

Uphill task

With just 15 months left until the next general election in the United Kingdom, the Conservative Party finds itself at a crossroads. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has embarked on a bold mission to rebrand his party, but some decisions and controversies have cast shadows of doubt over their electoral prospects. In a bid to project an image of a resolute decision-maker and a catalyst for change, Mr Sunak made the surprising announcement during the Conservative Party’s annual conference at Manchester of cancelling a high-speed rail project to that city itself. While this move might have been aimed at showing fiscal responsibility, it ended up infuriating local residents, politicians and businesses. The question of his political acumen is now at the forefront, especially as the Tories lag behind the Labour party in opinion polls. The cancellation of the rail project also reignited public outrage over the state of British public services. After 13 years in power, the Tories face an uphill battle in eroding Labour’s lead in the run-up to an election that must be held by January 2025. Mr Sunak’s call for change is timely, but it must be accompanied by concrete policies that address pressing issues such as healthcare waiting lists and the ever-increasing cost of living. One of the standout moments dur-



ing the conference was the rapturous welcome given to Ms. Liz Truss, Mr Sunak’s predecessor. Though Ms Truss’s abrupt resignation after just 49 days in office was triggered by market concerns over her debt-heavy economic plans, her presence at the conference and the enthusiastic reception she received underscore the intricate dynamics within the Tory party. This complexity is further illuminated by prominent pro-Brexit campaigner, Mr Nigel Farage’s attendance. Despite having led a rival party that eroded support away from the Tories, Mr Farage was greeted with cheers from party members.

This indicates that Mr Sunak must walk a tightrope, maintaining support from the right-wing faction while not estranging the more centrist voters. Political polls can be unreliable, as demonstrated in the 2015 and 2017 general elections and the 2016 Brexit vote. Although current polls show the Labour party leading, it is crucial to remember that the political climate can shift swiftly. The Tories have a track record of defying poll predictions and they believe they can do so once more. Nevertheless, winning the next election demands more than a focus on conventional issues such as immigration and tax cuts. While these may resonate with core Tory supporters, the concerns of undecided voters revolve around healthcare and inflation. Mr Sunak’s performance or lack of it on these fronts will determine victory or defeat. The Tories must craft a message that harmonises fiscal responsibility with social compassion. If they can effectively communicate their vision and address the tangible concerns of the electorate, they may yet defy the odds. However, it is a precarious path that demands astute political acumen

Sikkim Tragedy

The Lhonak glacial lake disaster in Sikkim is a wake-up call for India and the world to acknowledge the grim reality of climate change. With at least 18 people confirmed dead and 102 missing, this tragedy serves as a heart-wrenching reminder that the consequences of our changing climate are not some distant, abstract future but a chilling presentday reality. The initial death toll of 18 is devastating enough, but what is equally distressing is the uncertainty that hovers over the fate of those 102 missing individuals. As rescue efforts continue, the number of casualties could tragically rise. It is jolting enough to witness natural disasters exacerbated by climate change that are becoming more frequent and severe, leaving communities in their path vulnerable and helpless. What unfolded in Sikkim is a stark illustration of how climate change isn’t just about rising global temperatures or melting ice caps. It is about the tangible, immediate impact on peoples’ lives. Heavy rains triggered a cloudburst that inundated the Lhonak glacial lake, causing it to burst its banks and flood the Teesta valley. Entire villages were submerged, bridges washed away and lives shattered. The toll on human life is not the only tragedy here. The environment, too, has borne the brunt of this catastrophe. Satellite imagery reveals that nearly two-thirds of the lake has drained and the consequences for the local ecosystem are dire. The delicate balance of nature in this pristine region has been disrupted and it will take years, if not decades, for it to recover ~ if recovery is even possible.



It is worth noting that this disaster is not an isolated incident. South Asia’s mountains, including the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, have witnessed a series of deadly flash floods and landslides this monsoon season. These events are consistent with the predictions made by climate scientists a decade ago. Glacial lakes are expanding, posing a growing threat to downstream communities and infrastructure. One question looms large. Why wasn’t more done to prevent or mitigate this disaster? Reports suggest that a decade ago, India’s National Remote Sensing Centre had issued a warning, indicating a “very high” risk of the Lhonak Lake bursting its banks. Yet, here we are, with the aftermath of a preventable tragedy on our hands. The failure to open dam gates in time to manage the water from National Hydroelectric Power Corporation’s Teesta V dam is another troubling aspect of this crisis. It raises serious questions about disaster preparedness and response. As climate change brings more extreme weather events, it is imperative that governments and agencies act swiftly and decisively to protect their citizens. The disaster is a clarion call for all to recognise the urgency of addressing climate change before more tragedies like this unfold. It is a stark reminder that actions today will determine the fate of the planet and its inhabitants tomorrow.

