‘Nazarbattu’ (a symbol to ward off the evil eye) and nothing else. Keep beating your chest.” “In 2024, the people of the country will bury you in this coffin and will not even give you a chance to enter the temple of new democracy. Let it also be decided that the coffin is yours and Parliament of the country,” he said, using the hashtag “MyParliamentMyPride”.

### 40 MILITANTS KILLED IN VIOLENCE-HIT MANIPUR SINCE OPS BEGAN: CM

He said many militants involved in killing civilians and destroying property and torching houses have been captured by the Jat regiment. The Chief Minister said the Government is also “deeply saddened by the casualties on both sides” and assured “all possible steps in bringing back normalcy.”

He said the spurt in violent attacks on civilian houses in the peripheral areas of the Imphal valley seemed well-planned. Singh termed it as “strongly condemnable ... Especially when Minister of State Nityanand Rai is in Manipur and group peace missions are being formed to bring back peace”.

Singh said 38 vulnerable areas have been identified and that the State police has been conducting operations there.

The house of BJP MLA Khwairakpam Raghumani Singh at Uripok in Imphal West was vandalised and his two vehicles have been set on fire, a top security official told PTI. He said clashes broke out in the early hours of the morning at several places both between rival ethnic militant groups as well as between militants and security forces. “According to our information, firing has been reported from Sugnu in Kakching, Kangvi in Churachandpur, Kangchup in Imphal West, Sagolmang in Imphal East, Nungoi pokpi in Bishenpur, Khurkhu in Imphal West and YKPI in Kangpokpi,” the official said. New roadblocks have also sprung up in areas manned by women. There was also an unconfirmed report of arms being looted from Kakching police station by a Meitei group, the official said.

At Napat, Serou and nearby Sugnu in Kakching district militants burnt down some 80 houses of Meitei community prompting villagers to flee in midnight hours.

State police personnel deployed in the area retaliated leading to heavy exchange of fire, police said. One police personnel was killed and another injured at Sugnu in the firing. Six persons were also injured at Sugnu and another four at Serou. On the eastern side of Manipur valley, armed militants came down to Yaingangkopki in Imphal East district, and torched two houses and fired upon villagers. Reports of injuries have been reported from there too. At Sekmai, on the northern side of Manipur valley in Imphal West district, well-armed militants attacked outlying villages leading to an exchange of fire. In Bishnupur district, armed Kuki militants attacked Phougakchao Ikhai, Torbung and Kangvai areas on Saturday night, torching more than thirty houses belonging to Meitei community. Violence in the last ten hours has also prompted district authorities to shorten the 11 hour curfew relaxation period in Imphal East and West district to just six and half hours.

Ethnic clashes which have claimed over 75 lives first broke out in Manipur after a ‘Tribal Solidarity March’ was organised in the hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community’s demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The violence was preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur’s population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals Nagas and Kukis constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts. Around 140 columns of the Indian Army and Assam Rifles, comprising over 10,000 personnel, besides those from other paramilitary forces had to be deployed to bring back normalcy in the Northeastern State.

### OLD ART ADORNS NEW PARLIAMENT

The building has three ceremonial foyers where huge brass images of Mahatma Gandhi, Chanakya, Gargi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, BR Ambedkar, and the Chariot Wheel from the Sun Temple at Konark are on display. The public entrances lead to three galleries -- the Sangeet Gallery which exhibits dance, song, and musical traditions of India; the Sthapthya Gallery depicts the architectural heritage of the country and the Shipil Gallery showcases distinct handicraft traditions of different States.

The interiors of the Lok Sabha chamber are based on the theme of the national bird peacock, while that of the Rajya Sabha depict national flower lotus. According to officials, eminent musicians and their family members including Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ustad Bismillah Khan, Pandit Ravi Shankar have donated their musical instruments for the Sangeet Gallery. The four-storey Parliament House has a built up area of 64,500 sqm and has two chambers -- 888-seater Lok Sabha, which can accommodate 1,272 members for the joint sitting of

both the Houses, and the 384-seater Rajya Sabha chamber.

The building opens into a central courtyard with a banyan tree. The new building also has six new committee rooms and 92 rooms for use as offices for the Council of Ministers. The material used for the new building has been acquired from various parts of the country. The teakwood used in the building was sourced from Nagpur in Maharashtra, while the red and white sandstone was procured from Sarmathura in Rajasthan. The sandstone for the Red Fort and Humayun’s Tomb in the national capital was also known to have been sourced from Sarmathura. The Kesharia green stone has been procured from Udaipur, the red granite from Lakhna near Ajmer and the white marble has been sourced from Ambaji in Rajasthan.

“In a way, the entire country came together to construct the temple of democracy, thus reflecting the true spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,” an official said. The steel structure for the false ceilings in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers have been sourced from the Union Territory of Daman and Diu, while the furniture in the new building was crafted in Mumbai. The stone ‘jaali’ (lattice) works dotting the building were sourced from Rajnagar in Rajasthan and Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

The materials for the Ashoka Emblem were sourced from Aurangabad in Maharashtra and Jaipur in Rajasthan, while the Ashok Chakra on the massive walls of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers and the exteriors of the Parliament building were procured from Indore in Madhya Pradesh. The new Parliament building used manufactured sand or M-sand from Charkhi Dadri in Haryana for creating concrete mix for the construction activities. M-Sand is considered environment friendly as it is manufactured by crushing large hard stones or granite and not by dredging of river beds. The fly ash bricks used in the construction were sourced from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, while brass works and pre-cast trenches were from Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

### WRESTLERS’ PROTEST: FIR AGAINST ORGANISERS, OTHERS FOR RIOTING

Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia were among those detained. Women detainees were released later in the evening. Earlier in the day, Jantar Mantar turned into a scene of chaos when Vinesh Phogat and her cousin Sangeeta Phogat tried to breach the barricades and as police tried to contain the breach with a lot of shoving and pushing. Protesting wrestlers jumped over the police barricading at Jantar Mantar.

Videos showed a scuffle breaking out between protesters and police personnel even as the former tried to resist. In one of the videos, a few female police officers can be seen forcefully dragging a woman away from the protest site. Vinesh provided a strong resistance against her detention and Sangeeta clung on to her cousin sister while lying on the road as the struggle continued for a few dramatic minutes.

The police officials dragged and lifted them into buses along with several other wrestlers and their supporters. The wrestlers were pushed into buses and taken to different unknown locations.

The police claimed the wrestlers broke and crossed the barricades, misbehaved and pushed the police personnel including the women constables. “They broke the barricades and didn’t follow the directions given by the police. They broke the law, hence they were detained. We will take legal action after inquiry in due course of time,” said Dependra Pathak, Special CP (Law & Order).

