Follow us on: @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/dailypioneer instagram.com/dailypioneer/

RNI No.2016/1957, REGD NO. SSP/LW/NP-34/2019-21
Established 1864
Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA
Late City Vol. 156 Issue 220
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

OPINION 8
PLEDGE OF INDEPENDENCE

MONEY 12
RBI TO PAY ₹57,128 CRORE DIVIDEND TO GOVT

SPORT 16
LEIPZIG REACH CL QUARTERS

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2020; PAGES 16 ₹3

the pioneer
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
www.dailypioneer.com

Cong wins Raj trust

Gehlot mocks BJP for abortive bid to topple his Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Ashok Gehlot dispensation won the confidence motion by a voice vote in the Rajasthan Assembly on Friday, ending the threat to its existence triggered by a rebellion within the Congress ranks in the State led by his former deputy Sachin Pilot.

The motion of confidence moved by Rajasthan Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal was passed by voice vote, an expected win after the return of the 19 dissident Congress MLAs led by Pilot to the party-fold.

Replying to the debate on the motion, Gehlot criticised the BJP, accusing it again of trying to bring down his Government. "I will not let the Government topple at any cost even if you make all attempts," he said.

Gehlot said the crisis had come to an end in a beautiful manner and this had hurt the BJP. "What was done in Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Madhya Pradesh? Elected Governments are being toppled and democracy is under danger," he said, accusing the BJP of targeting the Congress Governments.

Without taking names, he alleged that a Union Minister was involved in the conspiracy to topple his Government, saying this had become clear after some audio clips surfaced.

The indirect reference was to Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who had earlier rejected the Congress allegation.

Gehlot also questioned whether agencies like ED, CBI and Income Tax department are not being misused in the country? "When you hold conversation on telephone, don't you say the other person to join you on Facebook and WhatsApp. Is this good thing in a democracy?" the CM said.

Gehlot also took potshots on the role of Governor with whom he and his party had to struggle to call the Special Session as the Raj Bhavan was reluctant.

"The post of the Governor has lost its dignity. Don't provoke me or else I will be forced to share what transpired between the Governor and me. I think the Governor was under pressure. Hundered editorials have been written about the situation in the State after the Governor returned the file on the State Government's wish to convene an Assembly session. The job of the Governor is no more than asking to prove majority in the House," Gehlot said in the Assembly.

Using his speech during the debate, Pilot said, "I want to tell that whatever I or my companions had to say, we have told the doctor (Congress high command) about our complaints. The MLAs are now all together in the Assembly after receiving the treatment."

Rajasthan BJP chief Satish Poonia said the State Congress Government is suffering from a "political corona", even though it has won the vote of confidence. Poonia remarked that the way Pilot spoke in the Assembly makes it clear that there are still some differences between Gehlot and Pilot.

On Poonia's comments Pilot said he would like to clarify that "I, my work style, my work, my colleagues, and what we discuss within the party, leave it to us. Today's session is about trust vote. I don't want to interrupt anyone's speech. Whether I was pained by anyone's statement or not, leave it to me. It will be better if we discuss issues facing this Government".

The Opposition BJP accused the Gehlot camp of blaming it for the infighting within the Congress.

Targeting the Chief Minister for his comments against his now sacked deputy, Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria questioned how Pilot became useless after the formation of the Government when he had strengthened the party while in Opposition.

Continued on Page 11

I am the strongest warrior of Cong, avows Sachin Pilot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Hitting out at the Opposition over its criticism of the recent political developments in Rajasthan, former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Friday described himself as the "strongest warrior" of the Congress and said he would protect his party at all costs.

Pilot, who has returned to the Congress fold after a month-long rebellion against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, made the remarks during the debate on a motion of confidence in the Assembly.

During the debate, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Rajendra Rathore mentioned Pilot's name in various matters, including the recent political developments in the State and a Special Operations Group (SOG) notice issued to him.

Continued on Page 11

Covid 2.5 mn and counting

5.50L cases in past 10 days in India; Health Joint Secy Luv Agarwal tests +ve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With over 60,000 cases daily for the past few days, India coronavirus count crossed 2.5 million mark on Friday. For the last 10 days, the country has witnessed a huge surge, adding 5.50 lakh fresh cases during this period. India now accounts for 10.35 per cent of all active cases globally (one in every 10 active cases), and 6.21% of all deaths (one in every 16).

Overall, five States with the biggest 24-hour jump in total cases are Maharashtra (12,608), Andhra Pradesh (8,943), Karnataka (7,908), Tamil Nadu (5,890) and Uttar Pradesh (4,512).

Meanwhile, the face of India's Covid-19 fight, Luv Agarwal, joint secretary of the Health Ministry, has also tested coronavirus positive.

"Dear All, just to inform that I have tested positive for Covid-19 and initiating home isolation as per guidelines. Requesting all my friends, colleagues for self monitoring. Contact tracing will be done by health team. Hoping to see everyone soon," he tweeted.

The condition of noted singer Balasubrahmanyam deteriorated and based on the advice of expert medical team attending to him, he has been moved to ICU and he is on life support and his condition remains critical.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India conducted record 8,48,728 tests for detection of coronavirus in a day with an aim to achieve a daily target of 10 lakh and recovery rate rose to 71.17 per cent. The fatality rate has declined to 1.95 per cent. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan claimed the recovery rate of Covid-19 patients in India is the best in the world.

Maharashtra reported 12608 fresh cases and 364 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the total tally to 5, 72,734 including 19,427 deaths. Nagpur district of Maharashtra recorded its highest single-day spike of over 1,000 coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours. Mumbai has reported 979 new infections and 47 deaths, taking the total tally to 1,28,550 and 7,035 deaths so far. The coronavirus case tally in the slum-dominated Dharavi area here rose to 2,658 on Friday with nine new patients coming to light. Of 2,658 cases, 2,312 patients have already recovered and there are only 87 active cases.

Delhi has reported 1,192 fresh Covid-19 cases on Friday to go past the 1,50,000-mark for the total number of coronavirus cases registered in the national capital since the outbreak of the disease in February this year.

However, only 11,366 of these are currently infected by the disease and under medical supervision. As per data, 11 deaths have been reported in the past 24-hour cycle due to Covid 19 taking the death toll to 4,178.

Continued on Page 11

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 25,25,144
DEATHS: 49,134
RECOVERED: 18,05,246
ACTIVE: 6,70,276

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	5,72,734	19,427	4,01,442
Tamil Nadu	3,26,245	5,514	2,67,015
Andhra Pradesh	2,73,085	2,475	1,80,703
Karnataka	2,11,108	3,718	1,28,182
Delhi	1,50,652	**4,178**	1,35,108
Uttar Pradesh	1,45,287	2,335	92,526
West Bengal	1,10,358	2,319	81,189
Bihar	98,370	500	65,307
Telangana	88,396	674	64,284
Gujarat	76,569	2,746	59,622
Assam	74,502	175	49,384
Rajasthan	58,692	846	43,897
Odisha	54,630	377	39,206
Haryana	45,614	518	38,348
Madhya Pradesh	43,414	1,081	32,405
Kerala	41,277	140	26,992

Amit Shah tests -ve, to stay put in home isolation

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah, who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus at a private hospital in Gurugram, has tested negative. Shah, 55, said on the advice of the doctors, he will be in home isolation for the next few days.

"Today, my corona test report has come and it is negative. I thank God and express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who wished for my recovery," he tweeted.

He also thanked the doctors and paramedical staff of Medanta Hospital.

the pioneer
Wishes
its reader
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Press and Offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on Saturday, August 15, 2020 on account of Independence day. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Monday, August 17, 2020.

CAPSULE

BIHAR POLL: KEY ROLE FOR FADNAVIS LIKELY

New Delhi: The BJP is expected to give former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis a key role in the Bihar election, due later this year.

CONSTABLE KILLED IN MAHA NAXAL ATTACK

Nagpur/Mumbai: A constable was killed and his colleague injured in a Naxal attack in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Friday morning, police said.

J&K Police scoops 2nd highest peacetime gallantry medal

ITBP recommends gallantry medals for 21 jawans who fought PLA troops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir Police has bagged the Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry medal that comes after the Ashok Chakra on the eve of 74th Independence Day and also earned a Shaurya Chakra, the third highest in precedence in the category. The J&K Police also topped the list of winners of Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) by bagging 81 medals.

The CRPF follows the J&K Police with 51 medals, mostly for operations conducted in Jammu & Kashmir.

While the Kirti Chakra was awarded posthumously to Head Constable of Jammu & Kashmir Police Abdul Rashid Kalas, the Shaurya Chakra went to Deputy Inspector General of the J&K Police Amit Kumar.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Friday has recommended gallantry medals to 21 troops who fought against China's People Liberation Army (PLA) in Eastern Ladakh in May-June, for this years' Independence Day.

The ITBP has accorded 294 commendation rolls and insignias to the paramilitary personnel for "displaying raw courage and bravery during face-offs and skirmishes in Eastern Ladakh in May-June , 2020," on the eve of the national festival.

"The ITBP troops not only effectively used shields to protect themselves but also responded fiercely to PLA advancing troops and brought the situation under control. With the highest order of professional skills, ITBP troops fought shoulder to shoulder and also brought the injured Indian Army troops to the rear," the ITBP said in a statement highlighting the bravery against the treachery of the PLA troops.

It further said, "Even when the ITBP troops fought the whole night, they received minimum casualties by giving befitting reply to the stone pelters of the PLA. At places, they gave a determined standoff about 17 to 20 hours throughout the intervening nights."

Continued on Page 11

SC holds Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt of court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan guilty of criminal contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary saying they cannot be said to be a fair criticism of the functioning of the judiciary made in the public interest.

Holding that Bhushan attempted to scandalise the entire institution of the Supreme Court, the SC said: "If such an attack is not dealt with, with requisite degree of firmness, it may affect the national honour."

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, BR Gavai and Krishna Murari said: "The tweets which are based on the distorted facts, in our considered view, amount to committing criminal contempt. In the result, we hold alleged contemnor No.1 - Mr. Prashant Bhushan guilty of having committed criminal contempt of this court".

The SC however discharged the notice issued to Twitter Inc after accepting its explanation that it is only an intermediary and does not have any control on what the users post on the platform.

Continued on Page 11

Don't exceed your brief on sealing in Delhi, SC warns monitoring panel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Encroachment is a matter of concern but the monitoring committee, set up in 2006 to identify unauthorised structures and check misuse of residential properties in Delhi, "cannot exceed its power" and take any action beyond its authorisation, the Supreme Court said on Friday.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said at no point of time, the SC has empowered the monitoring committee to take action with regard to "residential premises not used for commercial purpose" and it is not authorised to take action concerning residential premises situated on private land.

The SC said this in its verdict in which it dealt with the authority of monitoring committee to seal residential premises on private land, when they are not being used for commercial purpose.

It directed the properties, sealed as per the committee's April last year report, be desealed and possession be restored to the owners. "Let this order be complied with within three days. However, we clarify that this order does not at all mean to belittle the yeomen service done by the monitoring committee for protection of Delhi," it said.

Continued on Page 11

Ramp up testing, increase beds in Covid hosps: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Directing officials to make all efforts to further ramp up COVID-19 testing, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said it was a matter of satisfaction that Uttar Pradesh had become the state which had conducted the maximum 36 lakh tests so far in the country.

Presiding over a high-level unlock review meeting at his official residence here on Friday, the chief minister said that the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) should be kept fully functional.

He also asked officials to increase the number of beds in Level-2 and Level-3 Covid hospitals while ensuring arrangements of medical equipment and human resources.

The chief minister directed the officials to exercise special caution in the districts of Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Bareilly to make health services better. He also asked the district administration to commission a 300-bed dedicated Covid hospital in Bareilly at the earliest.

Asking health officials to provide prompt treatment to COVID-19 patients, the chief minister said they should be admitted to Level-1, Level-2 and Level-3 Covid hospitals according to their condition.

In a fresh directive, the chief minister said that the centres for competitive exams should be made in government schools and colleges only. He said social distancing protocol should be followed in these exam centres and all the staff made to wear masks compulsorily. He also directed officials concerned to ensure arrangement of sanitiser at the examination centres.

The chief minister also asked officials to ensure timely supply of relief material in the flood-hit areas.

He said compensation should be given in case of damage to house. He also directed officials to ensure adequate availability of urea.

Those present in the meeting included Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna, 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, Director General of Police HC Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister SP Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajneesh Dube, Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayati 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, Director Information Shishir and other senior officers.

Uttar Pradesh pips TN to grab top spot in Covid tests

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the eve of Independence Day, Uttar Pradesh notched up the top spot in COVID-19 testing by conducting 35 lakh tests, beating Tamil Nadu.

This was confirmed by Director of Information, Shishir, who tweeted on Friday: "Today another milestone achieved. Uttar Pradesh now at No. 1 having done the maximum No. of tests. Cumulative figures reach 35,97,233. Samples tested yesterday 96,106."

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that the average COVID-19 tests done daily in the last week stood at 90,000.

"It is a huge achievement as in March last, the state could only carry out around 100 COVID-19 tests daily. But within four months, the state machinery has turned the table and grabbed the top spot in coronavirus testing, leaving behind other states," he said.

After Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's stress on maximising testing across the state, officials geared up and for the first time on July 27, state labs tested 1.06 lakh samples. Besides, on August 2 and 8 too, the number of tests crossed the one lakh-mark. The highest tests on a single day were on August 2, when 1.14 lakh samples were tested. However, of these tests around 50 per cent were rapid antigen tests.

UP has emerged as the only state in the country to carry out one lakh tests daily which is well above the World Health Organisation norms for tests.

"As per WHO norms, there should be 140 tests for every 10 lakh population. As per the norm, UP should have at least 32,000 tests, instead, the number of tests being done in the state is three times more," the official claimed.

Prasad said that there were 50,426 active cases in the state while 92,526 patients had recovered, including 3,740 people discharged from Covid hospitals on Friday.

He said that at present there were 23,961 asymptomatic patients in home isolation, 1,613 in private hospitals, 186 in semi-paid hotels and rest in government-run Covid hospitals. "Till date, 46,096 asymptomatic patients were in home isolation out of which 22,135 have recovered," he informed. The official also said that among positive cases, 70.22 per cent were males and 29.78 per cent females.

"Youths between 21 and 40 years are most affected and the percentage of positivity rate is 49.34 per cent. However, the positivity rate among people over 60 years of age is 8.34 per cent," he said.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said that beds in Covid hospitals in Lucknow, particularly in super-speciality SGPGI and KGMU, would be doubled by August end. He said all hospitals, including private ones, would increase beds in ICU and other wards for COVID-19 patients. Major hospitals like Medanta, Apollo and Sahara too will start Covid wards soon. he added.

Sunni Waqf Board gears up for Ayodhya mosque

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After bhoomi pujan for construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya on August 5, Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board has started its effort to construct a mosque and other buildings at the five-acre land allotted to it in compliance with the Supreme Court order of November, 2019.

The Sunni Waqf Board has also set up he Indo Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) Trust to monitor the construction of the mosque in Ayodhya and has urged people to cooperate and help in the process.

The IICF Trust will open two bank accounts, one of which will be used for raising funds for mosque construction, while the other will be used for funding the building of a hospital and research centre on the campus.

Sunni Waqf Board spokesman Athar Hussain said on Friday that the IICF's new office would also be opened by August 25. He said that a portal would also be launched to keep all details related to funds received online.

An IT company has been shortlisted for this and a domain has been allocated for the portal by the name of iicf.com.

In July, the UP Sunni Waqf Board had announced the formation of a trust with 15 members for mosque construction. Of them, nine members were declared and the remaining would be co-opted by these members.

Chairman of UP Sunni Waqf Board will be chief trustee and chairman of the new trust.

The trust members named include its president Zufar Ahmad Farooqui, vice-president Adnan Farrukh Shah, secretary Athar Husain, treasurer Faez Aftab and members Mohammad Junaid Siddiqui, Sheikh Sauduzzaman, Mohammad Rashid and Imran Ahmad.

Purvanchal Varsity VC appointed

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel has appointed Professor Nirmala S Maurya as the Vice-Chancellor of Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University in Jaunpur. Her tenure will be of three years from the date of joining. Prof Maurya is the former registrar of Higher Education Research Institute at Chennai.

Gallantry Medal to Vijay Bhushan for fifth time

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Inspector General (Police Recruitment and Promotional Board) Vijay Bhushan created a national record of sorts by being nominated for the President's Medal for Gallantry for a fifth time.

This is the highest amongst officers of Indian Police Services (IPS) cadre in the country. Bhushan's name figured in a list along with 23 other police officers/personnel from Uttar Pradesh to be awarded the prestigious award on the eve of Independence Day.

As per the list issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday, late constable Eknath Yadav and ASP Rajesh Sahni, both from UP Police, were selected for Police Medal for Gallantry posthumously.

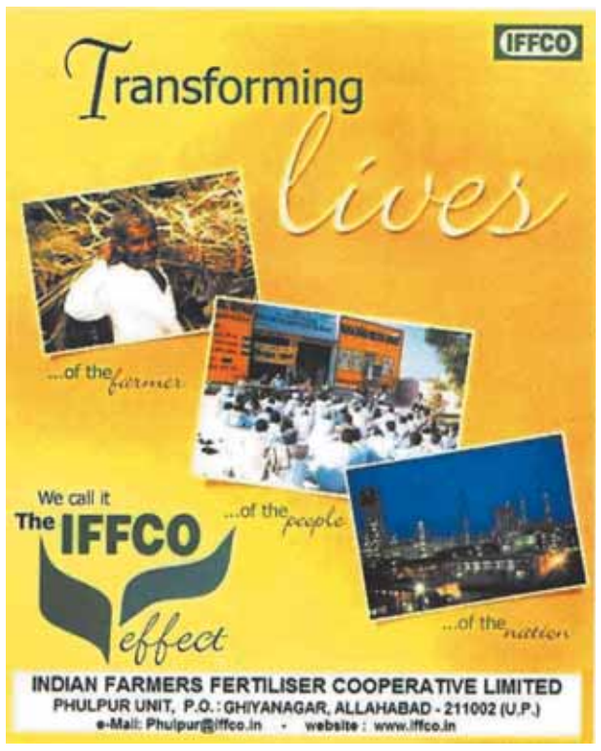
Sahni, an outstanding officer posted with Anti-Terrorists Squad (ATS) ended his life in the ATS office under mysterious circumstances.

Besides Bhushan, the other recipients are SP Barabanki, Dr Arvind Chaturvedi, ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar, ADG (Dial 112) Asim Arun, Secretary (Home) SK Bhagat, SSP Muzaffarnagar Abhishek Yadav, SSP Meerut Ajay Kumar Sahani and SP Satpal. Those selected for President's Gallantry Medal are constables Lokesh Bhati, Avdhesh Singh, Athar Ahmed, Avinash Kumar, Vikas Yadav, Mahendra Pal, Fayeem Miya and Vineet Kumar Kapasiya, sub-inspectors Amit Kumar, Pravesh Kumar, Ajay Kumar and Dhananjay Mishra and ASP Narendra Pratap Singh.

Interestingly, Vijay Bhushan, SK Bhagat, Dr Arvind Chaturvedi and Dhananjay Mishra were feted for gunning down a criminal, Firdaus aka Mota aka Javed aka Rajesh Kumar Singh, in 2006. He was involved in the murder of BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai in November, 2005.

Dr Arvind Chaturvedi, awarded the first bar (second medal) to Police Medal for Gallantry, said that he and others awarded medals were posted in STF when the encounter took place at Link Road in Malad area of Mumbai on April 19, 2006.

Firdaus extorted money from coal traders from Kolkata to Mughalsarai, was a hitman of Mukhtar Ansari gang of UP and was accused in numerous criminal cases, including the elimination of Krishnanand Rai.



the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my name and my wife name are wrongly registered as SANJAY SINGH and REEMA SINGH in School record of my son. The correct names are SANJAI SINGH and RIMA SINGH. We should be known as SANJAI SINGH and RIMA SINGH in future as well. SANJAI SINGH 65, Janhvi puram Houshing Scheme Nehru Park, Dhoomanganj, Prayagraj

NOTICE

I, Anil Kumar Singh declared that my daughter Urvashi Singh's correct date of birth is 18.6.2005 while it has been recorded as 18.6.2003 in her Class X UID 7134601 year 2020 Statement of marks & pass certificate of Dr. Virendra Swarup Memorial Public School, Kanpur - ANIL KUMAR SINGH.

NOTICE

NOTICE

AFORMULA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION head office situated at Lucknow, there is no another Branch in all over India. If someone misleading on the basis of AFORMULA name and registration No. they have own responsibility. AFORMULA will not responsibile, in any circumstances.

Nishad Party MLA Vijay Mishra held in Sagar

Lucknow (PNS): Booked on charges of grabbing property and intimidation, criminal-turned-politico Vijay Mishra was arrested from Sagar in Madhya Pradesh on Friday.

Mishra is a Nishad Party MLA from Gyanpur in Bhadohi.

Superintendent of Police of Bhadohi, Ram Badan Singh, told media persons that Mishra was arrested by MP police on a tip-off provided by Bhadohi police.

He said that a police team was later sent to Sagar to bring the MLA to Bhadohi on transit remand.

Interestingly, on Thursday, Mishra posted a video on social media claiming that he and his family would be eliminated in some alleged encounter just because he was a Brahmin.

His wife Ramlali Mishra is an MLC from Mirzapur-Sonbhadra and went missing on Thursday evening. On Friday, her police gunner Ishwar Chand reported her disappearance at Georgetown police station in Prayagraj.

Only on Thursday, Ramlali had written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, apprehending threat to her husband's life and that of other family members. She also demanded that all cases registered against them be probed either by CB CID or a competent agency.

On August 9, Vijay Mishra, his wife Ramlali and their son Vishnu were booked on a complaint filed by a relative, Krishna Mohan Tiwari, at Gopiganj police station on Friday. The complainant was also provided police security perceiving threat to his life.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and Published by Vijay Prakash Singh for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Editor: Chandan Mitra. Resident Editor: Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India
74th Independence Day
Independence Day
Greetings to all fellow citizens
Jai Hind
"15th August is a day to pay homage to all those greats who worked hard for India's freedom. Their struggles continue to give strength to millions. Independence Day is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to build an India that would make our respected freedom fighters proud."
- Narendra Modi
davp 22201/13/0015/2021
Independence Day Ceremony at the ramparts of Red Fort to be live telecast by Doordarshan 6:25 a.m. onwards

सबका साथ–सबका विकास–सबका विश्वास
शान से लहराये तिरंगा प्यारा
आत्मनिर्भर भारत संकल्प हमारा
74वाँ
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
देश व प्रदेशवासियों को स्वतंत्रता और एकता के पावन उत्सव
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं
आज पूरी दुनिया कोविड–19 महामारी से त्रस्त है, ऐसे में हमारी जिम्मेदारी और भी बढ़ जाती है। देशभक्ति का अर्थ केवल तिरंगे को लहराना ही नहीं, बल्कि अपने देश को आत्मनिर्भर और सशक्त बनाना भी है। इस अदृश्य संकट से आप सुरक्षित रहें एवं दूसरों को भी सुरक्षित रखें और देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में यथासम्भव अपना योगदान दें।
योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश
आत्मनिर्भर भारत की ओर बढ़ते कदम
• प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा 'आत्मनिर्भर उत्तर प्रदेश रोजगार कार्यक्रम' के माध्यम से 4.03 लाख एम.एस.एम.ई. इकाइयों को 10,600 करोड़ रु. से अधिक के ऋण का ऑनलाइन वितरण • 1.25 करोड़ से अधिक कामगारों व श्रमिकों को रोजगार
• 50 लाख से अधिक लोगों को वृहद एवं एम.एस.एम.ई. इकाइयों में रोजगार • 2.71 लाख उद्यमियों को 8679 करोड़ रु. ऋण वितरण • 98,743 नवीन एम.एस.एम.ई. इकाइयों को 2,447 करोड़ रु. ऋण वितरण
• 38 लाख से अधिक श्रमिकों/कामगारों की सुरक्षित घर वापसी की नि:शुल्क व्यवस्था • 35.49 लाख श्रमिकों की स्किल मैपिंग कर रोजगार का प्रबंध • 15 करोड़ से अधिक लोगों को 6 बार में 45 लाख मीट्रिक टन से अधिक खाद्यान्न वितरित
• 53 लाख से अधिक श्रमिकों, दिहाड़ी मजदूरों एवं कामगारों को एक–एक हजार रुपये का वितरण • मनरेगा में 18.33 करोड़ मानव दिवस का सृजन • हर जिले में इण्टीग्रेटेड कोविड कंट्रोल एवं कमाण्ड सेंटर की स्थापना
• 1 लाख 51 हजार से अधिक कोविड केयर बेड की व्यवस्था • 37 कोविड टेस्टिंग लैब की स्थापना • सभी जनपदों में ट्रूनेट मशीनें, वेन्टीलेटर, पल्स ऑक्सीमीटर, इन्फ्रारेड थर्मोमीटर की व्यवस्था • प्रतिदिन 1 लाख से अधिक कोविड टेस्टिंग।
2 गज़
सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करें
फेस कवर/मास्क अवश्य लगाएं
हाथों को साफ रखने हेतु साबुन/सैनेटाइजर का प्रयोग करें
छींकते और खांसते समय अपना मुंह व नाक रुमाल से ढकें
Aarogya Setu
आरोग्य सेतु एवं आयुष कवच एप का प्रयोग करें
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

More high-flow nasal cannula, ventilators, HDU beds in hosps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Meshram said on Friday that with the majority of patients in Lucknow in home isolation, the number of critical patients in the hospitals had increased and thus the number of high-flow nasal cannula, ventilators and HDU beds in Covid hospitals were being increased. He said private hospitals like Medanta and Apollo had also been roped in for Covid-19 patients.