Education Derailed

Examining Boards, throughout India, have tried to mask the fall in educational standards; more students were declared passed in Board examinations of 2022 than in earlier years despite most examinees not attending classes for a single day.

DEVENDRA SAKSENA

The recent Health Ministry directive reducing the cut-off qualifying percentile for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-Post Graduate (PG) 2023, from fifty to “zero” across all categories, exposes the sorry state of medical education because the affected students, who had scored ‘zero’ or had negative marks, had ‘earned’ an MBBS degree after five years of academic and practical instruction. Should these students clear their post-graduate examination in the same way they had graduated, which is more than likely, the country will be burdened by medical specialists of zero competence. Eminent doctors, and professional medical bodies, like the Federation of All India Medical Association came out against the Government’s decision, but to no avail. To put things in proper perspective, NEET-PG 2023 had 200 multiple choice questions each with four options; a correct answer would get the candidate four marks while one mark would be deducted for a wrong answer. A candidate who chose a certain option, say option (a), for all questions would get a net of 50 marks (50 correct answers fetching 200 marks and 150 wrong answers resulting in deduction of 150 marks). Thus, examinees getting less than 50 marks were neither professionally competent nor were blessed with basic intelligence, and therefore, did not deserve to be admitted to a professional postgraduate course. The NEET-PG 2023 imbroglio, is not an isolated instance; education, at all levels, is floundering in India. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), 2022 found glaring shortcomings in the learning of schoolgoing children, of the kind that only 42.8 per cent of class five students could read a class two text ~ down from 50.2 per cent in 2018. Apparently, the Covid19 pandemic that had forced all educational institutions to close down for two years, worsened the already poor standard of education. Significantly, since 2009, when we were ranked 73rd out of 74 countries, the Government of India has consistently refused to participate in OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which measures 15-year-olds’ ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges. Examining Boards, throughout India, have tried to mask the fall in educational standards; more students were declared passed in Board examinations of 2022 than in earlier years despite most examinees not attending classes for a single day. Also, Board examinations saw a record number of students who scored more than 90 per cent marks.

Anomalously, the cut-off marks for JEE-Advanced 2022 were kept at a mere 15 per cent, so that available seats could be filled up. It would appear that educational standards were deliberately lowered to conceal the rot in the educational system. Such blatant window dressing fools no one, but puts a question mark on the credibility of Board results. The most significant cause for the rot in the education system is insufficient funding by the Government. Till today, Government schools established by the British more than a century ago, are the backbone of our education system. Most of these schools are now floundering, with falling buildings and a huge shortage of teachers, affecting the learning of the majority of students in the country. A viral video from Bihar shows



five primary Government schools operating from a single room, with five teachers writing on a single blackboard, to a roomful of bemused children. Obviously, education imparted in such schools would be of an abysmal standard, yet no efforts are visible for the improvement of Government schools. The condition of higher education is even worse, with hardly any employment opportunities for young men with traditional education, i.e., ordinary BA and BSc degrees. Resultantly, the great universities of yesteryears, like Calcutta University, have a large number of vacant seats at undergraduate level. Even engineering courses in run-of-the-mill institutions have no value in the job market. Not surprisingly, hardly half the seats for undergraduate engineering courses could be filled up across India. Non-professional college degrees are losing their importance worldwide. Two years after the 2008-09 meltdown, half of the college graduates in the US became unemployed or underem-

ployed. Slowly, after the effects of the recession wore down, college degrees regained their importance, but the percentage of high school graduates enrolling in college came down; from 70 per cent in 2009 to 61.8 per cent in 2021. After the Covid-19 pandemic, when the job market became unusually tight, the college degree again lost its relevance because while hiring for ordinary jobs, potential employers stopped asking for college degrees. According to a Harvard Business Review and the Burning Glass Institute estimate for the US, in the next five years, college degrees would not be required for 14 lakh jobs. However, students still vie for quality college education, because it develops essential skills like analytical thinking, active learning, and complex problem solving, which results in brighter college graduates with the right skillset, being paid more, and being employed at higher levels. This would explain why eight lakh students appear for the 16,000 IIT seats, and admissions to some Delhi colleges require 100 per cent marks in Twelfth Board, or why private universities, which charge a bomb for their

Can Pakistan rise above despair?

There are several hundreds of statistics, ratios, measures, etc. to gauge the health of a nation.

ASHRAF JEHangir Qazi

Explanations of human behaviour — whether individual, group or collective — necessarily involve simplification because of their inherent complexity. This allows the ‘common man’ to claim the right to his individual if not always correct opinions on social, political and economic matters which have a palpable personal impact on him in a way he would not presume to claim with regard to complex physical processes which do not appear to have any such immediate impact on his well-being.