“We need to assess the entire situation. As you have seen the barricades have been broken and they moved ahead despite request and warning. So that is why we have removed them from here.” The bottom line is, peace and tranquility will be maintained. We will ensure professional steps to see to it that nothing goes wrong,” he added.

It seems the police will not allow the wrestlers back to the protest site though no official statement has been made in this regard. The police had warned the wrestlers not to move towards Parliament but they went ahead, leading to the scuffle. Immediately after the wrestlers were taken to different unknown locations, the police officers began clearing the protest site by removing the cots, mattresses, coolers, fans and the tarpaulin ceiling along with other belongings of the wrestlers. Taking to Twitter, Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik vowed to continue their protest at Jantar Mantar. “Our movement is not over. After being released from police custody, we will start our satyagraha at Jantar Mantar. In this country, there will be no dictatorship but there will be satyagraha held by women wrestlers,” she tweeted in Hindi. Scores of farmers led by BKU leader Rakesh Tikait held a sit-in at the Ghazipur border which was closed as they tried to enter the national capital to take part in a protest called by agitating wrestlers.

The protesters later dispersed. “All farmers who had gathered at the Ghazipur border have left for their homes. The Ghazipur border is now open for vehicular traffic,” a senior police officer said in the evening. In Haryana, several farmer leaders were detained as they proceeded towards Delhi with a large number of supporters for the “Mahila Maha Panchayat” called in support of the wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar, farmers’ outfit BKU (Charuni) claimed. Police stopped hundreds of farmers at the Haryana-Punjab border near Ambala city in the morning. In Kurukshetra, BKU (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni was detained under relevant provisions of the law, a police official said.

Asked about the police being criticised for the way they handled the situation, Pathak said they had urged the wrestlers politely to carry out their protest at Jantar Mantar but they started “wrestling” with the police. He also claimed that due respect was given to players and no force was used by the police personnel. “They pushed our police personnel including women constab-

bles. They indeed engaged in wrestling with our personnel. But we did not use any force. We did not use lathi-charge because they are the pride of our nation. “Instead, to contain the situation and maintain law and order, they were removed from the protest site using body-to-body push,” the officer added.

Security has been heightened at Haryana’s borders with Punjab and Delhi and barricades had been put up at many places along with heavy deployment of police personnel as farmers, mostly women, tried to move in groups towards the national capital. Large groups of farmers from Punjab were also moving towards Delhi.

### OPP RAPS GOVT OVER WRESTLERS’ DETENTION

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attacked the Government over the “forcible” removal and “manhandling” of wrestlers protesting at the Jantar Mantar as they were trying to march towards Parliament. AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the “arrogance” of the BJP Government has increased so much that it is “mercilessly trampling” upon the voices of our women sportspersons under its boots. Attacking the Government in a tweet in Hindi, Priyanka said the medals on the chest of the players are the “pride of our country.”

“With those medals, due to the hard work of the sportspersons, the honour of the country increases. The arrogance of the BJP Government has increased so much that it is mercilessly trampling the voices of our women players under its boots. This is totally wrong,” the Congress general secretary said.

The whole country is watching the “arrogance” of the Government and its injustice, she said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also condemned the police detention of wrestlers. “Such treatment to the sportsperson who brought laurels to the country is grossly wrong and condemnable,” he said.

Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee strongly condemned the way the Delhi Police “manhandled” Malik, Phogat and other wrestlers. “It’s shameful our champions are treated in this manner. Democracy lies in tolerance but autocratic forces thrive on intolerance and quelling of dissent. I demand they be immediately released by police. I stand by our wrestlers,” she said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday reacted sharply to the police’s detention of protesting wrestlers in Delhi and targeted the Centre over the issue, saying the ‘Sengol’ installed in the new Parliament building has “bent” the very first day.

The Left parties also hit out at the Central Government over the police action against the protesting wrestlers. CPI MP Binoy Viswam said the salutations to the Sengol came at the cost of “beatings to wrestlers”.

CPI (M-L) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said, “Massive crackdown is going on in Delhi on women wrestlers and other citizens assembling for the Mahila Samman Panchayat even as the inauguration of the new Parliament building resembles the coronation of a king. Brutal assault on democracy and the constitutional spirit and vision.”

Slamming the Modi Government, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said, “Today, when the Prime Minister was inaugurating the new Parliament house and giving a discourse on democracy, the daughters who brought laurels to the country by winning medals were being detained just a short distance away from Parliament.”

“This is shameful and shows the real face of Modi Government,” Ramesh said in a tweet in Hindi.

In a dig at the Modi Government over the detention of wrestlers, Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary said “down with dictatorship”.

### RAHUL GETS NEW PASSPORT AHEAD OF HIS US VISIT

Starting with San Francisco where he is scheduled to interact with students at the prestigious Stanford University, Rahul will also address a Press conference and have meetings with the lawmakers and think tanks in Washington DC.

The Congress leader is likely to address Indian Americans, meet lawmakers and interact with members of think tanks, Wall Street executives and university students during his week-long tour of the USA. He is slated to conclude his trip with a large public gathering in New York on June 4. The interaction would take place at the Javits Center in New York.

A Delhi court had on Friday granted a no-objection certificate to Rahul for the issuance of an ‘ordinary passport’ for three years instead of 10, the period for which it is normally issued, following an objection raised by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

The court noted that the National Herald case was pending at the stage of cross-examination of the complainant in pre-charge evidence and Rahul has been regularly appearing either in person or through his counsel and has not hampered or delayed the proceedings. Rahul is an accused in the case in which Swamy is the complainant. An ordinary passport that is generally issued to adults is valid for 10 years.

On March 24, the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala was declared vacant after Rahul, who represented it in the Lok Sabha, was disqualified following his conviction in a defamation case in which he was sentenced to a two-year jail term.

The Congress leader, whose sentence has been suspended in the defamation case filed over his remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s surname, had moved the court seeking a no-



# Erdogan claims victory in presidential runoff

AP ■ ANKARA

Turkiye's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has declared victory in his country's runoff election, extending his rule into a third decade.

In his first comments since the polls closed, Erdogan spoke to supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul.

"I thank each member of our nation for entrusting me with the responsibility to govern this country once again for the upcoming five years," he said.

He ridiculed his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, for his loss, saying "bye bye bye, Kemal," as supporters booed.

"The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said.

Preliminary, unofficial results from Turkish news agencies showed incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ahead with 98 per cent of ballot boxes counted in a presidential runoff that will decide whether the country's longtime leader stretches his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

The state Anadolu news agency showed Erdogan at 52.1 per cent, and his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, at 47.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, the ANKA news agency, close to the opposition, showed the results at 51.9 per cent for Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu at 48.1 per cent.

