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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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Pilot back to recover lost ground

Cong may again entrust him with some key responsibility in State politics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

After calling off his rebellion against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress leader Sachin Pilot returned to Jaipur on Tuesday amid indication that the party high command may again entrust him with some "significant" responsibility.

There were telltale indications of this proposition. To start with, the high command set up a three-member committee consisting of senior leaders to look into the issues raised by Pilot and some MLAs against Gehlot's style of functioning.

If Pilot was not going to be associated with the State Government or State Congress, there would have been no need to set up such a committee, which would primarily ensure better coordination between Pilot and Gehlot in the future.

Secondly, throughout the day in his different media interaction and interview, Pilot never said he was not looking to regain the post of Deputy



Congress leader Sachin Pilot being welcomed by his supporters on his arrival at his residence in Jaipur on Tuesday

Chief Minister or the State president. "I've left it to the high command," was his stock reply to pointed questions about his future, though he kept asserting he would continue to serve people of Rajasthan.

Thirdly, Pilot made it a point to emphasise he has nothing personal against Gehlot, whom he addressed as

an "elderly" and "experienced" leader.

Against this background it looks obvious that Pilot and his supporting MLAs could hope to get their pound of flesh, though it may take time.

On his arrival in Jaipur, he was greeted by hundreds of his supporters. Pilot said he was pained by the words used against him, but he would like

to forget and move on.

"I am sad, shocked, and hurt due to the kind of words used against me," Pilot said. He said there should not be any space for "personal ill-feelings" in politics and there should not be any vendetta politics.

"I have not demanded any post from the party but have said that MLAs have raised issues and there should be no vendetta politics against them," he told reporters at his residence.

He said differences can be ideological, on functioning or thoughts but in politics, there is no space for vendetta. "I had and have good relations with all leaders," he said.

"I am happy that the party leadership heard our issue to be it related to functioning, development, workers participation, self-respect, etc. The AICC has constituted a committee, which in a time-bound manner will address the issues," said Pilot.

Pilot was fired from his post of Deputy CM as well as

State Congress chief after he rebelled against the Ashok Gehlot Government last month.

"We never spoke or did anything against the party or party leadership. Several people spread many rumors and raised many questions but we remain on the stand that we took 30 days ago," Sachin Pilot said.

Continued on Page 4

6 Manipur Cong MLAs resign from Assembly, also quit party

Imphal: Six Congress MLAs in Manipur have submitted their resignation from the Legislative Assembly and also quit the party on Tuesday. The six legislators who had handed over resignation letters to Speaker Yumnam Khemchand Singh the previous night, formally informed the Congress office here about leaving the party.

SC: Daughters have equal rights to paternal property

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Holding that daughters cannot be deprived of their right of equality, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that they will have equal rights to inherit joint Hindu family property as sons, saying the amended Hindu Succession act that came in force in 2005 will have retrospective effect. "A daughter always remains a loving daughter. A son is a son until he gets a wife. A daughter is a daughter throughout her life," the top court observed in a significant judgment while upholding the rights of a daughter even if the father died before the enactment of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Nazeer and MR Shah said the provisions contained in substituted Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, confer the status of coparcener on the daughter born before or after the amendment in the same manner as a son with the same rights and liabilities.

Rights intact even if father died before enactment of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005

Coparcener is a term used for a person who assumes a legal right in parental property by birth only.

The verdict makes it clear that the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect. The top court overruled its earlier 2015 decision in which it had originally held that the rights under the amendment are applicable to living daughters of living coparceners as on September 9, 2005, irrespective of when such daughters are born.

The judgment on a batch of appeals against the 2015 verdict came on the issue whether the amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect.

"The rights can be claimed by the daughter born earlier

with effect from September 9, 2005 with savings as provided in Section 6(1) as to the disposition or alienation, partition or testamentary disposition which had taken place before December 20, 2004. Since the right in coparcenary is by birth, it is not necessary that father coparcener should be living as on September 9, 2005" it said.

The SC, in its 121-page judgement, said the statutory fiction of partition created by proviso to Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 as originally enacted did not bring about the actual partition or disruption of coparcenary.

"The fiction was only for the purpose of ascertaining share of deceased coparcener when he was survived by a female heir, of Class-I as specified in the Schedule to the Act of 1956 or male relative of such female.

Continued on Page 4

Eminent poet Rahat Indori dies during Covid cure

PTI ■ INDORE

Famous Urdu poet Rahat Indori, whose powerful and lucid poetry filled halls and connected with the young and old alike, died of a heart attack at a hospital here on Tuesday while being treated for Covid-19, his son said. He was 70.

The teacher-turned-poet had been admitted to hospital on Tuesday morning after he tested positive for the disease. He is survived by three sons and a daughter. "He was admitted for coronavirus treatment but died after suffering a heart attack," son Satlaj Indori, also a poet, told PTI.

Indore District Collector Manish Singh said Indori was undergoing treatment at the Sri Aurobindo Institute of Medical Sciences.

In the morning, the lyricist-poet tweeted about his Covid-19 diagnosis and said he will keep everyone updated through social media.

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Pranab critical, on ventilator support

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former President Pranab Mukherjee continues to remain critical on ventilator support post-surgery for a brain clot, the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital said on Tuesday.

The Tuesday evening medical bulletin said the former President "has not shown any improvement and his status has worsened. He remains on ventilator support".

Mukherjee underwent emergency life-saving surgery for a brain clot on Monday.

In a statement, the Army Hospital said, "Pranab Mukherjee's health condition continues to remain critical at Army Hospital (R&R) Delhi Cantonment. The former President, who underwent life-saving emergency surgery for brain clot on August 10, 2020, has not shown any improvement and his health status has worsened. He remains on ventilator support".

A multidisciplinary team of doctors is constantly monitoring Mukherjee's health.



The former President, 84, was admitted to the military hospital on Monday afternoon and was tested Covid-19 positive. "On a visit to the hospital for a separate procedure, I have tested positive for Covid-19 today. I request the people who came in contact with me in the last week, to please self isolate and get tested for Covid-19," Mukherjee tweeted on Monday afternoon.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the R&R Hospital on Monday and enquired about the former president's health. Singh was at the hospital for around 20 minutes.

Russia 1st to develop corona vaccine amid safety concerns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the race to develop a Covid-19 vaccine, Russia has become the first country in the world to register a vaccine against coronavirus disease. Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the approval of a coronavirus vaccine for use on Tuesday, claiming it as a "world first," and one of his daughters has already been inoculated amid continued concern and unanswered questions over its safety and effectiveness.

The vaccine has been given regulatory approval after less than two months of testing on humans. The vaccine was named 'Sputnik V' in reference to the 1957 launch of a Soviet satellite, which opened space to exploration by humans.

"This morning, for the first time in the world, a vaccine against the new coronavirus was registered in Russia," Putin



said during a televised video-conference call with Government Ministers. "One of my daughters had this vaccine. I think in this sense she took part in the experiment," Putin said.

He said that his daughter had a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius (100.4 Fahrenheit) on the day of the first vaccine injection, and then it dropped to just over 37 degrees (98.6 Fahrenheit) on the following day. After the second shot she

again had a slight increase in temperature, but then it was all over. "She's feeling well and has high number of antibodies," Putin added.

Meanwhile, Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of the New Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), has said, "First, we need to be clear that the vaccine is safe. That is the first standard that the world will look at for mass production."

He also said that if the vaccine makes antibodies, how long would they last for, also needs to be answered.

The claim of victory by Putin in the global push to make an effective vaccine against Covid-19 comes amid suggestions that Russia has cut essential corners in its development. The vaccine has yet to go through crucial Phase 3 trials where it would be administered to thousands of people.

Continued on Page 4

UP XII topper dies in chase by eve-teasers

PTI ■ BULANDSHAH/LUCKNOW

A 20-year-old woman, on a visit home from the US where she studied, died in Bulandshahr in a road accident, which her family alleged happened because two motorcycle-borne men were following her two-wheeler and harassing her, officials said on Tuesday.

The daughter of a tea-shop owner, Sudiksha Bhati died Monday morning near Aurangabad when she was riding pillion on a motorcycle with her younger brother, a minor, they said.

The two were en route to their maternal uncle's home in Bulandshahr's Khanpur area from their house at Deri Scanar village in Gautam Buddha Nagar's Dadri tehsil, the officials said.

The eldest among six siblings, Bhati had an enviable academic record. "She got admitted in our school in 2011 in

Class 6. In 2018, she scored 98 per cent marks in class 12 examination and topped the district," said Bishwajit Banerjee, the principal of Sikan drabad Vidyayan School, Bulandshahr.

She then went onto win a ₹3.8-crore scholarship from Babson College, Massachusetts (US), and was pursuing a graduation course in entrepreneurship, he said.

She had come to India due to the coronavirus pandemic and was scheduled to go back to the US on August 20.

They also alleged that while going to her maternal uncle Monday, she was being harassed by the two unidentified persons during the ride which led to the accident.

Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Atul Kumar Srivastava said there was traffic on the route when the accident happened.

Continued on Page 4

Sushant case: Bihar, Maha slug it out in SC

Apex court seeks written submission by August 13

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar and Maharashtra Governments sparred in the Supreme Court on Tuesday over jurisdiction to probe film star Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

While the late actor's father told the Supreme Court that the Mumbai Police was not probing his son's death "in the right direction" even as the Maharashtra Government contended that Bihar Police lacks jurisdiction in the actor's alleged suicide case.

The submissions came before the apex court in

response to a petition filed by actress Rhea Chakraborty, accused of abetting Rajput's suicide, seeking transfer of the Bihar Police FIR against her and others to Mumbai police.

The Bihar Government submitted before the SC that the FIR lodged in Patna in the case is legal and valid and alleged that there is non-cooperation from Maharashtra.

The Bihar Government further contended that even Rajput's post-mortem report was not given to Patna Police by Mumbai Police, and refuted the allegation of political pressure in the case.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing Bihar Government, told the bench that no FIR has been lodged in Mumbai yet with regard to Rajput's death.

Reserving verdict on Chakraborty's plea, the SC asked all the related parties in the matter to file their written submissions, not more than two pages each, by August 13.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Maharashtra, told a bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy that there was complete lack of jurisdiction of Bihar in the case.

During the nearly three-hour hearing, Singhvi further said that he has never seen such sensationalization being attached to a transfer petition.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh representing Rajput's father Krishna Kishore Singh said that his matter is only about a proper investigation of the case and according to him Mumbai Police were not investigating in the right direction.

Advocate Singh said the mark on Rajput's neck does not appear to be of hanging and it appears to be of a belt. Singh said the family of the deceased has not seen the body hanging and what they had seen was his body lying on the bed.

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ED quizzes SSR's roommate, sister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after grilling actress Rhea Chakraborty and her family members, the Enforcement Directorate ED on Tuesday questioned late film star Sushant Singh Rajput's friend and roommate Siddharth Puthani and business manager Shrutti Modi besides recording the statement of deceased actor's elder sister Meetu Singh in the ongoing money-laundering probe.

The ED has not traced anything to prove that Rhea fraudulently siphoned off ₹15 crore from Sushant's account, as alleged by his father.

Pithani and Modi arrived at the ED's Mumbai office at around 11 am in keeping with the summons but Meetu Singh reached a while after 1 pm. Modi is a named accused in both the abatement to suicide of Rajput and resultant money laundering case in the matter.

It's the first time a member of Rajput's family is appearing before the ED in the case.

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CAPSULE

MY ACT WAS SEEN AS TREASON: SHAH FAESAL
Srinagar/First Delhi: Shah Faesal, the first resident of Jammu & Kashmir who topped the civil services exam in 2009, on Tuesday said his decision to join politics last year had done more harm than benefit as his "innocuous act" of dissent was seen as an "act of treason".

SC STAYS NGT ORDER ON GODREJ APARTMENTS
New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday set aside a National Green Tribunal order quashing the environmental clearance granted to a high-rise luxury project by Godrej Properties Limited and Wonder Projects Development Private Limited in Bengaluru.

MUSEUMS FOR TRIBAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS
New Delhi: The Tribal Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said all nine museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters will be completed by the end of 2022.

191 JAIL INMATES TEST VIRUS POSITIVE IN BASTI
Basti: As many as 191 inmates of the district jail here were found COVID-19 positive, a senior official said on Tuesday. According to M Ramesh Chandra, 374 inmates of the jail were tested through rapid antigen tests in a camp organised here on Monday, and of these 191 were found positive though they did not show any symptoms. The camp was organised on the directives of the district administration, Chandra said.

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	5,35,601	18,306	3,68,435
Tamil Nadu	3,08,649	5,159	2,50,680
Andhra Pradesh	2,44,549	2,203	1,54,749
Karnataka	1,88,611	3,398	1,05,599
Delhi	1,47,391	4,139	1,32,384
Uttar Pradesh	1,31,763	2,176	80,589
West Bengal	1,01,390	2,149	73,395
Bihar	86,812	465	57,039
Telangana	82,647	645	59,374
Gujarat	73,238	2,695	56,516
Assam	64,407	155	43,587
Rajasthan	54,887	811	40,399
Odisha	48,796	349	34,806
Haryana	43,227	500	36,082
Madhya Pradesh	40,734	1,033	30,596
Kerala	36,932	121	24,042

831 positive cases in city

Lucknow (PNS): In another record spike, 831 persons tested positive for coronavirus in the state capital on Tuesday, taking the tally to 14,221 even as the city witnessed 10 COVID-19 deaths.

Meanwhile, with 5,130

more persons testing positive in the last 24 hours, the state's tally rose to 1,31,763. A senior official at the Lucknow CMO office said two COVID-19 patients from Lucknow and eight from other districts died in the city during the past 24

hours, pushing the death toll to 161. He said with 413 COVID-19 patients being discharged from hospitals in the last 24 hours, 7,317 coronavirus infected persons had been cured in the city and 6,743 active cases were undergoing treatment.

Krishna Janmasthan temple out of bounds for devotees

Mathura: Janmashtami festival in Krishna Janmasthan will be observed on Wednesday with all the rituals, but the devotees will not be allowed entry to the temple due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, arrangements have been made to live stream the 'puja' for devotees. The sanctum sanctorum of the Janmasthan will be given the shape of a 'Purnendu Kunj', sparkling with gems like pearls, diamonds and ruby.

Railways suspends all passenger services

New Delhi: The Railways has stated that all regular passenger train services will remain suspended till further notice, but 230 special trains will continue to be in service. "This is to bring to the notice of all concerned that as decided and informed earlier as well, regular passenger and suburban train services will continue to remain suspended till further notice," a statement from the Railways said.

BJP MP calls BSNL staff 'traitors' for delay in services in calamity-hit areas

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Former Union Minister and BJP MP from Uttara Kannada Anantkumar Hegde has sparked a major controversy by calling BSNL employees "traitors" and "anti-nation-

als" who would be fired as they refused to work.

In a video of an event in Kumta in his parliamentary constituency on Monday, the MP was seen saying the State-owned BSNL was a blot on the country as even after being provided money, infrastructure and a ready market, the PSU telecom employees just refuse to work.

"The only cure for that is privatisation which our Government will do. Some 85,000 will be fired and later on

more need to be fired," he was seen saying in the video. Hegde was so angry with BSNL due to the delays in restoring services in calamities affected areas. He was seen sharing the lackluster and non-caring attitude of BSNL employees.

The Opposition Congress criticised Hegde's remarks, saying the comments only showed his own worth. The party also said the Centre was out to privatise everything and this indicated its inability to govern.

Son kills father for snoring

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre incident reported from Pilibhit, a son killed his father as he could not sleep because of his father's snoring. He lynched his father by hitting him with a lathi.

After killing his father, the son escaped.

Superintendent of Police Jai Prakash said on Tuesday that the incident occurred at Sauda village under Seramu police station on Monday night.

First Ram Swarup (76) had a fight with his son Naveen over his (father's) snoring which led to his lynching. At the time of the incident his other son Mulesh and his wife were not in the house.

The superintendent of police said a FIR was registered and efforts were on nab the Naveen.

CLASSIFIEDS
NOTICE

I Ankita Patel D/o Ram Surat Verma Vill- Vikrampur, Post-Jamunipur, Tahseel-Akbarpur, Disst-Ambekar Nagar have changed my name to Ankita Patel for all future purpose.

NOTICE

I, Sunita Singh W/o Army No. - JC-472029M Nb Sub Mahendra Singh, 21 RAJRIFF C/o 56 APO in the service record of my husband my DOB is wrongly mention as 10/05/1980 My correct DOB is 15/03/1979

NOTICE

My nick name is Janvi Lalwani and official name is Chitra Lalwani from now onwards where Janvi Lalwani is mentioned in any records should be known as Chitra Lalwani W/o Pradeep Kumar Lalwani, R/o 88-E/9, Dabauli, Kanpur Nagar-22.

सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि मैं अपने बड़े पुत्र सोनू व पुत्र चक्र श्रमती संस्था गौतम को मैं अपनी समस्त चल / अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ। आज से इनके द्वारा किये गये गैर कानूनी कार्य की मेरी जिम्मेदारी न होगी, रामरतन पुत्र स्वो मनोरम, मो नो 13, रतनपुर गॉव, पनकी, कानपुर नगर।

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपनी पुत्री हर्षिता सिंह को उसके समस्त चल-चलन के चलते अपनी समस्त चल-अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल कर दिया है। भविष्य में उसके द्वारा किये गये कोई कृत्य के लिए मेरा व मेरे परिवार का कोई लेना-देना नहीं है, वह स्वयं जिम्मेदार रहेगी। रामानुज सिंह S/o स्वो राम आसार R/o H.No. 556 / 30ग, सुजानपुर, आलमबाग, लखनऊ।

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है प्रवक्ता समाजशास्त्र, हिंदी, रसायन विज्ञान, भौतिक विज्ञान और जन्तु विज्ञान। योग्यता-सम्बन्धित विषय में स्नोतकोर के साथ UGC NET उत्तीर्ण। स्वामी विवेकानंद कॉलेज ऑफ हायर एजुकेशन, शुक्लागंज, उन्नाव। 9161009009

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Covid mortality rate going down: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that COVID-19 mortality rate in Uttar Pradesh was slowly going down as in August the rate was just 0.6 per cent against the gross death rate of 1.7 per cent.

Speaking in the meeting held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conferencing on Tuesday the chief minister said that so far 1,31,763 coronavirus positive cases were reported in UP and at present there were 48,998 active cases while 80,589 COVID-19 patients had been cured and discharged from hospitals.

"Every district has an Integrated Command Control Centre which is monitoring the management of cases. Besides, 61,775 Covid help desks have been set up in state-run as well as private hospitals," Yogi said.

Chief ministers of 10 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat and Telangana, took part in this deliberation.

Yogi said that between July 1 and



July 15, surveillance campaign was launched in which over 80,000 teams surveyed over 20.88 crore people. He said all the teams carrying out surveys or operating Covid help desks had provided pulse oximeter and infrared thermometer. He said the government had distributed 1,11,424 pulse oximeters and 1,14,125 infrared thermometer to the surveillance staff.

"UP has 1,23,460 beds in Level-1 Covid hospitals, 15,812 beds in Level-2 hospitals and 12,490 beds in Level-3 hospitals. Besides, over 4,000 beds have ICU facilities that will be doubled by the end of this month," the chief minister said.

He said the government was constantly trying to bring down the

COVID-19 mortality rate.

"In August, the mortality rate is 0.6 per cent while the gross mortality rate is 1.7 per cent. In the last fortnight, over one lakh tests have been carried out daily. Tests are being carried out in 120 government labs and 39 private labs," he said.

"Of the total Covid tests being done in India, UP accounts for over 16 per cent. UP's per million testing has gone up to 14,175 while the country's average is 18,086," Yogi said.

He also talked about efforts of the government in giving employment to the migrant workers who have returned home during the pandemic. In MGN-REGA schemes, over Rs 4041 crore was distributed while over Rs 9,680 crore was distributed as loan among the workers, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that everyone had shown a great degree of cooperation and the teamwork displayed by Team India was remarkable. He talked about the challenges and pressure faced by hospitals and health care workers. He mentioned that almost 80 per cent of active cases were from the participating 10 states

and if the coronavirus was defeated in these 10 states, the entire country would emerge victorious in the battle against COVID-19.

The prime minister underlined that what had emerged from the discussion was an urgent need to ramp up testing in Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana. He said that containment, contact tracing and surveillance were the most effective weapons in this battle.

Modi said people had become aware and were ably assisting in government efforts as a result of which the country was successful in using home quarantine so effectively. He noted the usefulness of Arogya Setu app and said that as per experts, if coronavirus positive cases were identified in the initial 72 hours, the spread of the virus could be slowed down.

He emphasised on the need to trace and test all those who had come in contact with an infected person within 72 hours. "This should be followed like a mantra, with the same earnestness as washing hands, maintaining 'do gap doori' (social distancing), wearing masks etc," he said.

UP govt clears new industrial policy

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has cleared a new investment policy aimed at providing a fillip to industries, especially in the backward eastern UP and Bundelkhand regions.

The policy is crucial for the revival of the state's economy following the headwinds created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UP's Industrial Development Minister Satish Mahana said here that the new policy would not only boost existing and new industrial projects but also had the propensity to position UP favourably before prospective global investors in the process of shifting their manufacturing bases from China following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing US-China stand-off over trade.

He stated cabinet cleared the new UP Investment Policy on Monday evening by circulation. It promises to reimburse state goods and services tax (SGST) by 200-300 per cent of the capital investment, subject to differential ceiling depending upon the geography, made by the industries in the Purvanchal (eastern UP), Bundelkhand regions and Madhyanchal (central UP) region.. In Bundelkhand, 70 per cent of the net SGST reimbursement would be applicable for 15 years, subject to 300 per cent of the capital investment. Similarly, 70 per cent of the SGST would be reimbursed to the investor, subject to a ceiling of 200 per cent of the capital investment made in Madhyanchal during the policy period.

Currently, the industrial units get 70 per cent SGST reimbursement subject to a ceiling of 10 years only, which has now been extended to 15 years, Mahana said.

"There was a general demand from industry for providing added incentives to overcome the current challenges, which we have provided by way of the new investment policy," the minister said here.

However, the mega and super mega industrial units applying for benefit under the new policy would be expected to achieve commercial production within 30 months and 42 months respectively of the issuance of the notification of the policy. Following lockdown, nearly 38 lakh migrant labourers and workers have returned to UP from other states, especially to eastern and central UP districts. The new policy is aimed at accelerating industrialisation in these regions so that the bulk of the migrant workforce can be absorbed in gainful employment locally.

To woo big ticket investments, especially from global corporations exiting China, the UP government had recently eased norms for the allotment of industrial land. It was done to fast track land allotment by fixing timeline of 15 days for the mega, mega plus and super mega category of industrial investments. The new land allotment norms cover all the big industrial enclaves including Noida, Greater Noida, and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority. The state is confident of providing further impetus to the 'ease of doing business' quotient in UP by streamlining the process and imparting transparency to the land management by ensuring a time-bound allotment system in the industrial development authorities.

Monsoon session to be brief

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The brief monsoon session of UP Assembly commencing from August 20 is likely to be brief with three sittings. The proceedings of the House on the first day would be adjourned after condoling the death of two sitting members, including a cabinet minister.

The first day will be adjourned after paying tributes to sitting MLAs Parasnath Yadav of SP and cabinet minister and BJP member Kamla Rani.

The session will end on August 24 after holiday on August 22 and 23 due to Saturday and Sunday.

During the monsoon session, the Assembly is likely to consider the discussion and passage of the first supplementary budget for the current fiscal 2020-21 along with passage of several pending Bills.

During the session, which will be held under strict Covid guidelines, the opposition would also raise the issues of COVID-19, law and order and alleged police harassment of political leaders of the opposition parties.

After Madhya Pradesh, UP will be the first state of the country to hold an Assembly session during this coronavirus pandemic. The Madhya Pradesh Assembly session was briefly convened as the new BJP government headed by

Shivraj Singh Chouhan had to seek the trust vote.

The Rajasthan Assembly is also likely to meet on August 12, following the political turmoil in the state and Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is likely to seek the trust vote.

Earlier, Speaker Hriday Naryan Dikshit had said that all the members of the House would strictly follow the guidelines for preventing the spread of the pandemic and the COVID-19 protocol. He said the session would be held as per social distancing protocol for the COVID-19 pandemic as announced by the Central government.

It has been planned that members would sit leaving a seat vacant besides them. No passes will be issued for the lobby and other galleries of the House and the members will sit there.

Several members have also demanded allowing them to participate virtually in the session but the Speaker is yet to take a decision on it.

Holding the monsoon session is a constitutional obligation for the state government as there cannot be gap of six months or more between two sessions of the state Assembly. The budget session of the UP Assembly was adjourned sine die on February 28 last; hence the next session will have to be called before August 28.

JP Nishad is BJP nominee for RS poll

Lucknow (PNS): The Bharatiya Janata Party has announced Jai Prakash Nishad as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-election slated to be held on August 24.

Nishad, is fisheries minister and a regional vice-president of the party in Gorakhpur region. His name was announced as party nominee for RS bypoll by the BJP high command on Tuesday. The by-election is being held for the vacant Rajya Sabha seat from UP after death of Samajwadi Party member Beni Prasad Verma.

The BJP nominee is set to get elected unopposed as the party has absolute majority in the UP Assembly.

August 13 is the last date for filing of nomination while scrutiny of papers will be done the next day. The last date for withdrawing papers is August 17, when the BJP nominee will be declared elected if there is no other candidate and his nomination papers are found in order.

Beni Prasad Verma died after prolonged illness on March 27. The tenure of the seat held by him is till July 4, 2022.

BJP leader shot in Baghpat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational broad daylight murder in Baghpat, motorcycle-borne assailants opened indiscriminate fire on former district chief of Bharatiya Janata Party, Sanjay Kokhar, and escaped from the spot.

The critically injured BJP leader was rushed to the district hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival.

While the local BJP leaders staged a protest over the killing in Baghpat, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took a serious note of the murder and asked the officials to nab the assailants within 24 hours.

Director General of Police HC Awasthi also reacted strongly and ordered suspension of Station House Officer of Chaprauli police station. He also asked the Baghpat police to work out the case at the earliest. He said senior police officials were on the spot and making investigation.

According to the DGP, five police teams have been set up to nab the assailants. He said the murder took place over old rivalry and some suspects were rounded up for interrogation.

Reports said that senior BJP leader of Baghpat, Sanjay Kokhar, was on his routine morning walk on Tilwara road in Chaprauli police station area on Tuesday when the unidentified assailants on a motorcycle intercepted him.

Before Kokhar could sense trouble, the

assailant on the pillion whipped out pistols and opened several rounds of fire. As Kokhar collapsed on the ground, the assailants escaped before the local villagers could reach the spot after hearing the gunshots.