In physics, any thesis that is ‘testable’ by rigorous observations and mathematical equations that are internally consistent is considered valid until further observation and theoretical and mathematical advances confirm or challenge its validity.

The James Webb Space Telescope is doing just this with regard to the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe. No such rigour is available for the social sciences. If it were, the basis for democratic governance would cease to exist because science or, alternately, religion and ideology, in alliance with state power would decide all social issues.

This alliance (based far more on religion and ideology than science) has provided the woof and warp of political history in general and Pakistan’s history in particular. That is why democracies, whether young or old, unless constantly nourished and renewed through the rational questioning of established authority and dogma, degenerate into tyrannies.

The precondition for such nourishment and renewal is, of course, human development which is premised on culture, science and technology, an education of public opinion which provides uncensored and non-manufactured information, an ability to think rationally, and a spirit of community, accommodation and tolerance — all of which are essential to democratic governance.

All of the above has been consistently denied to the people of Pakistan culminating in today’s state of the nation in which usurpers, in one form or another and on one pretext or another, seek to permanently prevail over the people, the Constitution and the rule of law.

Everyone knows this, but everyone is coerced into believing they can do nothing about it. History will not absolve those responsible for this betrayal of the nation. Those responsible include not just the ruling elites and the purchased middle class

intelligentsia and professional classes, but also the people who instead of standing up for the survival of their children confine themselves to unorganised, sporadic, and unavailing protests. Their ‘leaders’ easily betray them.

There are several hundreds of statistics, ratios, measures, etc. to gauge the health of a nation. The extent and quality of



education is a prime measure. Sports is a vital component of education. It teaches an individual to reach for his or her potential. It teaches competition, fair play, how to take triumph and defeat and, above all, playing for the team and passing the torch onto the next generation.

Pakistan is sports-crazy. But its sportsmen and sportswomen are betrayed by bosses who see sports as a personal opportunity rather than a nation builder. Accordingly, it has marginal social priority and its development is neglected. When I was in Beijing in 1996, I wrote a report on China’s fine performance in the Atlanta Olympics as one indicator of its emergence as a great power.

Much the same could be said about India’s performance at the recent Asian Games in Hangzhou. India’s best-ever performance of 100 medals including 25 gold contrasted with Pakistan’s worst-ever performance of three medals and zero gold.

This pathetic performance reflects the low priority of sports

courses, are burgeoning ~ the bottom line being that students graduating from these institutions can easily land a good job.

The icing on the cake is that a talented alumnus of IIT/IM can, one day, aspire to become the CEO of some top US corporate. However, outside this charmed circle, a student of ordinary means faces a cruel dilemma. After completing his school education, he has little capital, skill or experience to strike out on his own. If he goes to a second-grade college, he can only hope that he will get some small-time employment ~ after wasting his parent’s money and several years of his own life. The obvious solution is to link education to jobs, which would entail providing the wherewithal to colleges to offer vocational education to interested students. This is not an untried idea; one-half to nearly two-thirds of students pursue vocational education in countries like Germany and Switzerland. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 rightly aims to introduce vocational education at all levels by integrating vocational education into mainstream education, in all educational institutions, by 2030. NEP also proposes to remove the ‘hard separation’ between the vocational and academic streams and overcome the stigma attached to vocational education. Further, NEP aims to ensure universal access to quality holistic education ~ including vocational education ~ from pre-school to Grade XII and every child would learn at least one vocation and be exposed to several more. However, implementation of NEP 2020, seems to be running far behind schedule; NEP had envisaged that by 2025, at least half of the students would have vocational exposure through school and higher education.

The problem in implementation of NEP appears to be of finance and resolve; the NEP document requires that 6 per cent of GDP be spent on education, while we are spending only half of that. Further, changeover to NEP would require teacher re-education, new infrastructure and a complete overhaul of the education system ~ which is easier said than achieved. An obvious first step to popularize vocational education would be to stop lionizing higher education, and running down its alternatives. The Government can also help by developing online courses on the pattern of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), as an alternative to college enrolment, which would provide an affordable and flexible way for students to learn the latest skills, supplement their learning, and advance their career. The popularity of Coursera in the US, which has 118 million registered learners, and which adds about 5 million new learners every quarter, is a pointer to the usefulness of good online courses. The Government can also rethink about its Institutes of Eminence (IoE) initiative, which has hit a roadblock, with only 12 institutes, out of a possible 20, being granted the IoE tag, and funding of Rs.3,200 crore, out of a budget of Rs.10,000 crore, being utilized. Currently, the Empowered Expert Committee for IoE, has been defunct for more than two years, making any action on IoE unlikely. Probably, the unutilized funds of Rs.6,800 crore of IoE can be used to establish good vocational colleges in all districts, and thereby kickstart vocational education. Finally, learning requires great effort from students. As Mahatma Gandhi had said: “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

and education in the governance of the country. The same neglect is apparent in current human rights, judicial, economic, social, political, health, institutional, corruption, inequality, poverty, and other statistics that collectively define multidimensional state failure in Pakistan. I might add that selling the family silver is not a legitimate caretaker responsibility.