In Istanbul, Erdogan supporters began celebrating even before the final results arrived, waving Turkish or ruling party flags, and honking car horns.

The outcome could have implications far beyond Ankara. Turkiye stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it plays a key role in NATO. Erdogan's government vetoed Sweden's bid to join NATO and purchased Russian missile-defense systems, which prompted the United States to oust Turkiye from a US-led fighter-jet project. But it also helped broker a crucial deal that allowed Ukrainian grain shipments and averted a global food crisis.

The competing news agencies get their data from completed ballot box counts that are gathered by personnel on the field, and are strong in dif-



ferent regions, explaining some of the variation in preliminary data.

Turkiye's electoral board sends its own data to political parties throughout the vote count but doesn't declare official results until days later.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has been at Turkiye's helm for 20 years, was favoured to win a new five-year term in the second-round runoff, after coming just short of outright victory in the first round on May 14.

The divisive populist finished four percentage points ahead of Kilicdaroglu (pronounced KEH-lich-DAHR-OH-loo), the candidate of a six-party alliance. Erdogan's performance came despite crippling inflation and the effects of a devastating earthquake three months ago. It was the first time he didn't win an election where he ran as a candidate.

The two candidates offered sharply different visions of the country's future, and its recent past.

"This election took place under very difficult circumstances, there was all sorts of slander and defamation," the 74-year-old Kilicdaroglu told reporters after casting his ballot. "But I trust in the common sense of the people. Democracy will come, freedom will come, people will be able to wander the streets and freely criticise politicians."

Speaking to reporters after casting his vote at a school in Istanbul, Erdogan noted that it's the first presidential runoff election in Turkiye's history.

He also praised high voter turnout in the first round and said he expected participation to be high again on Sunday. He voted at the same time as Kilicdaroglu, as local television showed the rivals casting ballots on split screens.

"I pray to God, that it (the election) will be beneficial for our country and nation," he said.

Critics blame Erdogan's unconventional economic policies for skyrocketing inflation that has fueled a cost-of-living crisis. Many also faulted his government for a slow response to the earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people in Turkiye.

In the mainly Kurdish-populated province of Diyarbakir — one of 11 regions that was hit by the February 6 earthquake — 60-year-old retiree Mustafa Yesil said he voted for "change."

"I'm not happy at all with the way this country is going. Let me be clear, if this current administration continues, I don't see good things for the future," he said. "I see that it will end badly — this administration has to change."

Mehmet Yurttas, an Erdogan supporter, disagreed.

"I believe that our homeland is at the peak, in a very good condition," the 57-year-old shop owner said. "Our country's trajectory is very good and it will continue being good." Erdogan has retained the backing of conservative voters who remain devoted to him for lifting Islam's profile in the Turkiye, which was founded on secular principles, and for raising the country's influence in world politics.

If he wins, Erdogan, 69, could remain in power until 2028. A devout Muslim, he heads the conservative and religious Justice and Development Party, or AKP. Erdogan transformed the presidency from a largely ceremonial role to a powerful office through a narrowly won 2017 referendum that scrapped Turkiye's parliamentary system of governance.

# 1 killed in 'largest drone attack' on Kyiv Day

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war, local officials said, as Kyiv prepared to mark the anniversary of its founding on Sunday.

At least one person was killed. Russia launched the "most massive attack" on the city overnight Saturday with Iranian-made Shahed drones, said Serhii Popko, a senior Kyiv military official.

The attack lasted more than five hours, with air defense reportedly shooting down more than 40 drones.

A 41-year-old man was killed and a 35-year-old woman was hospitalised when debris fell on a seven-story nonresidential building and started a fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

Debris from a drone damaged the building of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind.

On Sunday morning, organisation member Volodymyr Golubenko came to pick up his things.

He was helped by his son

Mykola, who searched for his father's belongings among the rubble and at the same time tried to describe to his father what his office looks like now.

"This wall on the right is destroyed and on left also," said Mykola to his father.

Volodymyr Golubenko worked at this place for more than 40 years. He says it is a home for many blind people, because they come here to talk and support each other.

"If you don't even have a job, it's difficult to get a job now, because these events (war) have been going on since last year. At least people come here to chat," said Volodymyr.

Like Golubenko, many people in his district heard the sound of Shahed drones for the first time. Among them was 36-year-old Yana, who has three boys. The family hid in a corridor all night. "Something started to explode above us. The children ran here in fear," said Yana.

Ukraine's air force said that Saturday night was also record-breaking in terms of Shahed drone attacks across the coun-

try.

Of the 54 drones launched, 52 were shot down by air defense systems.

In the northeastern Kharkiv province, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said a 61-year-old woman and a 60-year-old man were killed in two separate shelling attacks.

Kyiv Day marks the anniversary of the city's official founding. The day is usually celebrated with live concerts, street fairs, exhibitions and fireworks. Scaled-back festivities were planned for this year, the city's 1,541st anniversary.

The timing of the drone attacks was likely not coincidental, Ukrainian officials said.

"The history of Ukraine is a long-standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Ukraine's chief presidential aide, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram.

"Today, the enemy decided to congratulate the people of Kyiv on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles)," Popko also wrote on the messaging app. Local officials in Russia's southern Krasnodar

region said that air defence systems destroyed several drones as they approached the Ilsky oil refinery. Russia's southern Belgorod region, bordering Ukraine, also came under attack from Ukrainian forces on Saturday, local officials said.

Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported Sunday that a 15-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy were wounded in the shelling

Drone attacks against Russian border regions have been a regular occurrence since the start of the invasion in February 2022, with attacks increasing last month.

Earlier this month, an oil refinery in Krasnodar was attacked by drones on two straight days.

Ukrainian air defences, bolstered by sophisticated Western-supplied systems, have been adept at thwarting Russian air attacks — both drones and aircraft missiles.

Earlier in May, Ukraine prevented an intense Russian air attack on Kyiv, shooting down all missiles aimed at the capital. The bombardment, which

additionally targeted locations across Ukraine, included six Russian Kinzhal aero-ballistic hypersonic missiles, repeatedly touted by Russian President Vladimir Putin as providing a key strategic competitive advantage and among the most advanced weapons in his country's arsenal.

Sophisticated Western air defence systems, including American-made Patriot missiles, have helped spare Kyiv from the kind of destruction witnessed along the main front line in the country's east and south. While most of the ground fighting is stalemated along that front line, both sides are targeting other territory with long-range weapons.

Against the backdrop of Saturday night's drone attacks, Russia's ambassador to the UK, Andrei Kelin, warned of an escalation in Ukraine. He told the BBC on Sunday his country had "enormous resources" and it was yet to "act very seriously," cautioning that Western supplies of weapons to Ukraine risked escalating the war to a "new dimension."