Soon after learning about the incident, senior police officers, including IG Range Praveen Kumar, reached the spot. Police said that preliminary investigation indicated that three persons were involved in the crime. In 2018, a report was lodged against them by Kokhar and the police are now looking for them.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath while expressing grief at the death of the BJP leader, asked officials to nab the assailants within 24 hours and ensure stern action against them.

The deceased was a teacher in a junior high school in Kakorkala village. He was the district president of BJP when the party came to power in the state 2017. He was a close associate of Union minister Sanjeev Baliyan, state Cane Development Minister Suresh Rana and BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh.

The deceased BJP leader's supporters were agitated over the killing.

Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Singh said that prima facie, the killing was related to personal enmity.

He said that the victim received two bullets, one hit the head and another in the body. The SP along with IG Praveen Kumar, who also rushed to the spot, said the assailants would be nabbed very soon.

Bill to name, shame protesters approved

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has approved the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Properties Bill, 2020 that has special provisions for putting up posters and hoardings of protesters and recovery of damages caused to public and private property during political agitation, protest and demonstration.

The bill will replace ordinance which was approved earlier by the state cabinet and the Raj Bhawan had given its assent to it.

The ordinance has empowered the government to put up hoardings and posters of protesters at public places and recover damages.

The state government had earlier enacted the new law to recover damages to public property and name and shame the accused by putting up posters and hoardings at public places after the protests against the new citizenship law.

One more Bikru ambush accused arrested

Kanpur (PNS): One more accused in the Bikru ambush case, Bal Govind Dubey alias Lulu alias Badde, was arrested from Chitradak on Tuesday. He was carrying a reward of Rs 50,000.

Gangster Vikas Dubey and his henchmen had killed eight police personnel in the early hours of July 3 when the cops went to raid the gangster's house in Bikru village.

Bal Govind Dubey's son Shivam, also an accused in the case, has already been arrested by the STF from Chaubeapur in Kanpur Nagar. Bal Govind will be produced in the court after quizzing by STF. Bal Govind is the cousin of Vikas Dubey and lives near the latter's house in Bikru village.

For their involvement in firing on police party from the rooftop on July 3 night, police had named Bal Govind Dubey and his son Shivam in the FIR. While Shivam was arrested from Chaubeapur, his father was on the lam.

Bal Govind Dubey was also the origin of Bikru carnage. In fact, the police team had raided the Bikru village to arrest Vikas Dubey in a case of land dispute.

According to reports, the marriage of Bal Govind Dubey's daughter was solemnised with Sunil Tewari of Unnao. Sunil used to live with his maternal uncle Lallan Shukla of Mohini Nivada. Lallan Shukla had three daughters, Jyotima, Pratima and Sarita. Jyotima is

married to Bablu Tewari of Gauri Lakha village and Pratima to Rahul Tewari of Jadepur village. Sarita is still unmarried. As Lallan Shukla had no son, he had kept his nephew Sunil Tewari with him. Lallan Shukla had died around a year back. It is alleged that after the death of Lallan Shukla, Sunil Tewari had managed to get the former's six bigha land worth crores of rupees transferred in his name. This had led to a dispute between Sunil Tewari and the son-in-laws of Lallan Shukla. On learning about the dispute, Bal Govind Dubey had sought the interference of Vikas Dubey to help Sunil Tewari. On this, Rahul Tewari had lodged a report against Vikas Dubey

and his accomplices at the Chaubeapur police station. It was in connection with this case that the police team had raided Bikru village that culminated in the killing of eight cops.

Yogi stresses on breaking coronavirus chain

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Directing officials to strengthen the system to break the chain of coronavirus infection, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said as there was no treatment or vaccine for this global pandemic, prevention was the only remedy available at present.

"The government has been providing adequate treatment facilities for COVID-19 patients in Covid hospitals but as there is no treatment of this disease we have to adopt an effective strategy to counter it and continue to spread awareness about protection from it," Yogi said while presiding over a high-level unlock review meeting at his official residence here on Tuesday.

Directing officials to further improve surveillance in the state, the chief minister said that contact tracing and door-to-door survey should be taken up effectively. He said the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) should maintain regular communication with the home isolated patients to get feedback about their condition. "CM helpline may also be used for this. District officials should expedite enforcement activities with regards to use of masks," he said.

The chief minister asked officials to increase the number of beds in Level-2 and Level-3 Covid hospitals in Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Bareilly, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur and Varanasi districts. He said that Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna would tour Varanasi and Mirzapur divisions for on-the-spot inspection of health services.

The chief minister asked doctors to take all measures to protect medical personnel and policemen from coronavirus infection. He said that e-Sanjeevani, the online OPD service of the Government of India, should be well publicised so that maximum people could benefit from it.

The chief minister directed officials to provide ration kits and other relief material in time in flood-hit and

The chief minister asked doctors to take all measures to protect medical personnel and policemen from coronavirus infection

marooned areas and ensure all necessary arrangements in all cow shelters.

He also directed officials to ensure availability of urea fertiliser for the farmers.

"The cleanliness campaign should continue with the same urgency, sensitising people about protection protocol. Various publicity modes like TV, newspapers, banners and posters should be used to underline the importance of giving impetus to cleanliness drive as it will help control communicable diseases," he said.

Those present in the meeting included Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, Minister of State for Health Atul Garg, Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Alok Tandon, Agriculture Production Commissioner Alok Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Sanjeev Mittal, Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Information) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Renuka Kumar, DGP HC Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajneesh Dube, Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayat Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (MSME) Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sanjay Prasad, Principal Secretary (Animal Husbandry) Bhuvnesh Kumar, Secretary to Chief Minister Alok Kumar and other senior officers.

NOTICE
Mr. Nand Kishore Rastogi S/o Late Hari Shyam Rastogi R/o C-403, Indira Prastha Estate, Faizabad Road, Opp. I.T. College, New Hyderabad, Lucknow - 226007 is the main applicant in the Plot No. A-170, DLF Garden City, Raibareilly Road, Lucknow along with his son Mr. Dipanshu Rastogi S/o Mr. Nand Kishore Rastogi R/o C-403, Indira Prastha Estate, Faizabad Road, Opp. I.T. College, New Hyderabad, Lucknow - 226007 as Co-applicant. On 24/11/2014, Mr. Nand Kishore Rastogi passed away and after his death Mr. Dipanshu Rastogi will be the Main / Single Applicant in the above-mentioned property as he is the legal heir of Mr. Nand Kishore Rastogi. If someone has any objection please contact within 21 days from today. Mr. Dipanshu Rastogi S/o Mr. Nand Kishore Rastogi R/o C-403, Indira Prastha Estate, Faizabad Road, Opp. I.T. College, New Hyderabad, Lucknow-226007. Ph. 955244313

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER, RUHS COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
Sector - 11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur - 302033
Ph. 0141-2795624, 634, E-mail: principalruhs@ruhsraj.org
No. RUHS CMS/Store/2020-21/ 15750 Date: 10-08-2020

Short Term E-bids Notice
Single stage, single envelope short term e-bids are invited upto 02.00 pm of 18-08-2020 for Urgent Supply of 1. RNA Extraction Kit for Covid-19 Test Lab at RUHS College of Medical Sciences, Jaipur. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at the website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, www.ruhs.ac.in or sppp.raj.nic.in. (UBN: CMS2021GLRC00025 To CMS2021GLRC00027)
Principal & Controller, Raj.Samwad/C/20/3382 RUHS College of Medical Sciences, Jaipur

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareilly Road, Lucknow-226014, U.P. (INDIA)
Tel.: +91-522-2668004-08; 2668700-900-900, FAX: +91-522-2668017, 2668078

WALK IN INTERVIEW
Application is invited for following temporary position in project (trial entitled "Safety and Efficacy of Lipiodol Ultra Fluid in association with surgical glues during vascular embolization, a phase IV study" Under the Dr. Raghunandan Prasad, Principal Investigator, Department of Radio-diagnosis, SGP/IGMS, Lucknow. Walk in Interview will be conducted on 25.08.2020.
Name of Post: Clinical Research Co-ordinator, No. of Post: 01, Emoluments: Rs. 25000/-, Qualifications: • Graduation (B. Pharm/ B.Sc) in Science with minimum two years exp. in clinical research. • The upper age limit shall be 35 years as Jan on 2020. This position is purely temporary. Accommodation will not be provided in the campus. Application on plain paper giving relevant details and document should be emailed to- coolraghu2001@gmail.com, raghu@sppgi.ac.in. Shortlisted applicants will be informed for an interview telephonically. (Dr. Raghunandan Prasad) Principal Investigator

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

निविदा सं.	खुलने की तिथि	संक्षिप्त विवरण	मात्रा	वेबसाइट
96205643	31.08.2020	Under ground railway jelly filled quad cable	02 km	www.ireps.gov.in
96205642	31.08.2020	PVC Insulated Armoured unscreened	03 km	www.ireps.gov.in
96205641	31.08.2020	Fiber Armoured Optic Fiber cables	200 mtr	www.ireps.gov.in
96205638	31.08.2020	Fiber Armoured Optic Fiber cables	200 mtr	www.ireps.gov.in
96205644	31.08.2020	PVC Insulated Armoured unscreened	2 km	www.ireps.gov.in
96205637	31.08.2020	24 Fiber Armoured Optic Fiber cables	7000 mtr	www.ireps.gov.in
96205645	31.08.2020	PVC Insulated Armoured unscreened	4 km	www.ireps.gov.in
96205639	31.08.2020	Under ground Railway Jelly filled 6 quad	2 km	www.ireps.gov.in
96205640	31.08.2020	PVC insulated armoured unscreened	03 km	www.ireps.gov.in

L.O. No. SR.DMM/NR/Tender/AT/LKO/2020-21 Date: 11.08.2020 1741/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile

For now, Health dept to focus on patients in home isolation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The focus of the Health department for the next few days will be on Covid-19 patients who have opted for home isolation. Chief Medical Officer Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh pointed out that over 3,000 patients have opted for the home isolation in the district. The CMO said that a doctor and an intern would be specially deployed at the Integrated Control and Command Centre to give immediate consultation to patients in home isolation. "A plan has been chalked out for them. They are being given home isolation as per the guidelines of the state government and while other things are already on track, we are focusing on these patients now," he said.

The CMO said that they would also start implementing the Central government guideline of discharging a patient within ten days of testing and seven days of admission, whichever comes later. "This guideline was issued by the Central government earlier, but we will be implementing it now. We had continued with the previous guideline so that the patients get maximum benefit," he said.

In Lucknow, he said, the area with maximum number of positive cases is Chinhath. District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash has also issued directions regarding home isolation of patients and released the telephone numbers of 'Hello Doctor' service, wherein asymptomatic patients in home isolation could contact the doctors.

'Hello Doctor' will have a panel of doctors, including Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. The DM said that doctors would be available from 8 am to 8 pm on 0522-3515700.

"In buildings which have three or more floors, the monitoring of patients in home isolation will be carried out with the help of Residents Welfare Association of Lucknow Development Authority," he said. He added that in case of emergency for home isolation patients, the Integrated Command Centre should be immediately informed. He further said that sanitisation was being carried out in the city on a war-footing and for ensuring barricading and enforcement, PRD and NCC jawans would be deployed.

"All primary contacts will



A bylane in Talkatora barricaded after detection of coronavirus positive cases

Pioneer

8 succumb at KGMU

Lucknow (PNS): As many as eight Covid-19 patients succumbed at KGMU on Tuesday, including a one-year-old girl. KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said the one-year-old girl from Alambagh was admitted on August 9 and she died of acute respiratory distress. Another victim included a 75-year-old man from Lakhimpur Kheri, who died on the same day as he was admitted due to respiratory failure. A 62-year-old patient from Bazaarkhala, who was suffering from hypertension, died of respiratory failure. A 45-year-old patient from Triveni Nagar, who was admitted on August 9 with

liver problem, died of cardiopulmonary arrest. Others included a 55-year-old patient from Bareilly, who was admitted on July 31 and was suffering from mental problems. He died of septicemia. A 45-year-old patient from Hardoi, who was admitted on August 5, also died of respiratory failure.

"A 63-year-old man from Krishnanagar, who was admitted on August 8 and was suffering from hypertension and diabetes, succumbed to hypoxic encephalopathy while a 51-year-old woman from Basti, who was admitted on August 3 and was suffering from breast cancer died of cardiorespiratory arrest.

be home quarantined for 14 days. All the private labs will be monitored to see that they are following Covid-19 guidelines and if they are not, action will be taken against them," the DM said.

Meanwhile, president of Indian Medical Association (IMA) Dr Rama Srivastava said many doctors have died because of Covid-19. "As many as 206 doctors have died in the country because of Covid-19 and 300 have tested positive for coronavirus in the country. Thirteen doctors have died in Uttar Pradesh because of Covid-19, including both government and private doctors," she said. She added that they had requested the administra-

tion and state government to give special treatment to doctors who test positive for coronavirus.

"When they test positive for coronavirus, they should be kept in a separate ward and not in the general ward with other patients, and some ventilators should be reserved for them because if their lives are saved, they can save the lives of others. If they die of Covid-19, the state government should give them some money to their families," she said.

She added that private hospitals were having two to three patients testing positive everyday. "We are getting phone calls of patients from private hospitals giving us this feedback, and

the information is passed on to the CMO office. The recovery rate of patients is good, the death rate is low but the infectivity rate is high in the district," she said.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor of KGMU Lt General Dr Vipin Puri inspected the Rehabilitation Limb Centre which is being converted into a Covid hospital. He also had a meeting with the heads of departments.

Director of Balrampur Hospital Dr Rajeev Lochan said that they have started antibody testing. "This is our own initiative and we have got no directives for the same. We are doing this to find out who are the potential donors for plasma whom we will request for donation. We will also take plasma from these potential donors and will carry out further discussions with our blood bank and pathologist on what essentially needs to be done. With this test, we are also testing the immunity levels of people," he added.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh visited the Integrated Control and Command Centre on Tuesday along with Principal Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad. Singh said he gathered information regarding the functioning of the centre and had a discussion with the officials present on further strengthening the functioning of the same. He said that coordination needs to be strengthened for better results.

Fire breaks out in ATM booth at Charbagh railway station

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A fire broke out under mysterious circumstances at an ATM booth in the building of Charbagh railway station early morning on Tuesday. The flames engulfed another ATM booth, leaving it gutted. The Government Railway Police (GRP) sealed the area while the Lucknow division of Northern Railway has set up an inquiry into the case.

DRM, Northern-Railway, Lucknow division, Sanjay Tripathi said the fire broke out in the non-operational area of railway station and it did not affect the working at the railway station. As per reports, some pavement-dwellers spotted fumes emanating from the building's portion between GRP station and first class portico and raised an alarm. A thick smoke cover soon covered the skyline. Locals were initially under the impression that the fire broke out at the railway station, but



It later surfaced that it broke out at an ATM booth. By the time fire tenders reached the scene, one ATM booth was burnt and flames had engulfed another. The fire was doused

later and both the ATM booths were sealed.

The GRP SHO said the fire first broke out in one of the ATM booths and the flames later engulfed the adjacent one too. "The damage in the second ATM booth was low in comparison to the first. It seems that the fire broke out due to short-circuiting," he said, adding that the losses were being estimated.

Station director Sudeep Singh made similar claims and said an inquiry would be initiated to unravel the mystery.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Jagtosh Shukla said an inquiry into the fire incident would be set up.

While the railway officials and GRP cops were tightlipped in sharing details of the losses caused by the fire, sources said the fire caused huge losses. They said the fire incident should be probed thoroughly to bring out the truth.

Woman mowed down by loader

Lucknow (PNS): In a hit-and-run case, a 45-year-old woman was killed after being mowed down by a speeding loader carrying milk packets in Jankipuram early morning on Tuesday. The victim was identified as Shanti Devi of Tiwaripur village in the locality. Reports said Shanti, along with her husband Santosh Pal, had gone to their cowshed. Santosh said they were returning home after feeding their cattle. "When we were about to cross the road, the speeding loader hit her and sped off the scene. I took her to a hospital from where she was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre. However, she was declared brought dead," he told the police.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Branch- Banghura Branch, Distt.-Gonda

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property under Rule 8(1))

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice. The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rule on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower's/Guarantors/Legal heirs in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India for the amounts and interest thereon.

The Borrower's/Guarantors/Legal heirs attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Detail of Properties where possession had been taken are as follows:-

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantor/ Mortgagee	Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged	Total Amt. o/s [as per Notice u/s 13(2)]	Date of Demand Notice
Borrower: M/s. Krishna Sewa Kendra, Prop. Kuldeep Kumar Mishra S/o Ram Sharan Mishra Vill. - Lauatepra, Post - Madhopur, Gonda.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Situated at Mauja Chhawani Sarkar, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Gonda, Gata No. 122/0.54, Area 0.218 Hect. Distt.-Gonda, Pg. No. 31-62, Sr. No. 330, Bani No.1, Zilid No. 1181 Within the Legal Heir/Guarantor registration sub-district Gonda and District Gonda. Boundaries: North- House of Sharma (Deceased) S/o Ramji Devashish Mukharji, South- Kachcha Rasta Lal Sharma, Housing Colony, Jail Road, Mauza-Chhawani Sarkar, Distt.-Gonda	Rs. 18,08,048/- +Further Interest & other cost, etc.	01.06.2020

Date:12.08.2020 Place: Banghura Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

DGP honours 262 cops

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Police on Tuesday announced awards to 262 policemen in the state for their efficient operational works on the occasion of Independence Day.

Among the award given by the DGP, an ADG, 5 IGs and 2 SSPs have been given Platinum Medal, 34 officers have been given DGP Gold Medal and the rest the DGP Silver Medal.

According to an official communiqué released here on Tuesday, ADG (Law and order) Prashant Kumar is among the Platinum Award winners along with IGs Deepak Ratan,

Subhash Singh Baghel, A Satish Ganesh, SK Bhagat and Dr Sanjeev Gupta. The SSPs awarded Platinum Award are Ajay Kumar Sahani of Meerut and Ashok Kumar Tripathi of Jaunpur.

The others are DGP PRO Abhay Nath Tripathi, ASPs DGP HQ Rajendra Kumar Gautam and Durgesh Kumar, and DSP (ATS) Layak Singh.

The DGP Gold awards winners include SSP Bareilly Shailesh Pandey, SSP Muzaffarnagar, Abhishek Yadav, SSP Aligarh Muniraj, SP Chandauli Hemant Katiyal, SP Basti Hemraj Meena and SP Bahraich Vipin Kumar Mishra.

Rains bring respite from humid weather

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rains lashed the state capital on Tuesday evening, bringing respite from excessive humidity. Met director JP Gupta said the city would also receive rains on Wednesday. Lucknow received 0.6 mm rainfall on Tuesday. Gupta said the rains occurring because of the trough line of monsoon passing through Madhya Pradesh and a circulation over eastern Uttar Pradesh. Gupta said Lucknow had a rain deficit of 20 per cent.

The Met department has

forecast moderate to heavy rainfall at isolated places in Rae Bareilly, Faizabad, Ambedkarnagar, Sultanpur, Azamgarh, Maunath Bhanjan, Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Basti, Siddhrtthnagar, Balrampur, Shrawasti, Mahoba, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and adjoining areas. For city denizens who had been reeling under high humidity, rains brought the much desired cooling effect. Lucknow recorded the maximum temperature at 35.4 degree Celsius while the minimum at 28.6 degree Celsius.

Matki phod celebration to be a low-key affair

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The matki phod celebrations this year at Madho temple at Daliganj will witness the participation of only two persons instead of 14 because of Covid-19 guidelines. The ritual will be performed at the temple on Wednesday.

Anurag Sahu from Madho temple said it was only their temple which carried out the matki phod ritual in Lucknow. "We have been doing this for the past several years. The ritual was done on the road in front of the temple and after the birth of Lord Krishna at midnight. It witnessed the gathering of people from surrounding areas," he recalled.

He said 14 men were specially selected for the ritual and trained to perform the task in a skillful manner. He added that the ritual generated a lot of excitement and people looked



Janmashtami preparations at Reserve Police Lines

Pioneer

forward to it. He said the tradition has been picked up from Janmashtami celebrations in Maharashtra.

Sahu said that this year the ritual would see the participation of only two people and it would be done within the tem-

ple premises. "An elder person will hold a child on his shoulder who will break the matki," he said.

He further pointed out that the celebrations would be webcast and the temple would be tastefully decked up. He

added that Janmashtami was being celebrated on two days this year but most of the people would celebrate it on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of Janmashtami, students of SKD Academy were in a festive mood and celebrated the festival online. The students dressed up like Radha-Krishna and presented songs and dances. Beautiful and colourful tableaux were the centre of attraction.

Director of SKD Group Manish Singh congratulated students for their endeavours. "The need of the hour is to adopt the teachings of Bhagwad Gita in our lives for building our strong moral character and for growth of the nation whose cultural heritage and traditions are not just a way of life but strong pillars of the society which keeps it intact," he said.

चौ० चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ

कोरोना हारेगा देश जीतेगा

दो गज की दूरी.... मास्क अनिवार्य

श्रीकृष्ण जन्मोत्सव पर सभी को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

कुलपति श्री. एन. के. तनेजा

कुलपति प्रो. ए. के. तनेजा

चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण विश्वविद्यालय है। पिछले 50 वर्षों में विश्वविद्यालय परिवार के समस्त सदस्यों ने अपनी गहन निष्ठा, मेहनत और भाविक दृष्टि से देश को अत्यंत प्रगति दी है। पौराणिक काल से ही महत्वपूर्ण यह क्षेत्र देश की आजादी के आंदोलन में भी अपनी महती भूमिका के कारण विख्यात रहा है। विश्वविद्यालय आधारभूत सुविधाओं की दृष्टि से प्रदेश और देश में अपना विशिष्ट स्थान रखता है। विद्यार्थियों को वर्तमान वैश्विक युग की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार गुणवत्ता युक्त उच्च शिक्षा देने में प्रयत्नशील है। उच्च शिक्षा का जन-जन तक पहुंचाने के दायित्व का निर्वहन विश्वविद्यालय अपने सीमित संसाधनों में पूरी ईमानदारी व लगन से कर रहा है। यह विश्वविद्यालय लगभग 222 एकड़ भू-क्षेत्र में विकसित है, जिसमें पृथक-पृथक विभागीय शैक्षणिक भवन, नवीनतम उच्चतक उपकरणों से समृद्ध प्रयोगशालाएँ, आधुनिक सुविधाओं से युक्त पुस्तकालय, मध्य प्रेक्षागृह, विशाल प्रशासनिक भवन, सामुदायिक केन्द्र, चिकित्सालय, कम्प्यूटर केन्द्र, वातानुकूलित कूलिंग सिस्टम, मूल्यांकन केन्द्र, आठ छात्रावास, अभियांत्रिकी व विद्युत विभाग के पृथक-पृथक भवन, डाकघर, बैंक, रेलवे आरक्षण केन्द्र, क्रीडा भवन, कुरुवी स्टेडियम, विशेष रूप से विकसित किये गये विविध खेल मैदान तथा कोर्ट, तपोवन एवं साहित्य कुटीर आदि अत्याधुनिक सुविधाएँ हैं।

उपलब्धियाँ

1. अनेक वर्षों से लम्बित नैक मूल्यांकन सम्पन्न एवं सम्मानजनक ग्रेड।
2. विश्वविद्यालय के समस्त प्रवेश ऑनलाइन सुनिश्चित एवं प्रक्रियाओं का सरलीकरण।
3. परीक्षाओं का समयबद्ध संचालन एवं शुचितापूर्वक संचरण, एवं सुव्यवस्थित तथा सुगठित रीति से दीक्षांत समारोह का आयोजन।
4. शैक्षणिक विभागों में रिक्त आचार्य एवं सहायक आचार्य के पदों पर नियुक्त की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण हो चुकी है।
5. परिसर को रेगिम-मुक्त प्रदूषण-मुक्त तथा धूम्रपान-मुक्त बनाना, जैविक खाद निर्माण द्वारा कृषि निस्तारण योजना का क्रियान्वयन।
6. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सी.बी.सी.एस. के माध्यम से शिक्षण प्रारम्भ एवं शैक्षणिक विभागों के शोध व अध्ययन हेतु कतिपय विदेशी संस्थानों तथा भारत के अन्य अनुसंधान केन्द्रों के साथ अनुबन्ध।
7. प्रशासनिक, अकादमिक, वित्तीय तथा विधायी प्रक्रियाओं का क्रमबद्ध सरलीकरण।
8. शैक्षणिक विभागों में अध्ययन, अध्यापन एवं अनुसंधान पर विशेष ध्यान।
9. अकादमिक गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चयन हेतु प्रकोष्ठ का पुनर्गठन एवं नियमित क्रियाशीलता को प्रोत्साहन।
10. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में छात्र/छात्राओं के सर्वांगीण विकास हेतु स्विफ्टके के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में शास्त्रीय/लोकसंगीत के आयोजन तथा साहित्यिक सांस्कृतिक परिषद् की पहल पर महापुरुषों की जयन्ती के अकादमिक एवं सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम।
11. पीएच.डी प्रवेश परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण छात्रों का प्री-पीएच.डी कोर्सवर्क में प्रवेश तथा अर्ह छात्रों का शोध पंजीकरण।
12. विभिन्न प्रशासनिक तथा अकादमिक समितियों का पारदर्शी पुनर्गठन।
13. सम्बद्धता के सभी लम्बित प्रकारों पर त्वरित निर्णय।
14. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में चालीस वर्षों जल संग्रहण संयंत्र स्थापित किये गये एवं अनुसंधान के क्षेत्र में पं० दीनदयाल उपाध्याय शोधपीठ।
15. शैक्षणिक विभागों में पाठ्य समिति तथा शोध उपसमिति समिति की बैठक का आयोजन।
16. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सौर ऊर्जा संचयन द्वारा 1260 किलोवाट विद्युत का उत्पादन।
17. स्वामी विवेकानन्द की 12 फीट की धातु की मूर्ति का लोकार्पण।
18. विश्वविद्यालय में छात्रों की समस्याओं के निस्तारण हेतु Online Grievance Redressal System की शुरुआत।
19. सहारनपुर राज्य विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना के लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये जारी किये।

Study Programmes on the Campus

State Funded Courses :- Genetics & Plant Breeding (Ag. Botany) Botany, Chemistry, Economics-(MA, M.Phil & Ph.D.), Education (M.Ed., M.Phil, Ph.D.), English (MA, M.Phil, Ph.D.), Hindi, History, Horticulture, Mathematics, Microbiology, B.Sc. Food Microbiology, Safety & Quality Control, Psychology, Sanskrit, Statistics, Urdu, Zoology (Toxicology), Foreign Languages (Russian, German, French), B.Tech. Geography (PG), Physical Education (BP.Ed, MP.Ed, Yoga), Political Science

Self Finance Courses :- Institute of Business Studies (MBA, BBA, BBA (HA), B.Com, (Hon's), M.Com, MBA (Hospital Administration), MCA, Biotechnology, Home Science (Human Development Food Nutrition), Food Science & Technology (Plant Protection, Entomology, & Plant Pathology), Seed Science & Technology, BJMC, MJMC, M.Phil (MJMC), Fine Art, Law (BA-LLB, LL.M), Environmental Science, Geography (PG Diploma in GIS), Library Science (B.Lib, M.Lib), Sociology (MSW), Master of Public Administration (MPA), Diploma in Psychological Counselling, Vedic Math, Applied Microbiology, Medical Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Polymer Science, & Chemical Technology, M.Sc (Bio-Chemistry), B.Sc. Chemistry (Hon's).