None of this should instil despair. But it does define an unprecedented existential challenge the people have to take up in an organised and sustained manner. This is the meaning of jihad — a collective and unrelenting effort and struggle for survival, truth and justice. Such a jihad must provide the social and political core of our faith. Should we avoid taking up this challenge we shall forfeit the right to survive.

In his seminal 1967 article on ‘The responsibility of intellectuals’, Noam Chomsky makes clear that intellectuals have a choice: either, as Norman Finkelstein puts it, they devote themselves to the service of truth and justice or they seek power and privilege. They cannot do both.

Serving truth and justice entails a price, often a very heavy price. Very few intellectuals are willing to make the choice in favour of this calling. They choose to compromise pretending to speak truth to power while preserving their jobs and perks, the security of their families, their social status and their personal freedoms. They end up betraying their professional commitments.

Their sin is not so much their caution which is understandable as it is their pretence which is inexcusable. Pakistani public intellectuals including media commentators are, by and large, no exception. There have, however, been intellectuals and commentators who were true to their calling and responsibilities, many of whom, as a result, paid the ultimate price. Their contribution to the ultimate saving of Pakistan should never be forgotten.

According to Chomsky, this applies even more to those countless nameless persons who organise protests and movements on behalf of millions, nay billions, of their compatriots and fellow humans around the world who shall never know them. Pakistan is fortunate to have many such selfless and priceless souls. Their courage and sacrifices are a standing rebuke to the cynicism and complacency that hides under many disguises.

The power and political elites of Pakistan are confident they can always overwhelm and defeat such valiant people. But the people of Pakistan have begun to demonstrate they never will.

Air Force chief to unveil new IAF ensign in Prayagraj today



Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: The IAF will unveil its new ensign at the annual Air Force Day parade at Prayagraj which will be attended by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other officials. The IAF will unveil its new ensign at the annual Air Force Day parade at Prayagraj on Sunday to better reflect its values, 72 years after a similar exercise was undertaken. The Indian Air Force's move comes over a year after the Navy made changes in its ensign, shedding its colonial past. "October 8 will go down as a

momentous day in the annals of IAF history. On this historic day, the Chief of Air Staff will unveil the new IAF ensign," the IAF said. In the new ensign, the Indian Air Force crest will be in the top right corner. The Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October, 1932. In view of its professional efficiency and achievements during World War II, the force was bestowed with the prefix "Royal" in March 1945. So, it became the Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF). In 1950, the IAF dropped its "Royal" prefix and amended the ensign as India

became a republic. The RIAF ensign consisted of the Union Jack in the upper left canton and the RIAF roundel (red, white and blue) on the fly side. Post-Independence, the IAF ensign was created by replacing the Union Jack with the Indian tricolour and the RAF roundels with the IAF tricolour roundel in the lower right canton. "A new IAF ensign has now been created to better reflect the values of the Indian Air Force. This reaffirmation will now be reflected by the inclusion of the Air Force Crest in the top right corner of the ensign, towards

the fly side," the IAF said in a statement. The IAF crest has the national symbol, the Ashoka lion on the top with the words 'Satyameva Jayate' in Devanagari below it. Below the Ashoka lion is a Himalayan eagle with its wings spread, denoting the fighting qualities of the IAF. A ring in light blue colour encircles the Himalayan eagle with the words 'Bhartiya Vayu Sena. The motto of the IAF -- 'touch the sky with the glory' is inscribed below Himalayan eagle in Devanagari. The IAF motto has been

taken from verse 24, Chapter 11 of the Bhagavad Gita and means "Radiant Thou Touchedst Heaven" or in other words "touching the sky with glory". The Air Force Day parade and air display will be held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari are among top military officials attending the event. The parade was traditionally held at the Hindon airbase near Delhi till 2021 before the event was taken outside the national capital. It was held in Chandigarh last year.

GM NC Rly, Satish Kumar inspected Subedarganj station

Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: General Manager North Central Railway, Satish Kumar inspected Subedarganj Railway Station. During this inspection, Satish Kumar thoroughly inspected the development works on the new platform number 4/5 being built at Subedarganj station, and the proposed design of the station and yard etc. During the inspection, the passenger facilities and operational arrangements were closely observed. On this occasion, while inspecting the platform, waiting room etc. at the station, observed the cleanliness arrangements. During his inspection, the General Manager took stock of the condition, maintenance arrangements and passenger facilities starting from Platform 4 to Platform No. 1. He

looked at the arrangements of the sleeper class waiting room and gave necessary guidelines. Satish Kumar also gave instructions to the concerned officials to make the station premises

norms. He took information about the maintenance process from the officials present there and gave instructions to maintain excellent level of passenger comfort and safety in future also. On this oc-



more beautiful and make improvements. He talked about maintaining the highest level of cleanliness and strictly following the quality

casion, Prayagraj Division Railway Manager Himanshu Badoni and all the officers of the division were present.