# Joe, McCarthy reach debt ceiling deal

AP ■ WASHINGTON

An "agreement in principle" between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy would raise the nation's legal debt ceiling, but now Congress has only days to approve a package that includes spending cuts and would avert a potentially disastrous US default. The compromise announced late Saturday risks angering both Democratic and Republican lawmakers as they begin to unpack the concessions. Negotiators agreed to some Republican demands for increased work requirements for recipients of food stamps that House Democrats had called a nonstarter. But bargainers stopped short of greater spending cuts overall that Republicans wanted.

Support from both parties will be needed to win congressional approval before a projected June 5 government default on US debts.

Lawmakers are not expected to return to work from the Memorial Day weekend before Tuesday, at the earliest, and McCarthy has promised lawmakers he will abide by the rule to post any bill for 72 hours before voting.

White House officials planned to brief House Democrats on a video call Sunday.

The Democratic president and Republican speaker reached the agreement after the two spoke Saturday evening by phone. The country and the world have been watching and waiting for a resolution to a political standoff that threatened the US and global economies.

"The agreement represents a compromise, which means not everyone gets what they want," Biden said in a statement. "That's the responsibility of government."

Biden said the deal was "good news for the American people because it prevents what could have been a catastrophic default and would have led to an economic recession, retirement accounts devastated, and millions of jobs lost."

McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol on Sunday that the agreement "doesn't get everything everybody wanted," but that is to be expected in a divided government. "At the end of the day, people can look together to be able to pass this."

With the outlines of an agreement in place, the legisla-



tive package could be drafted and shared with lawmakers in time for House votes as soon as Wednesday, and later in the coming week in the Senate.

Central to the compromise is a two-year budget deal that would hold spending flat for 2024 and increase it by 1% for 2025 in exchange for raising the debt limit for two years, which would push the volatile political issue past the next presidential election.

Driving hard for a deal to impose tougher work requirements on government aid recipients, Republicans achieved some but not all of what they wanted.

The agreement would raise the age for existing work requirements on able-bodied adults, from 49 to 54, without children. Biden was able to secure waivers for veterans and the homeless.

The two sides had also reached for an ambitious overhaul of federal permitting to ease development of energy projects. Instead, the agreement would put in place changes in the landmark National Environmental Policy Act that will designate "a single lead agency" to develop environmental reviews, in hopes of streamlining the process.

The deal came together after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Congress that the United States could default on its debt obligations by June 5 — four days later than previously estimated — if lawmakers did not act in time.

Lifting the nation's debt limit, now at USD 31 trillion, allows more borrowing to pay the nation's already incurred bills.

McCarthy commands only a slim Republican majority in the House, where hard-right conservatives may resist any deal as insufficient as they try to slash spending.

# Nepal Prez pardons 501 prisoners

**Kathmandu (PTI):** Nepal President Ramchandra Poudel on Sunday pardoned 501 convicts including Tharuhat leader and Nagarik Unmukti Party chief Resham Chaudhary who is serving life imprisonment. Earlier in the morning, a meeting of the Council of Ministers decided to recommend a presidential pardon for 501 jail inmates, including 19 political prisoners, according to the President's Office. Chaudhary has been serving life imprisonment for brutally killing nine people, including eight policemen, during a riot linked to the Tharuhat movement in the Tikapur area of the Kailali district in 2015. On Friday, President Poudel refused to waive the life sentence of Chaudhary as recommended by the government. Former bureaucrats have expressed concern over the government's latest move.

"This will give rise to the criminalization of politics. This will also pose a serious threat to the rule of law," said former secretary Shankar Prasad Koirala.

# Pakistan's ruling coalition rejects Imran's offer

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's ruling coalition has rejected former prime minister Imran Khan's offer for dialogue, saying that talks were held with politicians, not terrorists, a media report said on Sunday. The government also stated that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was now himself seeking a National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO), the Express Tribune newspaper reported. The development came as Khan constituted a seven-member team to hold talks with the government - for developing consensus on a date for general elections - amid a massive crackdown on his party. The crackdown launched after May 9 violent protests have thrown the PTI into a deep existential crisis with dozens of key party leaders jumping ship every day.

The prominent leaders who have quit the party include

Secretary General Asad Umar, senior leader Fawad Chaudhry and former minister Shireen Mazari. On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested Khan from the Islamabad High Court premises. His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander's House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan's arrest.

The mob also stormed the Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi for the first time.

Thousands of Khan's supporters were arrested following the violence that the powerful Army described as a "dark day" in the history of the country. Responding to the talks offer, the supreme leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Nawaz Sharif, took to Twitter to state that talks are held only with politicians.

# 'Intercepted phone call reveals plot by Khan's party to stage fake raid'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has claimed that the intelligence agencies have intercepted a conversation indicating that Imran Khan's party was hatching a plot to defame law enforcement authorities.

Addressing a hastily staged press conference on Saturday night, Sanaullah alleged that the objective of the move was to falsely implicate the law-enforcement agencies in the crime and subsequently raise the issue at the international level.

"The country's agencies intercepted a conversation revealing disturbing plots and planned actions, including a raid on the PTI leader's house and a staged rape," the interior minister claimed.

Sanaullah, however, did not provide proof to substantiate his claims. Khan, the



chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, hit back at Sanaullah on Sunday, saying the minister was "so obviously" trying to cover up "horror stories" about to break in the media. "If there were any doubts about women being mistreated in jails, this press conference from this certified criminal should remove all such doubts," Khan tweeted.

"Women have never been so mistreated and harassed by the state as they have been by this fascist govt when they

were exercising their right to protest peacefully," he added.

Over 60 leaders from Khan's party have parted ways after the May 9 incidents.

The prominent leaders who have quit the party include Secretary General Asad Umar, senior leader Fawad Chaudhry and former minister Shireen Mazari.

On Saturday, Imran Ismail, the former Sindh governor Khan's close aide parted ways with PTI, hours after an anti-terrorism court ordered his release from prison.

On May 9, violent protests erupted after paramilitary Rangers arrested Khan, 70, from the Islamabad High Court premises.

His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander's House, the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad in response to Khan's arrest.

# Oman's sultan visits Iran

AP ■ TEHRAN

Oman's ruler arrived on Sunday in Tehran for talks with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and other top officials, state television reported.

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said was officially welcomed by Raisi at the capital's Saadabad Palace, state media said. The sultan's visit followed an official invitation by the Iranian president. It is his first visit to Iran since he ascended the throne.

Iranian television said Sultan Haitham headed a large delegation including the ministers of defence, foreign affairs, economy and investment.