धीरेन्द्र कुमार कुलसचिव
सुशील कुमार गुप्ता वित्त अधिकारी
प्रो. वाई. विमला प्रतिकूलपति
प्रो० एन. के. तनेजा कुलपति

Man hangs self after verbal spat with wife

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man hanged himself after he had a tiff with his wife at his house in Vibhuti Khand police station area on Monday night. Mahesh Rajput (25) of Kathaua village locked himself in a room at his house and later hanged

himself on Monday night. His family members knocked the door but Mahesh did not open it. His brother Rakesh Rajput called the police control room around 12:40 am. As the police took time in reaching the spot, the family broke open the door, only to find Mahesh hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around his neck.

Later, a police team reached the scene. The cops found the door of the room open and Mahesh's family sobbing. They passed on the information to the Vibhuti Khand police station after which sub-inspector Jitendra Singh, along with a team, reached the scene. Mahesh was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

SHO, Vbhuti Khand, Sanjay Shukla said Rakesh had informed the control room that Mahesh had locked himself in the room for about an hour. He said Mahesh was not on good terms with his wife and ended the life due to this. "Mahesh had a verbal spat with his wife after which he locked himself in the room," the SHO said. He said the body had been kept at a mortuary and autopsy would be conducted after Covid test. He said the police did not recover any suicide note.

In another incident, a 30-year-old man, identified as Shiv Kumar Pandey, was found hanging in a room where he lived on rent in Shanti Nagar locality under

Sarojininar. Reports said Pandey was a native of Pratapgarh and worked with a company dealing in fire safety gadgets. His landlord Vinit Rawat informed the police about the incident and said Pandey was hanging from the ceiling with a *gamchha* tied around his neck.

THEFT

Thieves decamped with ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh and Rs 60,000 in cash from a farmer's house in Gudamba police station area on Monday night. Reports said Jayram Yadav of Kakdehari village in the area and his family were asleep when the thieves struck at the house. Yadav and his family members came to know of the theft when they woke up on Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, the Gomti Nagar police on Tuesday arrested three youths on the charges of theft and recovered stolen carts. The accused were identified as Manshu Valmiki, Ritesh Valmiki and Asif (all of Chinhah). They were nabbed when they were going to hide the stolen goods.

In another success, the Gomti Nagar police arrested a youth who had lured a minor girl into running away from her house on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Onkar Gupta of Vinit Khand, had run away with the girl in June and the girl's father had lodged a case against him on June 21. The police also booked him under POCOS Act.

Embankments, bunds safe in flood-affected districts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government said all the flood protection embankments and bunds were safe and there was no threat of breach in the flood-affected districts.

Relief Commissioner Sanjay Goel said here on Tuesday that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had directed the district magistrates of the 20 flood-affected districts to accord top priority to rescue and relief work.

He said the district magistrates had also been directed by the government to closely monitor the release of water from dams and ensure completion of flood protection work ahead of the floods.

He said the chief minister

had also directed district officials to visit and inspect the flood protection dams and ensure their safety to prevent loss of life and property in villages on the banks of rivers.

Goel said 15 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), nine teams of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and 17 flood companies of the PAC had been deployed for relief and rescue operations in flood-affected districts. He said the NDRF had organised a mock drill on July 1 while making preparations for flood relief operations. He said a helpline 1070 was also being operated at the control room set up in Lucknow.

The relief commissioner said so far 88 flood protection projects with outlay of Rs 856 crore had been completed and for the current fiscal 2020-21, Rs 318 crore had been released so far by the state government.

He said all necessary repair and strengthening work on flood protection embankments was done before the COVID-19 pandemic. He said in all flood affected districts flood protection outposts, wireless centres and flood control room are operational in all flood affected districts.

The flood-affected districts include Ambedkarnagar, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Bahraich, Ballia, Balrampur, Barabanki, Basti, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Mau, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj, Deoria, Sant Kabir Nagar, Pilibhit,

Pratapgarh and Sitapur.

Goel said standing kharif crop on 38,248 hectares had been damaged due to floods. He said so far 13 people had died due to floods.

The relief commissioner said the state government had issued detailed guidelines for flood relief work and for the protection from floods. He said over 90,000 food packets and food grain kit containing 17 items had been distributed among the flood-affected people and 178 cattle camps had been set up. He said so far over six lakh cattle had been vaccinated. The UP government has already ordered round-the-clock monitoring of the situation in the flood-affected districts through patrolling and drones.

CITY BRIEFS

HONOURED

Anahita Singh, a class XI student of Cambridge Section of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus II, received honour from Vice-President of India Venkaiah Naidu for her per excellence academic performance. Anahita is the only student from Uttar Pradesh under her grade, who has won Times Spark Scholarship. At a recently held e-ceremony, Naidu felicitated Anahita while organisers of the event awarded her a laptop.

FSDA RAID

Under the instructions of DM Abhishek Prakash, the Food Safety and Drug Administration raided fish markets of the city on Tuesday. A senior official of the district administration said the raids were carried out at Dubagga, Kaiserbagh, Khurrannagar and Khargapur fish markets. The raids were carried out at 39 shops and four samples were collected.

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER NOTICE
Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/reputed contractors for the execution of following works:- For more details login on website www.etender.up.nic.in. 1- E-Tender No. 31/AETC/2020-21:- Annual maintenance of 220kV/132 kV transmission lines under ETD, Azamgarh. Earnest Money: Rs. 58500.00 (Rs. Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 6903.00 (Rs. Six Thousand Nine Hundred Three) only. 2- E-Tender No. 32/AETC/2020-21:- Annual maintenance of 220kV/132 kV transmission lines under ETD, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 27600.00 (Rs. Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 3257.00 (Rs. Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven) only. 3- E-Tender No. 33/AETC/2020-21:- Annual maintenance of 132 kV transmission lines under ETD-II, Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 18000.00 (Rs. Eighteen Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 2124.00 (Rs. Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Four) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS/NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Etecy, Transmission Circle, UPPCL, Azamgarh. Tenders can upload their tender bids against E-tender No. 31, 32 and 33 upto 17.00 hrs. of 14.09.2020 and same will be opened on dated 15.09.2020 at 13.00 Hrs., 14.00 Hrs. and 15.00 Hrs. respectively. Intimation regarding opening of Tender Bid Part-I i.e. Price Bid will be given on above e-website in due course of time. Please visit website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/download and for any other corrections/amendments/modification/extension till the date of submission of tender. In case the tender opening date is holiday or the undersigned remain out of headquarters, the date of opening of the tender will stand extended to next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject/divide any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. **RESPECTABLE ENGINEER (TRANS.) AZAMGARH** No. 1024 Date 10.08.2020 **SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल, गोंयडा ई-टेंडरिंग विविदा सूचना
अनुमोदीत कार्य/टेण्डरों के निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सोलवण विविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 29.08.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) ई-विविदा संख्या 27/ ईटीएमसी(गोंयडा)/2020-21: विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल को अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र इतिहासिक पर 132 केवीओ एआइएस बे के इन्कमन सम्बन्धी कार्य। वरीशर राशि रु 9000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुले की तिथि 29.08.2020 को 15:00 बजे, निविदा प्रारंभ रु 20 1062.00 (कर सहित)। (2) ई-विविदा संख्या 28 / ईटीएमसी(गोंयडा)/2020-21 : विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल को अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र, इतिहासिक पर 132 केवीओ बलरूमर-गोंयडा (220 केवीओ) लाइन के 132 केवी उपकेंद्र पर लीटों के निर्माण सम्बन्धी कार्य। वरीशर राशि रु 81000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुले की तिथि 29.08.2020 को 15:00 बजे, निविदा प्रारंभ रु 9598.00 (कर सहित)। निविदा प्रारंभ शुल्क (मान रिफ्लेक्टिव) एवं ईएमपीडी अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल के बैंक खाते में बैंक का नाम - पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं - 0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड-PUNB0018100 आरटीसीओएस / एम्डीएफटी के माध्यम से निविदा की अंतिम अमलाव तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक जमा की जायेगी एवं जमा की गयी वनराशि अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल के बैंक खाते में निविदा की अंतिम अमलाव तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक क्रेडिट होना अनिवार्य होगा तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योग्य यूटीडीआर सं, खाते का नाम निर्गतकर्ता बैंक अधिकाारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिलिखित पे इन्कमन की स्कैनडकॉपी, ईएमपी के लिए बैंक गारण्टी की स्कैनडकॉपी, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कम्प्यूटरमैनुअल की प्रती नो निविदा प्रारंभ के साथ इलेक्ट्रॉनिकली साफ व पठनीय अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के भाग-1 में तकनीकी बिड (पैन कार्ड, इन्कमटैक्स रिटर्न, जीएएसटीडीसी पंजीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), सलन करना अनिवार्य है। वरीशर राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का भाग-2 जिसमें दरे की जाती है, नही खोली जायेगी। भाग-2 में दरे एवं वारिजक नियम व शर्तें होनी चाहिये। तथा हाई कोपी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। किसी भी स्थिति में निविदा के ReTender होने पर निविदा की निविदा शुल्क (मान रिफ्लेक्टिव) एवं वरीशर वनराशि पुनः जमा की जानी अनिवार्य होगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। निविदा का नाम प्रथम एवं द्वितीयः— (माइजबिड दरे एंशरी) दिनांक 29.08.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 29.08.2020 को 15.00 बजे एवं भाग-2 (प्राइज पाटी) निविदा शुल्क एवं वरीशर वनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा / निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधीशासक/कार्यालय के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। वरीशर/निविदा राशि रहित व सरली निविदाये स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड, अन्य सशोनाओं एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर लॉगइन करें। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत परियोजना मण्डल 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र पहिरस जेल रोड, गोंयडा। संख्या: 1124/विपामण/गोंयडा/ई-टेंडरिंग नो - 27 से 28/2020-21, दिनांक 10.08.2020 - रात्रि हिम में बिलौली बचाये।**

PILOT BACK TO RECOVER LOST GROUND

Pilot also said if he had made any mistakes then he was ready to correct it but on his month-long rebellion against Gehlot his stated suggestions to improve should not be viewed negatively.

Pilot made it clear that while he was going to keep Rajasthan as his karmabhoomi and his grip intact on the State, it won't be easy to forget the harsh words used against him by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who had called his deputy "nikamma, naakaar". Pilot who was a Union Minister in then Manmohan Singh Government said that he did not feel bitter or sad about the events that unfolded over the past one month in Rajasthan.

"I have imbibed certain values from my family, no matter how much I oppose anyone, I've never used such language. Ashok Gehlotji is elder to me and I respect him personally but I have the right to raise work-related concerns," Pilot reacted on Gehlot's "nikamma" remark against him.

Gehlot on his part said it was his responsibility to address the grievances of MLAs. But why did the MLAs go and what promises were made to them, only they know it, Gehlot remarked. "If any MLA is annoyed with me, then it is my responsibility to address that. I have kept going this in the past and will do this now also," Gehlot said at Jaipur.

Pilot also made it clear that he harbours no wish to have a post, these things come and go. "We need to work in the direction of strengthening the public's confidence and trust in us," Pilot tweeted.

"The Congress is united under Sonia Gandhi, she has a stature beyond the party. She hears everyone's problems. Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will take the party forward," said Pilot.

SC: DAUGHTERS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS TO PATERNAL PROPERTY

"The provisions of the substituted Section 6 are required to be given full effect. Notwithstanding that a preliminary decree has been passed the daughters are to be given share in coparcenary equal to that of a son in pending proceedings for final decree or in an appeal," the bench said.

It also clarified that unregistered oral partition, without any contemporaneous public document, cannot be accepted as the statutory recognised mode of partition.

"However, in exceptional cases where plea of oral partition is supported by public documents and partition is finally evinced in the same manner as if it had been affected by a decree of a court, it may be accepted. A plea of partition based on oral evidence alone cannot be accepted and to be rejected outrightly," the bench said.

The apex court said the appeals on the issue were pending before different High Courts and subordinate courts and the matters have already been delayed due to legal imbroglio caused by conflicting decisions. "The daughters cannot be deprived of their right of equality conferred upon them by Section 6. Hence, we request that the pending matters be decided, as far as possible, within six months," the bench said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of Union of India, had argued that daughters have been given the right of a coparcener, to bring equality with sons, and the exclusion of daughter from coparcenary was discriminatory and led to oppression and negation of fundamental rights.

"The Amendment Act, 2005, is not retro-

FROM PAGE 1

spective but retroactive in operation since it enables the daughters to exercise their coparcenary rights on the commencement of the Amendment Act. Even though the right of a coparcener accrued to the daughter by birth, coparcenary is a birthright," Mehta had said.

EMINENT POET RAHAT INDORI DIES

"After initial symptoms of COVID-19, my corona test was done yesterday which came out positive. Pray that I defeat this disease as soon as possible," Indori said in what would be his last post.

With a 50-year career in poetry, Indori, an Urdu scholar of great repute, was one of the biggest mushaira (poetry symposiums) stars in the country and someone who fearlessly called a spade a spade.

The wordsmith that he was, Indori translated the mood of the nation in his poetry that was emotive, direct and political.

UP XII TOPPER DIES IN CHASE BY EVE-TEASERS

"A Bullet (a Royal Enfield motorcycle) which was moving ahead of them suddenly stopped due to braking, and the two-wheeler of Sudiksha Bhati and her brother rammed into it from behind."

"She suffered injuries in the crash and was taken to a community health centre but she died," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police HC Awasthy said, "There is definitely an accident. People will be questioned during probe, and the investigation will proceed according to what comes to light." "A motorcycle was going ahead, and accident happened after its brakes were applied. After the motorcycles collided, the girl fell down and got injured. She was taken to a hospital, where unfortunately she died," he said.

He said it has come to light that the two were not wearing helmets. Political rivals Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Congress attacked the BJP-led UP government over the law and order situation in the state.

SUSHANT CASE: BIHAR, MAHA SLUG IT OUT IN SC

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that no FIR has been lodged in Mumbai and unless an FIR is lodged under section 154 of CrPC and the concerned magistrate is intimated, there cannot be any investigation.

Mehta said that in the absence of any investigation pending in Maharashtra, there is no question of transfer of investigation.

Mehta further said the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was also probing certain matter in the case.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Chakraborty, told the bench that the FIR lodged by Rajput's father has absolutely no connection with any offence in Patna.

Divan said there appears to be a considerable amount of State interference, influence and therefore apprehension of bias.

Referring to the timeline in the case, Divan said that there was a considerable delay of over 38 days in lodging of the FIR at Patna and all averments mentioned in the complaints are relatable to Mumbai. Divan further said that a huge parallel media trial is going on in the case.

The bench told Divan that in Chakraborty's petition, there is a request related to the CBI investigation.

"It is another aspect how the CBI will come

in," the bench said.

Divan said he wanted a fair investigation by a fair investigating agency.

ED QUIZZES SSR'S ROOMMATE, SISTER

in the ongoing probe and her statements are expected to substantiate the allegations of abuse of the late actor's bank accounts.

Both Pithani and Modi were also questioned by the agency on Monday and their statements were recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Modi was even questioned on Friday.

Pithani had earlier recorded his statement with the Mumbai Police as part of an accidental death case under the CrPC. The ED is probing if Pithani too was linked to the late actor's business interests or had any information about Rajput's investments, sources said.

The ED is probing suspected money laundering in the alleged transfer of Rs 15 crore from Rajput's bank account in one year to accounts of persons not known or connected to the late actor.

Modi was questioned on funds transfers of small amounts to Showik's account from those of Rajput and Chakraborty. Chakraborty, Showik and Modi were confronted with the bank statements to the effect during the grilling session on Monday.

Modi was also quizzed on the allegations that Chakraborty took decisions for Sushant including those relating to finances and projects.

The ED is also looking into at least two companies linked to Rajput and some financial deals involving prime accused Chakraborty, her father and brother Showik who are said to be directors in these companies.

RUSSIA 1ST TO DEVELOP CORONA VACCINE AMID SAFETY CONCERNS

Experts have voiced unease over Moscow's rapid approval process for the vaccine. On Tuesday, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said it had been in talks with Russian authorities about undertaking a review of the vaccine.

Amid fears that safety could have been compromised, the WHO urged Russia last week to follow international guidelines for producing a vaccine against Covid-19. Presently, coronavirus pandemic has infected more than 20 million people and killed nearly 750,000 worldwide, thus, crippling world economies.

The vaccine is developed jointly by Gamaleya Research Institute and the Russian Defence Ministry. Putin said the vaccine had passed all the required checks. Putin also asked Health Minister Mikhail Murashko to keep him informed about the vaccine, while at the same time noting that he knows "it works quite effectively" and "forms a stable immunity".

Currently, the Russian vaccine is not among the WHO's list of six vaccines that have reached phase three clinical trials, which involve more widespread testing in humans. There are 25 other vaccines in the clinical evaluation stage of development and a further 139 candidate vaccines in the pre-clinical evaluation stage according to the WHO. Companies including AstraZeneca Plc and Moderna Inc. are still conducting final-stage trials of their vaccines in studies that are expected to soon yield results. Despite rapid progress, most experts think any vaccine would not become widely available until mid-2021.

Oppn attacks govt over Bulandshahr incident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The death of a 20-year-old girl in Bulandshahr on Monday in an accident following teasing by some youths has given fresh ammunition to the opposition in Uttar Pradesh to hit out at the Yogi Adityanath government over the law and order situation in the state. Even the National Commission for Women (NCW) took cognisance and asked for a fair probe.

Expressing distress over the Bulandshahr incident, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that it reflected that there was no fear of law in Uttar Pradesh, adding that the women were insecure in the state.

Her remark came after a young girl from Bulandshahr died in a road accident after she fell off her bike while trying to avoid eve-teasers, who were chasing her. Taking to the Twitter, Priyanka levelled allegations at the state government, accusing it of not taking incidents of eve-teasing seriously. She said that a sweeping change was needed and the "state government should adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards crime against women".

Earlier on Tuesday, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati condemned the incident and demanded action against the culprits. Taking to Twitter, she said, "The promising student Sudiksha Bhati, who was going on a bike with her uncle in Bulandshahr, lost her life due to the eve-teasing, which is extremely sad, embarrassing and very condemnable. How will daughters progress? BSP strongly demands that the UP government should take strict legal action against the culprits immediately." The Samajwadi Party also raised questions over the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh and said it was evident that there was no fear of police in the criminals.

Speaking to the media, party spokesperson Anurag Bhadauria said,

Office of the Superintending Engineer Lucknow Circle PWD, Lucknow
Letter No 4396/523(1)C-L.C./2020-21) Date:- 05.08.2020

E-Tender Notice
The S.E. Lucknow Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD for Building work class A & B Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No	Dis. Tri. CT	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Tender+ Stationary Charges+ G.S.T.	Time of completion	Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	LUCKNOW	Construction of Hostel/Barrack for 32 Persons and 01 no Vivechana room at Thana Chhatra Lucknow.	92.00	6.60	2000.00+ 300.00+ 60 = 2360.00	12 Month	CD-1, PWD Lucknow	Lucknow circle, P.W.D. Lucknow.	C. E. Central Zone, P.W.D. Lucknow.

> The Rate adopted in the BQQ are excluding GST.
Bids can be downloaded online from date 17.08.2020 at 9:00 AM to 25.08.2020 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 25.08.2020 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 26.08.2020 at 3:30 PM. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/307078-2- 2018/42 17/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department's office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O.
All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>
(A.K. Singh) Executive Engineer Construction Division No.1, P.W.D. Lucknow
(Jitendra Kumar Banga) Superintending Engineer Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow For on behalf of Governor of UP
UP- 154161 Date 8.8.2020 रिज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-1, P.W.D. PRAYAGRAJ
NO 2357/8A E-TENDER (SHORT TERM TENDER) NOTICE Date : 31.07.2020

1. The Executive Engineer, Construction Division-1, P.W.D. Prayagraj on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP, PWD, Class A, B, C, and D in Building work. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

Sl. No.	Dis. st-ri-ct	Name of Work	Esti-mated cost (Rs.in Laacs)	Bid Security (Rs.in Laacs)	Cost of Bid Docu-ments	Time of com-pletion	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work	Address of Superin-tending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Prayagraj	स्वरूपानी विकिसालय स्थित 28 प्राइवेट एवं 7 स्पेशल प्राइवेट (कोविड-19) वार्डों के सम्मत एवं फर्नीचर आपूर्ति का कार्य	25.00	2.50	Stationery charges Rs.500.00 +Tender Cost 300 +RS.GST	01 Month	Construction Division no.1, PWD, Prayagraj	Prayagraj Circle P.W.D. Lucknow.	Prayagraj P.W.D. Prayagraj

2. Time allowed for completion is Column no 7 including Rainy Season.
3. Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids.
4. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 12-08-2020 to 19-08-2020 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 12:00 Hours on 19-08-2020. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 19-08-2020 at 12:30 Hour.
5. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.
(A.K. Dwivedi) Executive Engineer रिज्ञान वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। Construction Division-1, P. W.D. Prayagraj

160 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 160 COVID-19 patients have been detected here on Tuesday. With this, the total number of cases has reached 4,876. Besides, the district also saw three more deaths increasing the toll to 88. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 156 patients recovered from home isolation and the total number of patients cured at home has increased to 1,599 while 105 recovered from the hospitals. With this, the total number of patients discharged from the hospitals has reached 1,592 while the total number of cured patients is 3,191 leaving 1,597

active patients.

According to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh, in the first report received by 11 am during the day, as many as 64 new corona patients were found out of 359 reports received from Microbiology department of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Till then, the total test reports received were 60,168 and the results of 8,034 excluding 902 RTPCR samples collected a day ago are awaited. Out of these, 55,388 were negative reports while 4,780 positive. The total number of samples collected was 69,104. Earlier, two patients including female (60) from Nadesar and

male (65) from Manduadih died during treatment at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital, while a male (47) from Nariya at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH) in BHU. With the addition of 28 red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,120 including 414 red zones. As many as 10 green zones have been converted into red zones again. Besides, there are 706 green zones including 27 new ones.

Earlier, this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions continued finding a large number of corona patients when 537 cases were

detected on Monday. The maximum number of 161 cases was found in Varanasi (4,716), followed by 83 in Ballia (2,410), 68 in Azamgarh (1,717), 55 in Jaunpur (2,805), 51 in Sonbhadra (920), 29 in Ghazipur (1,719), 26 in Chandauli (1,141), 24 in Mirzapur (1,120), 23 in Bhadohi (796) and 17 in Mau (725). Out of total 18,069 corona positive cases, 10,914 have been cured either at home isolation or discharged from hospitals and the recovery rate has increased to 60.40 per cent. With the increase in death toll to 236, the mortality rate has slightly declined to 1.30 per cent.

236 test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Within 24 hours, 236 new positive cases of coronavirus have been detected in the Prayagraj district. In this way, the total number of infected patients has now reached 4,270. In addition, 101 corona infected from Covid Hospital and Covid Care Centers were discharged on Monday night after being healthy. Besides, four patients including the section officer posted at Allahabad High Court died due to deadly virus.

Four more patients of the coronavirus admitted to Swaroop Rani Nehru Covid Hospital succumbed late on Monday night. Of them, a patient was a resident of Bhadohi district. The 45-year-old section officer of the Allahabad High Court also died of corona. He had pneumonia also. When he got his corona test conducted, he also tested positive on August 7. He was admitted to SRN Hospital. He breathed his last on Monday night while undergoing treatment for nearly four days. He was a resident of Teliarganj. According to officials, his two children are also corona positive.

Similarly, a 65-year-old old man living in Handia also lost his life. He was undergoing treatment at SRN Hospital.



The third death was the 70-year-old corona positive of Bahadurganj.

He was undergoing treatment for kidney and BP in a private hospital in the city, when he came positive during the testing, he was referred to SRN Hospital.

He came from the hospital on a ventilator and underwent treatment on a ventilator, but could not be saved.

On the other hand, another patient died in SRN Covid Hospital but when he was

about to die, the doctor shifted him to another ward saying that he had been negative. He died shortly after.

Sources said that it was intentionally done so that corona's death in the hospital could be shown less.

Indeed, on August 2, a corona patient was admitted to SRN Hospital. No one had any idea about the people in his family. On August 9, at around 8 o'clock at night, he was sent from Corona ward to ward number 9, in this ward, non-

Covid patients are admitted who have lung disease. He died in the morning only after suffering overnight.

In this regard, the HoD of the Pulmonary department, Dr. Tariq Mehmood said that the patient was admitted to his department even though he was not aware of it. At the same time, Dr. Sujit Verma, the Nodal officer for SRN Hospital, said that the report of that patient came negative so he was referred to another ward due to lung disease.

Minister for ₹500 per bed hike in COVID-19 treatment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister for Finance, Parliamentary Affairs and Medical Education Suresh Khanna has instructed the district and Health department officers to increase ₹ 500 per bed for treatment of COVID-19 patients and the number of beds in L-3 Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Hospital to 400. He also instructed the district officers to take the complaints relating to coronavirus seriously and solve the problems of COVID-19 positive patients soon. The minister was inspecting the COVID-19 Integrated War Room at Srigra here on Tuesday.

Khanna stressed the need for increasing the number of beds in L-1 and L-2 hospitals. According to him, by using all the available resources, efforts should be made to save the life of every corona patient and suggested the officers to maintain cordial relations with the patients. He said that sympathy works as a drug for the patient. He said that the Health department officers should realise the psychology of the families of patients and maintain sympathy with them. According to him, efforts should be made to help the patients to be carried to the hospital in ambulances as soon as possible so that their treatment can be started soon. He said that the information about all vacant beds should be available so that the War Room can send doctors there for treatment.

The minister stressed the need for an early testing of all positive patients so that the mortality rate can be improved. He said that in this direction, the state government had done a lot of work and it is one of the reasons why about 80,000 could be recovered as over



UP Minister Suresh Khanna inspecting COVID-19 Integrated War Room in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

one lakh sampling is being done daily and in the state more than 32 lakh tests have been conducted so far. He asked the officers to follow the guidelines properly and informed them that the maximum number of patients found corona positive are between the age group of 20 and 45, appealing to the youth to take the pandemic seriously. Khanna has also instructed the district and Health department officers to keep regular watch on the corona patients being treated at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital and others and ensure providing better facilities to them.