Experts had termed the high-flow nasal cannula very effective and ventilator the last resort. The Divisional Commissioner said they were having no problems with ambulance management.

CMO Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh insisted that though the number of coronavirus cases had increased, there was still no community transmission in the district. "It is a small percentage of people who have got the coronavirus infection in the district," he said.

The CMO said they had also been shuffling he staff for better management and containment of the virus. He said though the coronavirus graph was going up and down in the district, better results would follow after a week when a large number of people would have taken Ivermectin tablets.

The CMO office also released per-day rates for private hospitals. For those who are moderately sick, the isolation beds, including the supportive care and oxygen, will cost Rs 10,000 which includes the cost of PPE at Rs 1,200. For severe sickness which includes ICU without ventilator care, the cost will be Rs 15,000, including the cost of PPE at Rs 2,000. In case of very severe sickness requiring ICU bed with ventilator care, including the cost of PPE at Rs 2,000, the cost of the treatment will be Rs 18,000. The CMO said three copies of the medical bills would be taken out and one would be sent to the CMO office. "If there is special treatment for which the patient has been charged, specific mention should be made in the bill," he added.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with the district administration officials, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said that private labs carrying out Covid testing for a private hospital had to first sign an MoU with that hospital and send a copy of the same to the CMO office.

The DM said that from August 14 onwards, private hospitals had to upload the bed status after every four hours, make parking areas for the ambulances and put signages for the same. He said that private hospitals would not give admission to patients from other districts without taking medical consultation and informing the Integrated Control and Command Centre.

The DM was informed that one of the government hospitals was not feeding the data of beds properly. He directed the district surveillance officer to appoint two persons to ensure regular flow of data from the hospital.

Meanwhile, drug inspector Brijesh Pathak said that sales of Ivermectin tablets had shot up by 65 per cent. "People have been using this as a prophylactic since the time a Bangladeshi doctor had announced that this medicine could be used for the control of virus. There has also been a government order to this effect lately. It has been observed that if anyone tests positive for coronavirus and their family members are given this medicine, they do not get the infection," he said.

Director of Civil and Lok Bandhu hospitals Dr Madhu Saxena said they had been currently working on containment of the spread of coronavirus virus in their own staff since a number of them had tested positive. "I have made a few changes to help protect the staff from coronavirus infection since a large number of the general public are getting themselves tested. The testing which used to take place at many points at the hospital has been restricted to one area. The number of staff coming to the hospital has also been restricted because their unnecessary movement was causing the spread of infection. Directions have been given to the staff to get themselves tested and have a prophylactic medicine," she said.

VPIMS TO TREAT COVID-19 PATIENTS

Vivekanand Polyclinic and Institute of Medical Sciences will also be providing treatment to Covid-19 patients. CMO Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh confirmed that the process to start Covid facility at the hospital was on. PRO of the institute Dr Vishal Kumar Singh said they would be taking in L-1, L-2 and L-3 patients. He said that the institute had written to the district administration that it was ready to accommodate as many as 60 Covid-19 patients requiring critical care, including four beds with dialysis facilities besides 30 beds for L-1 and L-2 patients. "We have 12 ventilators, five BiPAPs and other infrastructure to provide treatment to Covid-19 patients. Also, the shifts of doctors will also be communicated to the administration," he said.

652 more test +ve in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 652 more persons tested positive for coronavirus while five succumbed to Covid-19, including four from Lucknow. Besides, 504 persons recovered, taking the number of recovered patients in Lucknow to 8,607. The number of deaths in the city stands at 186 while that of active cases is 7,188.

A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive included 35 from Alambagh, 29 from Bazaarkhala, 27 from Indiranagar, 25 each from Talkatora & Mahanagar, 22 from Hazratganj, 21 from Jankipuram, 20 from Madiaon, 19 from Chowk, 17 from Gomtinagar, 15 from Saadatganj, 14 from Thakurganj, 13 from Chinhat, 10 each from Kaiserbagh & Vikasnagar, 11 from Rae Bareli road, 15 each from Cantt & Naka, nine each from Ashiyana & Sushant Golf City, eight from Gudamba, seven each from Sarojininagar & Kakori, four from Aminabad and three from Hasanganj.

The official said that there was one death each in RML Hospital, Vidya Hospital and KGMU. Meanwhile, in the state, 4,600 persons tested positive for coronavirus, including 289 from Kanpur, 142 from Ghaziabad, 162 from Varanasi and 213 from Prayagraj, taking the total number of cases to 1,45,287. There were 59 deaths in the state, included four each from Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, three each from Varanasi, Prayagraj and Moradabad.

Two groups clash at toll tax plaza

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two groups of youths had a clash at a toll tax plaza on Agra Expressway in Kakori, giving police a tough task on Thursday night. Youths in one of the groups were accused of opening fire with an intention to kill. They accused their rival of acting fresh with a woman on their side.

The firing incident created a sensation in the locality and the toll tax plaza staff called the police, who reached the scene for investigation. The area was soon filled with a huge number of police personnel.

As per reports, a resident of Madiaon, along with his wife and gunner, was going to Noida via the expressway and had a verbal spat with a Mainpuri resident, Anil Kumar, and his friend Shani, also of Mainpuri. Anil and Shani were coming to Lucknow by a car.

The Madiaon resident alleged that Anil and Shani started passing lewd remarks on his wife and so he confronted them. "The Madiaon resident claimed that he opened fire as Anil and Shani were acting fresh with his wife," Madiaon SHO Pramendar Singh said. He said Anil and Shani accused the Madiaon resident of opening fire with an intention to kill him.

"We registered a case for eve-teasing against Anil and Shani and arrested both. We also registered a case of murderous assault and arrested him and his gunner/driver," the SHO said. A police spokesman said a case for reckless driving, thrashing, abusing and for murderous assault (under sections 279/323/504/506/307 of IPC) was registered against the Madiaon resident and his aide and both were arrested from Durgaganj crossing in Kakori around 8:30 am on Friday. He said a licenced rifle and two live cartridges were recovered from their possession. The spokesman further said a case under sections 279/504/506/354 of IPC was registered against Anil and Shani, both of Mainpuri, and both were arrested.

SELF-IMMOLATION

Suffering from some disease, a girl student pursuing PG immolated herself at her house in Madiaon on Thursday evening. As per reports, the girl, identified as Hema Bajpai (22), was pursuing her studies from IGNOU and was under treatment for some neuro problem for the last four years. Her brother Raja told mediapersons that Hema was under depression due to the disease. "She locked herself inside a room and later set herself on fire. We broke open the doors but she had suffered severe burns. We rushed her to Civil Hospital where she was declared brought dead," he said.

Mystery shrouds death of missing retired banker

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Son Manish said his father died of excessive alcohol consumption. He said his father retired as bank manager. The police said the body was recovered from near a desi liquor shop

Mystery has shrouded the death of a missing retired banker, whose body was recovered from a service lane in Gudamba on Friday. As per reports, some residents of Kursi road spotted a man lying dead in the service lane and alerted the police. The police ascertained the identity of the deceased as Bhudhar Lal (64) of Jankipuram (Sector-H).

Sharing details of investigation into the case, the police said deceased's son Manish Chaudhary identified the body after reaching the scene. "Bhudhar was in the habit of consuming alcohol and he used to return home either late in the night or even the next day," Manish was quoted as saying by the police. Manish said his father died of excessive alcohol consumption. His father retired as bank manager. The police said the body was recovered from near a desi liquor shop.

Meanwhile, a 14-year-old girl died after she fell down after being chased by monkeys in PGI police station area on Thursday evening. As per reports, the girl, identified as Saloni of Brahmin Tola in the locality, was playing with other children on the terrace of her house. All of a sudden, a group of monkeys reached there and the children tried to scamper to safety. Saloni also ran but lost her balance and fell off the terrace. She was rushed to a hospital where she was declared brought dead. Her father Manoj is a native of Sitapur and lives in Lucknow house on rent.

In another incident, the body of an unidentified girl was recovered from a pond at Ma Chandrika Devi temple in Bakshi-Ka-Talab on Friday. As per reports, some devotees saw the body in the pond and alerted the mela committee of the temple. The committee members later called the police. As villagers could not identify the deceased, the police sent the body to morgue and started further investigation.

District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said on Friday that all the programmes of Independence Day would be held in the city on Saturday keeping in mind Covid-19 precautions. He said at all the crossings, commercial establishments, petrol pumps, government departments, shops and parks, tricolour will be hoisted and patriotic songs played. Prabhat pheris will be taken out by civil defence personnel at 6:30 am. Pioneer

CITYBRIEFS

HONORARY COL RANK CONFERRED ON BBAU VC

Vice-Chancellor of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University Sanjay Singh was conferred the rank of an honorary Colonel by the Directorate of National Cadets Corps (NCC) on Friday. Brigadier Vikram Raina, Group Commander, Lucknow group, conferred the rank on Singh in a piping ceremony held at BBAU. He is the first Vice-Chancellor of BBAU to receive the honour for his contribution to education and encouraging the activities of NCC in the region. Col Arun Suryavanshi, Commanding Officer, 20UP Girls Battalion NCC, Col Gautam Guha, Commanding Officer, 67UP Battalion NCC, Lt. Raj Shree, ANO, 20UP Girls Battalion NCC, Lt. Manoj Dadhwal ANO, 67UP Battalion NCC, Subedar Major MA Khan, Subedar Saiyed Anwar, 67UP Battalion NCC and senior faculty members, non-teaching staff and NCC cadets of BBAU were present during the ceremony.

ADMISSION

Vanshita Chandwani, a student of City Montessori School, Kanpur Road Campus, has been selected for admission by two noted universities of England and USA. She has been offered admission by the University of Leeds (UK) and New York University (USA) to pursue higher education there. Vanshita has got this opportunity due to her academic excellence and diligence. She has attributed her success to the robust academic atmosphere of CMS.

Smart meters working on obsolete technology

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Delay in upgradation of communication technology for managing the network of electricity smart meters and servers by the UP Power Corporation Limited is said to be the root cause of the simultaneous tripping of nearly five lakh meters at the consumer end on Wednesday. The communication network linking the smart meters with the server installed at Shakti Bhawan, the UPPCL headquarters, is still working on 2G technology even as the Centre is in the process of rolling out the 5G technology.

Sources in UPPCL said for making the system foolproof, all the smart meters would have to replace compliant with the latest technology. "The signs of trouble were visible for over a year, either in the form of meter jumping or meters registering excess power consumption and some other faults. The simultaneous tripping of five lakh meters is the most alarming situation which needs to be tackled without any further loss of time," an official said. He said the power consumers forum had filed a petition before UP Electricity Regulatory Commission in April 2019, complaining about the installation of the smart meters with obsolete technology. He said the power regulator had issued notice to the UPPCL, seeking a reply but no action had been taken by the power corporation in last over one year.

"If the smart meters are not replaced immediately and there is yet another tripping of meters it can lead to the collapse of the northern power grid due to sudden drop in demand for electricity," UP Power Consumer Forum chairman Avadesh Verma said. The power consumer forum alleged that the UPPCL was waiting for another disaster for replacing the smart meters. Verma said the UPPCL had given contract for purchase of 40 lakh smart meters at a cost of Rs 1,927 crore. He said 2G and 3G was an obsolete technology and the UPPCL should have opted either for 4G or equivalent NBIOT (narrow band internet of things) communication technology. Energy Efficiency Services (EESL), a joint venture of four public sector enterprises under the Union Ministry for Power, had announced in April 2019 about installation of over five lakh smart meters across the country. Among the states, Uttar Pradesh topped with over four lakh smart meter installations in 13 cities — Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Moradabad, Aligarh, Saharanpur, Jhansi, Mathura, Bareilly and Ayodhya.

Smart meters have also been installed in Delhi, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, under the Centre's Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP). EESL had signed a MoU with the UPPCL in April 2019 to replace 40 lakh conventional electricity meters with smart ones within three years with the twin objectives to enable customers to check and optimise their consumption pattern in real time with minimal manual intervention and help discoms control power theft, improve billing efficiency and reduction in AT&C losses.

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD
E-Tender Notice
1. Short Term E-Tender No: 06/CMD-II/ATPS/ 2020-21- Online e-bids are invited for the **Work of special M&R of railway over bridge No. 05 (Near Anpara Market) of Anpara Thermal power project.** E-tender has been uploaded on **17.08.2020** on http:// etender.up.nic.in. Estimated cost of work is Rs. **13,31,475.00** only. period: **4 Months.** E.M.D. cost **Rs. 27,000.00.** Last date of tender: 03.09.2020 **at 16:00 Hrs EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (W) FOR CHIEF ENGINEER Anpara Thermal Power Project, Anpara** SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTREST OF NATION
No. 769 Date 14.08.2020

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्राँसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड **ई–निविदा सूचना** निम्नलिखित ई–निविदा जिनका संक्षिप्त विवरण नीचे दिया गया है ई–निविदा की वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड कर दी गई है :– अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा संख्या–टी–62/2020–21 132 के0वी0 सैफई–चकरनगर लाइन के क्षतिग्रस्त कण्डक्टरों की बदलने एवं मरम्मत का कार्य। अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा संख्या–टी–63/ 2020–21, 132 के0वी0 भरथना–औरैया लाइन पर अर्थिंग का कार्य। अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा संख्या–टी–64/2020–21, 220के0वी0 कानपुर–साउथ स्थित सैन्ट्रीपयूजिंग मशीन के रिपेयर का कार्य। अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा संख्या–टी–65/2020–21, 132 के0वी0 पनकी–दिबियापुर लाइन पर अर्थिंग का कार्य। **उपरोक्त विषय में विस्तृत विवरण साईट पर उपलब्ध हैं सभी सक्षम आपूर्ति/कार्यदायी संस्थाएं तद्नुसार निविदा में भाग ले सकती हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल द्वितीय, पनकी, कानपुर**
पत्रांकः 2092 दिनांक 14.08.2020
"राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"

Office of the Managing Director Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited Vidyut Nagar, Bhikharipur, P.O. D.L.W. VARANASI Advertisement for Selection to the Post of Technical Member Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum, Gorakhpur Under provision of UPERC (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Electricity Ombudsman) Regulation 2007, PuVVNL invites application from suitable person for the post (One No.) of Technical Member At CGRF Gorakhpur. The regulation is available on the website of UP Electricity Regulatory Commission. The relevant provision of above regulation 2007 relating to requirement of Qualification, age, period of employment etc. For technical member is as follows :- a) Holds a degree in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering. b) Has at least 10 years experience in electricity distribution. c) Held a post not below the rank of a Deputy General Manager/ Superintending Engineer or an equivalent post in any Government Department of Government undertaking or a private company. d) Preferably has experience in regulatory affairs, and has attained the age of 58 years. e) Shall hold office of the forum, for a period of three years or up to age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. Application on given format should reach Superintending Engineer (Comm.), Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Vidyut Bhawan, Hydel Colony, Bhikharipur, P.O. DLW, Varanasi through Registered Post/Speed Post/By Hand so as to reach this office latest by date 27.08.2020. The Covering envelop must mention clearly in bold letters the name of the post and the place applied for. **Superintending Engineer (Comm.)**
APPLICATION- FORM
Place and Post applied for.....
1. Name ...
2. Father's Name ... 3. Address with Tel. No ....
4. Date of Birth ...
5. Post Last Held ... 6. Details of Employment in reverse chronological order... 7. Any other information that the candidate may wish to give ... Applicant will submit self atested copies of all related documents along with application form. Date: / /2020 Place : .... **(Signature of Applicant)**
No. 7035 Date 14.8.2020 Save electricity in the interest of Nation.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 20/43 Date: 14.08.2020
E- Procurement Tender Notice
On behalf of the President of India, **The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj** (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
50204299	MAIN LED SIGNAL LIGHTING UNIT 110VAC CONSISTING OF LED SIGNAL RED, YELLOW, GREEN.	3250 Nos .	26.08.2020

Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tenders are available on IREPS website i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in **2.** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, venders are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III. digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. **3.** Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vender shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 873/20(D)
North central railways @ CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
Corrigendum No. 50195167 Date 13.08.2020
First Corrigendum
On behalf of the President of India, **Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj** is issued a following Corrigendum for Change in Description, Change in Documents attached with the tender (Annexure B and Instructions to Tenderers), Addition in conditions for Responsiveness of offer in EPS-Advt. Tender No. 50195167 due on 25.08.2020 published against EPS Tender Notice No. 20/40 dated 31.07.2020 and RO No. 829/20FA.

Tender No.	Sr.No.	Particulars	From	To
50195167	01	Description	Existing	Change in Drg. as Drg. No. TYP/2017/0002-06 attached as Annexure-B
	02	Documents attached with the tender	Existing	Annexure-B Instructions to Tenderers
	03	Conditions for Responsiveness of offer	---	Added in this column

Other Terms & Conditions of Tender remain unchanged. 829/20 FA
North central railways @CPRONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Chief Workshop Manager N.R. C&W Workshop Alambagh Lucknow invites following e-tender :

01	Name of work	Supply and installation of Porta Cabin
02	Location	C & W Workshop, Alambagh, Lucknow
03	Approx cost of the work	Rs. 33,52,479.28/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Nine and Paisa Twenty Eighty Only).
04	Cost of Tender form	Rs. 3,000/- (Rs. Three Thousand only.)
05	Earnest money to be deposited	Rs. 67,100/- (Rs. Sixty Seven Thousand One Hundred only.)
06	Completion period of the work	06 Months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance.
07	Date & Time for Submissions of Tender	from 31.08.2020 to 14.09.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs.
08	Format for Certificate	CERTIFICATE AS PER ANNEXURE-A MUST BE SCANNED AND UPLOADED.
09	Opening of Tender	Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenderers are not required to be present during the Opening
10	Address of the office from where the form can purchased	All complete details of Tender Notice / Documents are available at website www.ireps.gov.in
11	Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen etc.	

Tender Notice No.: 2020-AMV-C and W -Etender - 12 Date: 14.08.2020. 1770/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-TENDER NOTICE
No.- Dy. CEE / C / CNB / 20-21 / Tender-111A Date : 10.08.2020
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), N.C. Railway, Kanpur for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through e-Tendering for the following work:

E-Tender No.	Description of work	Approx Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)
Dy. CEE/C/CNB/ 20-21/Tender-111A	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV 50 Hz. AC OHE of 4th line of Chipiyana-Buzurg-Dadri section of Prayagraj Division of N.C. Railway	8,68,13,729.84	5,84,100/-

Cost of Tender Form (₹) : NIL, **Date of closing Tender :** 09.09.2020, 12:00 Hrs., **Date of completion / period from issue acceptance letter :** 12 Months, **Validity of Tender :** 45 Days. ● Tender on line can be submitted up to 12:00 hrs on 09.09.2020 ● For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 856/20 (SP)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

10-year-old raped, killed in Sambhal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sexual offences continued to rock the state when in Sambhal a 10-year-old girl was raped and murdered on Thursday. Besides, a man and his son were killed in Azamgarh while a youth was murdered for objecting to harassment of his sister in Etah.

In Sambhal, a minor girl of Chandasi area was playing outside her house on Thursday evening after which she disappeared. After searching for her, her kin informed the local police. Later on Thursday night, some locals spotted a man carrying a gunny bag. When they stopped him and searched his bag, they were shocked to find the body of the missing girl. They beat up the man and handed him over to the police.

During quizzing, the accused admitted to having raped the girl and later strangled her fearing being identified. A case was registered and the body was sent for autopsy.

SOME LOCALS SPOTTED A MAN CARRYING A GUNNY BAG. WHEN THEY STOPPED HIM AND SEARCHED HIS BAG, THEY WERE SHOCKED TO FIND THE BODY OF THE MISSING GIRL. THEY BEAT UP THE MAN AND HANDED HIM OVER TO THE POLICE

In nearby Etah, Faizan of Jawaharpur hamlet of Piluwa used to tease a neighbour Haseen's sister after which the family members complained to the miscreant's parents. Irked over the complaint, Faizan barged into Haseen's house on Thursday night, abused the kin and later opened fire, killing Haseen on the spot.

A case was registered and a hunt was launched for the absconding accused.

In Azamgarh, Mithai Yadav of Rasoolpur Dudhhar in Devgaon was strolling with his son Tez Yadav when unidentified miscreants opened fire on Thursday night. While Mithai died on the spot, his son succumbed to his injuries in a community health centre. Senior police officers rushed to the spot and suspected political rivalry to be the motive behind the attack. A case was registered and investigations were on.

AIU, CII introduce Smart Manager programme

Lucknow (PNS): Association of Indian Universities (AIU), in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has started AIU-CII Smart Manager programme for graduates of all disciplines. The programme aims to empower students with high-quality practical and ready-to-use management competencies sought by corporates while making hiring decisions. Head of the department of Business Administration Sanjay Medhavi said that CII, in association with AIU, had offered 80% discount on the Smart Manager programme to the students of Lucknow University.

"The final-year students may like to enrol for AIU-CII Smart Manager programme for improving their soft skills through the web-link. They need to fill up the Google form available in order to avail 80% discount," he said.

There are two options for the students interested to enrol with discount. Students can take the programme free of charge, but no certificate will be given on completion of the programme.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY | **Auction Notice No. 04/2020-21**

E-Auction Program for the Month of September-2020

All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auctions being conducted for sale of scrap material.

E-Auction Dates	Jurisdiction of lots	Contact No.
8, 15 & 26 September 2020	Dy. CMM/GSD/Gorakhpur	0551-2283558
9, 16 & 24 September 2020	Dy. CMM/GSD/Izzatnagar	0581-2518138
11, 18 & 30 September 2020	Sr. DMM/Lucknow	0522-2233113
9, 16 & 24 September 2020	Sr. DMM/Varanasi	0542-2224819
8, 22 & 29 September 2020	Sr. DMM/Izzatnagar	0581-2518104

Type of material: Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, condemned Rolling Stock (Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring, Non-Ferrous such as copper, Aluminium, Batteries etc.
In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction September be continued on the subsequent days also.
Details of Auction catalogue, Procedure and Conditions of Sale are available at www.ireps.gov.in.
This auction programme is also available on North Eastern Railway website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in.

CPRO/S-17 — Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955 — Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

KHANDELWAL EXTRACTIONS LIMITED
CIN: L24241UP1981PLC005282
REGD. OFFICE: 51/47 NAYAGANJ, KANPUR - 208 001

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 Months ended 30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	Previous Year ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Corresponding 3 Months ended 30.06.2019 (Unaudited)
1.	Total income from operations	-	-	-
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(7.51)	(54.78)	(13.14)
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(7.51)	(54.78)	(13.14)
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(7.51)	(43.28)	(13.14)
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	(7.51)	(42.56)	(13.14)
6.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs. 10/- per share)	85.01	85.01	85.01
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	116.89	-
8.	Basic & Diluted Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (For continuing and discontinuing operations) (Not Annualised) (in Rs.)	(0.88)	(5.01)	(1.55)

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full formats of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website: www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website: www.khandelwalextractions.com.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Dinesh Khandelwal
Director (Finance & CFO)
DIN: 00161831

Place: KANPUR
Date: 14.08.2020

CISH developing solar light traps for pest management

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Solar light traps are being developed at CISH (Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture) for pest management, especially for orchards.

CISH director Shailendra Rajan said that in view of the current emphasis on non-chemical and environment-friendly options for managing crop pests, solar light traps can be termed appropriate technology. Principal scientist at CISH HS Singh said there are two sources of energy in these traps.

"One is electricity and another is solar light. The prevailing electric-based light traps in the market need to charge the battery on a daily basis; many a time there is no electricity and many farmers do have domestic electricity but not at their farms. The institute has given emphasis on solar light-based traps as they have added advantage of very little or no maintenance and ease of carrying and installation," he said.

He added that most traps have insect collection trays with water or glue boards which need to be emptied daily or the glue board replaced regularly. "The institute has provisioned an instant insect killing system in the trap design which does not need daily emptying of the insect collection tray. Most solar light-based traps do not have an auto switch on/off mechanism. The present prototype works during active periods of pest abundance, say up to 12 nights, afterwards it gets switched off which prevents the beneficial insect from attraction and death in the trap. The trap also has an auto start mechanism on sunsets and gets switched off in case there is rain or heavy wetting to avoid short-circuiting. The trap has dual wavelength bulbs which get switched on and off at defined intervals to attract pests of different orders," he added.