Oman has a long record of being a key broker between Iran and the West, amid volatile regional tensions. Belgium and Iran exchanged prisoners on



Friday after mediation by Omani officials.

Oman also recently hosted rounds of talks between Iran and its rival Saudi Arabia, facilitating an agreement to resume diplomatic relations

after a seven-year rift.

State-run IRNA news agency said investment, oil and gas issues will be discussed during the Omani's ruler's stay in the Iranian capital.

# Rescue team unable to find missing Indian-origin climber

**Singapore (PTI):** A search and rescue team was unable to locate a missing Indian-origin climber who reached the Mount Everest summit on May 19, despite its best efforts, his wife said in an Instagram post on Saturday.

Interspersing her message between pictures of her husband Shrinivas Sainis Dattatraya on various mountain peaks, Sushma Soma, a 36-year-old musician, said, "He was 39, and in his glorious and rich life, he lived fearlessly and to the fullest. He explored the depth of the sea and scaled the greatest heights of the Earth."

"And now, Shri is in the mountains, where he felt most at

home," The Straits Times quoted Soma from the post.

Shrinivas scaled the Mount Everest on May 19 but told his wife he had come down with high-altitude cerebral oedema and was unlikely to make it down the mountain. Groups of three Sherpas each had been searching for the Singaporean, Nepal Guide Treks and Expedition — one of the companies that co-organised Shrinivas' expedition — had told The Straits Times earlier.

The climber had left Singapore on April 1 with the aim of summiting the Mount Everest and then Mount Lhotse in a single expedition.

# US, Saudi call for warring sides in Sudan to extend ceasefire

AP ■ CAIRO

The United States and Saudi Arabia called on warring sides in Sudan to extend a fragile cease-fire due to expire Monday, as weeks of fighting reached a stalemate in the capital and elsewhere in the African country.

The Sudanese army and a rival paramilitary force, battling for control of Sudan since mid-April, had agreed last week to the weeklong truce, brokered by the US and the Saudis.

However, the cease-fire, like others before it, did not stop the fighting in the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

In a joint statement early Sunday, the US and Saudi

Arabia called for an extension of the current truce which expires at 9.45 pm local time Monday. "While imperfect, an extension nonetheless will facilitate the delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people," the statement said.

The statement also urged Sudan's military government and the rival Rapid Support Forces to continue negotiations to reach an agreement on extending the cease-fire.

The fighting broke out in mid-April between the military and the powerful RSF.

Both military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and RSF leader Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo led the 2021 coup that removed the Western-backed government

of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. It turned Khartoum and the adjacent city of Omdurman into a battle-ground.

The clashes also spread elsewhere in the country, including the war-racked Darfur region. The conflict has killed hundreds of people, wounded thousands and pushed the country to near collapse. It forced more than 1.3 million out of their homes to safer areas inside Sudan, or to neighbouring nations.

Residents reported renewed sporadic clashes Sunday in parts of Omdurman, where the army's aircraft were seen flying over the city.

Fighting was also reported in al-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur.



Fireworks explode over the Neva River during celebrations for the 320th anniversary of St. Petersburg, in St. Petersburg, Russia on Sunday. At right is the city's landmark, the equestrian statue of Russian Tsar Peter the Great, known as the Bronze Horseman.

AP/PTI



# PSG win record 11th French title

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain clinched a French record 11th league title on Saturday as Lionel Messi scored in a 1-1 draw away at Strasbourg.

Messi's opener was cancelled out by a Kevin Gameiro equaliser, but the result gave PSG an unassailable four-point lead over second-placed Lens with one match of the season remaining.

PSG moved ahead of the previous record of 10 titles set by Saint-Etienne in 1981 and which they equalled a year ago under former coach Mauricio Pochettino.

It is PSG's ninth title in the last 11 seasons, a period in which they have dominated French football under Qatari ownership.

"This afternoon I watched the last day of the season in the Bundesliga and you can see that it is very difficult to win the league, any league," PSG coach Christophe Galtier told broadcaster Canal Plus.

"The reigning champions in all European leagues have often had problems this season, so we appreciate what this means."

"It is a title and we must not believe it is normal to win, even if we are Paris Saint-Germain."

PSG started the penultimate weekend of the season six points clear of nearest rivals Lens with just six points to play for, and with a far better goal difference.

A Lens slip-up would have



seen the capital side crowned champions with a game to spare even in defeat, but in the end they needed the draw as their challengers eased to a 3-0 win over already-relegated Ajaccio.

Kylian Mbappe set up Messi to put PSG ahead just before the hour with his 16th

Ligue 1 goal this season.

Ex-Paris striker Gameiro equalised with 11 minutes left, bundling in the rebound after Gianluigi Donnarumma had saved from Morgan Sanson.

The draw ultimately suited both teams as it enabled Strasbourg to guarantee their

top-flight survival.

PSG started the season superbly and did not lose a game in any competition before the World Cup.

However, they lost six of their first 17 league games in 2023 and were eliminated from the Champions League in the last 16 by Bayern

Munich and in the French Cup at the same stage.

Those results increased speculation that Galtier -- who also won the title with Lille two years ago -- will be replaced in the close season.

Messi is expected to depart when his contract expires at the end of the cam-

## Rico in 'serious' condition after horse riding accident



AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain back-up goalkeeper Sergio Rico is in "serious" condition after a horse riding accident, the French club confirmed on Sunday.

The 29-year-old Spaniard was on the bench for PSG as they won the

Ligue 1 title on Saturday before heading to Spain, where the accident happened in El Rocío.

"He is in serious condition," said a PSG spokesperson, while Spanish newspaper Marca report he is "stable".

Rico was taken by helicopter to Seville's Virgen del Rocío hospital, where he was placed on life support, according to local TV channel Canal Sur, citing medical sources.

"Lots of strength and a speedy recovery," wrote Sevilla, whom he played for previously, on Twitter.

Rico, born in Seville, won two Europa Leagues with his hometown side before moving on loan to Premier League side Fulham in 2019.

The goalkeeper then moved to PSG on loan in 2019 before making the move permanent in 2020.

Ajaccio, which was sealed by first-half goals from Deiver Machado, Adrien Thomasson and Lois Openda.

Belgian striker Openda netted a penalty for his 20th goal in Ligue 1 this season.

Marseille, who lost 2-1 at home to Brest, must therefore settle for third place and will

enter the Champions League in the third qualifying round.

Beneath them, Lille are in pole position to qualify for the Europa League after coming from behind to beat Nantes 2-1 and move up to fourth position.

Quentin Merlin put relegation-threatened Nantes in front in the far north, but two second-half penalties from Canada's Jonathan David gave Lille the victory.