He further instructed the officers to keep regular contact with the positive patients being kept in home isolation. During his inspection, Khanna inspect-

ed the activities of COVID-19 War Room and asked about the details from the senior officers present there. He also talked to the officers and employees deployed there and asked about their own health. Later, the minister held a meeting with the officers at Circuit House and reviewed the details of the fight against coronavirus in the district. He gave several instructions to the officers regarding facilities being given to the corona positive patients. The meeting was also attended by UP Minister Neelkanth Tiwari, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Depak Agrawal, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh and many others.

GANGA RISING: For the fourth day in succession, the water level of river continued rising in the city here on

Tuesday and during the last one day, the level was increased slowly as the river recorded rising by 1.95 centimetres per hour. The level has increased from 62.20 metres to 62.67 metres. However, there is no serious threat of flood yet as the river is still flowing far below the warning level of 70.26 metres. According to a report received from the Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), the river Ganga continued rising in Varanasi but in the upstream it was steady both at Phaphamau and Allahabad and falling at Mirzapur. The river was still rising at Varanasi and downstream Ghazipur but steady at Ballia, a district which separates UP and Bihar and surrounded by three big rivers where Ghagara had already created flood havoc in some parts of the district.

Free COVID-19 tests at 7 pvt hospitals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In view of intensifying COVID-19 tests, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma has now extended the facility of free corona tests at seven private hospitals. "The step will benefit the large population of the city and will speed up the investigation of corona," he said, adding that by increasing the facilities of rapid antigen tests, more and more people can be tested during a short span of time. According to him, a good number of patients are being treated in private hospitals who have symptoms similar to corona like cough, fever and difficulty in breathing while the comorbidity patients suffering from diabetes, hypertension, heart, kidney and other serious diseases have high risk for corona infection. He said that other private hospitals will also be provided with the facility of rapid test antigen kits free-of-cost after training their lab technicians.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh said that in the first phase, tests facilities have been provided for the indoor patients at seven hospitals including Ashirwad Hospital, GV Meditech-Surya Hospital, Galaxy Hospital (all in Mehmoorganj), Shubham Hospital (Maqbool Alam Road), Neuro City Hospital (Ashok Nagar, Pandeypur) and Oriana Hospital (Ravindrपुर). Lab technicians of these private hospitals are being trained by the Health department under the leadership of ACOMO Dr. Sanjay Rai.

Meanwhile, in the direction of the DM, the system of treatment of COVID-19 patients is being strengthened in government as well as private hospitals. In this direction, approval for treatment has been given to Heritage Institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS), Bhadwar, for 200-bed L-1 facility while for 40 beds of L-2 and 20 beds of L-3 facilities at Medwin Hospital (Maidagin), 24 beds of L-2 facility at Apex

Hospital (Bhikharpur) and 16 beds of L-3 facility, 30 beds of L-1 facility at Meridian Hospital (Sarnath), 48 beds of L-1 facility at Trimurti Hospital affiliated Hotel Gupta Inn (Nadesar). Now expanding it, Laxmi Medical and Surgical Centre (Maldahia) has been given approval for 50 beds of L-1 facility while for 15 beds of L-1 and 25 beds of L-2 facilities at Suryodaya Hospital (Bhojpur).

According to the DM, the corona patients who want to undergo treatment at isolation at these private hospitals, can be treated at their own expenses. The L-1 facilities are for asymptomatic patients, while L-2 for the moderately symptomatic patients and L-3 for those having severe symptoms and need ventilators etc. All these approved private hospitals have to charge the rates prescribed by the government.

Besides, the DM has also taken a new initiative to search for contacts of COVID-19 patients and provide them with

an ivermectin drug on the spot immediately.

Now the teachers of the Basic Education Department will also work with the COVID Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) to prepare a list of near contacts of corona positive patients and also provide them with ivermectin tablets. For this, 102 teams, each with two members of State Resource Group (SRG) and Academic Resource Person (ARP) teachers of Basic Education Department have been formed.

The DM has given the responsibility of supervising the training, daily work and after work reporting of the team members to the district coordinator

Bhola Vishwakarma and block education officer Jitendra Gaur under the leadership of Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Rakesh Singh. All these teams have started work in their respective allotted areas from Tuesday and district administration has provided 84,000 ivermectin tablets to the teams for 10,500 persons.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya reviewed the arrangements made for the rescue of COVID-19 at the Circuit House auditorium here on Tuesday. During this, he directed the officials to arrange hundred additional ventilators in the district. Along with that, he also asked them to send mobile teams to remote villages and towns to conduct a corona test there.

At around two in the afternoon, the Deputy Chief Minister reached the helipad at Police Lines via helicopter from Kanpur. Thereafter, he met

BJP workers at Circuit House held the review meeting here with the officials concerned in the auditorium.

District Magistrate Bhanuchandra Goswami told about the patients admitted in hospitals and the arrangements made for them. The Deputy Chief Minister insisted on increasing the testing procedure. He said that the effort should be made so that people do not die due to corona. Hospitalized patients should not have any type of problem.

Patients living in home isolation should also be taken care of. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the amount spent per patient in Covid

Hospital should be informed to him. Instructions for better power supply in Covid Hospitals were also given to the officials.

He said that it should also be publicised by determining how much charge should be taken from the corona patient in the private hospitals, so that private hospitals cannot be arbitrary in charging the corona patient. Complaints being received by the control room should be redressed on priority. Patients should be well behaved by the hospital staff. The Deputy Chief Minister directed to take action against those who were negligent in distribution of ration.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the 'Gandagi Bharat Chhoro Abhiyan' has started on the call of the Prime Minister. 'Gandagi Prayagraj Chhoro Abhiyan' on the same lines should be launched here, he added. Prominent among those present on the occasion included SSP Abhishek Dixit, Municipal Commissioner Ravi Ranjan, CDO Ashish Kumar, CMO GS Bajpai etc while among the public representatives were Phulpur Kesari Devi Patel, District Panchayat president Rekha Singh, City North MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, MLA Koraon Rajamani Cole, Allahabad MP Representative Manu Kakkur.

Ivermectin tablet effective in fighting corona

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In an effort to prevent corona infection, even though no vaccine has been introduced yet, doctors are also using old medicines. A tablet called 'ivermectin tablet' is said to be effective in fighting corona. Not only Prayagraj, this tablet has been sent to all Covid hospitals and Covid care centres in the state. Patients living in home isolation and coming into contact with them will also be able to take this medicine.

The Ivermectin tablet is considered effective in killing stomach worms. In the case of cattle, its quantity increases. Ever since the coronavirus spread, experts have been researching its utility. It is claimed that it was used on corona patients in many countries including the US and Bangladesh.

Physicians here talk about giving this tablet to corona patients even in reputed hospi-

tals like AIIMS, MAX. This tablet has been made available in all Covid Care Centres along with Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, Beli Hospital and Kotwa Bani Covid Hospital in the district. In some hospitals, it is being given to the patients.

Dr. Rishi Sahai, the nodal officer and district surveillance officer of COVID-19, admitted that the Ivermectin tablet is being given to the patients here in the district. It is said that hospitals have been directed for this purpose. He said that this drug stops the process of the virus proteins entering the cell nucleus. This disrupts the virus's RNA replication process.

Superintendent of Kotwa-based Covid Hospital, Dr. Amritlal admitted that ivermectin is being given to patients. He said that ivermectin is given after two hours of eating at night for the first three days as soon as the patients without symptoms

and mild symptoms are admitted. Along with doxycycline is also being given twice a day for five days. People exposed to the patient are given ivermectin tablets two hours after dinner on the first and seventh day to prevent possible infection. Health workers engaged in the COVID duty will also be given this medicine for their better health, Dr Sahai added.

GAS LEAKAGE FROM STP: People ran helter skelter on Buxi Bundh, Allahpur here on Tuesday morning following ammonia gas leakage from the sewage treatment plant. Situation was brought under control by the fire fighters who found out the leaking cylinder of ammonia gas within the STP and stopped the leakage.

According to reports no major damage was done because the STP is situated on the bank of the Ganga where the population is almost nil. Immediately after the incident the police blocked the Buxi

Bundh road from both sides, and called the fire brigade and the officials of Ganga Pollution Control unit.

The gas, however, cast its effect on nearby trees and plants which turned pale.

FOUNDATION DAY: The 22nd Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad will be celebrated on August 12. Keeping the ongoing pandemic acuteness in cognisance and adhering to the protocol requirements for social distancing directions issued by the government, the event of the celebration of Foundation Day of the institute will respectfully see as the day of observation.

A tree plantation drive will be organised at 9 am in front of the Administrative Block of the Institute. Besides, the institute will facilitate senior persons residing on the campus for long time. The IIIT-A Director, Prof P Nagabhusan will be the chief guest on this occasion.

Maurya directs officials to arrange for 100 more ventilators

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

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NCR constructing boundary walls utilising PSC sleepers

ALLAHABAD (PNS):

North Central Railway has started constructing boundary walls utilising released PSC sleepers along the track. NCR Headquarters has issued a drawing for construction of boundary wall along Railway track utilising unserviceable and released pre-stressed concrete (PSC) sleepers. Following this drawing: Agra division has constructed 500 meters boundary wall in Agra-Mathura section and working on another patch of 1.5 kms. Similarly Prayagraj division has also constructed boundary wall for about 100 meters at Subedarganj station following the approved scheme. During renewal of track and up-grad-

ation from 52 kg track structure to 60 kg track structure, huge quantities of PSC sleeper get released. These released sleepers are not only unserviceable for maintenance of tracks but also occupy precious area near running track besides recycling its metallic portion is uneconomical and non-friendly to environment. These small patches of boundary walls constructed in Agra and Prayagraj divisions are being evaluated on all parameters including cost, time required for construction before decision is taken on large-scale implementation of this scheme. It is particularly important for North Central Railway as both the trunk routes between New Delhi-

Mumbai served by NCR are sanctioned for speed raising to 160 kmph and construction of boundary wall is an important part of speed raising work.

While reviewing safety, loading and 160 Kmph speed raising works through video conference on Tuesday GM Rajiv Chaudhry stressed that requirement of boundary wall to be constructed by NCR and that proposed for construction through PPP needs to be clearly identified. Reviewing 160 Kmph speed raising work he added that committee of senior officers from HQ headed by Additional General Manager Ranjan Yadav be formed immediately to assist Prayagraj

and Agra divisions on technical and other issues and monitor daily progress of these important works to complete it within the ambitious target of 2023-24. In the beginning of review meeting safety position over North Central Railway was reviewed. GM emphasised that all efforts of train passing staff in identifying defect in freight and passenger trains should be recognised suitably. To improve safety in train operations NCR has also launched safety drives for checking height, distance from running track of various fixed installations along the track to mitigate any chance of hitting of such structure from open doors of wagons.

People start shifting their belongings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amidst the heavy police force, the members of a dozen families on Tuesday started shifting their belongings at the houses allotted to them under Slum Rehabilitation Authority

(SRA). Their houses, located at Phulwaria in Cantonment area, had been evacuated on Monday to clear the way to construct a four-lane road.

The Public Works Department (PWD) has plan to construct a four-lane road in Phulwaria but there were some

houses in the area which were hurdles on the way of starting the construction work. The implementing agency acquired these houses and allotted the houses to them in Aidhe village and Bajardiha area in lieu of the acquisition under the SRA scheme. Under this scheme, the

government allots houses to slum dwellers.

The joint team reached the slum dwelling in Phulwaria on Tuesday along with heavy police force and conducted the process of evacuating the acquired houses.

DC stresses on effective surveillance by ICCC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Sudhir M Bobde has directed officials concerned to ensure effective surveillance by the Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) by further streamlining its operations in the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic.

He said the ICCC would function under the direct control of Kanpur Municipal Commissioner Akshay Tripathi with the assistance of City Magistrate Himanshu Gupta. The divisional commissioner asked the district magistrate and the chief medical officer to sit at the ICCC for six hours a day to monitor its functioning for better care of COVID-19 patients and to check the increasing Covid death rate in the city.

He said in view of the acute crisis of beds for COVID-19 patients, some more private hospitals be acquired and made functional as Covid care cen-

231 more test positive

KANPUR (PNS): Kanpur Nagar reported 231 new cases of coronavirus infection on Tuesday.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 231 more people tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening, taking the tally to 8,907.

He said with 178 COVID-19 patients being discharged from hospitals, 2,814 infected persons had been cured and there are 4,483 active cases in the city. The CMO said with 9 more COVID-19 deaths in the city, the death toll stood at 293 on Tuesday.

He said 2,326 samples were taken for testing.

ters.

Dr Bobde said all the private hospitals that had been made Level-2 and Level-3 Covid care centres should further increase ventilators, YPAP and high flow nasal cannula (HFNC).

He said funds donated by NGOs at the division level, including that from MP, MLA local area development fund, could be used in this regard by the district health committee.

He said the private hospitals could set up these infrastructure through their own

resources. He asked them to arrange for more ventilators, VPAP for effective treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The divisional commissioner said COVID-19 patients discharged from hospitals after being treated were not a reservoir of infection and the community should be made aware of this so that such people were not ostracised after returning from hospital on being cured.

He directed the district administration, police and health officials to maintain a record of such persons with

their name, mobile phone number and their availability on phone and ensure to make people realise that they had been cured and were no more infectious.

Dr Bobde said weekend lockdown on Saturdays and Sundays had to be strictly followed and directed officials to ensure total closure on test two days. He said strict action be taken against people not wearing face masks and those riding two-wheelers without helmet and face mask. He also stressed on cleanliness in Covid hospitals.

He said all private hospitals dealing with non-Covid patients should ensure that if a patient tests negative in rapid antigen test, the result be confirmed through TrueNat and Cartridge-based Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (CBNAAT) so that beds could be available for other patients in the non-Covid hospitals.

He said an inventory of donations should be prepared at the earliest.

LIC offers plan for revival of lapsed policies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Life Insurance Corporation of India, in view of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, has once again adopted an avuncular approach by offering an opportunity to policy holders whose policies have lapsed for various reasons.

To encourage continuation of risk cover in the current circumstances of high risk, the LIC has brought a revival plan for its policyholders for their lapsed policies.

It has launched a month-long Special Revival Campaign from August 10 to September 9, 2020, under which all the customers can revive their individual lapsed LIC policies.

The LIC said in a statement that in view of the prevailing circumstances, no concessions were being offered in medical requirements and the same were limited to late fee only and under plans other than term assurance and other high risk plans.

It said that under the Special Revival Campaign, policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from the date of the first unpaid premium subject to certain terms and conditions.

It said the concession in late fee was not eligible for high risk plans like term assurance, health insurance, multiple risk policies, etc.

Under the SRC, up to ₹ 1 lakh, 20 per cent to a maximum late fee concession of ₹1,500 was allowed. From ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 3 lakh, 25 per cent and maximum concession allowed was ₹2,000. Similarly, from ₹3 lakh and above, 30 per cent late fee concession and maximum concession allowed was ₹ 2500.

The policies which were in lapsed condition during the premium paying term and have not completed policy term as on the date of revival are eligible to be revived under this campaign.

CRS inspects newly-electrified rail section

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), North Eastern Circle, Mohammad Lateef Khan, on Monday inspected the newly-electrified Bhatni-Aunrihar (125 km) rail section under Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway (NER). During the inspection speed trial was also done on this section. On the occasion chief administrative officer (CAO)/ Construction Ram Karan Yadav, principal chief signal and telecom engineer Shrikant Singh, chief safety officer SN Shah, principal chief electrical engineer AK Shukla, chief electrical engineer/Construction Santosh N Derva, additional divisional railway manager (ADRM)/Infra, Varanasi, Praveen Kumar, senior divisional operating manager Rohit Gupta, senior divisional electrical engineer/Traction Pankaj Kesarwani, senior divisional engineer-III Atul Tripathi, senior divisional signal and telecom engineer Ashutosh Pandey along with officials of the division and construction organisation were present. The electrification work of Bhatni-Aunrihar section has been completed. CRS Mohammad Lateef Khan, departed from Bhatni and inspected the foot over bridge (FOB) in Salempur, engineering gang, bridge number 31, over head electric crossing (high-tension cable) and arrived at Indara. Here he inspected the station panel, neutral section, level crossing No 4-C, curvature and after inspecting the bridge No 72 between Indara-Mau reached Mau Junction. After starting the inspection from Mau Junction he inspected power sub-station, over head line clearance, standard distance from the platforms to the traction, overhead line's standard



distance from the earthing track and in the station working rule observed changes as per electrified standards. He inspected the power sub-station, station panel and over head line emergency control system in Dullhapur. After this Lateef did a thorough inspection of bridge No 116 between Dullahapur-Sadat and reached Aunrihar after inspecting the level crossings falling in this section. The CRS conducted a thorough inspection of relay rooms, platform clearance, OHE box, fire safety equipment etc of all the stations falling in Bhatni-Aunrihar section, CPRO, PK Singh said. Along with this he also inspected the relay room, IPS room, equipment and maintenance room and also issued necessary instructions to the officers concerned. He inspected the standard distance between the overhead lines of this railway section, on the electrified section new signals installed and the sighting board standard status, adequate clearance on the curvature, extension of bridge and culvert, point and crossing, over head line, electric pole, power sub station, overhead line fittings, colour light signal, RE area, sighting board, high voltage warning board, road underpass, interlocking gear, relay room, control panel, monitoring panel and level crossings. After the inspection the CRS doing speed trial through the observation vehi-

cle reached Bhatni Junction.

Notably even in this difficult time of corona infection, many development works are being done by NER. In the same sequence on Varanasi division's Bhatni-Aunrihar rail section the challenging task of electrification of 125 route km was completed. With the electrification of this section a large part between Gorakhpur to Varanasi will be connected with electrified railway sections. As a result electric trains can also be operated on Gorakhpur-Varanasi section. This will help in punctuality of trains and improve the environment.

RECRUITMENT IN RAILWAYS: The advertisement for recruitment in Railways is published by Indian Railways only. For recruitment in various categories of Group 'C' and Group 'D' in Railways there are 21 Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and 16 Railway Recruitment Cell (RRCs) on Indian Railways, CPRO PK Singh said. No other agency has been engaged for recruitment work. Information about vacancies in Railways is given in the Centralised Employment Notification (CEN) with full details which is published in Employment News/Rojgar Samachar. Indicative advertisements are also published in national and local dailies. Online applications are invited from eligible candidates. CEN is displayed on the website of RRB/Railway Recruitment Cell. It is clarified in this context that Railways has not authorised any private institution for recruitment. A misleading advertisement has come to the notice of the Railways. Everyone is requested not to be influenced by such misleading and fake news. Investigation of fake advertisement has been started by the Railways.

Discharge policy revised for Covid patients: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra, said that under the revised discharge policy, patients with mild symptoms of coronavirus infection in the initial stages would be discharged after 10 days without any test.

He said such patients would have to mandatorily

remain in home quarantine for one week. He said under the new policy, only the critical patients would be tested.

Dr Mishra said COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms who take admission in hospital would be discharged in 10 days if they do not develop fever three days prior to being discharged.

He added that under the new discharge policy, patients whose symptom ends in three days and their oxygen saturation is above 95 per cent will be discharged after completion of 10 days without any further tests.

He said the onus had been placed on doctors to ensure that the patient did not get fever for last three days with-

out taking anti-pyretic medicine, and did not have any discomfort in breathing.

He said as per the directive of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, LLR Hospital would have 100 more beds and would be able to cater to 300 COVID-19 patients. He said out of these beds, 50 would be in the ICU.

₹3 cr development works approved by Cantt Board

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Members of the Cantonment Board have approved developmental works worth ₹ 3 crore in the area.

The Cantonment Board meeting held on Monday informed the members about the release of ₹2.75 crore by the Union government from the account of 15th Finance Commission for the development of Cantonment area.

The second instalment of the grant is likely to be released by September-October.

The members also approved the extension of Cantonment Board's tenure by six months.

Earlier, Brig Dinar Didhe and Admn Commandant Col Anurag Dwivedi assumed the charge in the Cantonment Board. They were given a rousing welcome by the members and other office staff.

After the swearing-in ceremony, they took part in the Board Meeting.

Tenders for construction of CC road at a cost of ₹50 lakh, sewer line at a cost of ₹ 50 lakh and road marking strip costing ₹15 lakh were approved.

The salary of three ex-ser-



Brig Dinar Didhe takes part in the meeting of Cantonment Board.

Pioneer.

vicemen employed in the Cantonment Board was fixed at ₹30,000 inclusive of GST.

Likewise, the salary of 40 guards posted in Board's school and other offices was revised to ₹375 per day.

Chief Executive Officer Arvind Kumar Dwivedi, Col UK Vaishya, Lt Col MZ Khan, corporators Prastavana Tewari, Mohd Firoz Alam, Anita Yadav, Shikha Trivedi and Raju were present at the Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman of the Board, Lakhani Lal Omar, said

the repairing of road from Murrey Company flyover to Khapra Mohal was also approved by the Board.

Six other works were also approved in the Board meeting. They include repair of trenching ground in Badlipurwa at a cost of ₹18 lakh; sewer line work before the Cantonment Board office at a cost of ₹8.58 lakh; repair of road from Delight Cinema to GT Road at a cost of ₹57.80 lakh; repair of Tagore Road at a cost of ₹1.64 crore and repair of road from

Shiv Narain Tandon overbridge to Pakadia Crossing at a cost of ₹53.91 lakh.

Besides, the contract of Faithfulganj Market was given at ₹8.13 lakh as against ₹2.90 lakh recovered last year.

Lakhani Lal Omar said due to slump during COVID-19 period, the contract was awarded to Deepak Singh Yadav with the unanimous consent of all members.

The open auction for this contract was held on July 20, he said.

Women protest against beer bar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of women came out on roads to protest against the opening of beer bar at Rose Garden Apartment.

The women, holding placards, demanded immediate removal of the shop which they said had led to increase in drunken brawls, eve-teasing and molestation.

The women demanded that the beer bar be shifted to some other place as it was causing much problem to women when they passed the way.

The women threatened to intensify their agitation in case the beer bar was not shifted to some other place.

They also handed over a memorandum in this regard addressed to the excise commissioner and the district administration.

The Fazalganj police reached the spot and pacified the agitating women and assured them that police would take action against brawls and eve-teasing.

The police asked the beer bar owner to ensure that there was no complaint regarding eve-teasing and drunken brawls.

However, the women were adamant that the beer bar should be removed or shifted.

Special cleanliness drive launched

PNS ■ VARANASI

On the directive of Railway Board to launch a nationwide special cleanliness campaign on the occasion of Independence Day, Varanasi division of NER launched a week-long drive on Monday. It will continue till August 16. During the period all small and major stations, railway tracks, approach roads, circulating areas, platforms, urinals, toilets, railway offices, water booths, health units, loco sheds, carriage and wagon depots, railway residential colonies etc. will be cleaned intensively. Garbage

and wastes dumped on tracks and their sides, especially in urban areas, will be removed. On the instructions of DRM Vijay Kumar Panjari the special drive was launched on the first day at Deoria Sadar, Jiradei, Kadipur, Katka, Chhapra Rural, Dhobhi, Nigatpur, Phephna, Tamkuhi Road, Baraharaganj, Karimuddinpur, Suremanpur, Siwan, Pacharukhi and some other stations.

Besides, plastic and other wastes were removed from tracks falling between two stations. For the success of the drive, active participation of women contract labourers was

ensured to create awareness about cleanliness in the society. Railway staff in association with members of Bright Future Society launched the drive in station premises and residential colony in Deoria. At present a lot of improvement is being seen in cleanliness in trains and at stations. During the drive focus will be to ensure cleanliness on tracks passing through urban areas apart from station offices, colonies, workplaces and other areas. Efforts are also being made to approach voluntary organisations to come forward and ensure their participation in it.

'Dumps, mining areas measured regularly'

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAU

District mines officer Rakesh Bahadur Singh who had joined recently said that mining would be done in district on the basis of guidelines provided by NGT and MOEF (Ministry of Environment and Forests) &

CC (Climate change). Talking to 'The Pioneer' on Monday, Rakesh Bahadur Singh, a PCS officer of 1994 batch, said that continuous measurement of dumps was going on in the district. He said they had issued licences for 31 dumps and nine mining areas before the rainy season. The dumps and mining areas are measured regularly, said Singh. There is ₹11 crore in the district mining fund (DMF) whose 60 per cent is used in the

development of areas affected by mining and the remaining 40 per cent in other areas by the district administration, said Singh. He said if any illegal mining was done then legal action will be taken against the persons concerned on the basis of the Uttar Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules, 1963. He said that Jalaun was on the first position in terms of revenue from mining. He said that he was earlier posted in Ghaziabad.

Criminal arrested Vaccination drive

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAU

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

On the directive of SP Yashveer Singh and ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh, Kuthond police arrested one criminal along with an illegal weapon and a cartridge from an area near Bharat petrol pump under Kuthond police station on Monday. Police registered a case against the accused, Akhand Pratap Chaturvedi, son of Ajay Kumar Chaturvedi, a native of Salempur village under Rajpur police station in Kanpur Dehat district and sent him to jail. ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh said that they had received an application from Rahul Singh, son of Raghunath Singh, a resident Bharatpura village under Chirgaon police station (Jhansi) who had stated that he was going to Farrukhabad with his loaded truck and stopped it at a hotel under Kuthond police station to have some refreshments. Suddenly some goons came on Apache motorcycle without any number plate and looted his purse. A case under Section 393 of the IPC was registered against the unknown Apache motorcycle riders. He said that they had formed a team under the leadership of Kuthond police station incharge SSI Arun Tiwari for arresting the accused. ASP said the accused was a notorious criminal who opened police at police team when it tried to arrest him. The team which made the arrest comprised S-I Divya Prakash Tiwari, constables Satyendra Kumar Dwivedi, Shivam, Umesh, Praveen Kumar, Pramlesh Kumar and others. Meanwhile another report said that police apprehended an accused, Mausam, son of Rajkumar, a native of Malviya Nagar locality, Madhogarh under the Kotwali Madhogarh police station from Sihari bus stand in Madhogarh town on Monday. Police confiscated one illegal pistol of 12 bore and two live cartridges. Incharge Madhogarh police station inspector BL Yadav said that accused was a notorious criminal. S-I Yogendra Singh was in the team which made the arrest.

The Health department is going to conduct a vaccination drive to control pneumonia from August 13. Giving details, CMO Dr OP Tiwari said that Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) was to be administered to infants aged between one-and-a-half week to nine months and as per a rough estimate 74,000 of them would be covered in the district. He said that the vaccine had no side effect and was helpful in protecting children from some other diseases too. He said that the vaccine would be available at all health centres from the PHC to district hospital. During the drive the booster dose of vitamins would be given to children up to five years of age. The CMO has appealed to people to take the benefit of the drive because earlier the vaccine was available at a cost ranging between ₹2,200 and ₹4,000 but now through the government it was available free of cost. The CMO has appealed to people to avail the facility which was the priority of the department.