Head of Plant Protection HS Singh has developed various models of such trap prototypes which are under evaluation. "The trap attracts borers, leaf folder, white grub, beetles, leaf webber, semi-loopers, cutworm, DBM, leaf miner, hairy caterpillar and many other insect pests. Once perfected, these traps will be available shortly for farmers in the region," CISH director Shailendra Rajan said.

लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश

कुप्रशासन — प्रदेश को भ्रष्टाचार/कुप्रशासन मुक्त बनाने हेतु जनता से अपील — भ्रष्टाचार

मंत्रियों, विधायकों व अन्य लोकसेवकों के विरूद्ध भ्रष्टाचार, पद के दुरूपयोग व कुप्रशासन के सम्बन्ध में प्राप्त होने वाले परिवादों (अभिकथन/शिकायत) को ग्रहण करके लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश के द्वारा उसका निराकरण कराते हुए उत्तरदायी मंत्रियों, विधायकों और लोकसेवकों के विरूद्ध कार्यवाही हेतु संस्तुतियाँ सक्षम प्राधिकारी (मुख्यमंत्री/मुख्य सचिव) को प्रेषित की जाती है और वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन माननीय श्री राज्यपाल को प्रस्तुत किया जाता है।

अधिकारिता

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन के समस्त विभाग, सरकारी कम्पनियाँ, सहायक सरकारी कम्पनियाँ, निगम, सोसाइटीज व परिषदें (जो अधिसूचित की गई हों) से संबंधित परिवादों (अभिकथन/शिकायत) के मामलें तथा सेवानिवृत्त देयकों के भुगतान, मृतक आश्रित सेवायोजन, विकास प्राधिकरण एवं आवास विकास परिषद, निराश्रित एवं वृद्ध महिलाओं के पेंशन, अनुसूचित जाति व जनजातियों के आरक्षण (सेवा) संबंधी मामलें।

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य के समस्त अधिकारीगण (धारा–22 में वर्णित न्यायाधीश/न्यायिक अधिकारी, महालेखाकार आदि को छोड़कर) एवं कर्मचारियों के साथ–साथ मंत्रीगण (मुख्यमंत्री को छोड़कर), विधायक, विधान परिषद सदस्य, महापौर महापालिका, अध्यक्ष, नगर पालिका परिषद, नगर पंचायतों तथा अध्यक्ष, जिला पंचायत (ग्राम प्रधान को छोड़कर) भी सम्मिलित हैं के विरूद्ध परिवाद (अभिकथन/शिकायत)। शासकीय लोक सेवकों के सेवानिवृत्त/सेवाकाल में मृत्यु से संबंधित देयकों के प्रकरण से संबंधित परिवाद जो कि शिकायत की श्रेणी में आते हैं प्रस्तुत किये जा सकते हैं।

अभिकथन/शिकायत की प्रक्रिया

प्रदेश के लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त को अभिकथन तथा शिकायत सम्बन्धी परिवाद निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर तीन प्रतियों में (यथासंभव राजभाषा हिन्दी में) टंकित कराकर धारा–9(2) के अनुसार नोटरी शपथ पत्र एवं धारा–9(3) के अनुसार परिवाद, शपथ पत्र, संलग्नक/अनुलग्नक का सत्यापन परिवादी स्वयं के द्वारा निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार करके एवं अभिकथन रूपी परिवादों में रू 2,000/– प्रतिभूति निर्धारित लेखा शीर्षक "8443 सिविल निक्षेप–00–103 प्रतिभूति निक्षेप–00–00" के अन्तर्गत भारतीय स्टेट बैंक अथवा कोषागार में चालान के माध्यम से जमा करके मूलप्रति सहित प्रस्तुत किया जा सकता है। साथ ही यह भी स्पष्ट किया जाता है कि यदि प्राप्त परिवाद मिथ्या/फर्जी पाया जाता है तो ऐसे परिवादियों पर माननीय लोक आयुक्त द्वारा रू 50,000/– तक की धनराशि का हर्जाना लगाया जा सकता है एवं प्रतिभूति की धनराशि जब्त की जा सकती है।

नोट– राज्य सरकार द्वारा ई–पेमेन्ट से भुगतान किये जाने के कारण, परिवादी अपना राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक का बचत खाता संख्या, बैंक व शाखा का नाम, जिला एवं आई0एफ0एस0सी0 कोड के साथ–साथ पासबुक की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रति, परिवाद दाखिल करते समय प्रतिभूति की धनराशि के मूल चालान के साथ उपलब्ध करायेंगे तभी उनको प्रतिभूति की धनराशि वापस किया जाना सम्भव होगा। परिवादी को अपना पूरा नाम, पता, मोबाइल नम्बर/ई–मेल के साथ अंकित करना चाहिए।

वर्तमान पता–टी0सी0–46/वी–1 विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ–226010 अथवा
पोस्ट बाक्स नम्बर–172, जी0पी0ओ0, लखनऊ, **फैक्स नं0** – (0522) 2306647
फोन नं0 – (0522) 2728660, 2306717, 2728865, 2306088, 2306160 (पी0बी0 एक्स), 2306412
Web site - www.lokayukta.up.nic.in, E-mail :- lokayukta@hotmail.com

सचिव, लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ

स्वतन्त्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
मा. प्रधानमंत्री

कानपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मा. मुख्यमंत्री (उ.प्र.)

अनाधिकृत/अतिरिक्त निर्माण के नियमितीकरण हेतु

शमन योजना 2020

में 21.07.2020 से 20.01.2021 के मध्य
ऑनलाइन / ऑफलाइन आवेदन कर अपने अनाधिकृत अथवा अतिरिक्त निर्माण को नियमित करा सकते है

शमन योजना 2020 के लाभ

इस योजना के क्रियान्वयन से मामलों के अभियोजन एवं ध्वस्तीकरण में निहित मुकदमेबाजी के फलस्वरूप जनसामान्य एवं संस्था दोनों के ही बहुमूल्य समय, धन एवं शक्ति का ह्रास तथा जनता को होने वाली मानसिक यंत्रणा से निजात मिलेगी।

शमन अवश्य करायें अन्यथा ...

प्राधिकरण द्वारा अनाधिकृत निर्माण के विरूद्ध कठोर कार्यवाही/ध्वस्तीकरण की कार्यवाही की जायेगी।

विकल्प आपके हाथ में है।

शीघ्र आवेदन कर योजना का लाभ उठायें

पंजीकरण पुस्तिका एच.डी.एफ.सी. बैंक की समस्त शाखाओं से मूल्य रू. 100/- में प्राप्त करें।

समस्त नियम व शर्ते विवरण पुस्तिका एवं प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.kdaindia.co.in पर उपलब्ध है।

डॉ. गुडाकेश शर्मा, अपर सचिव — एस. पी0 सिंह, सचिव — डॉ. ब्रह्म देव राम तिवारी, उपाध्यक्ष

Helpline : 0512-2556292, 2557853 • Website: www.kdaindia.co.in

Maya questions Centre, Bihar on Assembly polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati sought to know on Friday whether the Union and Bihar governments wanted to hold the upcoming Assembly elections on time or not.

In a tweet on Friday, Mayawati posted, "The plight of lakhs of poor families affected by coronavirus and floods due to government neglect and lack of relief is in national discussions. Angry people in Bihar are holding MLA hostage, yet the government remains indifferent and irresponsible which is extremely sad and inhuman." In another tweet, the BSP supremo said, "It is strange that such government maladjustment and ignorance of public interest at every level in Bihar is happening at a time when Assembly elections are very close. In such a situation, the question arises in the minds of the people as to whether the Centre and Bihar government have decided not to hold Assembly elections there on time?"

3-day e-training

Lucknow (PNS): National Botanical Research Institute is organising a 3-day e-training on home gardening from August 26. Chief scientist Pramod Shirke said those interested can apply for e-training. "Registration can be done from the institute. Registration charges will be Rs 100 per candidate. The training will be conducted via Google meet platform.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद मुबारकपुर, आजमगढ़।

संख्या 400/न0पा0प0 मु0 वर्ष 2020–21/ दिनांक 13 अगस्त 2020

15 अगस्त 2020 "स्वतंत्रता दिवस" की वर्षगाँठ के अवसर पर नगर पालिका परिषद मुबारकपुर अपने समस्त नागरिकों का हार्दिक अभिन्दन एवं स्वागत करती है तथा इस वैश्विक महामारी कोविड–19 संकट के दौरान अपने नागरिकों से निम्न निवेदन करती है।

01– सोसल डिस्टेसिंग का पालन करें।
02– मास्क का उपयोग करें, बार–बार नाक, कान, ऑख व चेहरे को न छुयें।
03– कोरोना वायरस से न घबरायें, खुद बचे और सबको बचायें।
04– खाँसी, बुखार एवं श्वास लेने में तकलीफ हो तो तुरन्त सरकारी डाक्टर से परामर्श लें अथवा स्वास्थ विभाग के टोल–फ्री हेल्पलाईन पर कॉल करें।
05– जन्म एवं मृत्यु का पंजीकरण अवश्यक करायें।
06– जल ही जीवन है, जल का अनावश्यक दुरूपयोग न करें, टोटियां खुली न छोड़ें।
07– प्रकाश बिन्दुओं को जलता हुआ पाये जाने पर तत्काल नगर पालिका को सूचित करें।
08– साफ सफाई में सहयोग करें तथा नगर पालिका द्वारा कूड़ा उठवाने के बाद कूड़ा सड़क पर न फेंके।
09– सार्वजनिक पोखरी/गढही, सरकारी जमीन पर अतिक्रमण न करें।
10– कोरोना के मरीज कोरेन्टाईन में रहे, इधर उधर न घूमें, कन्टेनमेन्ट जोन का पालन करें।

मा० सभासदगण

(राजपति बैस)
अधिशासी अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद
मुबारकपुर, आजमगढ़।

हा0 अब्दुल मजीद
अध्यक्ष प्रतिनिधि

(करीमुन्निसा)
अध्यक्ष
नगरपालिका परिषद
मुबारकपुर, आजमगढ़।

(नरेन्द्र सिंह)
अपर जिलाधिकारी
(प्रशासन)
आजमगढ़।

(राजेश कुमार)
जिलाधिकारी
आजमगढ़।

कार्यालय आदर्श नगर पंचायत चन्दौली, जनपद – चन्दौली

स्वतंत्रता दिवस के राष्ट्रीय पर्व पर नगर पंचायत चन्दौली अपने नागरिकों का हार्दिक अभिनन्दन करती है तथा उनसे निम्न अपेक्षाएं करती है।

एक नया सवेरा लायेंगे,
नगर पंचायत चन्दौली को स्वच्छ और सुन्दर बनायेंगे।

1– पर्यावरण को स्वच्छ बनाये रखने हेतु वृक्ष लगाये एवं वृक्षों की देखभाल करें।
2– पालीथीन का प्रयोग न करें, ताकि इससे उत्पन्न होने वाली बीमारी से बचा जा सके।
3– खुले मे शौच न करें, शौचालय का प्रयोग करें। खुले में शौच करते पकड़े जाने पर 500 रु0 का जुर्माना का प्राविधान है।
4– कोरोना वायरस महामारी (कोविड–19) से बचाव हेतु जारी निर्देशों का पालन करें।
5– कोरोना वायरस से बचाव हेतु आरोग्य सेतु एप डाउनलोड करें तथा लोगों को भी इसे डाउनलोड करने हेतु प्रेरित करें।
6– प्रकाश स्तम्भों को क्षति न पहुचायें।
7– नगर के विकास में अपना बहुमूल्य सुझाव देवे तथा विकास में सहयोग करें।

1. श्री रविशंकर, 2 श्रीमती अर्चना 3. श्री उपेन्द्र तिवारी, 4. श्री रामन्द्र 5. श्रीमती कृष्णावती देवी, 6. श्री अजीत कुमार 7. श्री अशोक, 8. श्रीमती सीमा देवी, 9. श्री विजय जायसवाल 10. श्रीमती प्रियंका देवी, 11. श्री नागेन्द्र सिंह, 12 श्री महेश कश्यप 13. श्री बबलू सोनी, 14. श्रीमती रीता देवी, 15 श्री जमशेद खाँ, 16, श्री सन्तोष कश्यप 17. श्री विजय मोर्या, 18 श्री जगत तिवारी

(राजेन्द्र प्रसाद)
अधिशासी अधिकारी
नगर पंचायत चन्दौली चन्दौली।

(समस्त सभासदगण)
नगर पंचायत चन्दौली
चन्दौली।

(रविन्द्र नाथ)
अध्यक्ष
नगर पंचायत चन्दौली।

पत्रांक :– मेमो /अ0 अ0/न0 पं0 च0/2020–21/दिनांक 14 अगस्त, 2020

Will keep fighting against injustice, says AAP MP

Lucknow (PNS): Reacting to the FIR registered against him at Gola Gokarnnath police station in Lakhimpur Kheri district for his comment on working of Yogi Adityanath government, Aam Aadmi Party leader and UP incharge, MP Sanjay Singh, on Friday said he would continue to highlight the plight of Dalits and people of other community come what may. In a press statement, Singh said he did not utter any wrong word while highlighting the malfunctioning of the state government.

"I will keep raising the issue of Subodh Singh murder case in Bulandshahr, issues related to Dalits, OBCs and minorities and I ask the state government to get me arrested," Singh said. AAP spokesman Mahendra Singh said an FIR under sections 153 (a) and 505 (2) was registered against Sanjay Singh on the complaint of one Arvind Gupta. In the complaint it was alleged that Singh criticised the state government saying Brahmins were being killed and Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma was not uttering a single word in their sympathy, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya failed to help people of Maurya community, and the President of India was not invited in the bhoomi pujan at Ayodhya is he was a Dalit.

135 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 135 new COVID-19 patients have been found in the district here on Friday. With this, the total number of cases has reached 5,267. The district also saw two more deaths increasing the toll to 96. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 106 patients recovered from home isolation and the total number of patients cured at home has increased to 1,943 while 44 recovered from the hospitals. With this, the total number of patients discharged from the hospitals has reached 1,689 while the total number of cured patients is 3,632 leaving 1,539 active patients.

Meanwhile, Union Skill Development Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey and Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey jointly flagged off the mobile lab-bike (Dhanwantari Chalant Hospital) for Varanasi through a virtual programme. On-the-spot mobile lab-bikes will provide 76 types of blood screening and telemedicine facilities by roaming in villages and cities. Corona will play an important role in providing medical counselling to people in the transition period. It has been launched under an authorized pilot project from ICMR. Earlier, this facility has been launched recently in Bhagalpur and Buxar. It is seeing positive results. Arit Chaubey conducted the programme.

Union Minister AK Choubey flagging off the mobile lab-bike for Varanasi virtually on Friday
Pioneer

On the eve of Independence Day, the security forces launched a massive checking drive at different places and in this direction, passengers were searched at Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) railway station. The passengers were also checked at Cantt bus depot. The premises of Roadways were also searched with metal detectors and sniffer dogs. Besides, the security arrangements at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur and leading temples including Kashi Vishwanath Mandir and others have also been intensified though due to corona pandemic, the day would not be celebrated in a grand manner.

At Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), a massive cleanliness drive was launched under ongoing cleanliness week. During the day, the officers and employees offered their 'Shramdaan' at Surya Sarovar, Pachhimi Bazar and Jalalipatti under the leadership of chief security officer and coordinator Mahesh Kumar. The national flag will be hoisted on Saturday at 9 am at Administrative Building by Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) SK Kashyap.

According to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh, in the first report received by 11 am during the day, as many as 59 new corona patients were found out of 2,159 reports received from Microbiology department of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Till then, the total test reports received were 68,636 and the results of 4,575 excluding 858 RTPCR samples collected a day ago are awaited. Out of these, 63,445 were negative reports while 5,191 positive. The total number of samples collected was 74,069. Earlier, among the two deaths one male aged 49 from Lakhi Chautra (Chowk) died at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH) in BHU, while a female aged 72 from Chowk died at Apex Hospital. With the addition of 13 red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 1,172 including 332 red zones. As many as two green zones have been converted into red zones again. Besides, there are 840 green zones including 12 new ones.

Earlier, this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP) comprising 10 districts of three divisions continued finding a large number of corona patients when 546 cases were detected on Thursday. Sonbhadra has become the eight district crossed the four-figure mark. For the second continuous day, the maximum number cases (138) were found in Ballia (2,755), followed by 129 in Varanasi (5,132), 50 in Azamgarh (1,990), 41 in Ghazipur (1,801), 40 in Mau (813), 38 in Chandauli (1,253), 36 in Mirzapur (1,218), 35 in Jaunpur (2,885), 31 in Sonbhadra (1,030) and eight in Bhadohi (788). Out of total 19,661 corona positive cases, 12,788 have been cured either at home isolation or discharged from hospitals and the recovery rate has increased to 65.04 per cent. However, the mortality rate remained at 1.36 per cent with the death toll to 268.

245 test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Coronavirus infection is spreading rapidly in Prayagraj. While the number of patients is increasing, the number of deaths continues daily. Due to the increase in the number of patients, now more than 200 positive cases are being reported every day. As of late Thursday night, a single day highest spike of 245 positive cases of COVID-19 have been detected in the Prayagraj, while three infected patients have also died at the SRN Hospital. A total of 4942 cases of corona have been reported so far while the death toll has surged to 88. Similarly, 81 patients were discharged from hospital after recovering while the report of 1392 samples were negative.

The three people who died due to coronavirus included an advocate of the Allahabad High Court, who is a resident of Mumfordganj. On August 8, when his report came positive, he was admitted to Covid Hospital SRN of L3. His treatment was underway but the condition remained critical. He was placed on a ventilator. He died on the fifth day. Doctors said that the advocate was suffering from BP and sugar disease.

Similarly, an 80-year-old woman also died who was corona infected. She was a resident of Colonelganj. On August 10, she was admitted to the Corona ward of SRN. A 37-year-old infected patient from Nihalpur also died from corona. He died at home. He was also suffering from other diseases.

Apart from this, two more patients died in SRN Hospital, one deceased belonged to Mirzapur and the other was a resident of Kaushambi district. These people also had many other diseases earlier.

Meanwhile, there are also some private hospitals in the corona transition period, which are not following the government guidelines at all. The Health department team conducted inspections in about half-a-dozen clinics and private hospitals in the district. During this, two hospitals were sealed due to showing negligence. At the same time, six hospitals have been issued notices for not following the infection prevention protocol and physical distancing.

The team of Health department had reached to inspect Sangeeta Clinic Jhirjiri Road and Amit Clinic in Handia. It was found that it is registered in the name of a clinic in the CMO office but is being operated as a hospital. Hence, the clinic was sealed.

Prior to this, Anand Hospital, Asha Hospital Rajapur, Sharda Hospital, Bairahna and United Diagnostic Centre Civil Lines and Shah Memorial Hospital Saidabad, Yash Raj Hospital Babuganj and Adarsh Hospital Phulpur in rural areas were also inspected.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that during inspection it was found that all these were not following the instructions issued by the government. Notices were issued to all these hospitals and a clarification has been sought in three days after improvement.

Many health workers and policemen have also been found infected among the corona positive patients who were found late on Thursday night. It also included a retired Principal of CMP Degree College and Senior Electrical Engineer of Railways.

According to Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer and district surveillance officer of COVID-19, there is a police officer of Dhumanganj police station, three employees of IFFCO and a chief technician among those found infected with coronavirus infection. Apart from this, the staff nurses of District Women's Hospital, RPF personnel, DRM office staff, Beli Hospital and Asha workers of Bahadurganj health centre, AG office and UPPSC staff, Sanskrit college teachers, employees of Anand Hospital have also been found corona positive, added Dr Sahai.

RRTs identify 4,347 symptomatic persons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) led by superintendents and medical officer-incharges of all the urban and rural areas of the district have intensified their efforts to make contact with positive patients at home isolation and if they need it necessary then recommend the patients to be shifted to the hospitals. Besides, the drive to trace the persons with contact history has also intensified by the surveillance teams in which the teachers are also involved. During the drive, 1.20 lakh ivermectin tablets were already distributed to 15,000 people in the district through the Health department as well as various other departments like supply and civil defence. Apart from the same sampling and corona investigation of 1,594 persons were done in the district on Thursday.

A total of 982 teams including 782 in rural and 200 in urban areas are working in the district. During the campaign, the teams found 2,716 persons with symptoms like corona in rural areas while they have surveyed over 32.22 lakh people living in 6.36 lakh houses while in urban areas 1,631 people were detected during survey of over 10.25 lakh people living in 2.24 lakh homes. In all, a total of 4,347 symptomatic persons have been identified so far in the rural and urban areas by survey teams and their sampling is being done on a daily basis.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma assured that there would neither be any shortage of human nor of other medical resources at any level and with the cooperation of all, every effort will be made to control the corona infection soon. He further said that the difficulties being faced during the fight against COVID-19 would be removed soon. According to him, additional human resources are being deployed in these tasks by monitoring the data feedings of sampling, contact tracing, surveillance and hospital facility and in this direction, the human resources of various departments including Revenue, Supply, Education, Municipal Corporation, Panchayat Raj, ICDS and Civil Defence are being used. Along with this, various other resources under COVID-19 are being continuously increased by negotiating at the state level and higher levels.

He further said that it is a constant effort of the district administration that alongs with proper utilisation of departmental human resources available in the district, other resources should also be increased. The participation of L-1 and L-2 hospitals in the government and private sectors has also been ensured. In recent times, for the convenience of serious and emergency patients visiting private hospitals, they have been provided antigen kits for free corona examinations. Additional beds were increased in L-3 level BHU Hospital, which now increased to 190, and two machines of high flow heated respiratory humidifiers were made available to BHU Hospital by Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal which will help in treating ICU patients. Similarly, two machines of high flow heated respiratory humidifiers have been made available in L-2 Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital by Indian Red-Cross Society. Steam vaporiser machines have also been provided for patients admitted to hospitals. Covid-treated plasma donors have been identified and now BHU has also started plasma therapy treatment in the district.

IFFCO an organisation owned by farmers

ALLAHABAD: Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, (IFFCO) is pioneer in fertiliser manufacturing not only in India but also in the world and has five plants in India engaged in manufacturing of urea and phosphatic fertilisers. IFFCO contributes about 27% phosphatic and 20% nitrogenous fertilisers demand in India. Today, IFFCO is a multi-national cooperative with its global presence in Senegal, Oman, Dubai and Jordan. Apart from its core fertiliser business IFFCO have diversified into general insurance, rural mobile telephony, commodity trading, agrochemicals & agri-input rural retail, e-commerce, food processing, organics and nutrients for urban gardening also.

All these achievements have been possible due to the dynamic and effective leadership of CEO & Managing Director Dr US Awasthi.

As COVID-19 continues to challenge food security all over the world, IFFCO has taken steps to ensure its plants remain fully operational during this period. To keep its plants open, operational and safe, IFFCO is providing workers a regular supply of sanitisers, soaps, and masks and is implementing social distancing policies across its all manufacturing units, sale points, warehouses and societies. Besides this IFFCO is distributing food packets, mask and sanitisers to migrant labourers and poor in nearby areas.

Masood Ahmad
Executive Director

In addition, IFFCO donated ₹ 25 crore to PM-CARES fund to help the Government of India in its fight against this pandemic. Also each employee of IFFCO donated one day salary to feed the poors & migrating workers.

IFFCO Phulpur Unit produced the highest ever production of 19.66 lakh MT of urea with all-time lowest energy consumption in the last financial year 2019-20. During the current financial year 2020-21, in spite of COVID-19 pandemic, Phulpur plant is operational following the guidelines of Government and meticulous planning and unit has produced around 5.43 lakh MT urea till date. Since its inception in 1981, IFFCO's Phulpur unit has produced more than 440 lakh MT of urea fertiliser.

IFFCO Phulpur unit has won many prestigious awards from various institution every year in the field of production, energy conservation, environmental conservation and Safety and in the last year 2019-20 following awards have been received.

IFFCO Phulpur unit is carrying out various community development programme / welfare programme through the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Mahila Chetna Club, and Om Kalyan Samiti in nearby villages & schools. These programmes include installation of sanitation facilities, installation of handpumps, distribution of blankets/ shawls, distribution of tricycles, organisation of free health camps, distribution of school uniform, construction of classrooms, artisan training to youth etc. During this pandemic time IFFCO Phulpur unit came forward and provided all the support to nearby villagers and migrant labourers like distribution of food packets, sanitisers and face masks.

An organisation which is owned by farmers is committed to serve the nation and farmers in particular, by producing good quality fertilisers, providing services to increase agricultural output and create safe, healthy and eco-friendly environment.