Lille are now a point above both Rennes and Monaco, who met on Saturday, with the Brittany side winning 2-0 thanks to second-half goals by Lovro Majer and Amine Gouiri.

Rennes are fifth, above Monaco on goal difference. Fifth place goes into next season's Europa Conference League while sixth will not qualify for Europe at all.

Lyon's European hopes were effectively ended despite a 3-0 win over Reims in which Alexandre Lacazette scored his 27th Ligue 1 goal this season, leaving him just one behind Mbappe, the division's top marksman.

Nantes will go into the final weekend having to win to stand a chance of avoiding relegation as they sit 17th, two points behind Auxerre, who drew 1-1 at Toulouse.

Angers, Ajaccio and Troyes have already been relegated. Four teams go down and only two come up from Ligue 2 as the top flight is reduced from 20 clubs to 18 for next season.

There were also wins on Saturday for Angers, Nice and Clermont.

## Rodrygo's brace earns Real Madrid victory over Sevilla



AP ■ SEVILLE

Rodrygo hit a brace to earn Real Madrid a 2-1 win over Sevilla in La Liga on Saturday, sending his side four points clear of third-place rivals Atletico Madrid.

Madrid were without injured winger Vinicius Junior, who drew global support during the week after he was racially abused by Valencia fans last weekend.

Carlo Ancelotti's team were also missing injured duo Karim Benzema and Marco Asensio in attack.

Rodrygo was Madrid's only fit regular starting forward. After Rafa Mir gave the Europa League finalists, who face Roma on Wednesday, the lead, Rodrygo made his chance count with two goals, the first from a free kick.

"It's hard to choose. They were both nice goals, maybe the second a little bit more but scoring from a free-kick is always special," Rodrygo told DAZN.

"We always practice them and talk about it before, whoever is the most confident takes it and I took the ball."

Ancelotti took off Rodrygo with 10 minutes remaining.

"I was a bit annoyed with him because I wanted to score one more, a hat-trick, but it's OK, he told me that like this we would win," said Rodrygo.

## Siva Sridhar widens gap in medal race

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Siva Sridhar of Jain University Shas clinched five gold medals, widening the gap between him and Aneesh Gowda of Christ University in the medal race, on the sixth day of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2022 on Sunday.

Siva sank his own meet record in the men's 400m medley, clocking 4.37.21mins, better than 4:38.98mins he had set in the previous edition. Aneesh Gowda was second. He also won the 4x100 medley with teammates to add to his gold tally.

Aneesh, however, took the men's 200m freestyle title later to narrow the medal gap.

Both, Aneesh and Siva, now have seven medals each from the pool as they also won silver and bronze in the men's 100m butterfly later in the day.

In the shooting event, Manavadiya Singh Rathore and Kirti Gupta were



also helping Manav Rachna University win their third

shooting gold, with the trap mixed team title. They shot a

combined 139 out of 150 targets to secure the win, ahead of Delhi University's Daksh Singh and Aashima Ahlawat, who shot 137.

The second gold at the shooting range went to the India international duo of R Narmada Nithin and Sri Karthik Sabari Raj of Madras University who got the better of Delhi University Sports Council's Anshika Gupta and Samarvir Singh 17-13 in the 10m air rifle mixed team final.

Mehuli Ghosh and Srinjoy Datta of Adamas University won bronze.

Also winning their third gold medals in the pool were Preetha V of Bangalore University who won the women's 800m and 200m freestyle and Shristi Upadhyay of Jadavpur University who took the 100m and 200m women's butterfly titles, to go with their lone golds won on Saturday.

Women wrestlers helped Guru Nanak Dev and Delhi

universities pick two golds each at the IIT-BHU indoor stadium in Varanasi out of the eight golds won on the mat.

Sweetie in the women's 53kg and Manju in the 72kg categories were the winners for Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) while Nikita in the 62kg and Manju in the 59kg categories were the golden girls for Delhi University.

**OTHER RESULTS:**  
**(Football) Women's final:** Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar bt University of Mumbai 6-0; **Men's semis:** MG University, Kottayam bt Sant Baba Bhag Singh, Punjab 2-0, Adamas University bt Punjab University, Chandigarh 3-1; **(Hockey) Women's:** ITM, Gwalior bt MD University, Haryana 3-1, Savitribai Phule Pune University bt University of Calicut 5-0, University of Mysore bt Punjabi University, Patiala 1-0, The Maharaja Bhupinder Singh Sports University bt Sambalpur University, Odisha 2-1.

## Benfica win Portuguese Primeira Liga

AP ■ LISBON

Benfica won the Portuguese Primeira Liga for a record-extending 38th time by beating Santa Clara 3-0 on Saturday, four years after they last lifted the trophy.

Last season's champions Porto finished second after they also beat Vitoria Guimaraes 3-0, but they needed Benfica to lose to have a chance of retaining the title on the final day.

Goncalo Ramos, Rafa Silva and Alejandro Grimaldo struck for the hosts at the Estadio da Luz in Lisbon, as Roger Schmidt's side saw off bottom-of-the-table Santa Clara with ease.



Benfica, who blew a chance to lift the title last weekend by drawing with Sporting Lisbon, made no mistake this time.

Only a defeat would have foiled their title challenge and Ramos headed home from inside the six-yard box after

seven minutes to put his side on the right track.

Despite selling midfielder Enzo Fernandez to Chelsea in January after his triumphant World Cup campaign with Argentina, Benfica have had a strong campaign and also

reached the Champions League quarter-finals.

Silva hit the second for Benfica at the end of a razor-sharp break, exchanging passes with Joao Mario and then firing home with the aid of a deflection.

Former Barcelona defender Grimaldo netted the third from the penalty spot after an hour and produced an emotional celebration, in his last game for the club before he joins Bayer Leverkusen.

Porto did their job at home against Guimaraes with goals from Mehdi Taremi, Otavio and Evanilson, but ultimately fell short, finishing two points behind the new champions.

## Tsitsipas survives scare to reach second round



AP ■ PARIS

Stefanos Tsitsipas held off a spirited comeback from Jiri Vesely to reach the second round of the French Open on Sunday with a four-set win.

The Greek fifth seed, who blew a two-set lead to lose the 2021 final to Novak Djokovic, won 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7) on Court Philippe Chatrier.

He will next face either Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena or qualifier Emilio Nava.

Tsitsipas appeared to be cruising to victory after battling through the first two sets.

But world number 455 Vesely, who had previously only played in two second-tier Challenger events this year, forced a fourth set.

The Czech left-hander should have pushed the match into a decider, but saw four set points slip away in the fourth-set tie-break before Tsitsipas clinched a round-two place with a crunching forehand winner.