BOY DROWNS: In a tragic incident a teenager drowned in a pond in Charkhi village under the Lalganj police station. As per the reports, Akash (16), son of Vanvasi, had gone to bathe in village pond where he slipped and went into the area where the water was deep. On getting information the police reached the spot, took the body of the victim into custody for completing legal formalities.

APPREHENDED: The Dehat Kotwali police have arrested one person who was accused of rape. According to reports received, a woman had lodged an FIR with the police in which she had alleged that Raju Sonkar, resident of Bharuhna village, had entered her house and raped her. Thereafter the police swung into action and nabbed him from Amghat railway crossing located on Mirzapur-Chunar Road. After completing the legal formalities the accused was sent to jail.

Municipal commissioner stresses on effective solid waste management

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Municipal Commissioner Akshay Tripathi on Tuesday said that in view of the spread of coronavirus pandemic, it had become essential to keep the city clean and this could be done with effective solid waste management.

He said 900 metric tonnes of garbage reached the disposal centre out of which 550 tonnes prepared fertilisers while 250 tonnes was converted into refuse derived fuel (RDF) which was later sold to the cement manufacturing companies.

He said the RDF was also

being used as fertiliser for the public gardens.

He said RDF was produced from combustible components that the industry called municipal solid waste. He said this waste, usually taken from industrial or commercial sites, was shred, dried, baled and then finally burned to produce electricity.

He said RDF was generally used to define unspecified waste after basic processing to increase the calorific value (CV) of municipal solid waste (MSW), commercial or industrial waste materials.

He said it was a form of MSW that had been sorted

and subjected to basic processing treatment.

He said MSW was treated by shredding and dehydrating to produce refuse derived fuel that consisted largely of combustible components of municipal waste (non-hazardous) such as plastics and biodegradable waste and as such, had more consistent combustion characteristics than unsorted MSW.

He said from September 2020 more solid waste management will be carried out in the city and a plan has already been prepared.

He said currently there were only 68 running vehicles and a total of 5000 safai

karamcharis and total diesel consumption was 90 lakh pm. He said the major reason for dumped garbage was the garbage was not being removed from all the 110 wards.

He said some skeletal door to door garbage collection was being carried out but it had nothing to do with the KNN.

He said there was a need for more garbage removal trucks and small vehicles.

He said unless there was proper infrastructure the cleaning of the city will remain half done and this can be a potent threat for the spread of diseases especially communicable diseases.

Teacher held for showing porno clip to student

KANPUR (PNS): The Barra police arrested a teacher giving tuitions for showing pornographic video clips to his 10-year-old student. He was identified as Sunil Davrani of Govind Nagar. According to reports, a 10-year-old student of Barra-3 used to attend tuition class of the teacher residing near his house. On returning after tuition on Monday, he suddenly started indulging in obscene acts. Initially, the family members took it in lighter vein but when the student continued to indulge in obscene acts, they grilled him and came to know that the boy had learned all this from his teacher. They reached the Barra police station and lodged complaint against the teacher.

Aggressive testing needed to contain Covid: Modi

PM interacts with CMs of 10 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday pointed out that 10 States account for 80 per cent of the total Covid-19 cases and asked for aggressive testing and exchange of best practices to contain the pandemic.

The Prime Minister interacted with the Chief Ministers of ten States and reviewed the coronavirus situation in the country and further measures required to check its spread. He interacted with the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was also present in the meet.

Modi said the battle against the coronavirus could be won if the situation in these ten States where 80 per cent of active cases (six lakh) are concentrated, could be contained, he said.

"Today, 80% of active cases are in the 10 States whom you represent. Across the country, there are more than 6 lakh active cases mostly in these 10 states. Therefore, it is important that we talk and exchange best practices and learn from each other's experience", he said.

"If we defeat corona in these 10 States, the whole country will overcome this disease", Modi said.

The Prime Minister observed in some States such as Bihar, UP, Telangana and West Bengal, testing rates were low, but the positivity rate was high. He urged these four states to ramp up testing.

He also insisted on contact tracing. "Experts are now say-



ing that if we can identify and trace the infection in the first 72 hours, the disease treatment is easier", he said.

Citing the "Delhi model" to contain the pandemic, Modi said: "The template for this is the same for all, to separate containment zones, 100% screening, isolation, tracing and treatment."

Prime Minister said the number of testing has reached seven lakhs per day and is also increasing continuously.

He said if we try more in focussed way then we can achieve the target to bring down Case Fatality Rate to less than one per cent.

"The average fatality rate is much lower than in the rest of the world. It is a matter of satisfaction. It is constantly decreasing. The percentage of active cases has decreased and the recovery rate has increased. So this means that our efforts are proving effective", Prime Minister said.

Modi said there was a phase when Covid19 had become a huge problem in some districts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi but "we held a review meeting and a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Union home minister Amit Shah and to a great extent, we achieved

desired results", Prime Minister said.

This is the seventh video conference of the Prime Minister with the states Chief Ministers since the outbreak of the pandemic and also the first meeting of Modi with chief ministers during Unlock 3.0 on the coronavirus pandemic.

Since March, Modi had interacted with the Chief Ministers and reviewed the coronavirus pandemic in India. During his interactions, he had called for strict adherence to Centre's guidelines and the social distancing norms to check the spread of Coronavirus.

India, the third country worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic recorded a spike of 53,601 coronavirus cases on Tuesday, pushing the total tally to 22,68,675. The country tested a record over 871 deaths in a single day.

The number of recoveries mounted to almost 16 lakh, more than twice the active cases. Out of the total cases, over 6,39,929 are active cases while 15,83,489 have recovered from the disease and 45,456 people have lost their lives in the fight against the virus which has no proven cure or a vaccine yet.

Armed forces ready for deployment even during winter months in Ladakh, PAC told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the stalemate continues at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China reluctant to pull back its troops, the Indian armed forces are ready for a long haul. Presenting this assessment to a parliamentary panel, the military also said the process of disengagement and de-escalation is likely to take more time.

Led by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, the armed forces also informed the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that the Services are geared for deployment even during the winter months in Ladakh in the present situation. This is significant as temperature drops to minus 20 degrees in the region and winter sets in by September end.

The parliamentary panel was apprised of the ground situation at the moment at the volatile border in Eastern Ladakh and informed that the process of disengagement and de-escalation may take longer, sources said here on Tuesday. This comes in the backdrop of no substantial reduction of troops and withdrawal by the Chinese even after six rounds of military level talks besides scores of parleys at the diplomatic level.

Apprising the lawmakers of the current position, the military top brass, however, assured them that the armed forces are ready to face any challenge and are operationally ready. Moreover, adequate logistical arrangements are underway to enable the soldiers to perform their duties during the harsh winter months, the panel was informed.

As regards the time-consuming disengagement and de-escalation process, sources said it was a complex issue and

both the sides were dealing it with utmost caution. Also, India all along maintained that China has to restore status quo ante. It means the Chinese forces will have to go back to their positions as existing in April end.

The stand-offs started with the Chinese intruding into the Pangong Tso (lake) area on May 5 and obstructing an Indian army patrol. It led to a scuffle between soldiers of the two armies. At present, the "friction points" include Galwan valley, Hot Springs and Gogra besides Pangong Tso.

While the Chinese have withdrawn in considerable numbers from Gsalwan, Hot Springs and Gogra, they are not ready to retreat from the Pangong Tso. In fact, some more rounds of talks are likely in the coming days at the military and diplomatic levels to sort out this contentious issue, sources said.

Not willing to take any chances in the present scenario, the Indian army has also ramped up its troop strength besides bringing forward heavy guns and tanks. This move was undertaken after the Chinese buildup at all the "friction points" and the Depsang Valley. It has amassed more than 15,000 soldiers on its side of the LAC in the Depsang region leading to Major Generals of the two armies holding talks to defuse tension there last week.

On strengthening troop levels during winter months in Ladakh, sources said more than 20,000 troops are now ready to be deployed at a short notice in any operational areas on the LAC.

The troops are acclimated for high altitude stints as most of the personnel have already served in the Siachen glacier and other tough terrain in the mountains.

Expert committee to identify effective Covid vaccine in fight against virus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The expert committee on vaccine administration, chaired by NITI Aayog's Dr VK Paul, will meet on Wednesday to consider "selection, logistics and ethical aspects" of procurement and administration of vaccines against the coronavirus disease that has claimed over 45,000 lives and infected over 22.70 lakhs people in the country.

"The panel will decide to identify the COVID-19 vaccine that is effective in fight against the virus. The committee will also chalk out a plan how the vaccines should be procured. Finally, the panel will prepare a strategy on inventory management, distribution, and administration," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press briefing here on Tuesday.

The high-level panel includes AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria, representatives of the ministries of external affairs, biotechnology, information technology, the Director General of Health



services, India's Aids Research Institute, the Indian Council of Medical Research, and also representatives from states.

The panel's terms of reference constitute all matters related to logistics of vaccines and ways to address issues of equity etc, said the official when asked if the Government plans to tie-up with Russia which has recently announced manufacture of a vaccine to curb the Covid-19.

The committee members will decide which vaccine or vaccines will be effective for Indian citizens. The task force will also chalk out a budget and discuss how capital can be raised for procurement, distribution of the vaccine. Moreover, the high-level panel will prepare a strategy on inventory management and administration.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) scientist Balram

Bhargava, India has three vaccine candidates in different phases of the clinical study.

The first is inactivated virus vaccine which is being developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the ICMR. The vaccine has completed its Phase-1 study on one site and has started Phase-2 clinical trial.

The second is the DNA vaccine being developed by Zydus Cadila. This vaccine has also begun its Phase-2 trial at 11 sites.

The third is the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine that will be manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII). The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given approval to SII to conduct Phase 2 and 3 clinical studies in the 17 sites in the country.

Once the vaccines are ready, the Government will work on priority and fair distribution of vaccine, to look out logistic and roll out in a cold chain, stockpiling, and training people who are being given this vaccine.

USA meets Lord Rama at Huston, via Kerala's Ramayana Month

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

People in Huston, US, may not have heard of Kerala's Karkkadaka month (the Malayalam equivalent of Sraavan) but thanks to Ramayana, people in the far away continent are getting to know more about Indian heritage and Kerala.

While Hindu households observe Karkkadaka as Ramayana month in Kerala, Hindus who went to far away places in search of livelihood and education took with them a

portion of Karkkadaka. The net result? A Lord Krishna Temple at Huston, more famous as Sri Guruvayurappan Temple and recitation of Ramayana throughout Karkkadaka. Yes, more than a hundred households join the Ramayana recitation every evening at this temple for the entire month and they make the neighborhood reverberate with the lyrics known for its devotion, dedication and Bhakti towards the Maryada Purushotham. For nearly a decade Dr Rekha Nair, a paramedic scientist, has been

reciting Ramayana at this Huston Temple with silent prayers for people in Kerala as well as the rest of the world.

"The numbers have increased manifold over the years. This year due to Covid-19 norms, we use the social media to propagate the message of Lord Rama. Every evening one person comes to the temple and recite Ramayana which is aired through the social media page of the temple. Others join the session from their homes," said Dr Nair.

Desi def industry gets ₹8,722.38-cr booster

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to the Indian Defence industry, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday cleared proposals worth ₹8,722.38 crore including procurement of 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft (BAT). They are manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Giving details, defence ministry officials later said with the HAL having successfully developed Basic Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40) Prototypes and certification process underway, the DAC approved procurement of 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft from the HAL. It will

address the basic training requirements of the IAF. Post certification 70 Basic Trainer Aircraft will be initially procured from the HAL and balance 36 after operationalisation of HTT-40 fleet in the IAF. The DAC is the apex body to approve acquisition plans of the armed forces.

To improve the fire power of Navy, the DAC approved procurement of an upgraded version of Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM), which is fitted as the main gun onboard Navy and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) warships, from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). The upgraded version of SRGM has enhanced capability to perform against fast manoeuvring targets like missiles and Fast



Attack Crafts. The guns have considerable engagement range.

In view of the availability of requisite capability for indigenous development of the ammunition, both in terms of 'Manufacturing' and 'Technology', the DAC approved procurement of 125 mm APFSDS (Armour Piercing Fin Stabilised

Discarding Sabot) ammunition for the Army as a 'Design and Development Case'. The ammunition being procured will have a 70 per cent indigenous content. The DAC also gave approvals that are likely to speed up the procurement of AK-203 assault rifles and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) upgrades.

Guidelines for Covid survivors soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports that Covid-19 survivors are facing health issues post recovery, the Union Health Ministry is preparing guidelines to help such patients manage any long-term complications. "A group of experts in the Ministry is presently seized with this issue and working on a guidance note for recovered people and possible complications that may afflict them," said Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Health Ministry on reports of lung ailments in some of the patients who have recovered from Covid-19.

The ministry's technical wing, or Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) which is looking into the matter, includes several domain experts. Dr Rajiv Garg, the director-general health services, chairs the group. The group includes experts from AIIMS, Delhi, representatives from the ICMR and World Health Organisation's India office. "This group provides an expert opinion on various topics from time to time... it has been responsible for providing technical inputs to draft guidelines on issues related to testing, isolation of patients, home isolation dos and don'ts, clinical management of Covid-19 cases in and outside hospitals..." There have been global studies too wherein researchers have found that the infection free patients faced one or many health issues like fatigue, breathlessness, psychological distress - including problems with concentration and memory - and a general decline in quality of life.

Top educationist in TN questions logic behind opposition to Hindi

PNS ■ KOCHI

Tamil Nadu's top educationist has come out in the open questioning the logic behind the State Government's decision not to allow the three-language formula implemented by the five-decade long Dravidian rule in Tamil Nadu.

Immediately after the announcement of the National Education Policy, Palanisami had said that his government would not allow in Tamil Nadu the three-language formula envisaged in the policy.

"Ours is the only State in the country that has been denying its students an opportunity to learn any other

that the three-language formula was "saddening and painful". The educationist, held in high esteem all over India described himself as a victim of the two-language formula implemented by the five-decade long Dravidian rule in Tamil Nadu.

He said the decisions of the governments led by the Dravidian parties ruling the State since 1967 have deprived the poor and rural students studying in government schools of learning any additional language while the rich and urban joining the CBSE, central and private schools have the freedom to study any language they wish.

Indian languages other than Tamil for more than five decades now. I am one of those who were badly affected by the two-language formula," Balagurusamy said in a letter to the Chief Minister, copies of which were released to the media.

He said the decisions of the governments led by the Dravidian parties ruling the State since 1967 have deprived the poor and rural students studying in government schools of learning any additional language while the rich and urban joining the CBSE, central and private schools have the freedom to study any language they wish.

Capt Deepak Sathe cremated with full State honours

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mumbaikars bade an emotional farewell to Wing Commander Deepak Sathe (ret'd) -- who was killed in the ill-fated Dubai-Kozhikode Air India Express flight crash on Friday last, as he was cremated here amid the State honours on Tuesday.

People from the north-eastern suburbs of Mumbai who had lined up on either side of the road and people from the balconies of the housing societies en route paid last respects to Wg Cdr Sathe, as his funeral procession of passed from Nahar Amrit Shakti complex at Chandrivil to Tagore Nagar electric crematorium at Vikhroli, where he was cremated in the presence of family members,

defence officials and friends. Chants of 'Capt. Deepak Sathe Amar Rahe' rent the air, as late Capt Sathe's funeral cavalcade, escorted by the Mumbai Police, proceeded from the Nahar Amrit Shakti complex where Sathe lives in Jalvayu Vihar building, on its final journey.

Capt Sathe's body had on Sunday afternoon been flown from Kochi and kept at an Air India facility near Terminal 2 of the Chhatrapati Shivaji international airport for some time before being taken to Bhabha Hospital at Bandra, from where the mortal remains were brought by his sons Shantanu and Dhananjay to the family home at Chandrivil on Tuesday morning.

The pilot's father Col.

Vasant Sathe (ret'd) (87) and mother Neela (83), who reside in Nagpur, had reached Mumbai on Monday to have a last glimpse of their son.

Earlier at the Nahar Amrit Shakti complex, a Mumbai Police contingent accorded an Honour Guard and a Salute to the departed Hero in the brief but solemn ceremony. A wreath was placed on behalf of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray

The Indian Air Force, Army and Navy contingents laid wreaths on behalf of the Chief of Air Staff, Commander in Chief South Western Air Command, Commander in Chief Western Naval Command V Adm P Ajit (NDA course mate of Capt Sathe), General Officer Commanding Maharashtra and Gujarat Area.

Wreaths were also placed on behalf of the Station Commander Air Force Station Mumbai, 58 Course National Defence Academy and 127 Pilots' Course (Wg Cdr Sathe's Course), Battleaxe Squadron IAF (Wg Cdr Sathe's old Squadron).

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion to pay their last respects were dignitaries like Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar, Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, Bharatiya Janata Party MP Poonam Mahajan, legislator Dilip Lande, Municipal Councillors Ishwar Tawade, Harish Bhandirge, Consul-General Gavin Chay, Republic of Singapore (Course mate of Wg Cdr Sathe in NDA, Pune).

Mamata again demands State dues from Centre

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again asked the Central Government to clear the State's dues that had gone beyond ₹50,000 crore.

Raising the issue during the Chief Ministers' meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Banerjee on Tuesday said that the Centre owed ₹52,000 crore to Bengal in terms of funds that were to be sent to the State on various accounts. The stated amount is exclusive of ₹4,153 crore that the State will get from the Centre towards the settlement

of GST, she added. Bengal is "yet to receive ₹4135 crore towards GST compensation and overall outstanding dues of ₹53,000 crore from the Central Government," Banerjee said requesting in addition for more high flow nasal canulas and ventilators. Reminding the Prime Minister that the "Centre has raised the FRBM limit from three per cent to five per cent but only 0.5 per cent out of the increased 2 per cent has been made unconditional," she requested the Centre to "make the remaining 1.5 per cent unconditional too for one year."

Ruing the fact that the Centre had sent paltry amounts towards fighting the pandemic she said the Bengal Government had spent more than ₹2,500 crore whereas it had received from the Centre only ₹125 crore. Besides, Banerjee also raised the issue of corona vaccine asking the Centre to "immediately" issue guidelines. "Regarding the vaccine, the central government should authorise which vaccine is to be procured and used. It must issue guidelines in this regard," sources quoting her said.

The Prime Minister on Tuesday held a video meeting

with the Chief Ministers of 10 States where the corona pandemic has taken alarming proportions. Saying that the Chief Minister had raised similar demands in an earlier meeting of Chief Ministers with the Prime Minister too, senior Bengal Minister Partho Chatterjee said that "during such pandemic situations all sides should work keeping aside their political or other interests," adding how "Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has done a commendable job in handling the corona situation earning praises from all quarters.

K'taka, Emory varsity to set up immunology centre in B'luru

IAN S ■ BENGALURU

Recognising the importance of immunology at a time when the coronavirus pandemic is terrorizing the world, Karnataka government has announced that it will set up an immunology and vaccine research centre in the city in collaboration with renowned Emory University from the USA, said a minister on Tuesday.

"Keeping in mind the importance of immunology in the future, the state is very keen to establish an immunology

and vaccine research centre in the city in collaboration with the Emory University," said Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

Narayan held a webinar with Rafi Ahmmad, director of Emory Vaccine Center and discussed the importance of immunology, which is critical to address vaccines, infectious diseases, cancer research and others.

"The results of researches done now in the field of immunology will be the solution to problems of coming days. Hence, investments done

in this area are going to fetch fruitful results," told Ahmmad to Narayan in the webinar.

The Emory professional explained that the entire world is pondering about immunology and effective vaccine at this juncture.

According to Narayan, the state government is very keen on finding novel coronavirus diagnostic tests and is looking at the larger benefits of setting the vaccine centre.

"The state has a very robust ecosystem suitable for research and innovation. It needs to be focused on research in the

development of vaccines, clinical trials, and translation of research studies to the benefit of the larger society," he said.

He highlighted that Bengaluru houses up to 20 institutes of national eminence which are being engaged in vaccine development activities.

"All these will be integrated and the government is ready to support through policy implementation. The rigid restrictions which were in place earlier with regard to clinical trials are now being relaxed," pointed out Narayan.



Illuminated Sri Krishna Janambhoomi temple wears a deserted look on the occasion of Krishan Janmashtmi, in Mathura on Tuesday

PTI

Nepal at it again

After Lord Ram, KP Oli wants to appropriate the legacy of Buddha in his continuing political tirade against India



That China has made inroads in our neighbourhood by debt-trapping our allies and is now muscling in politically to re-configure their equations with us isn't surprising. So far, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have worked out a "trade with China" and "historical ties with India" strategy to play the two Asian majors against each other and extract concessional gains in the process. But looks like Nepal wants to obliterate the civilisational ties and shared heritage it has had with India, overturn history and claim its independent standing, which is almost impossible given the origins of the sub-continent. In fact, Nepal

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli is now appropriating shared cultural icons of Nepalese origin and claiming an intellectual property right over their legacy. First, he tried to own Lord Ram, saying he was born not at Ayodhya but in Nepal. Nobody took him seriously in the absence of any historical evidence. Now he is trying to reclaim Buddha as distinctly Nepalese. The controversy followed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's speech at CII where he referred to Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Buddha as two great Indians. Various Nepalese leaders, including Opposition leaders and former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, reacted immediately, terming the reference "objectionable." The official statement laid stress on historical and archaeological evidence, which prove that Buddha was born in Lumbini, Nepal. India though was quick to put the lid on the row, saying that no one could doubt that Buddha was born in Lumbini but the emphasis was on the Buddhist heritage shared by the two countries. India has never attempted a cultural takeover of Buddha at any time, religiously attributing his birth to Nepal. Similarly, Nepal cannot deny the fact that he spent most of his life in India, attaining enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya, delivering key sermons at Sarnath and ultimately leaving the earthly world at Kushinagar. Besides, someone like Lord Ram and Buddha cannot be defined by their geography but by their philosophy that the whole world has adopted. In that sense, anybody, anywhere can quote them as inspiration. Though, Lord Buddha made India his *karmabhoomi*, travelling through its length and breadth and preaching the true *dharma*, his followers and practitioners keep him fervently alive in most countries in Southeast Asia compared to India. Does that mean we can claim to be the fountainhead of the bigness of his vision? By that logic, poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore is as much ours as he is of Bangladesh, whose national anthem he wrote and where he spent much time. Having been a Hindu kingdom and given its contiguity with India, Nepal has had the strongest bond with us in terms of shared history, culture and people-to-people contacts. This commonality has been one of the reasons for the open borders between both countries. So now that Oli is putting up cultural barriers, looks like he is determined to eliminate any interdependent associations with India and is decidedly hawkish about China, willing to be its vassal State. In fact, China has upped its cultural diplomacy, too, in Nepal, helping it rebuild old temple complexes and shrines that were damaged in the earthquake of 2015.

Oli's latest tirade against India follows the ongoing cartographic war, where he questioned Indian claims around the Lipulekh Pass based on varied interpretations of British era maps. This despite the fact that the pass is an accepted Indian gateway, according to a 1954 treaty signed between India and China. Although the new road near it, built by New Delhi to facilitate pilgrim traffic to Kailash Mansarovar, is now one of the quickest links between Delhi and the Tibetan plateau, China had not objected to it. In fact, it recognised India's sovereignty by agreeing to expand trade through the pass. But overriding such precedents, Nepal released a revised map showing Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani under its territory. No political party opposed the resolution for reclamation. Yet India has been in possession of this territory for at least 60 years. Even the new road to Lipulekh does not challenge that status quo. Nepal says that the basis for demarcation, the Kali river, originates from a stream at Limpiyadhura, north-west of Lipulekh. Thus Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh are actually on its eastern bank and qualify to be its land. New Delhi has countered this, saying that Kali originates in the springs well below the pass and that while the old map does not demarcate the area north of these springs, administrative and revenue records of the 19th century show that Kalapani was on the Indian side and should be a part of Uttarakhand. China, as in Doklam, has taken advantage of the trijunction area to complicate the territorial confusion and push India backward. But if Nepal has gone so maximalist and nationalist, despite sharing Hindu origins and, therefore, more naturally inclined to the Narendra Modi regime, it means that China has an iron grip on it. India's over-dependence on historical, spiritual and geographical connect as a leitmotif of diplomacy is being tested severely. And though we are investing in bilateral relations on more favourable terms and pushing COVID-19 aid, we can't beat the Chinese, who make up over 90 per cent of Nepal's FDI and are moulding it as their frontier proxy warrior.

Muted festivities

The IPL might be taking place later this year but it is almost certain to be a less extravagant affair than before



No matter what your opinion about Lalit Modi, the fact of the matter is that with the Indian Premier League (IPL), he managed to create a globally competitive and recognised sports league. So much so that the IPL is the world's top franchise-based cricket league and one must keep in mind that China, for all its success in creating brands, has failed in creating a global sports league. That said, as sports have been ravaged, thanks to China's gift to the world, the Coronavirus, the IPL also fell a victim, missing its scheduled slot at the start of the Indian summer. But now sports — from Formula 1 to football — have

returned to television screens and spectator-less formats. Even cricket has restarted in England in the safety of a "bio bubble." So the IPL is looking at playing its season in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this winter, or at least has plans of playing.

The UAE, thanks to its relatively compact size that eliminates the need for connecting flights, its close location to India — being away by just 90 minutes of flying time — and large availability of remote resorts, where teams can be sequestered between matches, as well as more than enough cricket stadia, should make the IPL pretty easy to manage. However, whether the IPL will be played with the audience in attendance remains to be seen. The UAE — despite its economy being ravaged by the pandemic and sending hundreds of thousands of expatriate workers from India home — still has a huge base of workers from the sub-continent. Tens of thousands of fans can easily be found to fill the stadia in the UAE replete with their IPL uniforms and tribal loyalties. But will the sponsors bite? The huge player salaries guaranteed by television revenues and on-field sponsors might make things difficult for the teams. Already, the principal sponsor of the IPL has withdrawn because of the ongoing anti-Chinese sentiment in India. While Baba Ramdev-promoted Patanjali wants to sponsor the IPL, will the brash cricket league want to associate with it? Teams will also find it difficult to find jersey sponsors and broadcasters might find it equally difficult to get sponsors on television broadcasts. Conversely, the IPL could be the firestarter the Indian market really needs. Maybe it will drive consumerism again and awaken our economy, which was waylaid by a poisonous scale of the Chinese dragon. The cricket bat can be more effective in beating back the dragon than a French fighter plane or five.