BHU, CSIR-NISTADS ink MoU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and CSIR- National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS), have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in the studies and research in different areas. The signing ceremony was organised through video link at BHU's Computer Centre and CSIR-NISTADS, Delhi, in wake of COVID-19 protocols. Dr. Neeraj Tripathi, registrar, BHU and Dr. Ranjana Agarwal, Director, CSIR-NISTADS signed the MoU.

The main areas of cooperation will be science and technology studies, quantitative science studies, science policy, technological readiness and development studies among others. The MoU provides for joint research projects, collaborative research, joint research supervision, exchange of faculty and students and joint policy studies. Addressing the programme, Dr Neeraj Tripathi said that the MoU will open new avenues for university students and researchers.

Speaking at the occasion, Prof AK Tripathi, Director, Institute of Science, BHU, said that CSIR-NISTADS can play an important role in exposing university students to CSIR technologies. Prof AS Raghuvanshi, Director, Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development and Prof SK Dubey, Director, Institute of Management Studies, also spoke on possible areas of collaboration between the two institutions.

Prof Raghuvanshi was of the view that BHU offers a massive infrastructure which may be used for CSIR technologies before exposing them to the industry or concerned stakeholders. This will benefit the scientists, researchers and students at BHU. Prof Dubey highlighted how Institute of Management Studies is contributing to government projects and evaluating many of them. He added that there are several areas where CSIR-NISTADS – BHU collaboration can be of greater impact. Prof Vivek Singh, coordinator, Computer Centre, BHU, said that BHU and CSIR-NISTADS can work together in setting up a joint centre for quantitative science studies. He added that there are many other areas where the two institutions can join hands and make a difference.

Highlighting the areas in which CSIR-NISTADS is providing its expertise, Dr Ranjana Agarwal, emphasised the policy-oriented focus of NISTADS and said that NISTADS has executed several such projects for government and international agencies. She said that the institute has a very unique library which will be of great use for students and faculty members of BHU. She said that the CSIR-NISTADS can play a key role in taking CSIR technologies to the masses and this MoU is a way to facilitate it. Prof Sujit Bhattacharya, chief scientist, NISTADS and Dr Yogesh Suman, senior principal scientist, NISTADS were also present on the occasion.

UP Board to hold HS, Inter exams in March

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Despite the non-regular academic session due to coronavirus infection, UP Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad i.e UP Board is all geared up to start the examination of High School and Intermediate from March 2021. This time examinations will not be conducted in the month of February due to corona crisis, because studies are not being regularised till now.

UP Board administration is also starting online education from August 18, students of various classes will have to watch Doordarshan's Swayamprabha channel for this. Apart from this, all competitions like sports will be held in schools, provided physical distance has to be complied with. Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad has released the annual calendar of 2021 so that the examinations of High School and Intermediate students are not delayed due to the coronavirus.

Board Secretary Divyakant Shukla has issued an order in this regard. According to the order, the UP Board 10th and 12th 2021 examinations will be held in March, while the admit cards will be issued in the first week of February or the second week. According to the order, UP Board 10th and 12th online classes will be started from August 18, 2020. Also, all the schools have been given time as of January 31 2021 to complete the course of all subjects of 10th and 12th. Strict action will be taken against schools for not completing the course by the stipulated time. In more than 27,000 secondary colleges affiliated to the UP Board, academic session has started since April but colleges are closed due to corona infection and teaching work has been affected. Five months after the session, the board administration released the academic calendar on Thursday. In this, online teaching is being started from August 18, although this study was to be held from August 1 but, two weeks time has not been available before Doordarshan. Class-wise programmes will be presented on Doordarshan's Swayambha channel and its detailed timetable will be released separately. Principals have been given the responsibility of their teachers and students to see it compulsorily, while the District Inspectors of Schools (DIoS) and Director of Joint Divisional Education (JD) will supervise it.

The board said that authorised books for teaching work have been made available in all districts. The books are also available on the Diksha portal, e-books, its link is available on the UP Board website. Students can download books. Assessment of teaching will be carried out through a WhatsApp group created by teachers.

District Inspectors of School (DIoS) will train principals through NIC technical experts and other experts to study through webinars, online tutorials or WhatsApp. Then the Principal will impart training to the teachers.

The UP Board is starting online education from August 18. Monthly examinations of various classes will be conducted in the last week of every month through online and offline. The teaching work is to be completed by January 31, 2021 in any case.

The Board has reduced the course of class 9 to 12 by 30 per cent in view of the corona infection. Remaining course studies will be conducted regularly. Presently, High School and Inter examination forms are being filled and registration is going on in classes 9 and 11.

The Board will start the practical examinations of various classes from the first or second week of February 2021. The pre-board will be organised in the third and fourth week of February. Home exams of class 9 and 11 will be conducted in the third and fourth week of February. At the same time, the Board's High School and Inter examination will be conducted in the month of March and April. The upcoming academic session will start from April 2021.

Board Secretary Divyakant Shukla said that in the academic calendar, it has been directed to conduct sports competitions in colleges, only physical distance will be required to be complied with.

Ganga starts rising again in Varanasi

VARANASI (PNS): After remaining steady for a couple of days, the water level in river Ganga has started rising, once again. Though the river is still flowing far below the warning level, the situation may turn grim within a few days if the intensity of rising trend increases as it was seen several times in the recent past. During the last few years, the city and its adjoining areas had seen flood havoc several times and continuation of uptrend may pose possibilities of flood in low-lying areas. In this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP) several rivers like Ghagara and Sarju had already caused a lot of damages in some of the districts including Ballia, Mau and Azamgarh.

In the city, as per the report of Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), on Friday morning, though the river Ganga was constant at upstream Phaphamau, it has seen rising trend after Sangam (confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and invisible Saraswati) in Prayagraj, indicating that the major water in the river is coming from Yamuna side because all the places, the river has seen rising trend, right from upstream Allahabad to downstream Ballia including Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. This rising trend also indicates the good intensity in the rising trend though as per record, during the last 24 hours, the water level was increased by 15 centimetres, means 0.5 cms per hour.

As the water level in river Gomti has also started rising both at upstream Sultanpur and Jaunpur and downstream Maighat, the heartbeats of residents of four villages in Daab area, about 25-30 kms from here, have started increasing because the area is surrounded by river Ganga and Gomti near its confluence at Kaithi. During the floods, the area often cut off all the links from the mainstream. In the city, the river was at 62.92 metres in the morning against 70.26 metres warning level. Normally when the river level rises above 69-70 metres, the river Varuna starts reverse flow from its confluence at northern parts of the city. Due to rising trends, the water has already entered several low-lying temples at different ghats submerging the idols.

According to reports received from adjoining districts, the minister-incharge of Ballia Anil Rajbhar has ordered for cancellation of all the leaves of the officers. He recently visited there and inspected the flood-affected areas in Ballia, which separates the state from Bihar and is surrounded by three major rivers.

Police clamping down against Atique, Ashraf

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Police have started clamping down against former MP Atique Ahmed and his younger brother Khalid Azim alias Ashraf, identified as mafia. Police are now identifying Ashraf's illegal assets. The seizure action will be taken soon under the Gangster Act. The cops are now gathering information about the flat at Okhla in Delhi and the piece of land at Kaushambi district.

Police have so far come to know during the investigation that Atique and Ashraf have 16 firms under different names. Someone's director is Atique and someone's Ashraf. Their close aides are also involved in it as the members..Crores of rupees worth of assets have been made in many places in the name of these firms. Atique Ahmed's 13 properties in Prayagraj city have been discovered that are believed to have been acquired through crime.

The process of confiscation is underway. Police officials also said that some plots have been detected in Ashraf's name in Kaushambi's Poramufti and Pipri village, which is being verified. Sources said that Atique had owned a flat in Okhla, Delhi. Details of this are also being collected. SP City Dinesh Singh said that verification is being done with the team of Revenue department in this connection.

Meanwhile, IG KP Singh has instructed the officials concerned to speed up the ongoing action against mafia Atique Ahmed, former Block Pramukh Dilip Mishra, corporator Bachha Pasi and history-sheeter Rajesh Yadav. On Friday evening, he held a meeting with the team of SSP, SP City, SP trans-Ganga, SP trans-Yamuna, CO, investigating officer and Revenue department at the Range Office.

During this, he laid emphasis on the confiscation of illegal assets, opening of history-sheets, better advocacy of cases and cancellation of licenses of the firearms of the goons. The IG said that nodal officers have been appointed to take action against the mafia and their gang members.

Incessant rain plays havoc in Kanpur, exposes civic bodies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The incessant rains for two days have exposed the working of Kanpur Nagar Nigam, Jal Nigam and Jal Kal Vibhag, which failed to do anything to prevent the city from becoming an island and remaining waterlogged for the past two days.

Several people have been killed either in house collapses, or have been electrocuted or got drowned in deep stagnant water on roads. Properties worth crores of rupees have been damaged on account of water entering houses and shops leading to massive damage.

The tall claims of the KNN for its preparedness for monsoon have proved to bse hollow like in the past.

Mayor Pramila Pandey toured txhe city on a tractor and said a probe would be ordered and action taken against the erring authorities.

The heavy rains led to virtual collapse of the power and water supply in the city and lakhs of people did not get electricity and water.

The stagnant water due to choked sewers and drains flowed into houses and even the beds in houses were under water once the rain and sewer water entered the houses.

Ironically due to the breakdown of power supply, the people were unable to save their belonging from being damaged in rain water gushing into their homes.

The Dadanagar Industrial Area suffered damages worth crores as the goods lying in the warehouses, especially chemicals and drugs, got damaged.

Similar was the condition in the Panki industrial site where the rain and sewer water flowed into the houses and godowns, damaging good and giving people no time to remove the goods to safer places.

President of Provincial Industries Association, Manoj Banka, lashed out at the administration and the KNN which, he said, failed to do anything to prevent waterlogging in the entire city.

He said most of the manholes were choked and the sewer water flowed on surfaces and entered factories and godowns.

Meanwhile, roads have dangerously caved in at over one dozen places in the city as a result of which several trauma cases were reported. With hospitals not admitting patients, the injured had a tough time in even getting first aid.

The VIP Road and Gwaltoli areas were under 7-foot water. Uprooted trees were being removed to allow the smooth movement on the roads.

District Magistrate BR Tiwari said that a sum of Rs 4 lakh was being given to the kin of each deceased.

PCV vaccination drive launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

On the directive of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state government has launched a Child Health, Nutrition Month in an attempt to check pneumococcal pneumonia deaths in Uttar Pradesh.

Under the drive, all children will be vaccinated free with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV 13) along with a dose of Vitamin A.

This drive will continue for full month to bring down the death rate among infants and children due to pneumococcal pneumonia.

The chief minister has also advised parents to ensure they get their chidden vaccinated at the earliest.

This was stated by Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra while launching the PCV vaccination drive on Friday.

He said the vaccine was available at all primary health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs) and thus the onus rested on the parents to avail themselves of the facility.

Dr Mishra said around 27,000 children under the age of five died of pneumonia in UP alone each year and thus it made UP the biggest contributor to all pneumonia deaths in India. He said UP was home to 2.9 per cent of all pneumonia deaths in the world.

The CMO said pneumococcal disease was caused by bacteria and could lead to infections in the lungs, blood, and brain. He said pneumococcal disease caused health problems in children younger than five years of age and this included meningitis, blood infections and ear infections.

The CMO said the greatest risk for infection was for children younger than two, adults over 65, people with certain medical conditions, and cigarette smokers. He said PCV vaccine prevented the disease in both children and adults.

Dr Mishra said standard guidelines had been issued and thus under this drive all healthy children younger than age two should get four doses of the vaccine and the first at two months of age, repeat dose at four months of age and third dose at six months of age and then repeat dose at 12 to 15 months of age.

He said the vaccine was also given to people who were 64 years and above and adults with certain medical conditions.

The CMO said this was also a communicable disease caused by a bacteria and caused ear infections and could lead to more serious infections in the long run. He said it also caused serious infections of lungs, blood and brain and spinal cord.

Dr Mishra said from the time the vaccine was made available, the death rate had come down by 88 per cent. He added that treatment of pneumococcal infections with penicillin and other drugs was not as effective as it used to be, because some strains were resistant to these drugs and thus it made prevention through vaccination even more important.

The CMO said PCV13 protected against 13 types of pneumococcal bacteria. He added that children with similar conditions should also get a second type of pneumococcal vaccine, the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23).

He said once the child was given the vaccine, he or she could develop mild reaction like tenderness or swelling at the site of the shot, mild fever, fussiness, tiredness, poor appetite and vomiting and this was temporary.

Slain Sanjit's kin stage protest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The family members of slain lab technician Sanjit Yadav on Friday suddenly proceeded to Lucknow on foot to seek justice from Chief Minister Yogi Aditya Nath.

When the police stopped them from marching ahead on the service road, they sat on dharna and staged demonstration there. After Sanjit's kin reached Barra village, police force from Janata Nagar outpost also reached there. When the police attempted to stop them from marching ahead, they along with supporters holding placards raised slogans demanding death sentence for Sanjit's killers.

As they continued to march towards Lucknow, the circle officer of Govind Nagar made a futile attempt to stop them near Barra bypass crossing. Police force from Naubasta and other police stations was also called on the spot and the cops stopped them on the highway service road. However, Sanjit's father Chaman Singh along with other family members and supporters sat on the highway, blocking the traffic.

Family membes of slain lab technician Sanjit Yadav proceeded on footmarch for Lucknow on Friday. Pioneer.

After some time, Superintendent of Police (East) Raj Kumar Agarwal along with Circle Officer Geetanjali and Additional City Magistrate RC Verma reached there and sought two days' time for fixing their meeting with the chief minister.

Subsequently, they called off the dharna and handed over a memorandum to the ACM.

The traffic was restored on the highway around 1 pm.

Akhand Bharat Sankalp Divas organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the aegis of different religious organisations, Akhand Bharat Sankalp Divas was organised at Kidwai Nagar here on Friday.

Hitherto, this programme used to be organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal every year on the eve of Independence Day.

The programme commenced after paying tributes to the Bajrang Dal's Hari Dixit. The speakers also recalled his pioneer role during Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Speaking on the occasion, former spokesperson of VHP, Satish Bajpai, recalled the works and lifestyle of Hari Dixit and described his contribution to the Ram Janmabhoomi movement in detail.

He regretted that the Ram temple trustees did not recall the contribution and sacrifice of Hari Dixit during the August 5 bhoomi pujan ceremony held in Ayodhya.

Akhand Bharat Sankalp Divas' programme organised in Kidwai Nagar on Friday. Pioneer

Chief guest Brijesh Pandey, retired principal of Shri Ramlala Inter College, said the country's religious and secular organisations would continue to fight for reviving the country's glorious past by organising Akhand Bharat Sankalp Divas on August 14 every year.

The proceedings were conducted by Satish Bajpai.

Prominent activists present on the occasion included Som Nath Tewari, Rajesh Tripathi, Krishna Gopal Awasthi, Anshu Shukla, Virendra Singh, Mukund Gupta and Chandra Shekhar Pandey. Social distancing protocol was followed during the programme.

Covid recovery rate improves with home isolation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

From the time home isolation has been allowed, the rate of people getting cured after being infected by coronavirus has slightly shot up after a very long time.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra claimed that till date, 52.91 COVID-19 patients had recovered in the entire district. He said the slight improvement rate was certainly due to home isolation.

The CMO said a record number of 510 COVID-19 patients were cured and discharged from the entire district hospitals in the last 24 hours.

Dr Mishra said 381 coronavirus positive people placed in home isolation had completed their quarantine and were quite healthy.

Giving the total figures, he said till date 3,057 people were cured in hospital while 2,027 people had completed their home isolation.

He said recently it was viewed that there was a substantial improvement in home isolation cure rate.

However, he could not present the death rate figures of the state as even today between 10 and 15 people are dying on an average every day.

Meanwhile, associate professor in the GSVM Medical College respiratory medicine department has issued caution to diabetics to refrain from moving out of their homes as it has been observed that there is a direct damage of lungs in diabetics.

He said in case of diabetes, it had also been observed that despite giving oxygen on a high pressure through high flow nasal cannula, there was not much improvement in such COVID-19 patients and thus they were placed on VPAP and finally ventilators.

He advised diabetics, especially senior citizens, to refrain from moving out and visiting public places. He said the immunity of diabetics was already compromised and thus they were susceptible to infections.

305 more test positive

KANPUR (PNS): Kanpur Nagar reported 305more coronavirus positive cases on Friday.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said on Friday that with 305 more people testing positive for coronavirus infection in the last 24 hours, 9,806 confirmed cases had been reported from the city so far. He said with 139 COVID-19 patients being discharged from hospitals in the last 24 hours, 3,196 coronavirus infected people had been cured in the city and at present 4,200 active cases were undergoing treatment. The CMO said six more COVID-19 deaths were reported in the city, taking the toll to 309. He said a total of 2642 samples were sent for testing.

CSJMU offers a course in Happiness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Keeping in mind the growing number of depression cases in students because of anxiety and examination pressure, the Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU) in Kanpur has started a certificate course in Happiness which is the first of its kind.

CSJMU Institute of Health Sciences incharge, Dr Praveen Katiyar, said the three-month, part time course would have 30 seats and candidates who have passed 10+2 or its equivalent examination in any discipline with minimum 45 per cent marks for general and 40 per cent marks for SC/ST would be eligible for admission.

The classes will run on Saturday or Sunday or on holidays with a minimum 48 teaching hours.

The course fee is Rs 8,950 for three months and August 17 is the last date for registration in the programme.

'Conduct joint drive to check overloading'

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM SK Patel has directed the Transport and Mining departments to conduct a joint drive to check overloading. He gave such directions during a meeting held to review the collection through direct taxes and non-tax revenue at Collectorate on Thursday. Expressing concern over poor revenue collection in July he asked the departments concerned to make a strategy for achieving the targets. He asked the tehsildars to act upon the recovery certificates issued by courts. He asked the revenue staff to realise the dues with same spirit whether they were under main dues or miscellaneous. He made it clear that the departments like mandi, nagar palika, mining, electricity, stamp etc. related with revenue to coordinate properly with the revenue department to collect the dues on priority and achieve more than the target. Reviewing other points the DM directed the officials to dispose the matters related with the IGRS timely. The meeting was attended by the ADMs, SDMs, tehsildars, EOs of Nagar Palika and other officials concerned.

GANJA RECOVERED: The Madihan police recovered 500 kg ganja worth ₹30 lakh on Friday. On inputs from revenue intelligence that ganja was being transported in a truck, which had been detained at Rajgarh police oupost in connection with an accident case, the district police launched a search. They found a hidden cabin in the truck and recovered 500 kg ganja from there. The truck owner, Rahul Kumar, was its driver too who was carrying it from Odisha to Hathras. The police lodged an FIR against the owner. The entire operation was led by CO Hitendra Krishna with the help of local police.

RESCUED: Under the joint operation of fire brigade and district police eight persons who had been stranded at a hillock of Bokaria picnic spot under Dehat Kotwali were rescued on Thursday. Eight villagers of Taand under Dehat Kotwali police station had gone to Bokaria Fall for a picnic during day hours when they surrounded by water due to rainfall. The rescue operation was led by the SP.

PRESENTED: In view of Covid-19 SP Dr Dharmveer Singh face shields to 88 police personnel at Police Lines. Addressing a meeting he urged the staff to follow Covid-19 protocol and perform their duties with safety. He said that sanitiser, mask and gloves should be adopted as a part of life.

CONDOLED: Congress workers condoled the sudden demise of its party spokesman Rajiv Tyagi. Addressing a a meeting former MLA Bhagwati Prasad Chaudhary said Tyagi's death was as irreparable loss for the party. It concluded with a two minute silence being observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Party district secretary Manish Dubey, Achchey Khan and Rajbhar Dubey also condoled his death.

SIX BOOKED: The Jigna police booked six persons under Goonda Act. As per the police, in order to control law and order Jawahar Bind, Prem Shankar Prajapati and Sahaai Bind, residents of Dubaha village, Mahendra Yadav of Kothara Mishran village, Pramod of Yadavpur village and Bhola Bind of Bauta Ganeshganj village, have been booked under Goonda act. Meanwhile the Adalhaat police was informed morning that Suresh Yadav (30), son of Ganga Ram Yadav, a resident of Panchengada village had fallen into the siphon of Patharaura canal along with his bicycle and died. They reached the spot and took the body into custody for completing legal formalities.

Meanwhile the father of a 14-year-old girl had lodged an FIR in Dehat Kotwali that a person raped his daughter when she had gone to field. After registering the case the police swung into action and took the accused in custody. The spot was visited by the ASP, CO and SHO. Till filing of the report the police was busy in investigating the case and gathering the evidence. Meanwhile Jamalpur police registered an FIR against two youths for raping two girls. After the FIR the police took both the accused into custody. In the application the complainant had alleged that two youths of the village had raped his daughter and niece when they had gone to field. The authorities, including ASP, CO and SO, visited the place.

'Clean my office day' observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the ongoing nationwide week-long special cleanliness campaign being launched on the directive of Railway Board, Varanasi division of NER observed 'Clean my office day' on the fourth day of the drive on Thursday. During the day selected stations, coaching depots and various main offices were cleaned properly, maintaining Covid-19 guidelines, including social distancing and use of masks and sanitiser. In the division special targets are given for different days on the instructions of DRM Vijay Kumar Panjiar and the campaign is being observed under the auspices of Engineering, Mechanical and Medical departments. During the campaign Ghazipur City, Ballia, Mau, Azamgarh, Deoria Sadar, Prayagraj Rambagh, Siwan and many other stations apart from Chhapra and Ballia depots, entire buildings, including offices and store rooms, were extensively cleaned, sanitised and disinfected. The purpose of the drive was to provide hygienic conditions to the employees to help them do better work. This special campaign is being observed on the occasion of Independence Day to cover all small and big stations, railway tracks, offices, circulating areas, platforms, urinals, toilets, store rooms, drinking water booths, health units, loco sheds, carriage and wagons and railway residential colonies.

Covid Kavch machine installed

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

In an innovative effort Covid Kavach machine has been installed at Central Workshop of NCL at Jayant to protect employees from Covid-19. This Covid Kavach machine is made of an advanced technique in which the body temperature of the person is automatically recorded and the person can also clean hands with a foot-operated sanitiser machine. At present the machine has been installed in the workshop only but it will be installed at other places soon. Even in the past many innovative experiments have been done by the Central Workshop, Jayant to protect its staff from Covid-19, including installation of automatic hand sanitiser and handwash machines operated by foot. Meanwhile under the auspices of Kalyani Mahila Samiti of NCL Block B project, a unique effort was made to provide an opportunity of income to poor families struggling for employment and livelihood. On the initiative of its chairperson Shashi Duhan, a group of women were trained to cultivate marigolds in Semuyar gram panchayat areas and later they were given 2,000 saplings which were planted by them in fields. For helping these poor women for better marketing of their products, the women's wing office-bearers also made contacts with some vendors so that they can buy flowers at a fair price. The Samiti members are hopeful that the initiative will also boost cultivation of flowers in the surrounding villages. The village sarpanch has also assured these women of providing appropriate assistance. Earlier Surabhi Mahila Samiti of Amalori project of NCL distributed 50 pieces of tarpaulins to the residents of Muheir village under the leadership of samiti's chief Poonam Kumar. During the recent rains many houses in the village started to leak causing a lot of inconvenience to the residents. The tarpaulins were given to them to prevent leakage of rainwater from rooftops. Besides, the women's wing of Kakri project of NCL led by its chairperson Sunita Agrawal distributed sarees to 20 poor women of Kahuwa Nala locality under Audi gram panchayat.

Tragic end

CORRESPONDENT ■ MAHOBA

A youth died on the spot when the motorcycle on which he was was going to Jetpur from Mudhari along with his companion suddenly skidded on the way. According to a report, Munna Ahirwar (30), son of Mangal, a resident of Mudhari village under the Kulpahad police station, was going to Jetpur on a motorbike along with Pritam Sen. However his motorbike skidded due to slippery road as a result of which he was seriously injured and died on the spot. On getting information his family members took him to the CHC where the doctors on duty declared him dead. Police got the *panchnama* filled and has taken necessary action for the post-mortem examination.

2 held for theft

LAKHIMPUR KHERI: The police arrested two thieves and recovered stolen goods and weapons from their possession. SO Sunit Kumar said that the thieves had stolen the goods worth lakhs of rupees from the house of Ram Gopal Varma, a resident of Kiratapur village.