## No extra pressure on Alcaraz at French Open: Ferrero

AP ■ PARIS

There is no added pressure on Carlos Alcaraz to win his second Grand Slam title at the French Open, his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero said on Sunday.

The world number one will start his first Slam tournament since winning last year's US Open in the next two days, attempting to step into the absent Rafael Nadal's shoes by lifting the trophy.

Alcaraz will play Italian qualifier Flavio Cobolli in the first round.

"I think of course (having) won a Grand Slam already, 19 years old, now 20, it's gonna help him to believe that he can make it again," said Ferrero, who won the Roland Garros title 20 years ago.

"I think it's all help, not more pres-



sure. So that's what we believe, and I think we are prepared to make a great tournament.

"Of course everybody can lose in the first round, you don't have a clue."

"But I think we (have) played a very good clay season at the moment, and this is the last one, so we are gonna try to give our best to make the best tournament possible with no pressure."

Alcaraz, the youngest man to ever reach the top of the world rankings, has successfully defended the Barcelona and Madrid Open titles in the clay-court season.

The 20-year-old Spaniard, who lost in the quarter-finals at the French Open to Alexander Zverev last year, faces a tricky path to a potential semi-final against Novak Djokovic.

He could face in-form youngster Lorenzo Musetti in the last 16, while 2021 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas is a possible quarter-final opponent.

Ferrero thinks that Alcaraz is better equipped to go all the way than he was 12 months ago.

"As a person, I would say he's more mature," he said.

"I would say he's better than last year. I think he has more experience."

"The experience that he's won the US Open and, living the experience on the court that he did, I think makes him grow faster than maybe other people, so definitely he's a better player."

Alcaraz has reclaimed the world number one ranking from Djokovic despite missing the Australian Open at the start of the year with a leg injury suffered in training.

## Kostyuk refuses to shake hands with Sabalenka

AP ■ PARIS

Aryna Sabalenka kept her Acolot to win a politically-charged French Open duel against Marta Kostyuk on Sunday as jeers rained down after the defeated Ukrainian refused to shake hands with her Belarusian opponent.

World number two and Australian Open champion Sabalenka swept 10 of the last 12 games to win 6-3, 6-2 as she kick-started her push to reach the second week in Paris for the first time.

Kostyuk honoured her pledge not to shake hands with Sabalenka in protest at Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Belarus is a key military ally of Moscow.

"It was a very tough match, tough emotionally. I didn't know if the booing was against me but thank you so much for your support, it's really important," said Sabalenka who performed a theatrical bow to the sparse Court Philippe Chatrier crowd.

Kostyuk, 20, famously refused to shake hands with Sabalenka's Belarusian compatriot and former world number one Victoria Azarenka at the US Open last year.

She opted instead for a cursory touch of racquets at the net.

The 39th-ranked Kostyuk has been a vociferous critic of the decision to allow Russian and Belarusian players to keep com-



peting on tour since the invasion of her country.

When she won her first career WTA title in Austin earlier this year with victory over Russia's Varvara Gracheva, she dedicated it to her country and "all the people who are fighting and dying".

On Sunday, Kostyuk, ranked 39, enjoyed the first break of the match to lead 3-2 but the more powerful Sabalenka roared back, sweeping the next four games to claim the opener.

Australian Open champion Sabalenka, who has never got past the third round in Paris, broke in the opening game of the second set and backed it up with a hold for 2-0.

There was no way back for Kostyuk as Sabalenka set up a second round clash with either compatriot Iryna Shymanovich or Panna Udvardy of Hungary.



# IPL final moves to reserve day due to rain



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The final of the Indian Premier League 2023 was on Sunday moved to the reserved day after relentless rains delayed the toss and subsequently did not allow the start of the summit showdown here.

The announcement was made at 10:55 pm local time. The title clash between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings, thus, will be played here at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Monday. With the weather forecast not being too promising for the final on Sunday, it only kept

getting worse for the fans who had turned up to pack the house. It began raining here in the evening half an hour before the toss time – around 6:30 pm local time – and did not stop for longer durations at least for the next two-and-a-half hours. The rain, however, did stop

after 9:00 pm local time and the covers were taken off, with two super sopper already in action from around 8:30 pm IST. However, heavy spell of rain returned to force the ground staff to cover the field again and players off the pitch, who had started warming up.

There were some serious puddles on the covers and exposed parts of the outfield, which would have taken the groundstaff more than a hour to clear, provided the rain had stopped. As per the rules, the IPL final will have a reserve day — Monday, May 29 in this year's

case — in case the match is not able to start by 12:06am cut-off time, in which case there will be a five-overs per-side contest. There are no such predictions of rain here on Monday, which means that there is full possibility of a 20-20 over match.



## Rayudu announces retirement from IPL

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Former India ODI specialist and Chennai Super Kings regular Ambati Rayudu on Sunday announced that the IPL final against Gujarat Titans here will be his last game in cash-rich league. Rayudu, who had retired from international cricket after being overlooked for the 2019 World Cup in England, had a couple of years back announced his retirement from domestic cricket only to retract his decision later. However, in a tweet on Sunday, the 38-year-old Hyderabad said that there won't be any U-turn this time around after scoring 139 runs in 15 games. "2 great teams mi nd csk, 204 matches, 14 seasons, 11 playoffs, 8 finals, 5 trophies. Hopefully 6th tonight. It's been quite a journey. I have decided that tonight's final is

going to be my last game in the Ipl. I truly hav enjoyed playing this great tournament. Thank u all. No u turn," Rayudu tweeted. In 55 ODIs for India, Rayudu scored 1694 runs with three hundreds and 10 fifties at an average of 47-plus. It was in T20 cricket, however, where he made a big name having been a vital cog in the CSK set-up for close to a decade. Before Sunday's final, he has played 203 IPL games, scoring 4329 runs at a strike-rate of 127 with 22 half-centuries and a single century. The 602 runs in the 2018 season for CSK was his best effort. However, it is understood that once he retires from Indians domestic scene, Rayudu is free to ply his trade in various franchise leagues as well as veterans' T20 tournaments.

## I didn't expect this would happen but Gopi sir kept pushing me: Prannoy after win

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Sleep-deprived Indian shuttler HS Prannoy had almost given up on winning his next title and breaking a six-year long drought before chief national coach Pullela Gopichand instilled in him the belief that he remains a force to reckon with. "I think there are too many emotions. The last six years have been too much of a roller-coaster. I didn't expect that it will happen after six years to be honest. I mean if you would have asked me in 2017 I don't think I would have told you that I will win in 2023. So lots of mixed emotions," Prannoy said after the title triumph. "Thanks to all the coaches, support staff and Gopi sir (chief national coach Pullela Gopichand). He kept telling me that it will happen one day and I should keep believing," he added. The 30-year-old Prannoy, who is ranked ninth in the world and India's best at the moment, also thanked his former teammate RMV Gurusai Dutt, who turned to coaching after retiring in June last year, for helping him out in his hour of need. "Thanks to Guru, last four months we have worked really hard and the results finally came out."