The border challenge

The PLA has blemished the Modi Govt's muscular image created in the wake of Uri and Balakot responses against Pakistan, which won it an overwhelming political mandate



ASHOK K MEHTA

One's blood boils watching the way India and its Army are being pushed around by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Roughing up soldiers, intruding/transgressing on the Indian side of the LAC at will and violating border protocols have become second nature to the PLA. And yet, many citizens keep harping that when it comes to joining the battle, Indians are six feet tall. The PLA has no experience to fight in high-altitude terrain; whereas Indian soldiers have been deployed in Sikkim, Ladakh and Siachen for decades. China lacks the regimental system of the Indian infantry and is composed mostly of short-term conscripts compared to India's wholly volunteer Army. The PLA has not fought a war since 1979. Neither have the Indian troops since the skirmish they fought "on our side of the Line of Control (LoC)" against a mixed bag of Pakistani frontier militia and hardcore terrorists at Kargil.

Because the PLA has done a sort of Kargil in east Ladakh, loud thinking can be heard about launching a land-air offensive *a la* Kargil, confined to our side of the LAC to vacate aggression in Ladakh. This comparison has many holes: It likens LAC to LoC, which is delineated with the maps exchanged in 1972 between the two militaries. The LoC is violated regularly by infiltration, cross-border firing and is a hot border. Not a shot has been fired along the LAC since 1975 and a no-shooting protocol exists. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has not carried out any joint military exercises for air support of ground troops along the LAC. Border protocols debar the use of force in settling the boundary question, which includes the LAC.

And yet, rogue actions of the PLA have continued periodically like the intrusions at Sumdorongchu (1988), Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014), Doklam (2017) and now across east Ladakh, stretching over 250 km. They have all gone unpunished. Instead, PLA raw recruits managed to thrash outnumbered Indian soldiers near the Pangong lake on May 17/18 last year so badly that 72 soldiers had to be hospitalised. PLA helicopters chased away an Indian helicopter in the same area around the same time. In short, India has been at the receiving end of PLA depredations except possibly at Galwan. The mystery is, why have Indian troops never done a tit-for-tat



counter intrusion?

That the disengagement and de-escalation process has ended in utter failure was recognised by the Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) on its website earlier this month but the admission was pulled down within 48 hours. Indian forces have been left with buffer zones at friction points where they have had to withdraw and dismantle their fortifications from the Indian side of the LAC. Worse, the PLA is not permitting these soldiers to exercise their patrolling rights upto established patrolling points, which when connected, roughly align with the Indian LAC.

Still worse is the stubborn refusal of the PLA and its commanders to even discuss the 18-km deep massive intrusion made in Depsang, a repeat of the intrusion in April 2013, from where the PLA withdrew after three months. Crowning the multiple intrusions is the PLA's construction of infrastructure on the Indian side of the LAC. Violative of border patrols, PLA activities are nothing short of acts of war.

Not only has China unilaterally changed the status quo but it has also shifted the LAC several kilometres westwards, attempting to conform to its 1960 claim line. It has also annexed several hundred kilo-

metres of Indian territory. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's in-denial statement of June 19 — "neither has anyone intruded across our border nor is anyone intruding" — has become the great enabler of PLA intrusions. Taking down the belated acceptance of intrusions on the MoD website is supportive of Beijing's actions. China is rejoicing that Modi has kept the Wuhan spirit alive whereas it is an abysmal failure of summitry. By virtually condoning the Galwan clash, Modi seems to have done the reverse of Nehru's cavalier orders to throw out the Chinese from the Thagla ridge.

The joy and excitement exuded by Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh over the arrival of five Rafales reflected the dire and optionless situation at the LAC. Given the phenomenal spike in the COVID-19 pandemic in India, a debilitating decline in the economy and the military overstretched on two fronts, a Kargil-like response to multiple intrusions will lead to a war that India cannot afford.

India's continental strategy (if there is one) for border management has come unstuck because the PLA has changed the rules of engagement, both on the ground and at the negotiating table. Five rounds of military commander talks, four

rounds of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) dialogue and conversations between high ranking Special Representatives on border talks have hit a *cul-de-sac*.

With wholesale intrusions in early May, China delivered an initial *fait accompli*. This was followed by a Chinese-scripted DPP in July end that made cosmetic disengagement to ease tensions at friction points but was tantamount to quarantining Indian soldiers on their own territory. The PLA, on the other hand, dug down like it did at Doklam after disengagement and nobly proclaimed that disengagement is completed. This new *fait accompli* has imposed on India a new status quo without a hint of restoring the May 5 situation.

The Modi Government can pretend it is business as usual: Take down belated acceptance of intrusions from the MoD website, talk tough the virtues of Rafales and most of all, use diversionary strategies to focus on its spectacular political achievements like the grand ceremony at the Ram temple on the same day it erased Article 370 at Jammu & Kashmir a year ago.

In deference to Chinese sentiment, the new status of Ladakh has been played down. The setback at LAC has almost

disappeared from TV and media, reflecting India's acceptance of aggression by the PLA. The tragedy playing out along the LAC for 10 weeks, that was essentially concealed by the Government, is a reminder of India's colossal intelligence and operational failures.

It has blemished the Modi Government's tough muscular image created in the wake of Uri and Balakot responses against Pakistan, which won it an overwhelming political mandate. The Chinese PLA has changed that perception. That, too, 60 years after the 1962 war when China gave India a dressing down and withdrew unilaterally, vacating areas it now covets: Tawang and East Ladakh. India's failure to shape and maintain a deterrent has led to the loss of face.

Three days from now, on August 15, Independence Day, Modi will recount his Government's achievements, including the handling of the pandemic. How he will frame the situation along the LAC, where the Chinese PLA has altered status quo and annexed Indian territory, will be worth watching out for.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUNDBITE

I think there should be dialogue, decency and a *Lakshman Rekha* in public discourse and I haven't crossed that line in the 20 years of my political career.



Congress leader — Sachin Pilot

Theatres would always overlook small films. That problem is solved now. Everything is equal on the OTT platforms. Not getting a show was a big problem.



Actor — Radhika Madan

I'm much more inclined to do it (G-7 meeting) sometime after the election. ... We could do it through tele-conference or we could do it through a meeting.



US President — Donald Trump

I welcomed Soniaji's appointment as interim president last year. But I do believe it is unfair to her to expect her to carry this burden indefinitely.



Congress leader — Shashi Tharoor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ill-conceived decision

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Atmanirbhar raksha" (August 11). There is nothing wrong with the Government's call for "vocal for local" but actions such as those taken by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to impose import embargo on 101 items are ill-conceived and may prove to be detrimental in the long run. Instead, the Government should have come out with a clear picture as to how various sectors could reduce dependence on imports so that we gradually start producing world-class products in the country. Such a hasty decision will send the wrong signal to both our domestic suppliers as well as hostile neighbours. Our defence preparedness, too, is not upto the mark.

Bal Govind
Noida

Lessons from Beirut

Sir — The deadly explosion in Beirut is another instance of conscience-keepers of safety abdicating their responsibility.

Big boost to agriculture

This refers to the establishment of a ₹1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enhance post-harvest infrastructure in the country. The creation of a comprehensive post-harvest infrastructure can be a game-changer. As per Government data, 16 per cent of the fruits and vegetables and up to 10 per cent of cereals, oilseeds and pulses are wasted in the country due to inadequate storage and warehousing facilities. Most of the existing storage in the country is not owned by farmers. This also means that they are forced to sell their entire farm output at one go after the harvest is over and when the prices are low. Since the AIF is trying to rope in farmers' producers organisations (FPOs) to build such infrastructure, it will hopefully also address this asymmetry and allow growers to dispose of their produce in a phased manner and avail better returns. This will go a long way in increasing the bargaining power of Indian farmers.

However, the economic challenge of boosting growth and incomes cannot be missed. Even before the pandemic struck, the economy was in a bad shape. Disruption caused due to the pandemic made matters worse. If the situation does not revive, it is unlikely



N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Military ammunition depots, inflammable gas and fuel stations in the energy sector and nuclear facilities exclusively rely on meticulous standard operating procedure manuals. The presence of 740 tonnes of ammonium nitrate at Chennai port is now suddenly remembered even as some consignments are missing. Universally, we seem to be short of inspired administrators with a grip on their jobs. It is such

drift that causes mishaps. The accident in Beirut is a reminder that despite the strict regulation of hazardous substances internationally, the risks remain.

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Breather for Congress

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Needed, full-time chief" (August 11). In a belated yet pragmatic move, the Congress leadership has succeeded in averting a fall of its Government in Rajasthan. Concerted efforts by the Gandhi siblings have yielded results. This new scenario has paved the way for truce, howsoever fragile, between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot. Pilot is ready for an unconditional truce and Gehlot has agreed to follow the leadership line. Hopefully, the Rajasthan Assembly session scheduled for August 14 will pass without any hurdle. Grievances flagged by the Pilot camp should be addressed. Rahul Gandhi must now take charge and call for elections to the Congress Working Committee without any delay. Sans a permanent head, the grand old party looks like a rudderless boat.

Azhar A Khan
Rampur

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Modi the messiah of Hindus?

The BJP and the RSS are now convinced that the dream of Ram Rajya is possible with majoritarian dominance



KALYANI SHANKAR

Just like August 15, i.e. Independence Day and August 9, which is Quit India Day, a third date, August 5, 2020, has become a historic date for the BJP. While launching the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "history was written today in golden letters." It is indeed a twin triumph for Modi that the colourful *bhoomi puja* ceremony came on the first anniversary of the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The Ram temple at Ayodhya and the abrogation of Article 370 were two divisive issues for the country. But for Modi it was a matter of fulfilling the BJP's promises to its core Hindu voters. At the *bhoomi puja* Modi drew a parallel with the freedom movement and by this he has placed freedom from cultural subjugation on a par with the political freedom of India. "Just as August 15 symbolises untiring tenacity, millions of sacrifices and the fervent desire for freedom... similarly this day reminds (one) of the sacrifices made by several generations... for the Ram temple," Modi said and claimed that the "wait of centuries" for the Ram temple had ended. In fact, August 5 marks the demise of what the Congress and the other Opposition parties call "secularism."

The *bhoomi puja* ceremony for the Ram temple is the beginning of a new cultural nationalism and dominance that was the dream of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for decades. The BJP and the RSS have rejected the idea of composite nationalism and favoured cultural nationalism. The BJP has been agitating for its core agenda since its inception in 1980 though its critics call it a majoritarian agenda. The party is jubilant as in the first year of Modi's second term, he managed to deliver two of the items on the agenda. He was able to do so because of three reasons. The first is that the BJP got a big mandate in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The second is the weak Opposition which has given a free hand to the saffron party. The third is that the BJP does not need to woo the Muslim votebank as the majority is with them.

Let us take Kashmir first. It was on August 5, 2019 that the State was bifurcated and Article 370, that gave special status to J&K, was abrogated. The decision attracted international attention and criticism and even after one year, things are yet to become normal. The entire political class has been under arrest at one time or the other in J&K and even one year down the line, some of the leaders, including former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, remain incarcerated. There is a political vacuum on the one hand and an incapacitated political class on the other. As a result, there has been no political activity in J&K for more than a year. Many demand that the detained leaders should be freed and elections should be held. Since the PDP-BJP Government fell in 2018, J&K has been under continuous Governor's Rule. Former Minister Manoj Sinha took over as the Lieutenant-Governor last week, the second in a year. Militancy in J&K has reduced to an extent but not totally snuffed out. The people of Kashmir have been facing a double whammy, the Coronavirus-induced lockdown on one side and curfew on the other, for the past many months. The promised jobs are nowhere on the horizon and the industry, including shawl, carpet, dryfruit, fruit exports and so on have suffered. Tourism is dead. Communication has broken down and schools and colleges are closed.

In this regard Manoj Sinha's statement after the oath-taking ceremony is significant. "There should be peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. The situation of uncertainty should end, terrorism should end. Achieving all this along with accelerated development will be our aim, our mission." The challenges before him include delimitation, Assembly elections, resuming political dialogue and restoring full statehood. The trust deficit should also be bridged and there should be a reconnect with the people.

As for the Ram temple, the Supreme Court's verdict has strengthened the Government's hand. With the law on its side and the Muslims reconciled to the fact that they will have a mosque on the land given to them elsewhere, not much problems are expected. The temple trust would have the support of the State and the Central Government as both are ruled by the same party. Money would be no problem as donations are pouring in. The big temple would be ready by 2023, perhaps just before the 2024 elections. BJP leader Vinay Katiyar has already claimed that major temples at Kashi and Mathura are on the BJP's agenda. Now only the Uniform Civil Code remains on the BJP's core agenda. The Modi Government might think of bringing a law soon when the pandemic is behind us. Along with that, there could also be some measures for population regulation. The BJP and the RSS are now convinced that the dream of Ram Rajya is possible with majoritarian dominance. Modi is their chosen messiah now.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE EIA 2020 DRAFT IS A DISASTER. IT WILL SILENCE THE VOICE OF COMMUNITIES WHO WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IT UNLEASHES.
 —CONGRESS LEADER
RAHUL GANDHI



WE HAVE GOT THOUSANDS OF SUGGESTIONS WHICH WE WELCOME. WE WILL CONSIDER THEM. THEN TAKE A CALL AND COME OUT WITH A FINAL (EIA) DRAFT.
 —UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER
PRAKASH JAVADEKAR

Not a NEET situation

The International Youth Day is meant to reflect on one of the most serious issues concerning our young people and that is their growing number without employment, education and training



Each year, August 12 is celebrated as the International Youth Day (IYD) to raise awareness about the challenges and problems being faced by the young people of today. IYD, which was first observed in 2000, aims to endorse ways to engage the youth and help them participate in affirmative contributions to society. The theme of the IYD this year is 'Youth Engagement for Global Action.' It seeks to highlight the ways in which young people at the local, national and global level are enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes, as well as draw lessons on how to enhance their representation and engagement in formal institutional politics.

As per the United Nations (UN) population prospects, the youth segment (15-29 years) globally stands at 1.8 billion now. Out of the total number of young people in the world, every fifth person (20 per cent) resides in India (366 million) reflecting the importance of this segment in the country. The youth are faced with many challenges and one of the most serious issues concerning them is the growing number of idle youngsters or those who are not in employment, education and training (NEET in short).

NEET youth tend to experience a varying degree of social and economic marginalisation and are more likely to be left behind in mainstream development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2030, adopted by the UN in 2015, also set the agenda specifically for target 8.6, which calls for the proportion of youth with NEET status to be substantially reduced in the next 15 years.

The Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020 noted that there has been a continued decline in the participation of young people in the labour force across countries. The population of the youth has increased from one billion to 1.3 billion in the period between 1999 and 2019, but the number of young people engaged in the workforce (either employed or unemployed) has seen a decrease from 568 million to 497 million during the same period.

The most disturbing pattern globally is that one young person out of every five (20 per cent) and 30 per cent of the girls and 13 per cent of the boys among them— those aged between 15 and 24 (which is the international definition of the youth) — are currently classified as NEET. This means that a whopping 267 million out of 1.3 billion young people worldwide are neither gaining experience in the labour market, nor receiving income from work or enhancing their education and skills. This suggests that their labour remains under-utilised.

India, at present, is home to the largest population of youth in the world. The National Youth Policy of India, 2014 defines them as people belonging in the age group of 15-29 years. According to the census data for 2011, the youth constitute 28 per cent of the total population in the country and contribute to over 34 per cent of India's national income. The latest estimates show that they comprise around 27 per cent of the total Indian population of 1.3 billion.

However, a major positive development has been their growing enrolment in the secondary and tertiary-level of education, which has resulted in better-skilled employees and proliferation of decent employment in many countries around the world.

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A LARGER YOUTH POPULATION FOR THE NEXT TWO DECADES, WHICH POSES AN IMMINENT CHALLENGE AS WELL — OF LEVERAGING THE POTENTIAL OF THE ABUNDANT HUMAN RESOURCE. THE SPIRAL OF THE UNEMPLOYED IS POSING SOME SERIOUS QUESTIONS ON HIGHER EDUCATION, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND AND INDIA'S FUTURE. THERE ARE OTHER CONCERNS ABOUT QUALITY OF JOBS, DECENT WORKPLACES, UPWARD MOBILITY, WAGES, ASPIRATIONS, COMPETITION ACCRUED BY LIMITED SUPPLY OF NEW JOBS, CONTRACTUAL NATURE OF JOBS, MENTAL HEALTH, OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FOSTERING INNOVATIONS AMONG THE YOUNG MINDS



eration of decent employment in many countries around the world.

However, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2017-18 reported a significant increase in unemployment rates for the young segment of the population. A more serious concern is the increasing joblessness among educated youth (15-29 years), which went up nearly three times from 6.1 per cent in 2011-12 to 17.8 per cent in 2017-18. In particular, technical degree holders have been noted to fare the worst with their unemployment rate being pegged at 37.3 per cent, closely followed by those who are post-graduates and above (36.2 per cent), graduates (35.2 per cent), and youth with formal vocational training (33 per cent).

For young women, the unemployment situation is graver in terms of labour force participation as well as unemployment. Women are moving out of the workforce in greater numbers, but among those who remain, unemployment rates are higher than those among men. This holds true even for women who are educated or have received training, and this trend has worsened during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

One would imagine that the young population with "industry-relevant" formal vocational training would have better job prospects in India. But only 1.8 per cent of the population reported receiving formal vocational/technical training in 2017-18. Young people comprised more than half of those who received formal vocational/technical training, which is in sharp contrast to the 50-80 per cent participation in developed nations.

Around 33 per cent of the formally-trained youngsters were unemployed

in 2017-18. Nearly a third of trained young men and more than a third of trained young women were unemployed. Among those who did not receive such training, 62.3 per cent were out of the workforce.

Further, the growing number of NEET is also posing a serious challenge, as it has increased from 70 million in 2004-05 to 116 million in 2017-18. The Government has increasingly been wary of this and has taken steps to deal with this growing challenge. In recent years, it has launched the "Skill India" campaign, which includes an array of initiatives under its purview to bridge the gap between lack of skill training and joblessness. A key initiative under the campaign is the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme and so on.

The PMKVY was envisioned to impart employable skills and help the youth in securing better livelihoods. Although it intends to provide training free of cost, most of the youth who have received formal training have had to personally arrange the fees. The PLFS 2017-18 data shows that only 16 per cent of the youth who received formal training were funded by the Government. Around 73 per cent of the youth underwent full-time training. The coaching period for more than half of the youth exceeded a year and about 30 per cent of them underwent training for more than two years.

However, it was apparent as early as 2016 that there were several issues with the initiative, when a Government-appointed committee to rationalise Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and improve Skill India, led by Sharda Prasad, found that the programme's targets were too ambitious. Additionally,

it was discovered that the spending of the funds allocated for the programme was not subject to adequate monitoring mechanisms. On the whole, most of the youth in the country still remain outside the ambit of formal training and many of those who are able to personally finance themselves in order to undergo months of vocational training, remain jobless. The subsequent decline in budgetary allocations for PMKVY is an indicator that the Government itself is not convinced about its working.

In sum, as argued by economists and researchers, if the youth are properly skilled and absorbed in the labour market, they can contribute to higher economic growth of the country. We are going to have a larger youth population for the next two decades, which poses an imminent challenge as well — of leveraging the potential of the abundant human resource. The spiral of the unemployed is posing some serious questions on higher education, skill development, demographic dividend and India's future. There are other concerns about quality of jobs, decent workplaces, upward mobility, wages, aspirations, competition accrued by limited supply of new jobs, contractual nature of jobs, mental health, opportunities for entrepreneurship and fostering innovations among the young minds. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as the country is moving towards the vision of a new India and an *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (self-reliant India), we need to prioritise the aspirations of the young population for inculcating and strengthening their *atma vishwas* (confidence).

(Balwant is Research Director, IMPRI and Senior Fellow, IHD; Simi is CEO and Editorial Director and Kumar is Director, IMPRI)

UP B.Ed 2020 JEE a benchmark in many ways

It is an example for others to emulate, right from the selection of centres to logistics. It shows how fair, safe examinations can be held even in these testing times



MONIKA S GARG

Uttar Pradesh (UP) organises a Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for B.Ed. every year, where students compete for almost two lakh seats. Conducting it this year was a challenge in more ways than one. The State had received 4.31 lakh applications for the examination that was initially scheduled for April 8 but got postponed thrice in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and was finally held on August 9.

Last year, it was conducted in only 15 districts with 60 to 130 centres per district. This year there were the twin targets of least movement and ample social distancing. Hence it was decided to host the entrance test in all districts indicated by the

candidates. The number of districts was increased to 50 and later to 73. To reduce the number of students congregating in one place, the strength of candidates allotted to a centre was halved, as compared to earlier years. Thus, the number of centres also increased proportionately. Special care was taken to ensure that women and *divyang* candidates were allotted the district of their choice, while other candidates were accommodated at or near their first place of preference.

In the past, B.Ed entrance tests were conducted by the nominated university with the help of other State universities while the Department of Higher Education played a negligible role. This year, the nominated university, Lucknow University, had sought the department's help due to the special circumstances arising out of COVID-19. Ensuring compliance with the directive of the Chief Minister to ensure that there were no incidents of copying or other malpractices during the examination was the department's biggest challenge. This required a marked departure

from established practices and it was not easy to change the ways of the management accustomed to working in a particular fashion.

Formerly, 50-60 per cent of the centres were in private institutes and there was a suspicion of malpractices in some of them. To check the menace of cheating, it was decided that examination centres would be set up only in Government and Government-aided institutions. This turned out to be a daunting task. A screening committee was constituted in each district, comprising the district administration, the Secondary Education and Higher Education Departments and a coordinator from Lucknow University. Their task was to identify potential examination centres in the district, including State and Central universities, degree and intermediate colleges, engineering colleges, ITIs, polytechnics and even Government schools. Nevertheless, this was not sufficient. There was so much resistance to change that when requests and persuasions failed to yield results, the organising team ultimately had

to be convinced by those at the highest level.

The Deputy Chief Minister and Chief Secretary held a special video conference with the District Magistrates and finally, after a meticulous exercise, success was achieved and 1,089 centres were identified.

The mammoth task of organising the centres, informing the students and mobilising the district administration was done through virtual meetings over the next month. Centres had to be changed because of new containment zones and floods in a few districts. Care was taken to ensure that the candidates did not bear the brunt of any of this and were kept updated through e-mails and SMS. Battling time constraints and infection risks, a programme for training invigilators and superintendents was designed. They were educated in the best practices for infection prevention as well as new anti-cheating measures. The optimum use of technology was witnessed at all levels during the crisis.

Ensuring the safety and health of candidates and staff was the highest

priority and adequate monetary allocation was made for sanitisation of each centre — a minimum of ₹4,000 plus an additional ₹20 per candidate if the number surpassed 200 at any centre.

Face masks and sanitiser were provided free of cost. Thermal scanners were used and proper social distance was maintained in and outside the centres. Lucknow University adopted an innovative method for taking the thumb impressions of the students. Instead of the routine common ink pad, an individual disposable ink strip, specially made for the JEE, was given to each student for the purpose.

On the day of the examination, static magistrates and flying squads were deployed and an effective face-detection system was used. The technology uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to collect information of the candidate's face from 27 points and matches him/her with the profile photo on 13 indicators including hair, ears, spectacles and so on. Each candidate's biometric picture was taken on special phones with this app.

Other mobile phones and communicating devices were not allowed inside the centre. CCTV cameras that had been specially-installed in each examination centre were continuously monitored through live webcasting at the university's command centre, having 100 screens.

Before the examination was held, there were live debates in newsrooms and drawing rooms on whether this exam should be conducted at all. People argued that admissions to B.Ed could be made based on marks obtained in the final year of college itself and that this test could be done away with in view of the need for safety. However, the fact remains that this would be unfair to all stakeholders as final year exams are not standardised across universities.

Additionally, marking is often done on a bell curve based on the student pool of that university. Thus, the top few students from each university are expected to score higher, irrespective of how they compare with students across the State. Thus, a JEE was conceived years ago. Denying

this opportunity to a student body that has already suffered academically due to the Corona crisis would have been remiss.

The option of holding the test online this year was given due consideration, but the digital divide across the State and access issues, especially for the vulnerable sections, weighed against it.

Since this is a prestigious course with fierce competition, it was essential to give a fair and uniform opportunity to all. The result will be declared on September 5 and the new session will commence in October-November. Conducting this exam was an experience worth sharing. It showcased the sensitivity and caution of the State Government and set the trend for holding competitive exams during the outbreak. It is an example for others to emulate, right from the selection of centres to logistics. It shows how fair, safe examinations can be held, even in these testing times.

(The writer is Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, UP)

Industrial production declines 16.6% in Jun

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industrial production declined by 16.6 per cent in June, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation, as per the government data released on Tuesday.

In a press release, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation issued a disclaimer saying that "it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-

pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the Covid-19 pandemic".

However, on a monthly basis, the Index of Industrial Production has shown improvement. The index, which was 53.6 in April, improved to 89.5 in May and 107.8 in June, the data revealed.

The IIP had expanded by 1.3 per cent year-on-year in June 2019.

The data further revealed that the contraction in the consumer durables and capital goods segment was 35.5 per cent and 36.9 per cent, respectively during June 2020.

However, consumer non-durables segment posted a growth of 14 per cent. The IIP

for April-June period has contracted by 35.9 per cent, according to the data. It had registered a growth of 3 per cent during the same period last fiscal. In view of the preventive measures and announcement of a nationwide lockdown by the government to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, a large number of industrial sector establishments were not operating from March-end, 2020 onwards. This has had an impact on the items being produced by the establishments during the period of lockdown. With the lifting of restrictions in the subsequent periods, industrial activity is now resuming.

Sensex builds on gains amid global rally; HDFC twins sparkle

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex closed in the green for the fourth straight session on Tuesday, propelled by index heavyweights HDFC and Reliance, amid robust gains in global equities.

A strengthening rupee, encouraging quarterly results and persistent foreign fund inflows further bolstered market sentiment, traders said. After touching a high of 38,556.27, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared some gains to end 224.93 points or 0.59 per cent higher at 38,407.01.

The NSE Nifty jumped 52.35 points or 0.46 per cent to finish at 11,322.50. The Nifty has extended its winning run to six sessions.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, ral-

lying 3.96 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, ITC, HDFC Bank, Tata Steel, HDFC, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries. HDFC twins and RIL accounted for over half of the Sensex's gains. On the other hand, Titan, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech and ONGC were among the laggards, dropping up to 3.73 per cent.

Global markets surged to over five-month highs as investors looked forward to an agreement on a US stimulus package. Market participants also cautiously weighed the news of Russia becoming the first country to officially register a coronavirus vaccine and declare it ready for use, despite international skepticism.

The number of cases around the world linked to Covid-19 has crossed 2 crore,

while the infection count in India has reached 22.68 lakh.