Inspection conducted ahead of UP CM arrival



Bhadohi, Sanyam Bharat: Security/traffic arrangements during the 4-day International Carpet Fair to be organized from 08.10.2023 to 11.10.2023 at Expo Mart, Carpet City Bhadohi of district Bhadohi and the arrival/tour

program of Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 09.10.2023. In view of this, Divisional Commissioner, Vindhyachal Division and Deputy Inspector General of Police, Vindhyachal Zone Mirzapur

along with District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police Bhadohi inspected the venue, helipad village Bhikharipur and parking lot etc. and gave necessary guidelines regarding security/traffic arrangements.

For safety of journalists, Congmen submitted memo addressed to PreZ to DM

Democracy is in danger due to sending journalists to jail by implicating them in fake cases

MITHILESH PRASAD DWIVEDI

Sonbhadra, Sanyam Bharat: Under the joint leadership of District and City Congress Committee, a delegation of Congress reached the Collectorate on Saturday. They raised slogans against the safety and security of the fourth pillar of the country and against sending journalists to jail by implicating them in false cases against democracy and submitted a memorandum addressed to His Excellency the President to the DM. During this, Congressmen said that this harassment of journalists is not a good message for democracy. Under the joint leadership of Congress Committee District President Ramraj Singh Gond and City Congress Committee President Rajeev Kumar Tripathi, a delegation of Congress people



reached the Collectorate, protesting and raising slogans. Congress workers sat on the steps of the Collectorate and said stop the harassment of journalists, Modi government. Started raising slogans of coming to senses. After some time, the representative of the District Magistrate came and took the memorandum. District President Ramraj Singh Gond said that the government is adopting a dictatorial attitude and sending important and impartial journalists of the country to jail, which the Congress party will not tolerate. We will continue to protest for the protection of democracy, the Constitution and the safety of journalists. City President Rajeev Tripathi said that sending journalists to jail is a direct attack on the fourth pillar which is not a good sign for democracy. Among those who gave the memorandum, apart from the Congress District President and City President, Engineer Jitendra Paswan, Brijesh Tiwari, Rajesh Dwivedi, Amresh Dev Pandey, Pradeep Choubey, Shashank Mishra, Ajit Bihar, Rajbali Pandey, Lallu Ram Pandey, Satyam Pandey, Babul Panika, Ravindra etc. Congress workers were prominent.

Large employment fair in Prayagraj on Oct 11

Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: A divisional level large employment fair is to be organized on 11.10.2023 from 10:00 am in the campus of KP Higher Education Institute, Jhalwa, Prayagraj. In this fair, private sector companies Career Breeze Skill Solution, Dusky Stallion Consultancy Service Pvt. Ltd., Bright Future Organic Herbs and Ayurvedic Pvt. Ltd., Peepal Tree Online, Deserve Career Care Pvt. Ltd., G4S Secure Solution India Pvt. Ltd., Redex Management Pvt. Ltd., Adico India Pvt. Ltd., Pinch Security Service LLP, Nexa Security Guard Service, Golden Farmer Organic Agriculture Pvt Ltd, Busa Management Marketing Ltd, Sivashakti Biotechnology Ltd, Navbharat Fertilizer Pvt Ltd, Bajaj Capital Finance Pvt Ltd, KS Maruti Pvt Ltd, Sai Service Group (Paytm), Innovision Ltd, netef's Selection process will be done on total 3100 vacant posts by Foundation etc. Candidates who have passed high school/inter/graduate/ITI/diploma, age limit is 18 to 45 years can participate in this fair. Candidates can get detailed details related to vacancies on the employment portal sewayojan.up.nic.in. Traveling allowance will not be payable for participation in this fair.

INDIA'S 91ST AIR FORCE DAY-----

Sangam Rafale, Mirage, Sukhoi-30 & Tejas will demonstrate their prowess in the skies



Prayagraj, Sanyam Bharat: Asia's biggest air show to be held at Sangam in Prayagraj on October 8 will be very special. In this, the vintage aircraft Tiger Moth, Harbut Trainer, transport ship Sea One Thirty, IL 78, Chetak helicopter and Rudra helicopter included in the Indian Air Force fleet will show their strength. The theme of India's 91st Air Force Day is IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries. The purpose of the air show is to showcase the strength of the Indian Air Force and also to encourage the youth to participate in it. In this air show, Mirage 2000 will be seen tearing the sky. During the Kargil war, Pakistani soldiers were in fear due to Mirage.