30-year-old man's body recovered

CORRESPONDENT ■ HAMIRPUR

The body of a 30-year-old man was found lying on the road near an electricity pole. The body of Moolchand alias Mullu, son of Harisingh Rajput, a resident of Mahera village, was found lying on the road just about 30 metres away from his house. His father, Harisingh, said that Moolchand had slept in his room. Around 5 am Rajaram and Kshatrapal who were going towards the forest found Moolchand's naked body lying there and informed him about it. The deceased had a minor bruise on the back side of his head which had caused little bleeding but there were no injuries on any other part of his body. Harisingh said that the deceased was the eldest of his four sons who did agricultural work in the village and grazed his animals. He said his third son, Rajkumar, was married, and worked as a labourer in HP while other three were unmarried. Harisingh said that he had heard dogs barking around midnight but he did not any pay attention to it. Moolchand's mobile phone and clothes were found lying on the bed in the house. His family feared that Moolchand had been murdered by some unknown persons who then dumped his body. Police had sent it for an autopsy. However, Bewar police station incharge Akhilesh Kumar said that the matter seemed suspicious and added that the situation would become clear after getting the autospy report.

SEIZED: The Bewar police arrested four accused with a large quantity of ganja. Bewar police station incharge Akhilesh Kumar said that around 4 am on Thursday he was tipped off by an informer that the accused, Rampal and Ramkaran, who were accused of running an illegal gutkha factory which was unearthed in Nurea village recently, were present near Bharkhari Mod. When S-I Yogesh Kumar, along with constables, Sunil Kumar and Shivdatt reached near Barkhari Mod on Maudaha road they spotted a black Bolero and a Swift car and stopped them. They found over 10 kg of ganja in Swift car and over four kg of it in two black packets in Bolero. The accused, Rampal Singh, son of Jagatpal and Ramkaran Singh, residents of Imilia under Muskara police station, and two others, Rajvendra Singh, son of Baburam of Biwar town, and Sunil Kumar, son of Lallu Shukla of Imilia, were arrested. However, Deepu Pandey of Gaharauli under the Muskara police station managed to flee. Police sent the four accused to jail. Meanwhile on information regarding sale of ganja in Maudaha police station area SP had directed the CO and inspector incharge for necessary action. On being informed that a person was standing near Mohalla Nai Basti Upros close to Bedi culvert with ganja S-I Devendra Singh and constable Shailesh Singh were sent there. The team arrested him with about 14 kg of ganja. The arrested accused was identified as Mohammad Imran of Fattu Baba town under Maudaha police station.

LUCKNOW | SATURDAY | AUGUST 15, 2020

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

India at 74

The pandemic has given us our transformative moment. Probably to remind us of forgotten ideals that make up our civilisational DNA

On September 5, 2019, 74-year-old Erramatti Mangayamma gave birth to twin girls in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, becoming the world's oldest mother after being called "barren" her whole life. At 74, Ferdinand Marie de Lesseps made an attempt to construct the Suez Canal. And at 77, John Glenn became the oldest person to go into space. The point of citing these inspirational figures, who were really ordinary men and women till they were challenged, is that no time is too early or too late enough to make a new beginning. And at 74, with perhaps one of the most unimaginable crises in our nation's history — the relentless pandemic, the sliding economy, the collapse of democratic institutions, the chaos of sectarian politics and a conflict-ridden society — India is perhaps at that turning point in its timeline to correct its course and claim a new destiny. Perhaps this churning is necessary to prepare ourselves for a new century instead of relying on templates that we thought were transformative but are now past their prime. Had it not been for the pandemic and the crushing burden it imposed on our social and economic infrastructure, we wouldn't have bothered to look at rebuilding them. There's nothing wrong with globalisation except that when there is resource scarcity in every nation, as a pandemic-induced shutdown snapped mutual dependencies, we ought to be self-sufficient. The massive push to self-produce through *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, decentralising the agricultural economy and empowering rural India may not show results in the short-term. But at least the steps for the next big leap have been laid. China transformed itself in its lowest phase and became the world's largest producer. As a consumption-driven society, we are battling low demand and investment, but given the accelerators and enablers in economic packages, revival is possible. Graded targets for manufacturing at home, incentivisation and hand-holding through the initial breakthrough stage, standardisation of quality through technical partnerships with global expertise, developing economies of scale and allowing competition only to build better and robust home brands will get us there. Not insularity, but letting the trade winds blow so that we can make our mark on shop shelves around the world beyond the boutique handicrafts or tea. If we can be the world's largest producer of vaccines, we can be the factory floor for other products as well. Statistics speak for themselves. Most global chains and majors have, so far, not robbed domestic brands of their dedicated market but have had to indigenise their product lines instead. Pre-pandemic, India emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies and post-recovery is projected to become one of the top three biggest economies in about a decade. And if the deep penetration of our digital economy is any indication, then that would be our competitive edge. These are also the days when India has awakened to its potential in the knowledge economy. Taking the COVID-19 management module as an example, just in a four-month period, we have developed our own test kits, exported drugs, ventilators and PPE kits, worked on our own vaccine and built multi-bed treatment facilities through both public spending and private partnerships. Imagine, what an increased health spending and a ground-up public health policy, especially at the primary and secondary levels, can do to ease medical treatment and not make it another nightmare for a nation battling serious disease burdens. For the first time, research and development (R&D) is being prioritised in the National Education Policy (NEP) with dedicated funding, compared to the last few years when money spent on it has been actually dwindling. The NEP's switch in emphasis from herd-oriented learning to an absorptive and application-based one should hopefully groom innovative minds and get us creditable research papers and patents, an area where our centres of excellence are still inadequate. So far, ISRO has been the only name that comes to mind when it comes to innovation, what with its missions to the moon and Mars. But science and technology will be the most meaningful when it impacts the life of the common man, still distressed and poor, and given Indian ingenuity, we could lead a solution-oriented talent pool.

Of course, our democracy has weathered many challenges and unfortunately, it faces its toughest survival test yet. It is no longer a culture but a tool. Politics has overtaken its true purpose, the purveyors of power using it to erode representative institutions and using collective angst and distress to arrogate more power to themselves. Policies are being weaponised for partisan purposes than public good. Though the shared crisis of COVID-19 did bring about some kind of cooperative federalism, we must not forget that happened only with an authoritarian sanction. Meanwhile, majoritarianism has become a mainstream virtue and secularism an ill-conceived vice, conformists of mainline discourse are true patriots while a thinking civil society has become an enemy of the State. The executive has become bigger than either the legislature or the judiciary and watchdog institutions like the media are either willing propagandists or ousted rebels. We are more disunited when we should be united as a pluralistic society. Yet the pandemic that has attacked us at a not too friendly age of 74 has brought out the best of human spirit, courage and compassion in everyday life. Probably to remind us of the ideals that make up our civilisational DNA. And, therefore, we are best placed to resurrect them than writing them off.

Sputnik V and safety

Is Russia's vaccine truly effective without community trials or is it the beginning of a new commercial and political race?

Russia claims to have beaten the rest of the world and come out with a vaccine for the Coronavirus named 'Sputnik V.' However, even before it hits the markets, it has become mired in controversy, with several countries, and even traditional friend India, expressing some doubts over its efficacy. What has the experts worried is the pace at which Sputnik V has been produced, leaving behind front-runners like Oxford-AstraZeneca, Moderna and Pfizer. They fear that without large scale community trials, Moscow has cut corners and may have put the lives of those inoculated at risk. The Moscow-based Gamaleya Institute, which is making the vaccine, got lightning speed regulatory approvals less than two months after it got into human trials. Compare this to other vaccine candidates in human trials that are not expected to be ready before early next year. However, Russia has claimed that such fast approvals were possible because Sputnik V resembles a vaccine for the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome that had already been tested greatly. This isn't the only controversy surrounding Russia and its bid to win the vaccine race. In July, it was accused of trying to steal vaccine research by the UK's National Cyber Security Centre. But the fact of the matter is that despite all the concerns of health and security experts, Moscow has got orders for one billion doses already from countries desperate to eradicate the pandemic. And even as Russia claims that India is one of the 20 nations to place an order, New Delhi has set up an expert committee headed by NITI Aayog member VK Paul to "consider the logistics and ethical aspects of procuring and administering the COVID-19 vaccine." The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) can ask Russia to conduct late-phase human trials, usually both phase-2 and phase-3, on an Indian population. This is the usual requirement for all vaccines developed outside India.

But there are overlap issues. As over 50 per cent of vaccines are currently manufactured in India, the Pune-based Serum Institute of India has already tied up with other developers. Then, there is the issue of availability and competition with India's own vaccine. According to the Russian Register of Pharmaceuticals website, the vaccine would be in circulation from January 2021 but the Indian vaccine is expected to hit the market before that. So, how the Centre will balance out the country's need for a Corona vaccine with the commercial interests of Indian firms producing it remains to be seen.

Pledge of independence

On our 74th Independence Day, we have perhaps forgotten that India's strength lies in unity and not conformity. We need to renew our vows

AJOY **KUMAR**

On August 15, 1947, India and its citizens gained independence with the British rule coming to an end. Loudly and proudly, we pronounced to the world that we, too, were ready to step out from the darkness of colonial rule to a new dawn, ripe with uncertainty but also hope. It is this hope that former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru so eloquently captured in his address to the nation on the eve of India's independence. He opened his speech with, "Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny..." His immortal words still send a chill down my spine. But too often, we focus only on the first few words. If we read his speech further, Nehru*ji* talked about a pledge that we have renewed by obtaining freedom. A pledge "of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity."

Few exemplified this pledge and dedication to the service of India more than Mohd Usman, also known as *Naushera ka sher* (the Lion of Naushera). At the time of India's independence, Mohd Usman was offered a high position in the Pakistan Army but he refused to join. Instead, he chose to help build a "new India" that had awakened on the fateful night of August 15. Usman bravely defended Naushera, causing a heavy toll on the Pakistani side but was martyred in July 1948 while fighting for his motherland. He was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra but more importantly, he remained a shining symbol of hope for a secular India. On his death, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas wrote, "...a precious life of imagination and unswerving patriotism has fallen a victim to communal fanaticism. Brigadier Usman's brave example will be an abiding source of inspiration for free India."

Such an example was necessary at a time when tension, fear and suspicion were writ large owing to the spectre of Partition. Not only did Usman dedicate his life to the service of India but also his death. Just as significant and poetic is the fact that six months before Usman was killed in a battle, another famous son of India, Jadunath Singh Rathore, who was under Usman's command, protected a nine-man forward section post, displaying unmatched bravery against thousands of enemy forces. His bravery led to him being posthumously awarded the second-ever Param Vir Chakra. This sacrifice by two of India's brave sons — both were from different faiths but laid down their lives for the Indian dream — in all likelihood terrorised Pakistan more than any weapon could and still does.

So where does India stand today? Seventy two years after the death of these bravehearts, it seems that the fear and suspicion, that loomed large then, looms larger now. We are currently living in times where different sections of society are asked to prove their nationality. Proving one's nationality has been reduced to the idea of being subservient to a ruling class and not creating too much noise. This test is not limited to individuals of different faiths or people who come from different castes; it applies to anyone who does not agree with the view of the Government in power.

There are a number of instances where dissent against the Government and its actions are not only treated with the reckless exercise of power but also through an indiscriminate attack on the individual's patriotism. There are numerous examples that are in the public domain but one does not even need to go that far. The author himself has been subjected to vile abuse and was branded "un-Indian" merely because he had written/spoken in favour of what he believed was right for the beloved country. This despite the fact that he served as a public servant and was awarded a medal for bravery by the Government itself. I can only imagine how an everyday citizen is treated when he/she dares to dissent.

> WE ARE CURRENTLY LIVING IN TIMES WHERE DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF SOCIETY ARE ASKED TO PROVE THEIR NATIONALITY. PROVING ONE'S NATIONALITY HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THE IDEA OF BEING SUBSERVIENT TO A RULING CLASS AND NOT CREATING TOO MUCH NOISE. THIS TEST IS NOT LIMITED TO INDIVIDUALS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS OR CASTES. IT IS FOR EVERYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH THE GOVT

A part of the reason why we are in this unfortunate position is that we have forgotten that India's strength lies in unity and not conformity. We are steadily moving towards a time where dissent in a non-violent form and the free flow of ideas is stymied by authoritarian force or by the loudest voice. We have forgotten that our enemies as Indians are not our countrymen, who may follow different faiths or eat different foods, but illiteracy, hunger and corruption.

In his speech, Nehru recognised this when he said, "The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity." His words hold just as true today as it did then. True service to India is not fighting wars that our political masters or news channels manipulate us into. Instead, it is the fight against poverty, illiteracy and disease that plague millions of Indians.

This is one of the main reasons why I am proud of the work done by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The party's goal is to remain true to the nationalistic spirit through its work. This is why the Delhi model of governance has received such widespread credit in areas of health, education and transparency. All of this has been achieved by people of all faiths, gender and caste. By treating service to one another as the truest form of patriotism, we are united by purpose and enriched by our non-conformity.

Therefore, as we celebrate the 74th independence day, I would like to urge the citizens to remember the sacrifices of Usman and Jadunath Singh Rathore, who were killed before they could get a chance to see their beloved country turn two and laid down their lives for the Indian dream. A dream where people, divided for centuries by a foreign ruler, could find common meaning and purpose by pledging to live in service to one another and, therefore, in service to the country. A pledge renewed in 1947 demands renewal even more so in 2020.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of the AAP)

SOUNDBITE

Having completed all talks, we have come to the Assembly today. It may rain fire at this frontline, but we all and I will be the shield, club and spear and will protect.

Congress leader
—Sachin Pilot

Unless you are a good actor, you won't survive. As far as the disparity is concerned, it is tougher for outsiders. Star kids have access to information that we don't.

Actor
—Vikrant Massey

The world will be laughing and taking full advantage of the United States if Joe Biden ever became President. Our country would collapse.

US President
—Donald Trump

If one analyses this (Galwan) incident carefully, it's clear that the onus is not on China. The Indian side crossed the LAC for provocation and attacked the Chinese border troops.

Chinese Ambassador to India
—Sun Weidong

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Manage distribution

Sir — An expert group on COVID-19 vaccine administration has advised against States procuring the Russian vaccine. The directive has reportedly come in response to some States showing keen interest in getting the consignment to arrest the pandemic. Any procurement has to be done centrally, so that supplies can be allocated to States in proportion to their needs. Without a data-driven and honest assessment, this could set off needless politicking.

In the case of lockdowns, too, a uniform policy should have been adopted for all States to follow. Had every State followed the same guidelines, the detection of cases and deaths in all the States in terms of percentage would have been more or less the same.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Race to the White House

In the run-up to the November elections, US President Donald Trump is relentlessly whipping up anti-immigrant sentiments. On the other hand, Democratic candidate Joe Biden's choice of Kamala Harris as his vice-presidential mate is a reminder to the incumbent that immigrants cannot be wished away. Though Kamala is part-Indian, part-Jamaican, she is an absolute American, committed to her country and its people. From being San Francisco's District Attorney twice, to being elected California's Attorney General for two terms and being Senator from California since 2017 to finally being a vice-presidential prospect, she has achieved many firsts as a woman of African and Asian pedigree. Irrespective of whether 77-year-old Biden wins or loses, 55-year-old Kamala is the heir apparent for the Democratic party which may be as early as 2024. Her rise is thought-provoking for us not only because of her Indian roots but also because she boycotted the "Howdy-Modi" event in Texas last year. Her views on Article 370 and CAA among others shall put the Government on the backfoot. Here, Biden and the Democratic party's views are no different. The party, perceived to be under the Leftists' and Progressives' control, occasionally indulges in India-bashing and is also seen to be soft on China, unlike Trump. Unless

it tweaks its stance, a Democratic victory would have a significant bearing on both the Indo-US and Indo-China relationships.

Black voters in the US, courtesy the George Floyd saga, are already polarised against Trump. Kamala's entry will lead to a further hardening of stance. Though Indian Americans traditionally vote for Democrats, yet a shift is happening towards Republicans. The 2.3 million Indian voters can tilt the results either way. How the two political parties, going forward, charm them will be a matter of strategy and shall have long term echoes on who stays on top of the pecking order in the geopolitical space.

SK Prabhakar
Gurugram

Diminishing popularity

Sir — Politics is a different ball game altogether. For three years, US President Donald Trump crafted his re-election narrative around his "winning" approach, based mainly on an economy that was booming when he assumed power. Today, his popularity has come down considerably. According to the latest Gallup poll, Trump's popularity fell below the 40 per cent mark in June, with voters giving him low marks on the Coronavirus pandemic and, notably, the economy. To add salt to his wounds, the selection of Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's running mate has stressed the Trump campaign. Harris is a heartbeat away from the White House for the moment and she is likely to be a trumpcard in a close contest. She is expected to wean away the Black votes and the Indian diaspora in a bid to trounce Trump.

CK Subramaniam
Via email

Temporary relief

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Will the truce hold?" (August 14). It is no secret that the coup in Rajasthan was orchestrated by the BJP. It was just waiting to destabilise the Government. But Sachin Pilot's revolt fizzled out as the Congress took an unusually tough stand. By now Pilot would have also realised the selfishness of the saffron party, who tried to use him as a pawn and played its cards very carefully. As for the Congress, it is time it nominates a president, who can lead the party and act as a bulwark against a rampaging BJP. Most importantly, accommodate the young Turks.

Tharci S Fernando
Chennai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

$5 trillion GDP a distant dream

By all calculations, the COVID-19 impact has pushed India's $5 trillion goal back by three years

SWAPNIL **SONI**

The Prime Minister has laid down a visionary target of making India a $5 trillion economy by 2024-25. This has stimulated debate and discussion among economists and policymakers to seek roadmaps to attain this optimistic economic goal. This discussion garners more significance given the current domestic and global economic slowdown coupled with domestic price instability, the US-China trade war and the current pandemic. Amid such global and domestic challenges, two questions arise: Will India become a $5 trillion economy? What should be done to help Indian attain its goal?

It is necessary to empirically diagnose India's growth pattern to meet the objective of a $5 trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the current level of $2.9 trillion. The latest estimate of the GDP for 2019-20 and the exchange rate of ₹70.39 per dollar (average exchange rate of 2019-20) yield a $2.9 trillion GDP that has to touch $5 in five years. This implies exchange rate adjusted Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of about 13.5 per cent, which is close to the Niti Aayog's projection of 11.5 per cent. However, the $5 trillion GDP target was originally set during the pre-COVID-19 scenario, which has now made this target impossible to achieve owing to the disastrous consequences of the lockdown on the economy.

Amid the macroeconomic shocks and uncertainties, many national and global institutions and rating agencies have been releasing a revised GDP growth forecast for 2020-21. S&P and Fitch Solutions have projected India's GDP growth rate for 2020-21 as -5 per cent. The World Bank maintained a -3.2 per cent growth outlook. In contrast, Moody's Investors Services and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) posited non-negative growth numbers of zero per cent and two per cent for the current financial year (FY). On May 22, the RBI postulated the GDP growth in the negative territory. It further released a projection of -1.5 per cent growth for 2020-21 in its *Survey of Professional Forecasters* report in June. However, most projections predict above eight per cent growth outlook in the FY 2021-22, owing to the fiscal and monetary stimulus and reforms announced by the Government accompanied by the unravelling of the pent-up aggregate demand in the economy.

However, incorporating the adversity in GDP growth, due to the pandemic, it is best to consider a GDP growth rate of nearly -3.2 per cent for 2020-21 relying on the World Bank's estimate and the RBI's negative territory forecast. This growth number, while being conservative, hovers around the other negative estimates and thus is a tenable representative of all the growth projections made by various multilateral institutions and agencies. It is inevitable that subdued growth for the initial year (2020-21) of the $5 trillion target trajectory will either devolve the growth pressure to subsequent years or push the target year to a later period.

Realistic estimation for the post-COVID-19 period i.e., from 2021-22 to 2024-25, yields a CAGR of 18.1 per cent, incorporating a -3.2 per cent GDP growth for 2020-21. This estimate indicates that the Indian economy has to grow at an annual rate of 18.1 per cent to attain a GDP target of $5 trillion by 2024-25, which looks more surreal than real. Plus, each one per cent decrease in the growth rate for the current year yields an additional burden of 0.3 per cent in the CAGR for the subsequent years of the growth trajectory. Given the unrealistic-looking projected growth rate of 18.1 per cent, one needs to look at the alternative to attain the $5 trillion target which is, naturally, a postponement of the target year.

In the post-COVID-19 period, the economy is expected to recover and revive as argued by multilateral institutions, rating agencies and economists. In fact, economists have even gone ahead and contemplated that the Indian market will emerge stronger than ever post-COVID-19, given the liquidity support and future demand. This revival is attributable to stimulus and reforms announced by the Government for all the productive sectors. However, the effectiveness of these stimuli and reforms would depend on their implementation and thus remains debatable. If not a big bang, a green shoot is expected to knock on the door of the economy in the next FY, replicating a V-shaped recovery to some extent.

Given this, from 2021-22, the economy's productive sectors, i.e. agriculture, industry and services, will follow their respective historical growth trajectories. Thus, it is expected that these productive sectors, post-COVID-19, will grow at the historical average of the previous five years of about 7.5 per cent, 9.0 per cent and 11.4 per cent, respectively. This looks more realistic and acceptable than the 18.1 per cent annual growth rate, derived and discussed earlier. This consideration and associated analysis revealed that the Indian economy will attain only $3.8 trillion by 2024-25 and reach the $5 trillion target by 2027-28 with a CAGR of 9.97 per cent. This implies that the COVID-19 impact has pushed India's $5 trillion dream back by three years.

The ambitious $5 trillion economic objective intends to provide a stimulus to the economy while raising many pragmatic challenges to achieve it. This objective can be achieved by providing an appropriate fillip to the growth of agriculture, industry and services sectors that are drivers of the Indian economy. However, a data-driven approach reveals that the growth attained by the present GDP patterns is far from the target required to attain the $5 trillion objective. However, it is possible to attain this target by 2027-28 when there is a recovery in the economy during the post-COVID-19 period coupled with a consistent growth in productive sectors over the years.

Historically, the services and industry sectors show a high correlation with the overall GDP growth rate but they need consistent stimulus for growth. In fact, the productive sectors collectively can deliver viable growth rates that may put the Indian economy into the $5 trillion club by 2027-28.

Any moderate shock to one sector may be absorbed by the other sector, but a major shock cannot be tackled and can derail the $5 trillion growth trajectory. Thus, policymakers must focus on all the three sectors equally without focussing on any particular one. Along with the individual growth of a sector, its dynamics with other sectors and its contribution to the economy are evenly important. This could be achieved by attracting Foreign Direct Investment and strengthening the Regional Innovation Systems to encourage local firms to network, innovate and globalise.

(*The writer is Senior Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore*)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

I HAVE THE GREAT HONOUR TO ANNOUNCE THAT I'VE PICKED KAMALA HARRIS, A FEARLESS FIGHTER FOR THE LITTLE GUY AS MY RUNNING MATE FOR THE ELECTIONS.
—FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT
JOE BIDEN

SHE (KAMALA HARRIS) IS THE MEANEST, THE MOST HORRIBLE, THE MOST DISRESPECTFUL OF ANYBODY IN THE US SENATE.
—US PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP

Shun vitriolic leaders

The community should be represented by some liberally-balanced Muslims who know history and at the same time are rooted in their faith. Or else we could be stranded in a wasteland

FIROZ BAKHT **AHMED**

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since 1947. The 200 million plus population of Indian Muslims was the one, that at the call of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from the steps of old Delhi's Jama Masjid, put down its luggage meant for the next Lahore train from the Old Delhi Railway Station. In all probability, theirs was the right decision, in spite of the fact that many of their relatives had decided to leave for their El Dorado — the newly created Pakistan. Even today most of the Indian Muslims living in Old Delhi have their relatives in the country across the border. Religious frenzy has never augured well for any community in India and the world. In the words of eminent Muslim thinker, AG Noorani, the "two-nation theory" was, in effect, an offshoot of the constant friction and confrontation stirred up between the two communities and it was under exceptional circumstances that Jinnah's concept gained popularity among the Muslims. Indeed, the whole country responded to the "two-nation theory." The greatest religion for both communities became Hindu-Muslim hatred. This mephitic form of politics saw its culmination in 1947 when a wall of hatred rose between the two communities.

Partition horrors: Elders would describe the gory sight of trains full of mauled, murdered, mutilated and dead Hindus chugging into the stations from Pakistan and similar trains from India, full of dead and mutilated Muslims pulling into Pakistan. These were called "blood trains" and all too often they crossed the border in funereal silence. Huts, houses, bungalows and mansions were burnt and robbed on both sides. Women were raped and murdered, children were killed in front of their parents, some women on both sides of the border jumped into wells and rivers while men also killed their wives and daughters to save them from dishonour.

Jinnah and Nehru both responsible: Jinnah on the Muslim front and Nehru in opposition to Jinnah, both barristers full of intellectual rivalry to be one up against the other, instead of preserving the sovereignty of India, started dreaming of being the new kings of the nascent kingdoms. Azad was blatantly ignored and sidelined by the Congress because he considered both Nehru and Jinnah as the main villains of the vivisection. He could read well into Nehru's flagrant opportunism and ambition to be the first Prime Minister of the new nation.