"Indian markets continued their positive run, in spite of intraday volatility and unabated virus infections across the country. It was in sync with positive global cues, on the back of expected stimulus measures from the US, improving economic data points from China and the first coronavirus vaccine getting registered in Russia.

"Indian markets continued their run on the basis of earnings results and stock specific news, amidst hopes of another round of stimulus measures by the government. This expectation should ensure liquidity in the markets in the near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

₹ settles 12 paise higher at 74.78 against US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 12 paise to close at 74.78 against the US dollar on Tuesday tracking weakness in the greenback and gains in the domestic equity market.

Forex traders said gains in the domestic currency were supported by foreign fund inflows into domestic equity and debt markets.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth ₹302.88 crore on Monday, according to provisional exchange data.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.83 against the US dollar and gained further ground to settle at 74.78, up 12 paise over its previous close of 74.90.

Meanwhile, the dol-

lar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.13 per cent lower at 93.46.

Market participants will track Index of Industrial Production (IIP) numbers scheduled to be released later in the day for further cues, they said. After touching a high of 38,556.27, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared some gains to end 224.93 points or 0.59 per cent higher at 38,407.01. The NSE Nifty jumped 52.35 points or 0.46 per cent to finish at 11,322.50.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.47 per cent to USD 45.20 per barrel. "Indian rupee gained in line with other Asian currencies amid weakness in dollar," HDFC Securities Deputy Head Retail Research, Devarsh Vakil said.

CII calls for early FTP to raise India's global export share

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body CII on Tuesday asked the Government to come out with new foreign trade policy at the earliest in view of the Covid-19 outbreak to increase India's shares in the global merchandise exports to 5 per cent by 2025.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has also

outlined a 10-point agenda for increasing India's exports of goods and services in line with the prime minister's vision of an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat". For developing international competitiveness, key suggestions by CII include re-examining FTAs and tariff structure with an aggressive market-seeking approach, and build India brand and undertake market promo-

tion in key markets.

The CII report, titled 'Re-orienting India's Export Endeavour in the Covid-19 World', states India must aim to achieve 5 per cent share in world merchandise exports and 7 per cent in services exports by 2025. India's share in global merchandise exports is 1.67 per cent, with a low share in top globally traded items. In ser-

vices, it enjoys 3.54 per cent share. The onset of the COVID-19 outbreak that led to a global trade slowdown, affected Indian exports substantially, and led to a drop in Indian exports by 35 per cent in March, 60 per cent in April, and 36.5 per cent in May 2020.

Outlining 10 areas where action is required to boost exports, the chamber said an

open and facilitative import environment is required to attract global companies and ensure competitive access to intermediate goods.

In general, higher duties on finished goods and lower duties on intermediates should be applied. CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said the pandemic situation has impacted world trade negatively.

₹1-lakh cr Agri Infra Fund to be crucial in enhancing farm sector share in GDP: Farmers' body

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Rs 1-lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund launched by the Government will be crucial in enhancing contribution of the agriculture sector to the country's GDP, especially at a time when it is

expected to add to economic stability amid the coronavirus-induced slowdown, according to farmers' body FAIFA.

The Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA) said the fund will be important for farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups, agri-

tech players and farmer groups looking to boost the country's agriculture infrastructure.

The federation claims to represent farmers and farm workers of commercial crops across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty stocks including ZEE, JSWSTEEL, AXISBANK, etc.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists top 50 BSE stocks including INOXLEISUR, RELIANCE, ICICIBANK, etc.

Table with columns: IOC, DABUR, FRETAIL, etc. Lists various BSE stocks including IOC, DABUR, FRETAIL, etc.

Table with columns: ICICI, BILFIFE, DHANUKA, etc. Lists various BSE stocks including ICICI, BILFIFE, DHANUKA, etc.

Table with columns: PRESTIGE, MAHSEAMLES, SUPRAJIT, etc. Lists various BSE stocks including PRESTIGE, MAHSEAMLES, SUPRAJIT, etc.

Table with columns: MAHSEAMLES, SUPRAJIT, POWERINDIA, etc. Lists various BSE stocks including MAHSEAMLES, SUPRAJIT, POWERINDIA, etc.

Table with columns: MAHSEAMLES, SUPRAJIT, POWERINDIA, etc. Lists various BSE stocks including MAHSEAMLES, SUPRAJIT, POWERINDIA, etc.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty Next 50 stocks including MOTHERSUMI, SIEMENS, SBCARD, etc.

Table with columns: BEL, SRF, SRTANSFIN, etc. Lists various Nifty Next 50 stocks including BEL, SRF, SRTANSFIN, etc.

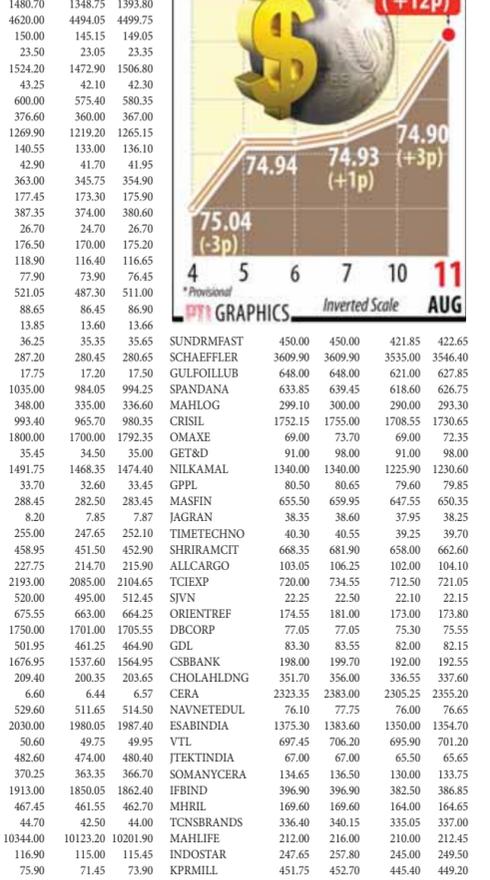
Table with columns: SUZLON, DMART, JKPAPER, etc. Lists various Nifty Next 50 stocks including SUZLON, DMART, JKPAPER, etc.

Table with columns: GUDREJCP, SCI, GUDREJPHYLL, etc. Lists various Nifty Next 50 stocks including GUDREJCP, SCI, GUDREJPHYLL, etc.

Table with columns: IEX, BOMYDEVP, BOMYDEVP, etc. Lists various Nifty Next 50 stocks including IEX, BOMYDEVP, BOMYDEVP, etc.

Table with columns: ANANDRANS, ANANDRANS, ANANDRANS, etc. Lists various Nifty Next 50 stocks including ANANDRANS, ANANDRANS, ANANDRANS, etc.

Table with columns: SUNDRAMFAST, SCHAEFFLER, GULFOIL, etc. Lists various Nifty Next 50 stocks including SUNDRAMFAST, SCHAEFFLER, GULFOIL, etc.



SKILLS THAT MATTER

The ability to innovate and provide effective solutions for unanticipated problems is an important skill that a management graduate should learn, says **PROF VINAYTOSH MISHRA**



We are witnessing unprecedented times in our lives. The COVID-19 outbreak has completely changed the world as we know it. The people have been forced to remain locked in their homes for months, and it has affected their physical and mental health. Millions have lost their jobs and the unemployment rate is at an all-time high in countries from India to the USA. Historic events such as the COVID-19 outbreak, will have a lasting effect on humanity, and this unique time of pandemic will leave us with many lessons to learn in life and management of businesses. The seven management skills that must be taught in B-Schools to make budding managers better equipped to face challenges affecting businesses, during a pandemic.

The first skill they should learn is to prioritise the tasks. Smaller short-term benefit providing tasks need to be jettisoned paving the way for larger projects and long-term objectives. They should be taught that, if things are not going their way not to lose heart and trying while keeping eye on the larger goals, way not to lose heart and trying while keeping eye on the larger goals.

Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher maintained that change is the only constant in nature. The biggest lesson COVID-19 has taught is that life is full of uncertainties and one needs to be prepared to deal with them. We need to fortify ourselves with new technologies, keep ourselves updated, and identify different goals. Thus the second must have skill a management graduate should acquire is change management.

Suddenly, we have started hearing about the Spanish Flu and how it affected mankind. We are also witnessing how the experience from the past of managing a different strain of coronavirus made South Korea better armed to tackle the COVID-19. This pandemic will provide us with many exemplary case studies on how businesses failed or succeeded in this pandemic. The management students should develop a keen eye and learn a lesson or two from such examples which will give them a hint on what the future holds for them.

To manage unforeseen situations organisations, need to innovate fast. As we have seen, the learning curve for digital technologies has drastically reduced. The pandemic has changed the way essential services like

The first skill a management graduate should learn is to prioritise the tasks. Smaller short-term benefit providing tasks need to be jettisoned paving way for larger projects and long-term objectives

healthcare and education are being delivered. The present approach adopted focusses on physical distancing and digital proximity (PDDP) as a result, online shopping of the essential supplies is at an all-time high. Now businesses should innovate to pave the way for service delivery similar or better than traditional service delivery. The ability to innovate and provide effective solutions for unanticipated problems should be the fourth skill a management graduate should learn.

The prevailing tension between India and China has resulted in escalated anger in India. The people are calling for boycotting Chinese products. The Government has banned 59 mobile apps citing security concerns as a reason behind the move. If your business is dependent on the raw materials from China, your supply chain is at risk. Hence, maintaining the balance between global and local should be the fifth skill a B-School graduate should acquire.

Leadership matters, and a manager should demonstrate these skills during tough times. Gone are the days of managers barking orders and expecting employees to dutifully abide. Accountability, responsibility,

and transparency are on the rise in the business world. The manager is required to be sensitive, compassionate and demonstrate self-awareness. Thus, Leadership is the sixth skill; I would recommend a manager to learn in a B-School, if at all it could be taught.

A manager should learn to perform a stress test of the organisation, in expectation of a sudden outbreak of calamities like COVID-19. The manager should have the knowledge and desired sensitivity to anticipate the different risks an organisation could face.

They should also have the ability to prepare the risk mitigation strategy for these identified risks. Thus, managing the risk is the seventh skill a manager should acquire.

Finally, it is difficult to predict the future with certainty, but we can acquire the above mentioned skills to be better prepared for the challenges. The future doesn't always unfold as per our plan, thus, lamenting about the past is futile. Henceforth, living in the present, and preparing for the future should be the new mantra of the current times.

The writer is Assistant Professor, FORE School of Management, New Delhi

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Resolve to edge in a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of the year.

— Horace Mann

BTech admission rank list announced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), has announced the SRM BTech Rank List for 2020 admissions. In the light of the ongoing pandemic, the SRMJEEE which determines entry into the much sought after engineering degree programmes, was cancelled this year, and replaced with rankings based on +2/pre-university/equivalent marks in PCM/PCB submitted by the candidate. A total of 1.36 lakh candidates from across India and overseas had applied for admission to SRM BTech 2020.

The top 10 rankers represent the student diversity of SRM, and come from diverse backgrounds across India:

Ekkaluri Harshitha, Andhra Pradesh; R Sanjay, Karnataka; Abhinav Tripathi, Rajasthan; Dharshin Balakrishnan, Tamil

Nadu; Shivam Kumar, Bihar; Arun Martin, Kerala; Ajay Parmar, Madhya Pradesh; Rudr Kesar, Jammu and Kashmir; Mayank Singh, Uttar Pradesh and Hil Savani, Gujarat, emerged as toppers in the all India Top 10 Rank list.

On enrolment, top 100 rank holders will be awarded Founder's Scholarship with 100 per cent tuition and hostel fee waiver. The top 101 to 500 rank holders will be awarded SRM Merit Scholarship with 100 per cent tuition fee waiver. The university also offers an incredible range of scholarship to the tune of ₹40 crores benefiting 3200+ students every year, making studying in the university affordable to all.

The next step in the admission process is the rankings along with the allocated branch will be sent to the candidates registered email ID.

Educational toys are here

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In times like these, when kids cannot step out of their homes, it's very difficult to keep them engaged. Most of the parents are concerned about the increased screen time for their children. But what if that screen time can be made hands-on and educational? Now with PlayShifu's Augmented Reality based educational toys, children can sharpen their skills, learn, and play, all at the same time!

Orboot Earth is a one-of-its-kind Augmented Reality globe that transforms your tablet or smartphone into a magical gateway. Travel to any corner of the world and explore thousands of undiscovered trivia. Scan the

globe to catch world's wonders pop up in 3D, interact with them, and hear their enchanting stories. Explore wildlife, landmarks, cultures, cuisines, and inventions of various countries. The globe doesn't have borders or names but the Orboot Earth app has detailed information with maps.

It sensitises young minds to cultures and people around the world. Built for ever-curious kids, it sparks their imagination. It helps children with geography, world knowledge, environmental science, social science that in turn develop STEAM skills. Encouraging hands-on play, Orboot Earth's world tour comes with a travel kit — passport, stamp, and lots of stickers for the little globetrotter.

Make way for intelligent engineers

With COVID-19 pandemic, work and workplaces are undergoing a tectonic change. The post Coronavirus world will be in need of skilled engineers who are equipped with the knowledge of AI, ML and RPA, says **DR SG GOPALAKRISHNA**

Engineering education in India has been at the forefront to create engineering leaders in multi-disciplinary fields like chemical engineering, mechanical engineering etc. With time the teaching pedagogy at engineering institutes along with curriculum have evolved dynamically. Earlier the focus was much more on theoretical learning. Now, an integrated approach towards following work-based learning, multidisciplinary programs in emerging courses and a shift towards outward facing engineering courses is being followed.

The pandemic situation in the country has shown that technology has been a huge enabler in times of crises. With the COVID-19 pandemic clouding the world, work and workplaces are also undergoing a tectonic change. The post COVID world will be in need of skilled engineers who are equipped with the knowledge of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Robotic Process Automation.

In general, experts believe that industrial automation, manufacturing industries will see a sharp rise with the unlocking procedure in the country. MSME and young startups are also expected to pick up. We as consumers are already shifting to e-commerce platforms and are becoming dependent on it. This means, such players will need professionals to handle humongous



data to understand consumer behaviour patterns, buying behaviour etc. Here arises the need of data science and data analytics, because when such data is on the web, the need for various forecast and predictions also emerge.

Following are some of the ways in which AI will revolutionise the career journey for engineers in the post COVID world:

Healthcare and AI: As healthcare professionals are working day in and day out to come up with a vaccine that can help the world get back on its feet, AI is a key enabler in this sector. As costs continue to swell in the healthcare industry, cost savings are also crucial. AI plays an important role in medical research. As the government is keen on medical research and the environment is conducive, hospital research,

robotic surgeries are some domains where AI can be used.

AI in retail and supply chain: With the unlocking procedure in the country, factories are now under the mounting pressure of cutting costs and increased efficiency in production. The sudden lockdown has also compelled the retail industry to strengthen their supply chain and logistics. Starting from integrating their CRM tool with AI to post sale customer service, everything can be driven through AI.

AI in Industrial Automation: The evolution of new computing technologies and artificial intelligence, industrial automation has become more than just a buzzword. For manufacturing companies, it is essential to come out of their traditional technologies and make

changes in their manufacturing processes for eg: re-programming or re-tooling the application. Such industries can optimize scheduling, operator productivity and help in gaining production visibility.

AI in Agriculture: Companies are developing autonomous robots for essential tasks like harvesting. Predictive analytics is being used to develop and track different environmental conditions suitable for crops, service of agricultural machinery, crop yield and weather conditions.

AI in Construction and Real Estate: AI is used in real estate projects to predict cost overruns. Machine learning and AI are used to scrutinise the data and forecast cost based on size of the project, types of contractors, skills and competence level of workforce. It also helps to envision the start and end date of the project.

We can foresee a world post Covid with tremendous changes and opportunities as well. Organisations are already adapting to the new normal and transforming digitally. The engineering talent with skills and different competencies in such emerging technology will help organisations drive through the new normal. A broad understanding of emerging technologies like AI will enable them to create, innovate and collaborate.

The writer is Director, Nagarjuna Group of Institutions

Detailed analysis of IPMAT 2020

The overall level of the exam was easy and the cut-offs are expected to be on the higher side, says **ANKIT KAPOOR**

After getting postponed many times due to the on-going pandemic IIM Rohtak conducted its Integrated Program in Management Aptitude Test (IPMAT) on July 20, 2020 in a Google form format for its five-year Integrated Programme. Being conducted for the second time this came as a surprise as the exam was conducted through Google form.

While the structure of the paper was changed this year, various guidelines were also issued by the prestigious institute in different forms including the exam to be conducted as an open book exam through Google sheets with weightage being given to the past academics.

Being an MCQ based aptitude test, the questions from last year's pattern were reduced to 60 to be solved within 45 minutes, with 20 questions each in Quantitative techniques, Logical Reasoning and Verbal Ability sections. The marking scheme was that each correct answer will get you 4 marks and each incorrect attempt would get you a penalty of 1 mark.

The difficulty level of the paper was more or less on similar lines of 2019, but overall, it was easy. While many students faced technical glitches and complaints regarding submission of the paper, still the paper was conducted smoothly with some minor delay of 10 to 15 minutes.

The overall level of the exam was easy and the cut-offs are anticipated to be on the higher side. The detailed analysis of each section shows that the quantitative techniques' section had



moderate level of difficulty while no questions were asked from higher maths. And a student could easily attempt 13 to 14 questions. While the Logical reasoning section was easy, with only a set of two question being little confusing and 16-17 questions can be considered as a good attempt in this section. One question from the topic 'Dice' was incomplete as the figure required to solve the question was missing.

The Verbal Ability section was again very easy following the footsteps of last year's exam. The questions were direct. There were few questions that were ambiguous, but overall an attempt of 15-16 questions was good.

Post the Aptitude test there was a break of 15 minutes, and the students

were then required to write essays on the topics provided as part of the Written Ability Test (WAT). This too was changed this year. The students were given 30 minutes and they were supposed to write on two topics, namely 'Post COVID World' and 'What does being successful mean to you?' Both the topics according to the students were easy and they could write their thoughts in the given time.

Candidates will be shortlisted for Personal Interview on the basis of their performance in the exam which will consist (Entrance Test, WAT, and past academic record).

The writer is Managing Director, Pratham Test Prep

Webinar on new education policy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Technical and Management Council (AITMC) has organised a webinar on the New Education Policy (NEP) which has recently been released by the Government. The impact of the New Education Policy on higher education and the possibilities of skill development were discussed in the webinar.

Aman Mittal (Additional Director, Lovely Professional University), Dr Pramod Pampatwar (Founder Director, VNIT Alumni Association), Preet Sindhu Sihag (CEO, AITMC) and Smt. Rajni Hulka (Advisor & Strategist,

STEAM) were present as the key speakers. Brijesh Srivastav, producer of the programme *Aap Ki Baat* welcomed all the speakers as the moderator of the webinar. This education policy has been appreciated by all the speakers in the webinar.

Preet Sindhu Sihag (CEO, AITMC) said that this education policy will promote life-long learning. When a person becomes a life-long learner, then he is ready to deal with all the challenges coming in his/her life. This policy will not only help build educated youth but will also create empowered youth. I am very much confident about the future of our students with the introduction of this policy.

New educational reforms in place

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In continuation of pertinent Educational reforms being made of Ministry of Education, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Education Minister launched online the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations Act, 2020 in a simple ceremony here on August 11, 2020.

Council of Architecture (COA), in a first after educational reforms, brought these reforms in Architecture after 38 years in India.

The occasion was graced by Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Education, Amit Khare, Secretary Education, senior officials of Ministry of Education, Ar Habeeb Khan, President Council of Architecture, Sapna, VP, COA, RK Oberoi, Registrar, COA, Heads of Architectural Institutions, Executive Members of COA and other officials & members of the Council.

Pokhriyal reminded about the unique historical and architectural beauty of India. He focused on the monuments and temples that put India in leader-

ship position in the world and further said that COA should take inspiration from the present and past treasure of Architecture and bring a paradigm shift in the field of Architecture to make India a leader again.

Sanjay Dhotre also emphasised on the role of architectural and said that Architecture is in built in the history and culture of India and he appreciated the initiative of COA to bring up these reforms which the new generation of Architecture should take as a challenge to turn around the culture and heritage of India.

Khare, Secretary Education appreciated the initiative of COA. The role of Shri RK Oberoi, Registrar, COA was highly appreciated for being instrumental in bringing these Regulations to the light.

Earlier the Education Minister Pokhriyal appreciated the work of Ar Habeeb Khan President of the Council and also asked the young architects to take a leap in the field of Architecture.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Sapna, Vice President of the Council.

JKLU unveils virtual lab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the times of COVID-19 pandemic when the education has become online and the future of education completely depends upon experiential learning, JK Lakshmiipat University, in collaboration with All India Management Association (AIMA), on July 30, 2020 unveiled the first-ever virtual lab for management students for business stimulation exercises in Jaipur.

Dr RL Raina, VC, JKLU, mentioned that the BizLab will expose students to real economic, environmental and business issues related to finance, operations, marketing and other business functions and that with the support of AIMA, it can develop and evolve as the most effective learning tool for management.

The drone market size in the country is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 18% by 2023, creating jobs in various industries offering a plethora of lucrative options, says ARVIND BALI



Take a flying leap

Isn't the concept of machine flying sound amazing? Constant innovations in technology are growing at a fast pace, playing a great role in transforming our lives. Yes, we are talking about eye in the sky technology that has been increasingly adopted for different purposes across various industries. Drones, also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are equipped with state-of-the-art remote control systems, GPS, HD cameras, and autopilot functions. Also referred to as a ground cockpit, drones are controlled by remote ground control systems (GSC).

The technique has emerged as a boon during the Corona pandemic. States like Gujarat, Telangana, Maharashtra have used the drone for different purposes during Lockdown, whether for monitoring an area, sanitising or thermal scanning, it has proved to be an excellent technique in all places. In view of this, there is a great possibility of increasing its utility in future.

From real estate to construction, agriculture to logistics, and wind energy to defense industries, drones have entered many major markets and are benefiting them to a great extent. The telecom industry is one of the recent industries being revolutionised by UAVs. Drones offer an ideal tower inspection solution to the telecom companies through visual analysis and aid in digitising assets for tower companies.

MARKET SIZE

The UAV market in the coun-

try has grown over a period of time. According to the 6Wreserach consulting firm, the drone market size is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 18 per cent by 2023. Drones are at the forefront of the new-age generation technological shift and so, many big corporate companies are investing heavily in the drone space.

The association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International predicts that there will be more than lac new jobs in unmanned aircraft and drone technology by 2025, and the global market for commercial applications of drone technology is expected to reach \$127 billion by 2020. New drone jobs will be created across a wide span of industries. In a recent report, FICCI and EY projected that the value of the Indian UAV industry and the market would be around \$885.7 million by 2021. The widening possibilities for which UAVs can be used thanks to their flexible and rapidly evolving software and hardware, has led to their employment in a variety of fields.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Drone technology makes it easier to capture visual information and utilise data through enhanced computer models. UAVs offer a great market opportunity for equip-

Drone technique has emerged as a boon during the pandemic. Many States have used drones for different purposes during lockdown like monitoring an area, sanitising or thermal scanning

ment manufacturers, investors, and business service providers.

Employment opportunity area would be passive infrastructure (ground, training center), active infrastructure (hardware and software), drone services and maintenance (customer support, call centers), data drone collection and processing, pilot/operator, engineer, link engineer, and some sectors which are connected to the drone. Things are getting automated which is changing the existing job profiles and leading to upskilling. Many of the things which required human intervention are now getting automated. At the same time, new types of jobs are emerging.

SKILLS

In view of future employment prospects and career opportunities, Telecom Sector Skill Council formed under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is in the process of designing a curriculum related to drone technology. Low-level to high-level skills will be required in the field of UAV technology. However, skill gaps exist among the workforce and there is a need to fill that gap. Different modules are being worked on by the council to reduce the skill gap so

that youth can become skilled and able to get employment in the industry.

Recently, the Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued draft guidelines on UAS through a circular titled *Requirements for Operation of Civil Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)*. The UAV ecosystem within India is currently host to only a handful of companies that are manufacturing and catering to the consumers.

These companies are also concerned about the ongoing discussions on UAS regulations and the fact that they may not be able to meet the market demands.

In the next few years, the country will be the largest importer of drones worldwide. It will also leave many countries behind in terms of usage. Drones have now started being used in industries on large scales. This aerial vehicle will replace the need for manpower and will create new opportunities. These jobs will not only be in the form of remote pilots, but there will also be a dire need of skilled people on the front like drone engineering, operations, monitoring, sales, and marketing.

The writer is Acting CEO, Telecom Sector Skill Council

'Social commerce can help women'

For women looking for business without investment, social commerce within the food industry is an ideal solution, says VARUN KHURANA

Social commerce is not a new concept in the country major chunk of social commerce existed only in the fashion, beauty, and retail industries. Today, social commerce is gaining popularity for one of the fundamental aspects of life — fresh food.

A \$200 billion fresh produce category is now witnessing major disruption through social commerce. It is garnering the attention of consumer, entrepreneurs, and investors. In fact, consumers are increasingly preferring their food sourced through social commerce for various reasons such as higher credibility, rational price and most importantly, fresher produce (delivered within a day). For women looking to be a part of the business environment without monetary investment, social commerce within the food category is the ideal solution. Let us take a look at how social commerce is playing a key role in helping women make it big in business.

Increasing Internet penetration and social media usage have paved the way for the rise of social commerce. A majority of the population today uses and is in fact hooked onto social media and brands are leveraging this aspect. With the rise in demand for fresh produce, women are joining hands with brands to become resellers within their community to make a mark for themselves in their community by leveraging social commerce. At present, fresh produce is a supply-led model and social commerce is flipping it to demand-led model that further helps in solving the problem of middlemen and wastage. Apart from this, it helps resellers connect with their customers-base efficiently and offer real-time feedback to the farmers regarding the quality of the produce.

For the first time, women are taking the centre stage in spurring the adoption of e-commerce and helping the industry as well as themselves progress. The advent of technology, rapid digitisation of businesses, and easy access have helped drive this change. For women sellers, a slew of features aided by cutting-edge tech-



Varun Khurana
Founder, Olipy

nology such as voice chats/chatbots, real-time updates and feedback to the farmers, and most importantly, WhatsApp-based marketing is coming handy to open more doors to become micro-entrepreneurs.

Women sellers also have a higher average order value, better retention and repeat orders, making them more suitable. In fact, not just urban cities, but women resellers hail from tier-II and tier-III catchment areas are hopping on the fresh produce social commerce bandwagon to fulfill their goals and achieve financial independence with almost no investment. A whopping 68% of women in most platforms sell from tier-II and tier-III cities.

They also help customers gain trust for unbranded products since they usually tend to lean towards known/established brands. In return, social commerce platforms offer easy access for women to build an entrepreneurial empire of their own through community engagement without hindrances.