The last show of MiG-21, which has completed its time in the Air Force fleet, will also be seen in Sangam. After the demonstration, MiG-21 will depart from Prayagraj. The Rafale fighter plane purchased from France will also be seen in Prayagraj Airshow. The performance of the Indian Air Force can be seen from Sangam Ghat, Arail Ghat and Jhuns. Along with this, the Sky Divers of Galaxy team will thrill the people by landing on the Sangam coast in their planes. All preparations for the event have been completed. The Air Force has declared the entire Sangam area as a no-fly zone and taken it under control.

Air traffic control room of the Air Force has been established near the road leading to Akshay Vat on the Sangam bank. A bullet proof cabin has been built in the fort situated on the banks of Yamuna. Special guests and senior army officers will watch the air show from the cabin. On the 91st foundation day of the Air Force, this air show will also be special because twin seater Tejas, C-295 will be included in it for the first time. The length of Tejas is 13.2 meters, width is 8.2 meters and height is 4.4 meters. It can reach a height of 50,000 feet by flying at a speed of 2000 kilometers per hour. This will show the power

of Make in India. Due to the air show, temporary wards of 25 beds each will be reserved in the hospitals of Prayagraj and 50 beds will be reserved in Trauma. Apart from this, 10 teams of doctors have been formed for duty during the air show. Apart from this, 25-25 units of blood have been reserved in all the blood banks of the city. Due to this air show to be held at Sangam, the leave of all the doctors has been cancelled. Along with this, arrangements have been made for 24-hour deployment of specialist doctors in SRN Hospital. The Air Force parade will take place in the morning and

the air show will take place from 2 pm. A full dress rehearsal will be held on October 6 before the parade and air show on Sunday, October 8. The Air Force has declared the entire Sangam area as a no-fly zone and taken it under control. The first women contingent of Agniweer will also be seen parading in this air show. 31 women of the Mahila Agniweer Team will parade on October 8. Some new traditions are being started for the first time on the foundation day of the Air Service. This time the process of changing the flag will be done. In this, a new flag will be installed in place of the old flag.



Under aegis of Carpet Export Promotion Council, GoI Carpet Expo Mart, Bhadohi from today

Bhadohi, Sanyam Bharat:

The Indian Carpet Fair is organizing its 45th edition. This expo is organized with the aim of promoting the cultural heritage and weaving skills of Indian hand-made carpets and other floor coverings among foreign carpet buyers. "India Carpet Expo is an ideal platform for international carpet buyers, agents, architects and Indian carpet manufacturers and exporters to meet and establish long-term business relationships. India Carpet Expo is one of the largest handmade carpet fairs in Asia. Where foreign buyers get a unique platform for the best handmade carpets, rugs and other floor coverings under one roof. It has become a popular destination across the world for handmade carpets. The carpets are available in any India's unique ability to adapt a variety of designs, colors, quality and sizes has made it a household

name in the international market. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will formally inaugurate the 45th India Carpet Expo on Monday, October 09 at 11:00



am. Consent has been given, in which officials of the Central and State Governments, Administration Committee, members of CEPC and representatives of trade and media will also be

present. Business negotiations between exhibitors and buyers will begin from today itself amidst preparations for the inauguration on 9 October 2023. It will happen.

established itself as a great sourcing platform for carpet buyers from across the world. More than 500 foreign carpet buyers have registered in this expo, mainly

land, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, U.A.E., U.K., U.S.A., Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zimbabwe etc. Importers from countries are registered with the Council to participate in this mega expo. Carpet Export Promotion Council is not only inviting and encouraging the bulk buyers but also providing 2 nights complimentary stay at a hotel to attend the India Carpet Expo. Chairman, CEPC Captain Mukesh Kumar Gumber said That, "We expect to have good business with potential inquiries for exhibitors".

Bhadohi ranked first place in state in IGRS disposal

Bhadohi got first place in the state level ranking for the month of Sept

Bhadohi, Sanyam Bharat: The complaints received from the Uttar Pradesh Government's online complaint system Jansunwai Portal (IGRS)

rects all the officers and police station in-charges of the district for prompt and timely disposal of the complaints received on the



were disposed of in a timely and quality manner by the District Bhadohi Police. As a result of which, in the disposal of the complaints received, district Bhadohi has got the first rank in the ranking released at the state level in the month of September. When the references received on the public hearing portal of Bhadohi district police were evaluated by the Chief Minister's Office, then among all the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, the action of Bhadohi district was almost 100 percent and the rank was first. Superintendent of Police Dr. Meenakshi Katyayan herself continuously di-

Jansunwai Portal and the work of the Jansunwai Portal (IGRS) is monitored by the SP herself. A total of 955 references received in the month of September were disposed of in a timely and quality manner. In which 60 complaints regarding Chief Minister, 69 regarding Chief Minister Helpline, 179 regarding online, 622 regarding District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, 23 regarding PG Portal and two complaints regarding Governor were resolved. On this success, SP appointed in IGRS cell. Inspector Madan Lal and the team of IGRS cell have been congratulated.