England champion Li Shi Feng and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto - in three games on way to the title clash. "The draw was really tough for me, I had tough matches. I had to really dig deep in the four matches. It all went to the wire. It shows how much I was patient and my fitness was also decent. "To beat such players is not easy. The conditions were slow and I had to hang in there and I did that. "The first thing is to keep aside the competition within ourselves, the competition is with myself. I think it is really important for me to be consistent whatever I do and results will follow." Prannoy has battled a series of injuries and health issues before turning his career around in the back end of 2021. "I need to be smart enough which tournaments to play and which to back out and train in between the tournaments, these are the key points because the number of tournaments are really really high and we have to be smart. "It (the triumph) gives a lot of insights. When you dig deep and win such matches, that helps you find a lot of hidden gems, you will be discovering those after a long time and realise that you can do that. "That's what happened in Malaysia, I could discover a lot of things and it will give me confidence to train and be ready for next few events."



## Hard to see past Kohli: Hussey on India's key players for WTC final

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Michael Hussey feels it is "hard to see past Virat Kohli" if India are to win the World Test Championship final against Australia at the Oval in London from June 7. Besides Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma will be key to India's chances in the WTC final, the former Australia batter said. "It's hard to see past Virat Kohli. He (Kohli) is obviously coming back into some great form again in all forms of the game really, so both he and

Rohit Sharma with the bat are going to be important for India," Hussey told the ICC website. Kohli is back to his best and recently scored back-to-back hundreds in the IPL for Royal Challengers Bangalore. Kohli has reached the UK along with Mohammad Siraj, and the team is training at Kent Cricket Ground ahead of the final. India recently won the home series against Australia but the WTC final will be a different ball game, reckons Hussey. "It is going to be played in England, so English conditions

will be different to the recent series in India, so I think the fast bowlers are going to be important. "Pat Cummins (is a key for Australia) and Josh Hazlewood might be fit again which would be nice for Australia. "But India have got so many great bowlers as well. You've got (Mohammed) Siraj and (Mohammed) Shami and obviously the spinners with (Ravindra) Jadeja and (Ravichandran) Ashwin as well. It's a world-class attack and the Aussies are going to have to be at their best to beat them."

## Asia Cup: BCCI unlikely to support hybrid model

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI will not support Najam Sethi's proposed hybrid model of hosting the Asia Cup wherein four preliminary round and two super four games will be held in Pakistan with India's matches and the final taking place in a neutral country. It is understood that the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Jay Shah, who is also the secretary of the BCCI, during an informal discussion with some of the continental body's members in Ahmedabad has made the Indian board's stand clear. For a tournament to happen at a neutral venue, the all-powerful executive body of the ACC needs to take the final call, and therein lies the problem. "Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have already told the PCB that they have no

issues playing their games in Pakistan. But India is not keen on supporting the hybrid model. Now, the impasse hasn't been broken and the final decision will only be taken at ACC executive board meeting that Jay (Shah) will have to summon," an ACC board member said. The ACC executive body has 25 members -- 5 Test-playing nations (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan), 3 with ODI and T20I status and 17 more with only T20 status. The hybrid model does have a logistical issue. What Pakistan Cricket Board chief Najam Sethi has told the ACC is that having the Asia Cup in two countries means double mileage for broadcasters but the BCCI feels that it will be a logistical nightmare considering the UAE might not be the neutral venue.



## India play out 1-1 draw against Pak

PTI ■ SALALAH

India played out a thrilling 1-1 draw against arch-rivals Pakistan in their third Pool A game to continue their unbeaten run in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament in Salalah here. Sharda Nand Tiwari (24th minute) gave India the lead in the high-stake match on late Saturday night but it was nullified by Basharat Ali in the 44th minute. The result means India, with seven points from three matches, stays second in Pool A behind Pakistan (same points) but are ahead on goal difference. Japan, who beat Chinese Taipei 10-1 earlier on Saturday, are third with six points from three outings. India had earlier thrashed Chinese Taipei 18-0 before beating Japan 3-1 in their second match. On Saturday night, the

Indians went on the offensive from the word go and kept Pakistan defence under pressure with repeated forays. However, India broke the deadlock in the second quarter when Sharda Nand brilliantly converted a penalty corner to give his team the much-needed lead. Desperate to find the equaliser, Pakistan started with an attacking mindset after the change of ends and the move paid off as Basharat scored a field goal a minute from the third quarter to level the scores. Keen to regain the advantage, India came out all guns blazing in the fourth quarter, while Pakistan relied more on counters. However, despite both teams coming close to scoring quite a few times, neither side was able to find the back of the net as the match ended in a 1-1 draw. India will Thailand in their last pool game on Sunday.

## Verstappen wins Monaco GP to extend F1 championship lead

AP ■ MONACO

Formula One champion Max Verstappen's lights-to-flag victory win at the Monaco Grand gave the Red Bull driver his fourth victory of the season and extended his championship lead on Sunday. Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso was a season's best second for Aston Martin as he collected a fifth podium in six races, while Frenchman Esteban Ocon secured third place and a rare podium for Alpine. For most of the race, Verstappen coasted on a dry

and narrow track where overtaking is the hardest in F1. But an incident-free race in Monaco is rare and heavy rain played havoc with about 20 of the 78 laps left. Some drivers had pitted for the wrong medium tires shortly before the downpour and slid around. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. Glided sideways into the barriers and was lucky not to damage his Ferrari. Kevin Magnussen lost control of his Haas and Lance Stroll retired after damaging his Aston Martin. Red Bull had wisely put Verstappen on the versatile



and more suited to the wet conditions intermediates on Lap 56 and they carried him to his second win in Monaco. The first was in 2021. Lewis Hamilton finished fourth for Mercedes and picked up a point for fastest lap. His teammate George Russell was fifth, having earlier almost slammed into Sergio Perez's Red Bull as visibility worsened. A serious crash was somehow avoided in a hectic few minutes before the rain eased off. On Saturday, Verstappen just edged out Alonso to deny the 41-year Spaniard his first

pole for 11 years. Perez, who won the race last year, started from last after a clumsy crash in qualifying and finished 16th. Verstappen's 39 F1 wins have all been with Red Bull since his first on debut for the team at the Spanish GP in 2016 when he became the youngest F1 winner at 18 years old. He set a team record for wins as he passed former Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel's previous tally of 38 victories for the team when he won four straight titles from 2010-13.