Social commerce is quickly becoming a multi-million-dollar market in India. With technological advancements, greater digitisation and the availability of regional languages providing easy access and seamless experience, the rise of women entrepreneurs through social commerce is inevitable.

Management students study multiple topics in the domains of business and management and hence are better equipped to handle various crisis situations including a pandemic like COVID-19. The students acquire the required knowledge, skills, and competencies and become adept at the case analyses and problem-solving in response to some real-world problems.

The management students can tackle the crisis after COVID-19 in the following ways:

Healthcare: The management students can sensitise the people about the various dos and don'ts to the citizens and enable them with the required knowledge, skills and competencies and preventive measures to avoid the deadly pandemic of COVID-19.

Education: The management students

can sensitise about the various apps and technologies to the children and their parents to enable them to maximize productivity in the process of online teaching, learning, and assessment. This will make the child and their parents more familiar with the software, platform, or app, and hence the outcomes of academic delivery will improve.

Entrepreneurship: The management students can enable the young and budding entrepreneurs by giving them training or assistance. The management students can guide the entrepreneurs from the small and medium enterprises sector by giving them knowledge or assistance in making the business plan.

Hospitality management: The management students can reinforce the

MINDIT

importance of hygiene and other allied aspects to the employees working in the Hospitality sector.

Facilities management: The students can focus on getting the whole area sanitised by the latest machines/gadgets by including the right chemicals mixed in water in the right proportions.

Implementation of preventive strategies: The students can implement the various preventive strategies like lockdown, measurement of temperature of all the incoming and outgoing guests by using the thermal infrared scanner, wearing of masks,

usage of sanitizers, stoppage of people coming from COVID infected areas, etc.

Design management: The students can work in collaboration with the students of fashion design to focus on producing low-cost masks with better user experience. They can also focus on innovative dress designing for the protection of Doctors, Nurses etc.

Sanitizers: The students can procure the materials used in the process of preparing the sanitizers and prepare them in small packing materials at an affordable cost for the residents of the society.

Lifestyle management: The students

can sensitise the residents about the various aspects of lifestyle management so that the residents are able to raise their immunity and avoid falling sick.

Diet management: The management students can inform the people around about the importance of diet management. They can also give them the recommended diet according to the region, season and availability of fruits and vegetables.

Logistics planning and management: The students can work for the logistics planning and management so that the patient can be quarantined on a fast track basis in case someone is diagnosed with COVID 19.

Quarantine management: The management students can get the quarantine management done in a professional manner

so that the disease does not spread to other parts of society.

Supply chain management: The students can coordinate with various suppliers and vendors to ensure the supply of eatables and other necessary items to all the residents of the society.

People management: Students can convince people about avoiding unwanted travel for unwanted reasons.

Social distancing management: The management students can come together and sensitise the residents about social distancing. They can also mark the squares and circles with marking paint/chemicals and bring the behavioural change in the residents.

The writer is Professor (Dr) Rana Singh, Vice-chancellor, Sanskriti University



wasrd is November 1, 2020.

The University of Calgary invites applications for its International Entrance Scholarship. Students entering the first year in any undergraduate degree in the upcoming fall term are invited to apply for the scheme.

Award: \$15,000
Nationality: Anyone can apply

Eligibility: Must be an international student entering the first year in any undergraduate degree in the upcoming fall term. Must have satisfied the university's English Language Proficiency requirement. Renewable in the second, third, and fourth year at the University of Calgary, provided recipients to achieve a GPA of 2.60 or more over a minimum of 24.00 units in the previous fall and winter terms. Pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts, certificates of English language proficiency, a statement, and a copy of passport.

Admission requirements: Applicants who possess a high school diploma can take part in an undergraduate degree course at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Language requirement: If your first language is not English, you will have to fulfil the language proficiency requirement in by presenting one of the following:

How to apply: Students who have received an offer to study in an undergraduate degree program from the university will be eligible to apply for this application.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this scholarship is December 1, 2020.

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT UFABER EUTECH

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4928757
Deadline: August 19, 2020

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AT ACADECRAFT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4928857
Deadline: August 19, 2020

MARKETING AND SALES AT BLINKIN

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4928968
Deadline: August 19, 2020

PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE HATKE

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4929410
Application deadline: August 20, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT MANGALAM DECORS INDIA

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹13,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4929539
Application deadline: August 19, 2020

CUSTOMER SUPPORT AT BALJ TECHNOLOGY

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali, Zirakpur, Panchkula
Stipend: ₹14,000-₹24,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4929764
Application deadline: August 18, 2020

UAV PILOT AT ALTBIRD ROBOTICS PLC

Location: Ranchi, Lonavla
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4930038
Application deadline: August 24, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

Online to on-campus pathway is way forward

The University of Canterbury, New Zealand is offering online programmes for one semester for students to continue their studies

With the New Zealand border currently closed to non-New Zealand citizens and residents, University of

Canterbury, New Zealand (NZ) is pleased to confirm that students outside of NZ will be able to start a range of programmes in 2020 in an online to on-campus pathway. This pathway will enable students to complete one semester of study online and then come to UC to continue your studies when the NZ border reopens to international students.

The online to on-campus pathway allows you to get started with your studies now, and still continue to be able to benefit from a truly international education and experience.

If you are eager to get ahead in your higher education, then starting your studies online is your best choice right now. Given the present global conditions, studying online is a viable way to

begin your international education journey, and is a stepping stone to achieving a world-class qualification. Online study will also allow you to stay at home for a little longer, which is comforting in these times of uncertainty. Plus, you will save money on living expenses and be able to delay travel until a safer time.

The UC has changed the way we charge tuition fees for this pathway, allowing you to try out online learning before you need to pay the tuition fees. The aim is to give you a sense of how it all works and to decide if online learning personally works for you, without any financial risk.

Your tuition fees won't be due until seven weeks after you have begun your online study.

If you have already paid your tuition fees to UC, you will be able to withdraw from your online studies with a full refund up until these dates. We want to offer a chance to get comfortable with online learning, before you are required to make any financial commitment. If you find online learning is not suitable, you can choose to defer your offer and start again whenever you are able to arrive on campus.

IN BRIEF

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE HINDI UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University, Bhopal has signed a MoU with First Aid Council of India. The objective is to educate the students of urban and rural areas who are unable to take education due to lack of resources, provide them employment oriented courses and increase literacy rate. Under this, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University and FACI will open study centres or extension centres in Madhya Pradesh.

This is a great initiative to increase the employment and self-employment. Through these study centres the university and the First Aid Council of India are going to start a one-year First

Aid Specialist Diploma Course, Naturopathy and Yogic Science Diploma Course and Ayurvedic Pharma Diploma Course for students. Scholarships will also be provided to students by the university as per rules of Madhya Pradesh government. By completing this diploma, the candidate will also be able to open their own first aid centres.

Along with diploma courses, a number of certificate courses will also be conducted in this study centres like Ayurveda and Medicine, Unani and Medicine, Homeopathic Pharmacy, Alternative Medicine and Medical Acupuncture and Naturopathy.

55% INDIANS HAVE FACED NEPOTISM IN THEIR CAREER

Based on a recent poll conducted by Inshorts, 80% Indians believe that nepotism i.e. use of power in order to get jobs and other benefits for your family or friends over others isn't a good practice. 55% of these participants, at some point, have faced nepotism in their careers. Additionally, 51%

participants believe that it is not only Bollywood that faces nepotism.

58% believe that it can be controlled or reduced and 62% participants will not consider taking a job/promotion by taking a favour from a friend or relative in power. The poll was conducted as a part of the Inshorts Pulse of the

nation poll. More than two lakh app users responded.

Nepotism has been a topic of debate since quite long - and it is quite common for people to use their contacts to get a job, internship or a break in career. Be it Bollywood, politics or any other industry, the discussion of merit vs privilege cannot be silenced anymore.

A COURSE ON BIOMIMICRY BY IIT MADRAS

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras is all set to offer a full semester, one-of-its-kind course under the interdisciplinary stream on Biomimicry. As the name suggests it is to imitate or look at Nature as a source of inspiration to solve complex problems.

It is the intersection of

biology and engineering. You do not have to be either a biologist or an engineer to learn biomimicry, all you need is curiosity.

The course has potential not only in engineering, technology and design, but also in areas like management, human resources,

administration, social sciences and the arts.

School children can benefit from learning biomimicry and can lead to not just innovating from Nature but also creating a sustainable way of life.

To know more kindly write to: shiva@thinkpaperclip.com or call 9176612393

SINGLES

KUBO JOINS VILLARREAL ON LOAN

MADRID: Villarreal have signed Japanese playmaker Takefusa Kubo on loan from Real Madrid for 2020-2021 season. The 19-year-old impressed last season in his debut campaign in the top-flight on loan at Real Mallorca although was unable to prevent the team from being relegated a year after winning promotion.

KUZNETSOVA WITHDRAWS FROM US OPEN

MOSCOW: Former US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova has joined a growing list of players who have decided not to play in this year's tournament due to concerns over the Covid-19 pandemic. The Russian world number 32 on Monday announced her decision on Instagram where she also said she would skip the Western & Southern Open which is being held in New York this year instead of Cincinnati as a lead-up to the Aug 31-Sept 13 US Open.

TSIMIKAS JOINS LIVERPOOL FROM OLYMPIAKOS

LIVERPOOL: Premier League champions Liverpool signed Greece defender Kostas Tsimikas from Olympiakos for a reported fee of £11.7 million (\$15 million) on Monday. Tsimikas agreed a five-year contract with Liverpool and is expected to provide back-up for first choice left-back Andy Robertson at Anfield.

LAWRENCE EXITS BIO-SECURE BUBBLE

SOUTHAMPTON: Uncapped England batsman Dan Lawrence, who was one of the reserves in the ongoing Test series against Pakistan, has left the team's bio-secure bubble due to a family bereavement. "Lawrence, who has yet to make his Test debut, was named as one of the reserves in the #raise-thebat Test series against Pakistan. He will not be available for selection when the second Test starts on Thursday at the Ageas Bowl," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement.

SABALENKA ADVANCES IN TOP SEED OPEN

LEXINGTON: World No 11 Aryna Sabalenka made a winning return at the WTA's resumption in the United States as she battled past America's Madison Brengle to enter the second round at the inaugural Top Seed Open. The No 2 seeded player from Belarus defeated Brengle 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-2 after nearly two-and-a-half hours of play on Monday. But world No 15 Johanna Konta failed to enter the second round as she lost to unseeded Czech Marie Bouzkova 6-4, 6-4.

UTT POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

NEW DELHI: The fourth edition of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT), scheduled in India from August 14 to 31, has been indefinitely postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With sporting events yet to start in the country and the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) itself still not certain about the resumption of professional tour, the postponement was inevitable.

FSDL TEAM REACHES GOA FOR INSPECTION

PANJIM: A 9-member delegation of ISL organisers, Football Sports Development Ltd (FSDL), reached Goa on Tuesday and will be there for the next few days to take stock of the venues and training ground readiness. It is expected that a final announcement of the single-state venue, where the seventh edition of the ISL is scheduled to be played, will be made by the end of this week. The team will visit the three identified playing venues (JLN Stadium in Fatorda, Tilak Maidan in Vasco and Bambolim Stadium), about 10 training grounds and have also lined up meetings with the local authorities on their agenda.

MCA APEX COUNCIL MEETING ON AUG 14

MUMBAI: Resumption of cricketing activities in the megalopolis will top the agenda of the Mumbai Cricket Association's (MCA) Apex Council meeting to be held on August 14. Cricket in the megalopolis has come to a grinding halt since mid-March due to outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and Mumbai is one of the worst affected cities in the country. "We will discuss resumption of cricketing activity and also the Standard Operating Procedures sent by the BCCI to all the state associations in this regard," an Apex Council member said.

Lukaku scores in ninth consecutive Europa League game to take Inter in semis; Red Devils needed extra time to beat Copenhagen

United effect



Romelu Lukaku celebrates after scoring Inter Milan's second goal against Bayer Leverkusen during Europa League quarterfinal clash AP

AFP ■ COLOGNE

Bruno Fernandes scored a penalty in extra time as Manchester United scraped past FC Copenhagen 1-0 on Monday in the quarter-finals of the Europa League, reshaped into an eight-team straight knockout tournament in Germany due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Portugal international notched his competition-best seventh goal of the season as United set up a semi-final clash against Sevilla or Wolves, joining Inter Milan in the last four following the Italian side's 2-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen in Dusseldorf.

"Third time this season we've been to the semis, every competition we've been in.

Delighted we've gone through, we deserved to win tonight," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer told BT Sport.

"Their keeper was fantastic, unbelievable. We hit the post a few times, there were a couple of VAR decisions against us. It could have been one of those nights that you end up with penalty shoot outs. They made it hard for us."

All games from the quarter-finals onwards in this season's Europa League are being played behind closed doors as one-off ties across four venues — Cologne, Duisburg, Dusseldorf and Gelsenkirchen — in a unique format following a five-month interruption.

Solskjaer recalled Fernandes, Paul Pogba, Marcus



Bruno Fernandes scores Manchester United's first goal from a penalty kick AP

Rashford, Mason Greenwood and Anthony Martial but the 2017 competition winners struggled early, and 18-year-old Copenhagen forward Mohamed Daramy was twice involved as the Danish underdogs threatened a creaking United backline.

Greenwood looked to have put United ahead as he drilled in via the far post moments later only for the teenager to be ruled offside following a VAR review. He again went close early in the second half when he slammed against the upright, with Fernandes promptly smacking the opposite post with a dipping 20-yard drive.

The Portugal international, who scored five times in the group stage with Sporting, stung the palms of Johnsson with another hit from distance — shortly after Aaron Wan-Bissaka made a desperation block to thwart Bryan Oviedo after a mesmerising dribble from Rasmus Falk.

from the spot on 95 minutes but Solskjaer's team were left to sweat until the end as Johnsson pulled off sensational stops from the Portuguese and substitute Juan Mata, with Victor Lindelof the third United player to strike the post.

United though ultimately ensured their 2019-20 campaign will extend into a second year, having started the season 365 days ago with a 4-0 Premier League win over Chelsea.



Awaiting them on Sunday will be Sevilla — who have won the Europa League and its precursor, the UEFA Cup, a record five times — or domestic rivals Wolves.

Former United striker Romelu Lukaku grabbed the decisive goal for Antonio Conte's Inter against Leverkusen as the Serie A runners-up moved a step closer to adding to their titles from 1991, 1994 and 1998.

Inter struck first as Nicolo Barella guided in from the edge of the area on 15 minutes, with Lukaku bundling in a second six minutes later.

Kai Havertz reduced the deficit in possibly his final game for Leverkusen on 25 minutes after exchanging passes with fellow Germany international Kevin Volland, but Inter held on to seal their place against Shakhtar Donetsk or Basel in next week's semi-final.

"The defence did a tremendous job again tonight. We are growing but we have to learn to kill games off when we have the chances to do it, and we didn't tonight," said Lukaku.

"Now we have time to recover physically and prepare for another great game. We will have to be ready."

OUTSTANDING JOHNSON

Appearing in their first European quarter-final, and the first Danish club to reach this stage since 1997, Copenhagen continued to frustrate United as they sought a repeat of their 1-0 win when the clubs last met in the Champions League group stage in 2006.

Martial nearly won the game in normal time but again a sprawling Johnsson tipped away his curling attempt that appeared destined for the top corner.

The France striker was once more repelled by Johnsson at the start of extra time, but Martial won a penalty as United kept the attack alive and the striker was upended by Andreas Bjelland. Fernandes blasted home

Sarfراز should retire from Tests: Ramiz

PTI ■ KARACHI

Former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja believes wicket-keeper-batsman Sarfraz Ahmed should retire from Tests and focus on white ball cricket.

Sarfraz, a former captain, was seen performing the duties of 12th man in the series opener between England and Pakistan in Manchester.

"In my book I am clear once you have been captain and remained on a pedestal then it is very difficult to come down and be on the bench," Raja said on the Youtube channel, *Cricket Baaz*.

"I would advise Sarfraz to think about it and retire from Test cricket and just focus on white ball cricket, a format in which he is very good and known for his aggression," he added.

Raja, who featured in 57



Tests, said a former captain and senior player of Sarfraz's stature carrying drinks, although not rare in cricket, is frowned upon in Pakistan.

"There is nothing wrong with that because even James Anderson carried drinks when he didn't play in the second Test against West Indies. But in our cricket culture these things are not looked upon nicely and if they involve a former captain," Raja said. "I don't see him getting a chance in the Test format soon so he should focus on white ball cricket where he will play and be respected as well," he added.

Raja feels the presence of Sarfraz in the squad also adds pressure on Muhammad Rizwan, who kept the wickets for Pakistan in the first Test.

"He being in the Test squad also adds pressure on Muhammad Rizwan who knows there is a former captain keeper breathing down his neck and that is not good for him. I think Sarfraz should not be on the bench. He should call it a day from Test cricket."

Inaugural Lanka Premier League postponed

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has postponed the inaugural edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) due to unavailability of top foreign players who would have had to undergo 14-day compulsory quarantine owing to rising cases of Covid-19 in the island nation.

The T20 League was scheduled to start on August 28, subject to approval from the Government and Ministry of health but the 14-day compulsory quarantine period turned out to be an issue with regards to foreign players

"We had a discussion with the health authorities and the 14 day quarantine period for anyone entering the country is compulsory. So it's difficult to play the tournament at the end of August," SLC President Shammi Silva told *NewsWire*.

"We will play the tournament in mid-November after IPL," Silva's information indicated that they are looking at roping in the best T20 freelancers.

A total of 23 matches were scheduled in LPL which was supposed to end on September 20.

According to reports, a total of 93 international cricketers, including England's World Cup-winning pacer Liam Plunkett and New Zealand seamer Tim Southee, were also listed for the tournament.



IPL teams to carry exclusive net bowlers to UAE

NEW DELHI: The Indian Premier League shifting its base to the United Arab Emirates for the 2020 edition may prove to be a blessing in disguise for at least 50 unheralded cricketers, who are set to travel with the eight teams as "exclusive" net bowlers.

At least three franchises, Chennai Super Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals confirmed that they are preparing a roster of net bowlers.

The list comprises mostly first-class, U-19 and U-23 state level cricketers who will get to bowl to the likes of MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina, Rishabh Pant for close to a month.

The convention all these years has been using local bowlers for nets apart from the junior fringe players but the strict bio-security measures for the tournament means that all franchise will have to arrange for quality bowlers during practice sessions.

While BCCI has capped the squad strength (players) to 24, the franchises have not been specified contingent volume which will vary from team to team but it could be safely assumed that most of the eight sides will not avail any local net bowlers.

"If all goes well, we are planning to take around 10 bowlers exclusively to UAE for the practice sessions. They will be accompanying the team and will remain till the tournament starts," Chennai Super

Kings CEO Kashi Vishwanathan said on Tuesday.

The Kolkata Knight Riders also confirmed that they will also have 10 net bowlers in their roster, likely to be hand-picked by former Mumbai captain and their academy coach Abhishek Nayar.

"It will be a blend of players of who have played Ranji Trophy while some of have played U-23 and U-19 national level tournaments," someone who is privy to developments in the KKR camp informed.

The Delhi Capitals are also taking around six net bowlers who will be a part of the team's "bio bubble".

"They will be staying with the squad and will travel with the team for the net sessions," a franchise source said.

The Rajasthan Royals are also on course to finalise the number of net bowlers they will carry. Royals as well as Royal Challengers Bangalore can fly out bowlers from their own respective academies.

It is expected that there will be a healthy number of spinners in overall net bowlers' list.

"On slow Dubai tracks, it will be important that teams stack up their line-up with more spinners especially for humid conditions. You will see a lot of left-arm spinners and wrist spinners who have played a decent level cricket being included apart from the pacers," the talent scout said. PTI

Nieva seeks 7 more boxers at national camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Resumption is done and expansion can now follow, said Indian boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva, revealing that addition of seven more boxers has been proposed at the ongoing national training camp for the Olympic-bound in Patiala.

Nine male boxers and a few of their women counterparts are training at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) in Patiala, taking the first step towards a restart amid the Covid-19 pandemic. These include world Silver-medallist and top Olympic medal hope Amit Panghal.

"We are looking to add seven more boxers, two coaches and a support staff member to this list in the next few weeks. Approval has been sought (from SAI). We are assessing things one month at a time," Nieva said.

"The boxers who are here are training under the strict health safety protocol given to us and things have been smooth. I can't give you names but the ones we want included next are second in rankings of their respective categories," he said.

The camp started in the first week of this month after boxers, willing to take the trip to Patiala were quarantined, tested and then allowed to enter the NIS.

In between, a controversy flared up when the Olympic-bound duo of Vikas Krishan and Satish Kumar "unknowingly" broke the quarantine protocol.

The two have since made Bengaluru's Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) their training base and won't be coming back, despite getting a SAI go ahead, due to the travelling involved.

"We are currently able to do 70 per cent of the things that we used to do," Nieva said of the

training regimen in Patiala. "As per the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure), we cannot enter the ring or do sparring or pad work. But we can do running, strength training, and lot of (punching) bags. That's enough for now," he added.

A boxer not able to access the ring, does it feel weird? "Not as of now. May be another three-four weeks and it will begin to feel weird but what to do. We have to be patient. Like the rest of the world, we have to adjust and adapt," Nieva said.

With all international competition halted for the time being and Olympics postponed to next year, Nieva said the boxers can afford to take it a bit slow.

"We have enough time to get back top form. It's still one year for the Olympics, I am fine with the pace of training at this point. But it remains an evolving situation and we are all adjusting," Nieva said.

Kiwis to host Windies, Pak, Aus & B'desh in summer

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

New Zealand Cricket CEO David White on Tuesday said Pakistan, Australia, Bangladesh and the West Indies have confirmed they will tour the country during the summer.

White said New Zealand Cricket (NZC) is working to implement bio-secure bubble, similar to the one the ECB is using in their ongoing season.

"We are making tremendous progress. I was just on the phone to the West Indies, they're confirmed, Pakistan is confirmed, Australia and Bangladesh... So 37 days of international cricket," White was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*. White added

that women's team will tour Trans-Tasman rivals Australia in September with the reverse fixture slated for February.

"The White Ferns will tour Australia in September and then the Australia Women's team will tour New Zealand in February. We are just working through the content but probably five ODIs and three T20Is," White said.

According to the current Future Tours programme (FTP), New Zealand are slated to host West Indies and Pakistan for a Test and T20 series each.

The red-ball series being a part of the World Test Championship.

Bangladesh are scheduled for ODIs and T20Is followed by Australia for T20 series.

Kohli, Paine best Test captains right now: Faiz

NEW DELHI:

Domestic veteran and Ranji Trophy-winning skipper with Vidarbha, Faiz Fazal believes India's Virat Kohli and Australia's Tim Paine are two of the best captains in the world at the moment.

In a recent interaction on *Sports Tiger's* show *Off the Field*, on being asked who the best captain in the world, Faiz answered, "I am a fan of Tim Paine, he is very good as a Test captain. Virat is also very good in Tests."

On being asked about him not getting a call to the national team after scoring a half-century in his debut match, Faiz said, "The competition in Team India is very tight, I feel very fortunate that I played for India because that was the aim, to play for the country. Nothing can be compared with that. But I still aim to play for the Test team. But, yes, I feel disappointed that I could not continue my place in the Indian team." PNS

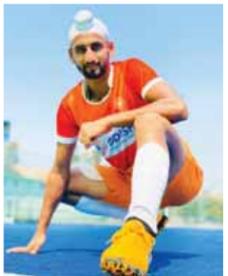
Men's hockey camp uncertain after 6 positive cases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The upcoming training camp for India's male hockey players in Bengaluru looks uncertain after half a dozen of them tested positive for Covid-19 but the women can resume practice after all of them tested negative for the dreaded virus.

Six Indian men's team players — skipper Manpreet Singh, striker Mandeep Singh, defenders Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh, drag-flicker Varun Kumar and goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak — have tested positive after reaching Bengaluru for the national camp, scheduled to start on August 20.

Of these, Mandeep has been hospitalised after his blood oxy-



gen levels dropped on Monday. "The men's camp is in doubt after six positive results, more reports are still awaited from the state Government," a SAI source said.

"But the women's camp is still on course after all the players tested negative. They are currently under 14-day quarantine period and the light intensity camp will begin once its over," the source added.

Currently, 33 male and 24 female players are in Bengaluru for the camp.

The six Covid positive men — mostly from Punjab — were part of a 10-member group that travelled together from New Delhi.

According to sources close to the developments, the number could rise as all the test reports of the men's team have not yet come.

The light intensity national camp was supposed to start in

Mandeep shifted to hospital

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Indian hockey team forward Mandeep Singh, who tested positive for Covid-19, has been admitted to a hospital in Bengaluru after his blood oxygen level dropped but his condition is stable, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Tuesday.

"During night monitoring of vitals on August 10 (Monday) it was found that Mandeep Singh's blood oxygen level was dropping below normal which

indicated that he is moving from mild to moderate severity of Covid," the SAI said in a statement.

"SAI authorities on campus took an immediate decision to shift him to SS Sparsh multispecialty hospital as a precautionary measure. His condition is currently stable," added the statement.

The 25-year-old has played 129 games for India and scored 60 goals so far. He was a part of the Gold-winning team at the 2018 Asian Champions Trophy.

the last week of August after a month-long break and was

expected to continue till September 30.

Ikee to return to pool



TOKYO: Japanese swimming star Rikako Ikee has registered for a competition in Tokyo this month, her first since her shock diagnosis with leukaemia last year, local media reported on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old was a strong favourite for 100-metre butterfly Gold at her home Olympic Games before reveal-

ing last year that she had been diagnosed with leukaemia.

She was discharged from hospital in December after being hospitalised for about 10 months and resumed training in March.

Public broadcaster *NHK* and *Kyodo News* said on Tuesday that Ikee has registered for a 50-metre freestyle race organised by the Tokyo Swimming Association on August 29.

Ikee was also considered a contender for the Tokyo 2020 200m freestyle, but her diagnosis forced her to switch her focus to competing in the 2024 Olympics. She has not said if she plans to rethink and compete in Tokyo next year, following the postponement of the Games. AFP

Halep makes second round of Prague Open

PRAGUE: Top-seeded Simona Halep had to fight hard to advance to the second round of the Prague Open in beating unseeded Polana Herczog 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (3) on Tuesday.

It was the first competitive match for Halep since she won the Dubai Championships in February. The Romanian will face next Czech wild card Barbora Krejickova.

Second-seeded Petra Martic, who reached Palermo semis last week, overcame Varvara Gracheva 7-6 (2), 6-3 to face Kristyna Pliskova in the second round. Third-seeded Elise Mertens recovered from a second set scare to beat Jasmine Paolini 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. AP