Azad was quite aggravated about the Partition and had accused Nehru of being lured into the Partition by Lady Edwina Mountbatten. Even in the play *Maulana Azad*, by noted playwright and scriptwriter, Dr Saeed Alam, Tom Alter, playing the protagonist, was heard stating in chaste Urdu, "*Log kehtey hain, aur theek hi kehtey honge, ke Jawahar Lal ko batwaare pe raazi karney mein us* charming lady *ka bahut bada haath tha.* (People say, and they must be right, that the charming lady played a big role in getting Jawahar Lal to accept the Partition.)" Today's Muslim leadership, bereft of thinkers like Maulana Azad and Dr Zakir Hussain, has lost both its voice and utility. During every election, it has been seen that all leaders are power-brokers indulging in pernicious vote-bank manipulation, acquiring State patronage themselves and leaving ordinary Muslims to the mercy of God.

Muslims misled: Despite that, Muslims won't fully trust Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had declared in a meeting with eminent clerics and intelligentsia at his residence on June 6, 2015, that he wanted to see in each Muslim's hands the holy *Quran* and a computer. When Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Muslims are like our children. We want to treat them equally on a par with others", hardly any member of the community hailed it. This opposing mindset is creating a major problem in better integration with the mainstream. Battered by the populist rhetoric and provocative militancy of its myopic ill-educated clerics and shallow youth, the nation's cultured and high potential minority stands at the crossroads. Owing to their obscurantist approach, they are leading the community back to the dark ages of ignorance, like the ones in Arab countries before the advent of Islam. More often than not, they are interested in feathering their own nests and are indulging in petty-mindedness characterised by an extremely narrow and irresponsible outlook completely out of tune with the existing reality. Such leaders are not seriously interested in dealing with the main problems of the community. Muslim leaders and petty politicians are becoming richer day-by-day while the people they represent are languishing in ghettos.

> IT IS TIME THAT MUSLIMS REALISE THAT THE RSS IS A REALITY AND MODI IS A PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS PLEDGED '*SABKA SATH, SABKA VIKAS, SABKA VISHWAS* (COMPASSION FOR ALL, PROGRESS FOR ALL, TRUST FOR ALL).' IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MUSLIMS TO HOLD HIM TO ACCOUNT AND ENSURE THAT HE REMAINS COMMITTED TO INDIA'S PLURALISTIC *LEITMOTIF*

In this ghettoised situation emerged the churlish political middlemen as interlocutors for communities, picking on sensational issues that would only apparently tighten their stranglehold on the gullible and divert attention from the real bread and butter and educational issues. Shah Bano, Jamia Millia, the AMU's minority character, Taslima Nasreen, Salman Rushdie and so on became issues. However, none of them had any bearing on the real problems of the Muslims. Educational backwardness, women's education, social stagnation, communalisation of the police force and absence from the mainstream were never addressed by the self-appointed interlocutors with the same emphasis as the Babri Masjid issue. It is thanks mainly to this leadership that Muslims remain stranded in a wasteland of missed opportunities even 73 years after Independence.

Muslims' ghetto mindset, the main problem: Indian Muslims, who now call themselves "Muslim Indians" deliberately, do agree that Pakistan today has become hell on Earth. Yet they fail to thank their God and stars that they are far better in India as compared to those in Pakistan in terms of safety and security of life. My Karachi-based cousin has told me that after dusk, all city roads become deserted. I have a few questions to ask my Indian co-religionists. How is it going to benefit them when they abuse the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP and Modi? Will constantly howling for reservations based on religion not discredit them?

Why do the so-called intellectuals and clerics instead of coolly convincing, heckle opponents in TV debates? All this has created a negative perception of Muslims in the country. My concern is that if these questions are not satisfactorily answered, relations between Hindus and Muslims will worsen. So far at least the answers that have come from educated Muslims have been deeply unsatisfactory or incomplete. The community should be represented by some liberally-balanced Muslims, who know history and at the same time are rooted in their faith.

However, the situation with the ghetto mindset of the Muslim community today is rather grim as they remain critical of the system in general and try to run a parallel governance via the AIMPLB (All-India Muslim Personal Law Board), the *Sharia* courts and the so-called rabble-rousing leaders like the Owaisi brothers, Azam Khan and a horde of perennial apologists seen in TV debates. Rather than serving the community and the nation, their vitriolic remarks create a perception of the community that all the Muslims are similar, which is not true. As per my assessment, more than 50 per cent Indian Muslims are with a progressive idea of India. However, they are tight-lipped and don't want to come out openly in support of the present Government for fear of being socially boycotted or stigmatised as RSS stooges and BJP sycophants.

Prophet's teachings forgotten: The problem with today's Muslims is that they don't follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in letter and spirit. This actually distances them from Islam as well, because, Islam possesses sufficient elasticity to enable it to adapt itself to the social and political revolution going on around it. The Mohammedan Common Law (today AIMPLB), or *Shariah,* is by no means unchangeable or unalterable. A practical example of it is the ban of triple *talaq*, a part of *Sharia* but not mentioned in the holy *Quran* and absolutely abhorred by the Prophet. The only law unalterable in Islam is essentially the *Quran* and the traditions of the Prophet. The team of Modi, Shah and Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Law Minister, have banned the draconian Sharia law besides settling the eons old *mandir-masjid* imbroglio.

But across India, despite the many problems, the community is forging ahead. Large numbers are doing exceedingly well. The 1992 Babri mosque razing led to major churnings. The dominant consensus was that it was important to concentrate on education. That process continues. On November 9, 2019, the issue got amicably settled and none of the Muslims, except the AIMPLB or Owaisi brothers, protested.

Light at the end of the tunnel: More and more Muslim women, even in smaller towns, are acquiring an education. Although a Muslim political party has come up in Assam, another one in Telangana and two have been formed in Uttar Pradesh, most Muslims swear by secular national parties. It is time that Muslims realise that the RSS is a reality and Modi is a Prime Minister who has pledged "*Sabka Sath*, *Sabka Vikas*, *Sabka Vishwas* (Compassion for all, Progress for all, Trust for all)." It is the responsibility of Muslims to hold him to account and ensure that he remains committed to India's pluralistic *leitmotif*.

(*The author is the chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad and the grandnephew of Bharat Ratna Maulana Azad*)

MSMEs need help to keep afloat

Invest in a mechanism to strengthen the longevity muscle of MSMEs as that would help break barriers and capture global markets

DIPANKER **MUKHERJEE**

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the flavour of the season. Promoting inclusive growth by providing employment opportunities in rural areas to women and people belonging to marginalised sections of society, they are the new engines of India's growth story.

Contributing about 29 per cent to India's GDP, the vision is to increase this contribution to about 50 per cent. Collectively employing over 120 million people, second only to the mammoth agriculture sector, the MSME sector contributes over 45 per cent to India's overall exports.

A net gain is also reduction of regional imbalances and a more equitable distribution of national income and wealth. MSMEs by design have high flexibility and strong ties to customers and suppliers.

The focus on customer needs, detailed knowledge and experience is many times difficult to replicate. Low overheads often aid lower fluctuations in their business cycle. With a very positive climate in the thinking on MSMEs, where policy, polity and production seem to have come together in fitting measure, all seems to be well in this rapidly upcoming 63 million-sector. It is primed to help move the economy towards the $5 trillion mark.

Some chinks below the surface, however, need attention and merit early correction. The MSME sector operates primarily on a cash basis and has less access to formal sources of credit. The financial stress of operation, which has been curtailed due to the lockdown and the continuing overhead expenses, however small, has created a burden on many of these companies, which are struggling and are on the brink of shutting down or have already shut down.

With the overall slowdown in the economy and the prospect of a tepid growth in future demand, this sector will be hard hit. For the MSME sector not to become a "me too" sector, asking for complete Government support and the Government in turn nudging the unwilling banking sector to provide credit in a high default risk scenario, the options available are seemingly limited. An enhanced working capital limit and guarantee on loans to small businesses seem to be the way ahead.

The biggest need for working capital — MSME bank loans — is contested by the banks. Processes are lengthy and loan queues are long. The MSMEs can't get loans and hence don't grow and because they don't grow, they don't get loans. It is a classic "catch-22" situation. Ironically, large lending to big corporations continues despite the risk of them becoming insolvent.

The credit gap for MSMEs as estimated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Intellecap stands at ₹16.7 lakh crore. Loan approvals, logistics support, technology access and market access work against the MSME growth ambition. Unlike large companies, they do not have the support of a strong network of people, resources and marketing channels, most of which become easily accessible with scale.

MSMEs are often seen competing with large corporations and this should be avoided through policy measures. Certain products and categories should be prioritised for MSMEs along with predefined quality standards. What affects the MSMEs further is that they don't have the experience of learnings from management education to have an appropriate appreciation of the grammar of business. Theirs is a hit and trial growth.

The future of MSMEs depends significantly on big corporations buying from them. They thus link up with big businesses through disadvantaged negotiations of prices and payment terms, forcing them to borrow more and more. Add to that scenario, the difficulties of delayed income tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds which further prevent growth. Thus, in the payment hierarchy, where MSMEs are last and have little bargaining power, they are forced to continue the relationship which is contingent on them remaining small. Equally, the MSMEs are unable to apply pressure to reduce dues as they are made to feel that their future business is at stake. Due to the lack of skilled and professional manpower, they are unable to create the required pressure.

Their access to grievance redressal is either not available or has very low resolution levels. Many don't know how to leverage the redressal system. They fear that seeking such remedy would jeopardise their future business as ultimately they have to fall back on the same business houses for repeat business and the same service providers. For the MSMEs, a nose above the water is as good as it gets.

The creation of a favourable eco-system for MSMEs would thus remain contingent on regulators assisting in clearance of their bills. Pay or be dealt with swiftly or pay up the interest which the MSMEs are paying for no fault of theirs. Investing in a mechanism to build resilience and strengthen the longevity muscle of MSMEs would help break barriers and capture global markets.

(*The writer is Co-founder, Handygo Behtar Zindagi*)

Prez Kovind lauds efforts of frontline corona warriors

Says nation is 'indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday lauded the efforts of healthcare professionals at the frontline in the country's fight against the coronavirus pandemic and said the nation is "indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers". He said the celebrations this year will be restrained without the customary pomp and show owing to the pandemic which has "altered the world we live in."

Addressing the nation on the eve of the 74th Independence Day, the President termed the Government's response to the Covid-19 challenge as "superhuman".

Lauding the Centre and State Government for taking steps to contain the transmission of novel coronavirus, Kovind said India's role in dealing with the pandemic is a lesson for the world.

The President also spoke on the Galwan Valley face-off in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed fighting the Chinese army in June this year in eastern Ladakh. "Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. Their bravery in combat has demonstrated that while we believe in peace, we are also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression," he said.

"Even while the world community needs to fight together against the greatest challenge before humanity, some in our neighbourhood tried to carry out their misadventure of expansion. Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. The entire nation salutes the martyrs of Galwan Valley. Every Indian feels grateful to their family members.

"Their bravery in combat has demonstrated that while we believe in peace, we are also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression," said the President who is also supreme commander of the armed forces.

Besides, President Kovind called the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya a "moment of pride for all" and said the National Education Policy 2020 will "strengthen the culture of 'Inclusion', 'Innovation' and 'Institution' in the sphere of education."

"Only ten days ago, construction of the temple at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi began, in Ayodhya. It was indeed a moment of pride for all. People of the country maintained restraint and patience for a long time and reposed unflinching trust in the judicial system," he said.

President said the 'National Education Policy' spells a long term vision with far-reaching impact, adding that "it will strengthen the culture of 'Inclusion', 'Innovation' and 'Institution' in the sphere of education"

"Imparting education in the mother tongue has been given emphasis in order to help young minds grow spontaneously... It is a right step in this direction," he said.

Kovind said India's approach is not a self-centred one but it carries a tradition of working for well-being of the entire world

"It has been the tradition of India that we do not just live for ourselves, but work for the well-being of the entire world. India's self-reliance means being self-sufficient without alienating or creating distance from the world. It implies that India will continue to engage with the world economy while maintaining its identity."

The President said youth should feel special pride in being the citizen of a free nation.

"August 15 fills us with the excitement of unfurling the tricolour, taking part in celebrations and listening to patriotic songs.

On this day, the youth of India should feel the special pride of being citizens of a free nation. We gratefully remember our freedom fighters and martyrs whose sacrifices have enabled us to live in an independent nation," the president said.

Naresh wins police medal for record 7th time for fighting terrorists in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CRPF Assistant Commandant Naresh Kumar has scripted history by receiving his 7th Police medal for Gallantry in a short span of four years for his gallant action against the terorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

"An officer with sharp tactical acumen and indomitable courage, Naresh Kumar has led the CRPF Valley QAT (Quick Action Team) in Srinagar which has a glorious history of continued success marked with numerous Gallantry medals that embellish its valour," the CRPF said in a statement.

Assistant Commandant Kumar got his first medal in 2017 for an operation which was conducted in Srinagar in 2016. Here, he neutralised two foreign terrorists whereas in 2018, he was awarded with two PMGs for neutralising two Hizbul Mujahideen commanders in an fierce operation which lasted for three days.

This year alone, the Valley QAT has been adorned with more than 15 Gallantry medals. Furthermore, the erstwhile IG Srinagar, CRPF, Ravideep Singh Sahi and the present valley QAT Commander, Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh and his team mate Constable Devsant Kumar have been awarded with Police Medal for Gallantry for a courageous operation in Srinagar on October 3, 2017 where two militants were neutralised by the security forces.

For Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh, this is his 3rd Gallantry Medal and second PMG while Constable Devsant Kumar will be receiving the PMG for the second time.

Yet another story of grit and courage relates to 208 CoBRA where the team of gallant warriors came under a heavy attack from Maoists in jungles of Sukma, Chhattisgarh on March 03/04, 2016, the troops retaliated with bravery and forced the Maoists to give up their nefarious designs, the CRPF said.

In this long lasting encounter nine Maoists were neutralised while five were injured. Three Bravehearts of 208 CoBRA made supreme sacrifice serving the nation. For their indomitable gallantry and courage in the face of danger during the operation, 208 CoBRA has been awarded with eight PMGs with three being awarded posthumously.

CRPF –the largest Central Armed Police Force of the country, has been awarded with as many as 55 Police Medals for Gallantry on the eve of Independence Day, which is the second highest force after the Jammu and Kashmir police that bagged 81 medals.

With this, the total number of gallantry medals won by the deserving Force personnel till now has reached to 2036, the highest among all the CAPFs in the country.

"The narrative behind each of these Gallantry Medals speaks the language of courage, dedication to duty, devotion for the motherland and over and above a steely resolve to deliver, which is the hallmark of Internal Security Warriors," added the CRPF statement.

India won't compromise with its self-esteem, says Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the situation on the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in Eastern Ladakh remains tense for nearly three months now, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India has never attacked anywhere to capture land of others. Reiterating this, he also said India believes in winning hearts and not land. "But it does not mean we will let our self-esteem be hurt," he said.

Making this assertion during the customary address to the troops on the eve of the Independence Day, he, however, cautioned if attacked India as always will give a befitting reply. He, however, did not name China.

"Whatever we do in national security, we always do it for self-defence, not for attacking others. If enemy country ever attacked us, like every time we will give a befitting reply," he said.

His observations came in the backdrop of five rounds of military level and four at the diplomatic level in the past few weeks failing to resolve the stand-offs now on at four friction points. Moreover, China has not withdrawn its troops from these sites despite agreement thereby leading to tension in the area.

In his address, the defence minister assured that the government is doing all that is necessary to keep our forces morale high and fulfill their all operational requirement.

Later in his tweet message, he paid tributes to the soldiers. "On the eve of India's Independence Day, I salute the indomitable courage of the brave soldiers of our Armed Forces who are selflessly serving the nation. Their unmatched courage and patriotism has ensured that our country is safe," he said.

In another tweet, the minister said the Government is leaving no stone unturned to strengthen the armed forces and ensure the welfare of their families and the ex-servicemen.

Amid the ongoing standoff, the Defence Ministry has given the armed forces emergency financial powers to procure weapons systems up to Rs 300 crores on an urgent basis without any further clearances to cut short the procurement cycle.

The Services have embarked on major procurements of ammunition, anti-tank missiles, man portable air defences, unmanned aerial vehicles among others.

Def Min launches portal providing access to defence vendors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after banning import of 101 weapon systems to make the Indian defence industry self-reliant, the Government on Friday signed four contracts as part of Defence India Start Up challenge in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

On the final day of 'Atmanirbhar Week' celebration of the Defence Ministry, he also launched Department of Defence Production(DDP) portal SRIJAN which is a 'one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenisation. A number of Expressions of interest/Requests for Proposal were also issued.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajnath said signing of these MoUs and contracts will lead us to self-reliance in the technologies related to defence manufacturing. He called upon the Indian industry partners to show complete commitment and take proactive participation in the pursuit of Indigenisation and self-reliance in the defence sector.

Commending the DDP for creating SRIJAN portal, the minister said this will help industry partners to play active role in the goal of self-reliance in defence sector. Pursuant to Atmanirbhar Bharat announcement, Department of Defence Production has developed an indigenization portal, srijandefence.gov.in, as "opportunities for Make in India in Defence", which will give information on items that can be taken up for indigenisation by the private sector.

On this portal, DPSUs/OFB/SHQs can display their items which they have been importing or are going to import which the Indian Industry can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through joint venture with OEMs. The Indian Industry will be able to show their interest.

There are over 3,000 unique items with a value of over ₹10,000 Crore that are available through the portal.

Fromer Maha CM Fadnavis may get key role in Bihar election

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is expected to give former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis a key role in the Bihar election, due later this year.

A move is afoot to appoint Fadnavis as election-in-charge of Bihar polls, according to sources.

The former Maharashtra Chief Minister's role assumes importance in the backdrop of a raging controversy around the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, a young and rising Bollywood actor and a native of Bihar.Sushant's parents have lodged an FIR in the state in the case.

The BJP has been alleging that the Mumbai police under the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition was not conducting a fair probe in the circumstances leading to what has initially been termed as "suicide".

Fadnavis has been in the forefront in attacking Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son for the handling of the actor's case and demanding a CBI probe into his death and "justice" for him.

The issue of the 34-year-old actor's death triggered charges and counter-charges between the two States with Maharashtra Shiv Sena leaders accusing the BJP-JD (U) coalition Government in Bihar of politicising the investigation to serve its political ends when assembly polls are round the corner.

The Bihar Government's eagerness to take up the case of Rajput is seen by many as a move to consolidate "thakur votes" in the state as also a gesture that the Nitish Kumar-led government was standing by its 'son of the soil' and his family in distress.

The reports of the appointment of Fadnavis have been growing since he chaired a core committee meeting of the BJP's Bihar unit party on August 13 and BJP President J P Nadda directing leaders in Bihar unit to brief former Maharashtra Chief Minister on the campaign strategy.

Fadnavis, the first Brahmin CM of Maharashtra who lost his second run in the state as CM, has been living in political shadows in Maharashtra after the 'Maha vikas Aghadi' coalition took reins of governance in the State.

The BJP is also expecting to benefit from Fadnavis' Brahmin origins. Brahmins constitute 5 percent of the population in Bihar.

India exports 23 lakh PPEs to 5 countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With export norms relaxed, India managed to export 23 lakh Personnel Protection Equipments to five countries namely the USA, the UK, UAE, Senegal and Slovenia in just a month.

"This has substantially aided India to position itself in the global export market of PPEs," said a statement from the Union Health Ministry.

PPEs are a crucial medical resource for frontline workers during the pandemic that include body coveralls, N-95 masks, goggles, face shields among others.

According to the Ministry, the 'Make in India' spirit embedded in the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' has resulted in providing resilience and self-sufficiency" to the country for various medical equipment including PPEs.

While the Union Government is supplying PPE kits, N95 masks, ventilators etc., to the State governments and union territories administrations, states are also procuring these items directly.

"Between March and August 2020, they have procured 1.40 crore indigenous PPE from their own budgetary resources. During the same period, the Centre has distributed 1.28 crore PPE to states, UTs and central institutions, free of cost," said the ministry in a statement.

The Centre has been leading the graded, pre-emptive, proactive and collaborative response and management of COVID-19, along with the states union territories.

As part of its continued efforts towards progressively augmenting and strengthening the medical infrastructure across the country, various policy decisions have been taken on a regular basis.

At the start of the pandemic, there was a global shortage of all kinds of medical equipment including N95 masks, PPE kits, ventilators etc, the ministry underlined.

Most of the products were not being manufactured in the country in the beginning as many of the necessary components were to be procured from other countries. The rising global demand due to the pandemic resulted in their scarce availability in the foreign markets, it stated.

Turning the pandemic into an opportunity to develop its domestic market for production of medical equipment, with the combined efforts of ministries of health, textiles, pharmaceuticals, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Defence Research and Development Organisation and others, India has hugely ramped up its own manufacturing capacity, the ministry said.

Number of deaths due to smokeless tobacco in India is on rise: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of deaths due to smokeless tobacco in India is on the rise, accounting for 70 per cent of deaths in the South-East Asia region followed by Pakistan (seven per cent) and Bangladesh which accounts five per cent of the global disease burden due to smokeless tobacco.

Researchers added that deaths due to it globally has also gone up by a third in seven years to an estimated 350,000 people.

The research, published in the journal BMC Medicine, comes at a time when there are concerns that spitting - a behaviour common among those who chew tobacco - is likely to transmit the Covid-19 virus.

"The study has come at a time when Covid-19 is affecting almost all aspects of our lives. Chewing tobacco increases saliva production and leads to compulsive spitting," said study researcher Kamran Siddiqi from the University of York in the UK.

There are concerns that spitting - a behaviour common among those who chew tobacco- is likely to transmit the virus to others.

"In acknowledgement of this, India, for example, has already taken a positive step by banning spitting in public places to reduce the transmission of COVID-19," Siddiqi added.

The study estimated that in 2017 alone smokeless tobacco resulted in more than 90,000 deaths due to cancers of the mouth, pharynx and oesophagus and accounted for more than 258,000 deaths from heart disease.

Millions more have their lives shortened by ill-health due to the effects of chewing tobacco-based products, the study reveals.

Andhra HC extends status quo on 3 Capitals issue

IANS ■ AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday extended, till August 27, the status quo on three capital issue.

A three-judge bench comprising Justices Rakesh Kumar, A.V. Sesha Sai and M. Satyanarayana Murthy directed the State government to maintain the status quo for two more weeks, rejecting its appeal to vacate the interim order passed on August 4.

The court on Friday took up hearing of nearly 55 petitions filed to challenge the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020 and the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Repeat Act, 2020.

Counsel for the petitioners argued that the three capital move was violation of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 as it talks of only one state capital.

Lawyers of some of the petitioners expressed their inability to personally appear before the court due to current Covid-19 situation and pleaded for extending the status quo.

The government had on Thursday filed a common counter-affidavit claiming that the related policy decision was within its competence and in consonance with the Central government's sworn statement on the matter.

The government contended that its decision was not arbitrary, but was taken on the basis of various studies conducted by experts, and that it had the obligation under Article 38 of the Constitution to ensure that there were no inequalities among the people in different areas.

The court had ordered the status quo on August 4 as the petitioners feared that the government might start shifting offices to Visakhapatnam and Kurnool by taking advantage of the Bills getting the Governor's assent.

Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan on July 31 approved the two Bills and the same day, the government issued the gazette notification.

The court had ordered the status quo on August 4 as the petitioners feared that the government might start shifting offices to Visakhapatnam and Kurnool

Under Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill 2020, the government seeks to shift key capital functions out of Amaravati.

It proposes to develop Visakhapatnam as the executive capital. With the shifting of the offices of the Chief Minister, the Governor, ministers and secretaries, the coastal city for all practical purposes will become the seat of power.

Kurnool will be developed as the judicial capital by shifting the High Court there.

Amaravati, which was originally planned as the only state capital and a world-class city, will only be a legislative capital.

The moved by Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government has led to fresh protests by farmers in 29 villages in Amaravati.

About 24,000 farmer families had given 33,000 acres of land for development of Amaravati under land pooling scheme five years ago.

Then Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government headed by Chandrababu Naidu had embarked on the mega plans to build Amaravati on the banks of Krishna river as the dream capital and a world-class city. Naidu had got its design was prepared by Singapore government.

Several farmers had already challenged the three capitals move. They also filed petitions challenging the two Bills approved by the Governor.

1,087 new cases take Gujarat's tally to 76,569

Gandhinagar: Guajarat on Friday reported 1,087 new Covid-19 case, , taking the State's total tally to 76,569, while 15 new fatalities pushed the death toll to 2,748, health officials said.

As many as 1,083 patients were discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 59,522.