Mayawati questions stands of BJP, Cong on caste census

LUCKNOW (Agency): BSP supremo Mayawati on Saturday targeted the BJP and the Congress over their stance on caste census, terming it the new "election gimmick". She claimed the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) had already demonstrated this "social justice" by implementing it in the party. In a social media post, Mayawati said the BJP, Congress and other parties are talking about



caste census with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha election. "The electoral environment is being affected due to various tempting promises being made by the BJP and the Congress before the next general elections, but the question is why the promises are being made now, and if they were made, why did not they implement it earlier?" she said in the post in Hindi on X. "BJP and Congress are trying to capitalize on caste census, OBC and women's reservation in the election so that they can cover up their failures. But the public is no longer going to be misled by their fake promises," she added. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also hit out at the BJP-Congress for allegedly not speaking up about other crucial issues like poverty, inflation, unemployment and corruption. "People of the country are suffering from these problems which should be addressed first," she added.

Prime Minister National Apprentice Fair tomorrow in Lucknow

Lucknow, Sanyam Bharat: Prime Minister National Apprentice Fair is being organized on 09 October 2023 at Government Industrial Training Institute, Aliganj, Lucknow. In which Tata Motors, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand and Jai Bharat Maruti Ltd. Ahmedabad Gujarat companies will participate. Training Counseling and Placement Officer M.A. Khan said that in both the companies, candidates who have passed high school, intermediate or ITI as Fitter, Turner, Machinist, Electrician, Electronic Mechanic, Painter General and Wireman can participate in the job fair. In which according to the companies, the age limit is 18 to 23 and 35 years and salary is Rs 12,270 to 18,200 per month and other facilities like attendance award, canteen and transport will be given by the company. Only male candidates can participate in the fair. Selection will be made on a total of 600 posts in 2 companies. Interested candidates can get employment by appearing at the Government Industrial Training Institute, Aliganj, Lucknow campus on 09 October 2023 at 09 am attaching all the educational certificates along with their bio-data.

Peace Committee meeting held regarding upcoming festivals

RAMANUJ DHAR DWIVEDI

Sonbhadra, Ghorawal, Sanyam Bharat: Under the chairmanship of Tehsildar in the local town Late Saturday evening, Ghorawal police post complex, regarding the safe completion of Durga Puja, Navratri, Dussehra festivals. A meeting of the Peace Committee was held. In this, the organizers of the program were told to obtain permission for the event as per rules from the Tehsil Office, Ghorawal. Follow the rules given in the permission while organizing the event. No new tradition should be started in the upcoming festivals and obscene songs, dance etc. should not be made. And there should not be inappropriate slogans against any religion, sect or country. Organizers have been directed to make adequate arrangements against fire and electrical incidents at the venue. Apart from this, information has also been given about taking precautions



during immersion and arrangements for local swimmers, divers etc. The festival should be celebrated with the spirit and faith of the festival. The SHO in-charge of Ghorawal Kotwali has

been directed to collect detailed information about all the above preparations in collaboration with the organizers and take necessary action to ensure successful completion of the festi-

val. Do it from. With the beginning of Navratri, the Chief Minister has directed to implement the Mission Shakti campaign more effectively for women empowerment and respect and

safety of women. Therefore, the organizers have been told to prepare necessary workers to maintain the safety and security of women at the event venue and to immediately inform the police administration in case of any incident. On this occasion, Tehsildar Ashwini Kumar, Inspector Manoj Kumar, Ghorawal Outpost Incharge. Jitendra Bahadur Singh, Shivdwar outpost incharge Dharmarath, District Panchayat member Neeraj Srivastava, village head Govind Singh etc.

Conduct caste census as per Constitution, not for sake of votes, as in Bihar survey: Nishad Party chief

A component of the BJP-led NDA in Uttar Pradesh

LUCKNOW (Agency):

Following the findings of Bihar's caste survey, the BJP's allies in Uttar Pradesh have begun campaigning for a caste count in the state, putting pressure on the Yogi Adityanath-led administration, even as the Opposition INDIA alliance has increased its call for a statewide caste census.

The Nishad Party, which advocates for the rights of fishermen, is a component of the BJP-led NDA in Uttar Pradesh. Sanjay Nishad, the organization's founder and president, is also the UP Minister of Fisheries. He expands on his demand for a caste census in Uttar Pradesh, stating that he will write a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and CM Adityanath shortly.