Hotspot Surat continued to lead the state's tally with 232 cases, followed by Ahmedabad (161), Vadodara (107), Rajkot (99), Jamnagar (56), Panchmahals (40), Junagadh (39), Gandhinagar (36), Bhavnagar Gir-Somnath and Mahesana (24 each), Bharuch and Dahod with (23 each), Kutch (22), Morbi (21), Banaskantha (15), Patan and Surendranagar (13 each), Anand (12), Navsari (10), Valsad (9), Sabarkantha (8), Kheda and Narmada (7 each), Botad and Chhota Udepur (6 each), Tapi (5), Mahisagar and Porbandar (4 each), and Aravalli and Devbhumi Dwarka (3 each).

Kadha' stalls, another start-up in corona times

IANS ■ LUCKNOW

With a cure for coronavirus still not known, more and more people are turning to Ayurvedic 'Kadha' prescriptions to keep the virus at bay.

In a new start-up, kiosks selling Kadhas have sprung in at several places, especially those frequented by morning walkers.

"We used to sell juices of bottle gourd, bitter gourd here, but now we have added Kadha and the majority of our customers prefer a glass of this Ayurvedic concoction," said Ramesh Sharma who sets up a stall near a park in Indira Nagar locality every morning.

Ramesh claims that his wife and mother prepare the Kadha by boiling various species, including cardamom, ginger, nutmeg, peppercorns, basil leaves, cinnamon, honey and turmeric. However, he admitted that he was not aware of the quantity of spices that should go into the making of the decoction.

He sells a small glass of the concoction for Rs 40 and many customers even get it packed for home.

Swadesh Sharma, a septuagenarian, said, "I drink one cup and take home three cups. My wife and I drink this Kadha twice a day."

Ravindra Kumar, another morning walker and a regular Kadha customer, said that preparing the decoction at home was a cumbersome task.

"My wife and I go to work and we barely get time to cook a meal. Preparing the Kadha takes a lot of time so we drink a cup here," he said.

Almost all the morning walkers who flock to the Kadha stalls, said that they had learnt about the benefits of this from TV and newspapers.

BENGALURU VIOLENCE

'Riots started within 3 hours of FB post'

Bengaluru: The recent Bengaluru riots occurred at breakneck speed, erupting in less than three hours of the derogatory message being put up on social media, a police official said on Friday.

"Naveen posted the derogatory message around 6 p.m. and by 9 pm the riots erupted," Central Crime Branch (CCB) Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Kuldeep Jain told IANS. The government machinery was already strained with battling the Coronavirus pandemic, and the riots caught them unawares.

On Tuesday night, hundreds of people ran amok after Pulikeshinagar's Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy's nephew P Naveen posted a derogatory message on social media.

The mob pelted stones, injuring 60 policemen, and committed acts of vandalism and arson in DJ Halli, KG Halli, Pulikeshinagar and Kaval Byrasandra areas. "As soon as the news reached the police, cops from nearby police stations rushed to the spot," said Jain.

Police Commissioner Kamal Pant himself rushed to the riot-affected areas to monitor the situation.

The police was initially overwhelmed with the rioters outnumbering them. "By that time whatever preventive things we could do, we tried it out. All that did not calm down the mob," he said. It was only after the police fired in the air and later at the rioters, leading to the death of three people, did the situation come under control. *IANS*

Terrorists kill two cops on outskirts of Srinagar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, heavily armed terrorists, believed to be the cadre of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit on Friday shot dead two policemen and wounded another in "indiscriminate" firing on the outskirts of Srinagar near Nowgam bypass.

The terrorists seem to have done thorough recee of the area before targeting the patrol party of Jammu & Kashmir police.They disappeared in the bylanes of the densely populated area even before the security personnel could chase them.

Inspector General of police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar who visited the spot told reporters, "the terrorists emerged from Gulshan street on the outskirts of the Srinagar city near Nowgam bypass and targeted the policemen by opening indiscriminate firing around 9.30 a.m." He said three policemen received injuries but two among them succumbed to their injuries. The martyred jawans of Jammu & Kashmir police were identified as Constables Ishfaq Ayoub and Fayaz Ahmad of IRP 20 Bn.

IG Vijay Kumar said, "elaborate security deployment was done on ground zero to ensure incident free Independence day celebrations in the valley". He said after the terror strike the entire area has been cordoned off to track down the footprints of the terrorists behind the attack. He said, preliminary reports suggested JeM cadre were behind the attack. He maintained, the security personnel also exercised restraint by not opening indiscriminate firing due to the heavy civilian movement in the area.

Later in the day, a tribute ceremony was organised at the police headquarters where senior officers including DGP Jammu & Kashmir police paid their tribute and remembered the supreme sacrifices of the jawans of the J&K police.The mortal remains were later shifted to their local residences in Srinagar where thousands of residents paid their last tributes and joined the funeral of policemen.Wailing women and close relatives were seen chanting slogans during the funeral procession of martyred policemen.

Interacting with the media persons, DGP Dilbagh Singh said," it is the handiwork of the Pakistan and its proxies who don't want to see peace prevailing in the region. He said, the security situation has largely improved in Kahsmir valley but in between when such incidents occur our resolve to restore peace gets strengthened. Referring to measures adopted by the security forces ahead of the I-day celebrations, DGP said, drone cameras and camera fitting vehicles have been deployed at various places to ensure complete area domination during the I-Day function.

The security forces were also directed to remain in a state of high alert across Jammu & Kashmir to prevent fresh strikes on the security convoys and other vital security installations.

GOLD SMUGGLING

Kerala Protocol Officer denies about diplomatic baggage

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

SSunil Kumar, Kerala State Protocol Officer reportedly told the sleuths of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) probing the gold smuggling racket busted by the Customs department recently that no diplomatic baggage has come to the UAE Consulate at Thiruvananthapuram during the last two years.

The statement has put the CPI(M) led LDF Government in Kerala in dilemma as KT Jaleel, the Higher Education Minister has been claiming that he had received Ramzaan kits and thousands of copies of Quran sent by the UAE Consulate at Thiruvananthapuram through diplomatic consignment. Kerala BJP president K Surendran had alleged on Thursday that the baggage contained gold bars instead of Quran and the same was transported to different parts of Kerala through the official vehicles of Jaleel, a former leader of the outlawed SIMI. But Jaleel denied all allegations and declared that he was ready to face probe by any agencies including the NIA, CBI or the Enforcement Directorate,

Sunil Kumar reportedly told the NIA officials that he does not have any information about the Ramzaan kits addressed to Jaleel's office from the UAE Consulate in the capital city.

The NIA sleuths has asked Sunil Kumar to furnish the details of the diplomatic consignments received by the State Government Departments from the UAE Consulates and all other foreign missions operating in the country. All materials addressed to the State Government officials from diplomatic missions in the country are received by the State Protocol Officer before handing it over to the concerned departments. Sunil Kumar's explanation to the NIA has come hours before the Kerala BJP president Surendran alleged that Shine Haq, the former State Protocol Officer was hand in glove with those involved in gold smuggling.

"Though Haq was transferred out of the Protocol Office, he managed to get back to the office in a senior position and he continued to meddle with the affairs of the SPO," Surendran had alleged in a press meet on Thursday at Kozhikode.

Wildlife lovers appeal Modi to save endangered black bucks

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The wild life lovers and NGO of Aligarh have appealed to the Prime Minister of India to save the endangered species of Black bucks of this region. They said that if such steps are not taken by the Government on urgent basis the Black Bucks will become history and be banished from this region. Once this region used to be very rich with the presence of Black deers but on account of the killing of endangered species by rich persons belonging to Aligarh city and so called, Nawabs of the districts now only 357 black deers are believed to be exist in the region.

Bankebihari Gupta, president of LATA NGO Said that " Aligarh was very rich with the the presence of Black buck .But due to pouching the life of endangered species are in danger. We have written several letter to District Administration. But Administration have turned a blind eye regarding this evil menace. At last We have appealed to the Prime Minister of India to save the endangered species of Black deers of this region".

Sources of wild life department of U P Government that some 10 years ago the number of black deers in the district was estimated to be 5347. The black bucks were found in the jungles of villages Sunthla Rahim Kot, Surajpur Jaivana Birpura, AlahdadpMur, Gurskien Jarkhera Lohgarh and Saidman under the areas of Atrauli, Kher and Koil Tehsils of the district. It is worth mentioning that this species have their own history as several authors have written about free movements of Black deers in Aligarh district. According to manuscripts on records, Sir Thomas Row a British who visited India in the beginning of 17th Century in the region of Emperor Jahangir had written that black deers and peacocks were seen moving in almost whole of the area of Koil (Aligarh). Similarly another tourist Hawkins has written that in the surrounding of Delhi, Agra and Aligarh (Koil) large number of herds of black bucks were seem, now with the passage of time the number has considerably reduced and few left alone are struggling for their existence.

No two power centres in Maha, CM only leader, Pawar architect of our Govt: Raut

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Contesting the speculation that there are two power centres in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was the only leader who enjoyed all the powers in the MVA Government, while NCP chief Sharad Pawar being an architect of the ruling alliance, he played an important part in it and "we seek his advice".

Participating in a joint interaction programme hosted by Marathi television channel "ABP Majha", Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member and spokesperson Sanjay Raut dismissed the allegation in certain quarters that the State Government files were being sent to the Yeshwantrao Centre for the NCP chief to look at them.

"There are no two power centres in Maharashtra. Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is the only leader who enjoys all the powers in the state government. No government files to the Yeshwantrao Chavan Centre (for Pawar sahib to look at) as is being claimed in certain quarters. Uddhav sahib has the powers with him," Raut said.

Alluding to Pawar's role in the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the state, Raut said: "Pawar saheb played a key role in the formation of the MVA government in the State. He has a major role to play in our government. He is the most experienced political leader in the state and has vast administrative experience. No one has as much experience as he has governance matters in the state".

"Hence his guidance is valuable for our government. What is wrong if someone goes to him and seeks advice?. And we need the guidance of Pawar sahib," Raut said.

Replying to another question, Raut slammed the Opposition BJP for politicising the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide cases purposely.. "In view of the impending Bihar Assembly elections, the Opposition BJP is deriving political mileage out of the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case"

When his attention was drawn to the NCP chief's disapproval of his grandnephew Rohit Pawar's demand for CBI probe into the alleged Sushant Singh Raput suicide case, Raut said: "You should see the whole episode as a grandfather giving his grand nephew. Even late Bal Thackeray used to rebuke the youngsters when something went wrong. His family members as well all of us used to feel happy. Because, if he got irritated with us, we would think he was keeping a watch on us. Even in Rohit's case, Pawar did not say whatever he said in an irritating tone. Whatever he said was over that day. Now it has become a family matter".

Kerala CM, 7 Ministers go into quarantine

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Covid-19 is causing havoc in Kerala as 1,569 new persons were diagnosed positive for the pandemic in the last 24 hours ending Friday 6 pm. The situation in the State is so grave that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and seven of his Cabinet colleagues have gone under self-quarantine on Friday. The Ministers who have gone under quarantine include K K Shylaja, Health Minister.

Ten persons succumbed to Covid 19 on Friday while 1, 354 out of the new 1,569 cases contracted the pandemic through social transmission. 86 patients who tested positive on Friday failed to pinpoint the source from where they contracted the pandemic.

Interestingly, Shylaja had said in a release on Thursday that Kerala is likely to see the number of Covid-19 cases going up to 10,000 to 20,000 per day in the coming weeks and the number of causalities too would go up along with it.

Loknath Behera, State Police Chief too went under quarantine on Friday as he had accompanied the Chief Minister in the latter's trip to Kozhikode and Munnar recently. The responsibility of Covid-19 management has been given to the Police Department by the Chief Minister on Wednesday as all measures to fight and control the pandemic has come a cropper in the State. The SP of Malappuram too went under self quarantine as the district collector too was tested positive on Friday.

Don't know who benefited from Modi's ₹20L cr Covid package: Maha Cong chief

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Seeking to "expose" the Rs 20 lakh crore Covid-19 Economic Assistance Package announced by the Modi Government in August last year, the Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Congress (MPYC) President Satyajeet Tambe said here on Friday that while "the self-styled Pradhan Sevak" insisted ₹20 lakh crore-worth of assistance was given to farmers, entrepreneurs and the unemployed, he wanted to who were actually the beneficiaries from the scheme.

"The self-styled Pradhan Sevak insists ₹20 lakh crores-worth of assistance was given to farmers, entrepreneurs and the unemployed, but Maharashtra Youth Congress has been hard pressed to find a single individual who it has helped. My only question to the Prime Minister is, Modi ji, who exactly got the ₹ 20 Lakh Crore?," Tambe asked.

In a statement issued here, Tambe said: "Our MPYC Bearers and activists have been reaching out to the intended stakeholders of the ₹20 Lakh Crore COVID-19 Relief Package and have not been able to trace any beneficiaries. Meeting with farmers on the first day of the agitation at the district and taluka level, it was revealed by the video interviews recorded that not a single farmer has received the assistance promised," Tambe said.

"The fact-finding teams also consulted local traders, shops and factories and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and the unemployed, who also attest on record that the relief sought is still expected three months after it was pledged. The People of Maharashtra have participated wholeheartedly in our poll and their recorded testimonies express the same disillusionment across critical sectors of the economy," he said

Because of the stark variance between the Prime Minister's professions and the zero beneficiary reality on the ground, we at Maharashtra Youth Congress continue to apply to the Central Government for a breakdown of the COVID-19 assistance to Maharashtra. BJP's silence and thuggery is symptomatic of the elite capture and the cronyism that is Modi's Operandi.

Goa housing societies stigmatising patients, warned

IANS ■ PANAJI

Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane on Friday warned of a crackdown on housing societies and colonies discriminating against asymptomatic Covid-19 patients who have opted for home isolation.

Rane said that his Ministry has been receiving complaints about various housing societies and other residential complexes stigmatising asymptomatic Covid-19 patients, including restricting supply of food to those in home isolation.

"You cannot stigmatise patients who are opting for home isolation, otherwise government will come down heavily and take action against these housing societies and colonies. I have received complaints that committees are not allowing access to those who are in home isolation in different societies," Rane said.

"Supply of food is being stopped at the gates, as a result it is creating problems for patients who are asymptomatic and under monitoring of the Indian Medical Association and Health services. These people should not be stigmatised," Rane said.

The Health Minister said that Covid-19 could affect anyone.

"Covid does not recognise caste, status is society. Anybody can become Covid positive. There should not be any kind of stigmatisation. Home isolation decision has to be respected. No society or colony can take these decisions on its own," Rane said.

FROM PAGE 1

CONG WINS RAJ TRUST

Mocking Gehlot for keeping his loyalists holed up in hotels for a month, he said if the Government had a majority it could have proven it earlier.

He also questioned the Congress Government over the deployment of the state police at hotels where the MLAs were staying.

The rebellion by Pilot ended earlier this week after the intervention of the party's top leadership in Delhi, which assured that his grievances will be heard. On Thursday, Gehlot and Pilot shook hands.

During the debate on the motion, Dhariwal blamed the Centre for trying to "topple" the Governments in Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Goa, using money and power, but said a similar attempt in Rajasthan would not succeed.

Referring to Akbar, he said the Mughal emperor had to taste defeat in Mewar of Rajasthan during his quest to expand his empire. Similarly, the BJP's attempts to topple the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress Government were defeated, he added.

In a statement AICC said the trust vote in Rajasthan has brought a "new light" to the darkness prevailing in many corners of the democracy. Today, the "belief of the limitless possibilities" in the development of 8 crore citizens of Rajasthan has defeated hatred, negativity and despair, Congress chief spokesman Randeep Singh Surjewala said.

Adding that this had put a full stop on all "suspicions" that were rising, Pilot said, "A roadmap has been prepared for all the issues that were being raised. I have complete faith, that roadmap will be announced timely."

"Today in the Assembly, our Government has cleared the trust vote by a huge majority. A lot of rumours have been laid to rest through our united show today. I am sure that the Congress high command will, in a time-bound manner, roll out the roadmap and dealt with issues raised by us appropriately. The Opposition tried to unsettle us by highlighting issues like my seating arrangement. It is a non-issue. Till my last breath I will work for Rajasthan," Pilot told the media outside the Assembly after the trust vote.

I AM THE STRONGEST WARRIOR OF CONG, AVOWS SACHIN PILOT

The notice was sent to Pilot after the Rajasthan Police claimed to have stumbled upon a plot to topple the Congress government. "They are taking my name repeatedly. Prior to my seat being changed, I was safe and part of the Government. Then I thought why our Speaker and chief whip have given me a seat here? I thought for two minutes and then saw that this is a border. On one side is the ruling party and on the other is the Opposition. Who is sent to the border? The strongest warrior is sent," Pilot said, interrupting Rathore.

Pilot's seat in the House was changed after he was removed as the Deputy Chief Minister. Earlier, he used to sit next to the Chief Minister. "Many things have been said during the discussion on trust vote and many more will be said. Over time, everything will be revealed," Pilot said.

"But I want to say that whatever I or my companions had to say, we have told the doctor about our complaints... After getting the treatment, all of us today... 125 people are standing in the House," he said.

From his new seat, he added, he will ensure the safety of his party.

J&K POLICE SCOOPS 2ND HIGHEST PEACETIME GALLANTRY MEDAL

This graphically explains the medieval ways of PLA of throwing stones at the adversaries from vantage points.

Due to the high altitude training and manoeuver experience of the force in the Himalayan deployments, the ITBP troops kept the PLA troops at bay and due to the all out and befitting response of ITBP jawans at almost all fronts, many areas were safeguarded in the hyper sensitive areas, the ITBP said.

Four personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) also posthumously secured the honours of Shaurya Chakra. The CISF personnel who have been awarded the Shaurya Chakra posthumously are Late Mahaveer Prasad, Sub Inspector, Late Eranna Nayaka, Head Constable and Late Constables Mahendra Kumar Paswan Satish Prasad.

Meanwhile, Inspector Mohan Sharma of the Delhi Police has also been awarded a gallantry medal posthumously for his gallant action in the Batla House encounter in the national Capital in which he made the supreme sacrifice. The Union Home Ministry announced a total of 926 medals for various police forces and Central paramilitary forces.

President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 84 awards and decorations to the Armed Forces personnel and members of the Paramilitary Forces.

The awards include one Kirti Chakra, nine Shaurya Chakras (four went to the CISF), five Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 60 Sena Medals (Gallantry), four Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

The President has also approved 19 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army Personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations which include eight posthumous for "Operation Meghdoot" and "Operation Rakshak".

COVID 2.5 MN AND COUNTING

The coronavirus tally shot up to 2,73,085 in Andhra Pradesh as 8,943 fresh cases were reported in the last 24 hours. The State also registered 97 more coronavirus deaths, taking the overall toll to 2,475. The cases case rise in East Godavari district continued at an alarming rate as another 1,146 were added in the last 24 hours, pushing its gross to 38,292. Chittoor recorded 987 cases in the last 24 hours and Kurnool registered 956 COVID-19 cases.

Tamil Nadu reported 5,890 new COVID-19 cases and 117 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the total number of cases to 3,26,245 including 5,514 deaths and 53,716 active cases. Chennai, which reported a decline in numbers, suffering a spike again with 1,187 new cases. During the past few days the city had been reporting less than 1,000 new infections. The districts of Chengalpet and Thiruvallur have reported over 400 cases each, while Coimbatore, Kancheepuram, Theni have reported over 300, and Cuddalore reported 221 cases. The rest are from other districts of Tamil Nadu.

With 7,908 new cases and 104 fatalities in the last 24 hours, taking the total tally to 2,11,108, including 1,28,182 cases of discharge and 3,717 deaths. More than half of Karnataka's cases are in Bengaluru, while Mysuru, Bellary, Kalaburgi and Dakshin Kannada are the other badly affected districts.

SC HOLDS PRASHANT BHUSHAN GUILTY OF CONTEMPT OF COURT

The bench said the company has also shown its bona fides immediately after the cognizance was taken by this Court as it has suspended both the tweets.

"We, therefore, discharge the notice issued to the alleged contemnor No.2. (Twitter Inc)," the bench said.

The top court said it would hear on August 20, the arguments on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to Bhushan in the matter.

A contemnor in this case can be punished with simple imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine of up to ₹2,000 or with both. The bench analysed the two tweets of Bhushan posted on the micro-blogging site on June 27 on the functioning of judiciary in past six years, and on July 22 with regard to Chief Justice of India S A Bobde.

"In our considered view, it cannot be said that the tweets can be said to be a fair criticism of the functioning of the judiciary, made bona fide in the public interest," it said.

An attempt to shake the very foundation of constitutional democracy has to be dealt with an iron hand, the bench said, adding that the June 27 tweet (on judiciary) has the effect of destabilising the very foundation of this important pillar of the Indian democracy.

"The scurrilous/malicious attacks by the alleged contemnor No.1 are not only against one or two judges but the entire Supreme Court in its functioning of the last six years. Such an attack which tends to create disaffection and disrespect for the authority of this Court cannot be ignored," the bench said.

"The tweet clearly tends to give an impression that the Supreme Court, which is the highest constitutional court in the country, has in the last six years played a vital role in the destruction of Indian democracy. There is no manner of doubt, that the tweet tends to shake the public confidence in the institution of judiciary," the bench said.

It said, "In our considered view, the said tweet undermines the dignity and authority of the institution of the Supreme Court of India and the CJI and directly affronts the majesty of law".

The bench said Bhushan who has been part of the institution of administration of justice for the last 30 years, "instead of protecting the majesty of law has indulged into an act, which tends to bring disrepute to the institution of administration of justice".

"The alleged contemnor No.1 is expected to act as a responsible officer of this court. The scurrilous allegations, which are malicious in nature and have the tendency to scandalize the court, are not expected from a person, who is a lawyer of 30 years standing", it said. Referring to the July 22 tweet on CJI, about riding an alleged Rs 50 lakh motorcycle belonging to a BJP leader at Raj Bhawan, Nagpur "at a time when he keeps the SC in lockdown mode denying citizens their fundamental rights to access justice", the bench said the first part could be said to be a criticism made against the CJI as an individual but not the second part.

The bench said it would be noted that the date on which the CJI is alleged to have taken a ride on a motorbike is during the period when the Supreme Court was on a summer vacation and the vacations Benches of the Court were regularly functioning.

"The impression that the said tweet intends to give is that the CJI as the head of the Indian judiciary has kept the Supreme Court in lockdown mode, thereby denying citizens their fundamental right to access justice. In any case, the statement that the Supreme Court is in lockdown is factually incorrect even to the knowledge of the alleged contemnor No.1," it said.

It said that Bhushan has himself appeared on various occasions in a number of matters through video conferencing and referred to the matter in which order was passed.

"In this premise, making such wild allegations, thereby giving an impression that the CJI is enjoying riding an expensive bike, while he keeps the SC in lockdown mode and thereby denying citizens their fundamental right to access justice is undoubtedly false, malicious and scandalous," the bench said.

The apex court had on August 5 reserved its verdict in the matter after Bhushan defended his tweets, saying they were against the judges regarding their conduct in their personal capacity and they did not obstruct administration of justice.

DON'T EXCEED YOUR BRIEF ON SEALING IN DELHI, SC WARNS

The bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai and Krishna Murari, quashed the monitoring committee's April 2019 report, action of sealing and also the notices issued directing demolition "where the matter was being heard by this court and the monitoring committee had no power to look into the matter and to take any action".

The top court said it would not be appropriate for the committee to "usurp statutory powers" and act beyond the authority conferred upon it by the top court.

While referring to an April last year report submitted by the committee regarding specific unauthorised constructions allegedly carried out in Delhi's Vasant Kunj and Rajokari areas, the bench said the panel could neither have sealed residential premises, which were not misused for commercial purpose, nor could have directed their demolition.

RBI to pay ₹57,128 cr dividend to Govt

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India board on Friday approved a dividend payout of Rs 57,128 crore to the government, a move in line with the Budget expectation but may not help plug a huge revenue hole created by the pandemic and slowing economy.

The surplus transfer of Rs 57,128 crore for the accounting year 2019-20 compared with Rs 1.76 lakh crore transferred last year, which included Rs 1.23 lakh crore as dividend and Rs 52,637 crore excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

In a statement, the RBI said its central board headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das "reviewed the current economic situation, continued global and domestic challenges and the monetary, regulatory, and other measures taken by RBI to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic".

"The Board also approved the transfer of Rs 57,128 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2019-20, while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5 per cent," it said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget for 2020-21 had provisioned receipt of Rs 60,000 crore in dividend from the RBI and other banks to bridge the fiscal deficit. But, government officials had expected more from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The government is facing a larger-than-expected shortfall in revenue as the economy heads for its first full-year contraction since 1979. With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting businesses, it is widely speculated that tax collections will miss the target.

At the same time, the government is being forced to spend more to cushion the blow from the pandemic, straining the budget deficit.

The central bank largely earns profit through its trading of currencies and government bonds as well as printing of notes and coins.

Part of these earnings is set aside by the RBI for its operational and contingency needs, while the rest is transferred to the government in the form of dividend.

RBI"s financial year runs from July-June at present and is scheduled to be harmonised with the government"s April-March fiscal starting FY22. In the current year, the RBI will have a nine-month financial year, ending in March.