"We are in favor of a caste census. However, understanding a jati (caste) and its paryayvachi (synonyms) is essential. What was the Simon Commission's suggested system before to independence? It is critical to comprehend the William Crooke research on Tribes and Castes, which classified shoemakers, milkmen, fishers, craftspeople, and other groupings. And to comprehend how the Government of India categorized castes based on their origins,

structures... For example, the Kewat caste started in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, or Mallah, Unnao, and subsequently expanded.

The first caste-based census was conducted in 1931. In the 1961 census, groups like as Majwar, Gaur, Tureha, Kharwar, Beldar, Kohli, and others were classified as SC (Scheduled Castes). According to the 1961 census manual, which was notified by the President of India, our (Nishad community) population in UP was 70 lakhs. However, for their own purposes, Congress, the SP, and the BSP withdrew us off the SC list and relegated riverine castes to the OBC (Other Backward Classes) category. My concern is, if all the synonyms for various castes, such as shoemakers or washermen, are lumped together, why not fishermen? So, after the President's announcement, amendments may only be made after a discussion in Parliament.

However, putting distinct synonyms of a caste group separately without a report from any Commission or a discussion in Parliament is unlawful. Bihar was a part of Bengal until becoming a state after independence. Nishads of Bihar have been on the SC list for 40 years, hence listing them as OBC is incorrect. The

manner in which it has been carried out in Bihar is unconstitutional and unjust. That is why we want a caste census, but we want the first riverine caste and its synonyms to be classified as SC before they are counted in the census," he claimed.

"Caste censuses should be conducted, but only in accordance with the Constitution... First, it must be identified which castes are on the SC list and which are not.

How might populations afflicted by the now-abolished Criminal Tribes Act of the colonial British era, whose fate is worse than SC/ST (Scheduled Tribes) be defined? My point is that caste counts should be conducted in accordance with the Constitution rather than for electoral purposes.

The census should not be conducted in the same way as it was in Bihar, which favored the communities of those in power for votes while separating other castes into smaller groupings. The fishermen's community has been divided and reduced in size. The caste count should be carried out using technology. It should be Aadhar-based and done through an app where there is no room for error. The 1961 census manual should also be taken into account," he added.

Will decide on making caste census public after getting report from panel in Nov: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

MYSURU (Agency): With pressure mounting on his government to make public the state's socio-economic and educational census, popularly known as the 'caste census', Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said a decision will be taken once he receives the report next month.

The CM's statement comes days after the Bihar Government released data of its caste survey. Earlier this week, Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes chairperson K Jayaprakash had said he would submit the caste census report to the state government in November.

"When the Kantharaj headed commission gave the report, the then Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy did not take it, now there is a different chairman for the commission. I have asked him to submit the report filed by Kantharaj as it is. He has said that the report will be given in November, let's see," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

Asked about the demand for separate categorisation of the most backward classes, as it is done in the other state, the CM said, "the government cannot do it on its own, a report should be there for it... Once the backward classes commission report comes, we will think over it." The

then Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in 2015 had commissioned the social-economic and educational survey, at an estimated cost of Rs 170 crore in the state, the findings of which have not been made public yet.

The state Backward Classes Commission under its then chair-

person H Kantharaj was tasked with preparing a caste census report.

According to some analysts, successive governments have been shying away from releasing it as the findings of the survey are allegedly contrary to the "traditional perception" of the numerical strength of various castes in Karnataka, especially the dominant Lingayats and Vokkaligas, making it a political hot potato.

Political parties in the state



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the report.

They said the caste census report is currently with the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, and once it submits it, the cabinet would take a call.

Responding to a question on the alleged statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing the Congress and its allies of trying to divide society with caste census, Siddaramaiah said, "No (it will not divide the society), definitely not....Facts are

different and what he is saying is different." For poverty alleviation programmes and to build an equal society, it is required to know about social, economic and educational conditions of various communities, he said, "Our society is by and large with a caste system. To get rid of inequalities and to bring everyone to the mainstream, we need to have statistics, so socio economic and caste survey is required." The Chief Minister also reiterated that the state government will not give any new licenses to open liquor shops.

He was responding to a query about Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar batting for a policy change, saying nobody can stop people from consuming liquor, following his (Siddaramaiah) statement that the government will not open new liquor outlets.

"He (Shivakumar) has said that drinking cannot be stopped. Has he said that the government will permit new liquor shops? He has expressed his opinion, we will take a decision in the cabinet.

In my view, there is no need to give new licenses.... public opinion is also important. According to me there is no such proposal as of now, we are not going to give new licenses to liquor shops," he added.

सोचो खसो वी सयाम भारत
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