The central bank"s payout to the government last year was more due to a one-time transfer on account of the adoption of a new economic capital framework that calls for maintaining the level of the contingency risk buffer, or realised equity, at between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent of RBI"s balance sheet.

WPI inflation falls 0.58% in July, food prices spike

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation stood at (-)0.58 pc in July, remaining in the negative zone for the fourth straight month even as vegetables and other food items turned costlier. WPI inflation in June was (-) 1.81 per cent, while for the month of May and April it was (-) 3.37 per cent and (-) 1.57 per cent respectively.

"The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI (Wholesale Price Index), stood at (- 0.58 per cent) (provisional) for the month of July, 2020 as compared to 1.17 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles was at a four-month high level of 4.08 per cent in July, mainly due to sharp rise in vegetable prices. Inflation in vegetables stood at 8.20 per cent, against (-) 9.21 per cent in June.

Pulses saw inflation of 10.24 per cent, while for potato it was 69.07 per cent in July. Protein rich items like egg, meat and fish saw hardening of prices with inflation at 5.27 per cent.

However, onion prices softened and inflation fell 25.56 per cent, while in fruits it was (-) 3.03 per cent. Inflation in fuel and power basket fell 9.84 per cent in July, compared to 13.60 per cent drop in the previous month. Manufactured products, however, witnessed inflation of 0.51 per cent in July, against 0.08 per cent in June.

ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said the considerable narrowing in the WPI disinflation in July 2020 relative to the previous month, was along expected lines, with a correction in the index levels for crude oil and mineral oils, further narrowing of the core disinflation and a rise in food inflation. "The surge in tomato prices and moderate rise in potato prices pushed up the vegetable inflation in July 2020, contributing to the uptick in the inflation for primary food articles to a four-month high.

Markets retreat for 3rd day; bank stocks bleed

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices nursed losses for the third straight session on Friday as investors pruned exposure to banking, financial and consumption stocks amid negative global cues.

Weak macroeconomic data and a depreciating rupee further curbed risk appetite, traders said.

Tanking 663 points from the day's high, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 433.15 points or 1.13 per cent lower at 37,877.34.

The broader NSE Nifty slumped 122.05 points or 1.08 per cent to close at 11,178.40.

Axis Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.81 per cent, followed by SBI, M&M, Bajaj Finance, ITC, HDFC Bank, HCL Tech and IndusInd Bank.

Only five index constituents ended in the green — Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Steel, Titan and Infosys, rising up to 2.04 per cent. During the week, the Sensex declined 163.23 points or 0.42 per cent, while the Nifty fell 35.65 points or 0.31 per cent.

"Indian markets tracked weak global cues in the latter part of the trading day to end with losses. The uncertainty was with regards to the US-China trade meet this weekend and a lack of wholesome pick-up in economic activity in many countries, including China. "The Indian retail inflation numbers that came in above the MPCs" target also put doubt on expected rate cuts by the RBI, which the market was looking forward to. Weak results especially in the Auto sector also contributed to the losses," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Retail inflation rose to 6.93 per cent in July, mainly driven by rising prices of food items like vegetables, pulses, meat and fish, official data released post market hours on Thursday showed.

BSE auto, bankex, finance, oil and gas, FMCG and telecom indices fell up to 2.50 per cent in Friday"s session, while metal, healthcare and consumer durables closed higher.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices fell up to 1.02 per cent. Global equities were under pressure following lacklustre industrial production and retail sales data in China.

Bourses in Hong Kong and Seoul ended in the red, while Shanghai and Tokyo settled with gains. Stock exchanges in Paris, Frankfurt and London plunged up to 2 per cent in early deals, dragged by travel stocks, after the UK added more European countries to its quarantine list.

₹ settles 6 paise lower at 74.90 against US $

Mumbai: The rupee on Friday slid 6 paise to end at 74.90 against US dollar as data showing slow economic recovery and higher inflation dampened forex market sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.85 and then lost further ground to settle at 74.90, registering a decline of 6 paise over its previous close of 74.84 to the US dollar.

Bank credit grows 5.51 pc, deposits 11.11 pc: RBI data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit and deposits grew 5.51 per cent and 11.11 per cent to Rs 102.65 lakh crore and Rs 141.61 lakh crore, respectively, in the fortnight ended July 31, according to the latest data from the RBI.

In the fortnight ended August 2, 2019, bank credit and deposits were at Rs 97.29 lakh crore and Rs 127.44 lakh crore, respectively.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit growth was at 6.7 per cent in June 2020, nearly the same as in May 2020 but lower than the growth of 11.1 per cent in June 2019.

Allow e-way bill for intra-State transportation of gold: GoM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

States can make e-way bill mandatory for transportation of gold within the respective states but implementing it for inter-state movement across India will not be feasible, a state-ministerial panel suggested on Friday. The group of ministers (GoM) set up to examine feasibility of implementation of e-way bill for movement of gold and precious stones met via video conferencing.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11353.30	11366.25	11111.45	11178.40	-122.05
JSWSTEEL	259.00	267.30	257.55	265.25	6.65
COALINDIA	129.35	134.25	129.10	131.95	3.00
SUNPHARMA	523.50	536.00	522.00	531.05	10.25
CIPLA	762.00	787.75	752.55	773.60	13.35
NTPC	87.35	89.85	86.70	88.60	1.35
TITAN	1097.65	1119.00	1090.05	1110.75	13.10
TATASTEEL	410.00	430.95	409.10	417.90	4.80
SHREECEM	21395.00	21700.00	21201.55	21470.90	233.90
INFY	955.85	963.00	952.05	954.50	3.30
ADANIPORTS	353.75	353.75	343.65	348.80	1.15
DRREDDY	4526.15	4586.00	4470.00	4516.20	13.95
HINDALCO	184.35	189.45	180.60	183.80	0.25
WIPRO	278.50	280.75	275.90	277.00	0.00
BRITANNIA	3828.00	3840.00	3752.00	3805.00	-3.25
ASIANPAINT	1818.70	1830.00	1795.50	1800.55	-2.00
TCS	2277.00	2281.30	2233.10	2243.85	-10.60
RELIANCE	2122.55	2157.00	2089.25	2112.00	-10.05
HEROMOTOCO	2800.50	2843.50	2756.05	2796.00	-13.65
NESTLEIND	16487.00	16549.00	16305.05	16385.00	-89.20
TECHM	692.00	711.00	692.00	693.30	-3.75
ZEEL	163.80	167.50	158.20	161.40	-0.90
UPL	494.60	496.90	480.85	486.25	-2.90
GRASIM	632.00	639.80	623.45	628.00	-3.85
HDFC	1818.60	1823.75	1773.25	1793.75	-11.10
LT	999.95	1017.00	973.40	982.00	-8.70
ULTRACEMCO	4045.00	4090.90	3965.35	4010.00	-37.30
HINDUNILVR	2204.00	2216.00	2165.05	2178.15	-20.50
BHARTIARTL	542.85	542.85	525.00	529.95	-5.40
BAJAJ-AUTO	3022.00	3028.25	2976.00	2981.00	-36.95
GAIL	99.15	99.20	95.65	96.10	-1.30
INFRATEL	202.90	205.50	197.75	198.50	-2.90
BAJAJFINSV	6390.00	6400.00	6190.00	6253.00	-97.00
ONGC	78.70	78.95	76.95	77.25	-1.35
POWERGRID	180.65	180.65	174.10	175.55	-3.20
ICICIBANK	371.80	371.80	354.20	360.90	-7.15
MARUTI	6740.00	6745.15	6552.05	6598.95	-132.70
BPCL	426.00	426.00	408.65	412.80	-8.35
HDFCLIFE	600.00	602.40	585.65	587.80	-11.95
KOTAKBANK	1337.55	1346.80	1302.30	1309.00	-27.25
INDUSINDBK	520.00	523.50	500.15	508.10	-10.65
IOC	87.50	87.50	84.55	85.05	-1.80
HCLTECH	727.90	727.90	707.25	708.95	-15.65
HDFCBANK	1065.90	1065.90	1027.30	1035.00	-24.05
ITC	201.60	203.35	195.50	196.55	-4.90
SBIN	203.00	204.00	194.60	196.80	-5.10
BAJFINANCE	3425.00	3448.80	3306.20	3331.00	-88.65
AXISBANK	451.50	451.50	425.60	436.30	-11.80
M&M	634.00	637.85	607.55	610.80	-20.65
TATAMOTORS	131.15	132.65	123.70	124.85	-6.30
EICHERMOT	21698.00	21750.15	20066.65	20124.00	-1548.95

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27624.50	27683.45	27086.75	27260.45	-255.35
LUPIN	932.20	1023.55	932.20	1014.00	83.50
MUTHOOTFIN	1188.00	1222.25	1182.00	1212.55	34.40
SIEMENS	1185.00	1266.00	1175.90	1212.00	33.80
CADILAHC	390.00	400.35	386.05	396.70	10.30
TORNTPHARM	2812.95	2886.50	2790.00	2831.25	32.30
HDFCAMC	2341.00	2374.60	2324.80	2346.00	18.55
CONCOR	380.00	385.00	372.40	379.70	2.60
DABUR	499.50	501.60	488.75	500.00	2.15
BIOCON	394.50	402.30	391.50	394.85	1.60
NHPC	20.65	21.45	20.45	20.60	0.05
MARICO	366.80	369.25	363.85	366.70	0.60
GICRE	142.15	145.95	141.05	142.00	0.10
AUROPHARMA	888.95	900.00	863.30	881.50	0.20
PAGEIND	19050.20	19343.35	18755.00	18999.00	-9.90
BERGEPAINT	554.90	557.65	544.70	550.40	-0.45
NMDC	93.70	94.40	91.50	92.90	-0.25
HAVELLS	618.00	621.60	602.65	610.00	-2.50
PIDILITIND	1380.95	1408.80	1368.10	1370.10	-10.00
ACC	1390.00	1416.80	1380.45	1384.00	-10.55
NAUKRI	3240.15	3328.00	3240.15	3247.00	-25.25
BANDHANBNK	293.50	296.00	285.10	288.50	-2.40
AMBUJACEM	221.80	224.55	218.85	220.00	-2.00
OFSS	3060.00	3060.00	2989.55	3009.60	-31.20
DIVISLAB	3135.00	3185.00	3060.10	3090.75	-34.75
DMART	2214.30	2219.90	2173.55	2182.00	-25.10
PGHH	10278.00	10278.00	9987.00	10030.00	-122.65
IGL	395.40	395.75	386.50	388.60	-4.85
ABBOTINDIA	16674.00	16750.00	16257.45	16460.05	-212.80
MOTHERSUMI	120.50	122.30	118.25	119.10	-1.60
MCDOWELL-N	596.80	604.55	581.00	583.65	-8.35
ADANITRANS	242.80	245.00	235.30	237.40	-3.55
COLPAL	1445.35	1445.35	1405.75	1413.00	-21.35
HINDPETRO	214.00	214.50	207.70	208.75	-3.60
SBICARD	794.00	798.75	753.05	777.40	-14.90
PETRONET	265.95	266.95	257.15	259.85	-5.35
SBILIFE	866.90	866.90	828.70	842.00	-19.50
PEL	1468.00	1485.00	1417.05	1434.00	-33.35
UBL	988.00	1003.90	956.00	963.35	-22.65
SRTRANSFIN	708.00	730.60	676.70	685.90	-16.40
INDIGO	1175.00	1210.00	1112.25	1133.00	-28.00
PNB	33.50	33.50	31.95	32.30	-0.95
ICICIPRULI	468.80	471.50	455.50	456.25	-14.45
BAJAJHLDNG	2686.90	2707.40	2552.30	2599.95	-86.90
GODREJCP	713.90	713.90	681.00	685.15	-24.05
HINDZINC	242.95	245.00	227.40	230.75	-8.65
DLF	148.90	149.75	140.35	142.10	-5.65
ICICIGI	1364.00	1375.10	1304.50	1312.00	-52.15
BANKBARODA	48.50	48.50	45.80	46.15	-1.95
PFC	95.95	96.00	90.45	91.30	-4.05
BOSCHLTD	14399.90	14399.90	13642.70	13717.00	-680.05

BSE 500

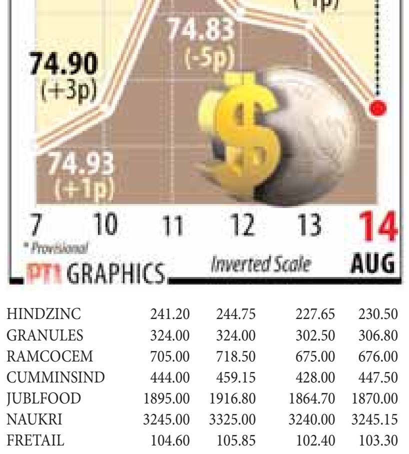
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
Security Name	Open	High	Low	LTP
RELIANCE	2122.30	2156.50	2090.20	2114.10
TATASTEEL	408.80	430.80	408.80	418.45
LUPIN	934.40	1023.40	932.50	1018.85
INDIGO	1172.20	1210.00	1112.70	1138.85
ICICIBANK	371.40	371.75	354.40	361.45
SBIN	203.00	204.00	194.65	196.45
BAJFINANCE	3429.95	3450.00	3306.00	3330.90
AXISBANK	451.10	451.10	425.75	435.45
HDFCBANK	1068.00	1068.00	1027.60	1034.45
CIPLA	762.00	787.55	753.30	771.80
LT	997.00	1017.40	974.20	982.15
HAL	1320.00	1423.55	1207.45	1295.20
BHARTIARTL	542.55	542.55	525.10	528.90
TATAMOTORS	131.85	132.60	123.75	124.55
ASHOKLEY	62.00	65.30	60.30	61.55
BANDHANBNK	294.60	295.95	285.10	288.20
SRTRANSFIN	705.00	730.85	676.60	686.45
IDEA	9.04	9.33	8.71	8.93
TITAN	1061.00	1118.45	1061.00	1102.30
INFY	955.00	963.00	952.00	953.50
ASIANPAINT	1806.00	1829.65	1795.65	1801.60
HINDUNILVR	2198.00	2215.80	2165.05	2174.00
PVR	1258.00	1287.45	1215.90	1243.05
ITC	201.50	203.25	195.60	196.50
GLENMARK	470.00	484.90	467.25	475.40
AUROPHARMA	899.95	899.95	863.30	878.20
EICHERMOT	21640.00	21740.00	20070.95	20129.65
RBLBANK	185.70	187.30	174.00	177.35
HEROMOTOCO	2790.00	2841.00	2757.65	2805.45
ZEEL	162.55	167.50	158.10	161.30
BEL	115.40	118.45	109.70	113.20
JINDALSTEL	212.60	222.30	208.35	212.05
HDFC	1807.00	1822.45	1773.00	1791.95
SIEMENS	1183.90	1266.00	1177.65	1211.40
BPCL	426.70	426.70	408.90	413.25
BHARATFORG	498.00	511.40	485.45	494.80
TCS	2274.40	2281.25	2233.15	2242.45
IBULHSGFIN	213.90	214.80	201.30	204.85
ULTRACEMCO	4047.00	4091.00	3966.25	4010.05
ESCORTS	1134.00	1172.00	1077.55	1100.85
KOTAKBANK	1340.30	1346.65	1305.00	1308.10
MARUTI	6735.00	6740.00	6556.20	6587.40
HINDALCO	184.00	189.45	180.65	183.85
M&MFIN	136.00	139.35	132.05	133.05
INDUSINDBK	517.15	523.30	500.25	507.35
TATAMTRDVR	47.40	48.05	44.10	44.55
L&TFH	65.90	66.75	63.60	64.20
MOTHERSUMI	121.00	122.25	118.15	119.85
PEL	1457.00	1484.90	1418.05	1431.40
MUTHOOTFIN	1190.00	1222.05	1189.00	1212.70
TECHM	691.00	710.95	691.00	695.90
DRREDDY	4511.00	4584.40	4470.00	4517.00
BDL	464.20	481.25	442.70	455.05
DIVISLAB	3137.90	3183.75	3062.80	3093.00
SUNPHARMA*	524.45	536.00	522.95	531.45
TATACONSUM	543.90	544.40	530.15	537.35
ADANIENT	203.00	204.45	191.60	196.15
HAVELLS	615.00	621.35	602.90	610.50
NBCC	26.65	27.75	26.00	26.75
PIDILITIND	1389.90	1409.00	1368.05	1370.75
HDFCAMC	2344.00	2374.95	2323.10	2345.55
BAJAJ-AUTO	2997.00	3026.65	2977.75	2982.65
PFC	96.00	96.10	90.55	91.30
INFRATEL	201.80	205.35	197.70	199.10
BHEL	39.20	39.40	36.70	37.35
MRF	64090.00	64568.70	61200.15	61488.50
VENKYS	1419.00	1445.00	1304.00	1342.50
COALINDIA	130.00	134.20	129.05	131.80
CADILAHC	390.00	400.25	386.30	395.45
VOLTAS	621.50	631.50	603.80	611.35
HINDPETRO	213.00	214.40	207.85	208.60
JSWSTEEL	259.60	267.20	257.55	265.40
BALKRISIND	1391.00	1399.90	1306.80	1310.65
TATAPOWER	56.75	57.15	54.55	54.95
UBL	985.00	1003.00	956.05	964.60
CHOLAFIN	225.60	230.95	216.85	218.05
GRASIM	632.20	639.35	624.00	626.95
COLPAL	1440.00	1442.00	1405.75	1413.85
TATAELXSI	1018.80	1028.35	1006.80	1020.05
M&M	632.50	637.50	609.10	614.90
STAR	563.65	579.95	551.90	555.05
LAURUSLABS	1036.10	1053.60	993.25	1009.65
DMART	2219.80	2219.80	2173.00	2178.15
SBICARD	794.00	798.95	753.00	779.20
APOLLOHOSP	1737.00	1753.95	1688.45	1709.00
CONCOR	378.15	385.05	372.55	379.60
SBILIFE	869.90	869.90	829.00	839.50
HCLTECH	727.20	727.90	707.30	709.00
BIOCON	394.60	402.35	391.60	394.80
IOC	87.00	87.50	84.60	84.85
CAPPL	568.45	575.00	531.05	547.00
ACC	1391.00	1416.50	1380.35	1384.70
ASHOKA	66.10	74.00	65.70	70.90
IRCTC	1389.50	1408.75	1352.00	1368.15
NTPC	87.20	89.85	86.85	88.40
APOLLOTYRE	133.00	134.25	128.75	129.35
RVNL	20.00	23.10	20.00	22.15
MCX	1689.80	1705.00	1648.60	1658.75
DABUR	499.55	501.15	489.20	496.40
SRF	4210.00	4270.20	4134.45	4164.80
BEML	720.00	736.00	683.20	699.40
BANKBARODA	48.60	48.60	45.85	46.10
DLF	149.85	149.85	140.40	142.60
GAIL	98.65	99.05	95.70	95.95
TORNTPHARM	2830.00	2885.20	2792.60	2839.00
BAJAJFINSV	6390.00	6397.90	6194.35	6247.60
TATACOMM	781.70	816.55	761.05	816.55

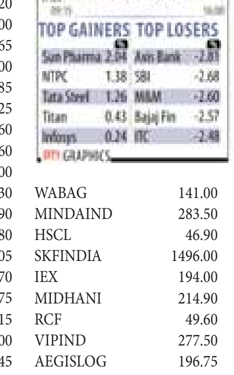
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
WOCKPHARMA	312.60	328.20	312.60	322.60
ECLERX	651.00	735.15	631.55	675.60
IDFCFIRSTB	31.80	31.80	29.95	30.30
MANAPPURAM	157.40	159.70	153.00	154.50
GODREJCP	714.00	714.00	681.05	684.55
SAIL	38.65	39.55	38.35	38.75
ALKYLAMINE	2842.00	2945.00	2710.05	2829.85
PAGEIND	19150.00	19337.60	18752.45	18955.25
IPCALAB	2010.00	2027.75	1990.20	2013.20
SHREECEM	21387.20	21685.00	21220.00	21444.00
HDFCLIFE	600.00	602.45	585.75	587.80
AVANTI	510.00	512.00	476.55	485.80
VEDL	125.00	125.50	121.25	122.65
SUNTV	409.00	411.35	395.55	400.30
CENTURYTEX	315.80	323.75	303.90	312.25
UPL	495.00	496.50	480.70	485.90
PIIND	1903.90	1966.30	1903.90	1940.20
BSOFT	147.20	157.00	146.05	151.95
NESTLEIND	16478.10	16540.00	16315.00	16355.85
BRITANNIA	3808.00	3838.05	3754.10	3801.80
IDFC	27.15	28.20	24.25	26.60
BOSCHLTD	14400.00	14400.00	13650.00	13722.80
NCC	32.30	33.40	31.50	32.10
MINDTREE	1125.00	1174.25	1125.00	1135.55
GMM	5819.90	6099.00	5651.15	5778.95
TVSMOTOR	430.55	433.90	415.80	418.10
GUJGAS	325.70	334.65	307.25	313.75
POLYCAB	849.00	892.95	849.00	874.75
MGL	991.80	991.80	968.00	971.10
BLISSGVS	131.95	138.00	130.10	133.20
ABFRL	129.90	133.00	125.90	129.10
NESCO	493.00	554.85	493.00	517.80
INDHOTEL	99.40	102.45	91.00	93.60
BATAINDIA	1247.00	1247.00	1226.20	1234.45
WIPRO	280.00	280.55	276.00	276.50
REDINGTON	98.00	112.00	98.00	109.25
FEDERALBNK	54.40	54.50	52.00	52.60
NMDC	93.95	94.40	91.45	93.10
BERGEPAINT	553.10	557.15	544.85	550.00
HINDZINC	241.20	244.75	227.65	230.50
GRANULES	324.00	324.00	302.50	306.80
RAMCOCEM	705.00	718.50	675.00	676.00
CUMMINSIND	444.00	459.15	428.00	447.50
JUBLFOOD	1895.00	1916.80	1864.70	1870.00
NAUKRI	3245.00	3325.00	3240.00	3245.15
FRETAIL	104.60	105.85	102.40	103.30
NATCOPHARM	814.00	838.70	814.00	829.35
MEGH	67.90	72.35	67.60	69.40
UJJIVAN	242.00	246.75	234.75	237.75
ONGC	79.00	79.00	77.00	77.15
LICHSGFIN	272.00	273.25	262.25	264.25
JSWENERGY	54.40	59.10	53.95	56.25
GALAXYSURF	1900.00	1940.00	1745.05	1835.50
AMARAJABAT	756.00	767.65	736.00	741.70
SPICEJET	51.10	51.75	48.40	49.35
DEEPAKNI	601.20	601.70	583.00	585.25
COROMANDEL	750.25	779.25	743.35	751.00
LEMONTREE	33.85	33.85	30.65	30.65
IBREALEST	69.15	71.15	65.20	66.40
EQUITAS	53.40	54.40	51.75	52.75
NIITTECH	1990.00	2030.00	1968.00	1975.65
TATACHEM	297.50	300.45	293.40	294.95
POWERGRID	180.20	180.20	174.15	175.40
ADANIPORTS	352.55	353.50	344.00	348.30
DELTACORP*	116.00	119.95	111.70	114.20
SHRIRAMCIT	727.00	845.00	719.00	782.00
PTC	54.50	55.75	54.00	54.30
RECLTD	111.00	111.40	107.55	108.00
PARAGMILK	105.15	111.70	103.05	105.00
CUB	121.00	124.35	120.60	121.25
ADVENZYMES	210.00	227.40	209.10	216.85
PNB	33.25	33.40	31.95	32.25
BAJAJELEC	440.00	473.90	440.00	467.95
BOMDYEING	67.25	70.65	66.60	67.70
NAVINFLUOR	1986.00	2030.00	1931.00	1968.85
BBTC	1476.80	1528.75	1412.00	1449.85
RELAXO	635.00	635.00	603.10	629.20
ICICIPRULI	470.50	470.50	455.95	458.95
ADANIGREEN	362.00	367.00	351.20	357.70
EMAMILTD	315.05	345.00	315.05	327.70
SOUTHBANK	7.21	7.30	7.01	7.06
JUBILANT	811.00	829.00	790.05	808.85
ALKEM	2920.10	2958.55	2870.00	2949.20
PHILIPCARB	123.10	124.65	116.05	118.10
MARICO	367.95	369.00	363.95	365.90

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
NATIONALUM	35.40	36.20	34.75	35.10
VINATIORGA	983.00	1027.60	978.50	997.45
GMDCLTD	43.00	45.45	42.75	43.50
APLLTD	1075.10	1087.40	1026.00	1041.00
CANBK	103.45	103.45	100.70	101.40
AFFLE	2177.90	2183.45	2060.00	2101.25
RAYMOND	273.95	278.35	264.00	267.95
TRENT	570.20	587.90	548.55	567.00
ENGINERSIN	69.25	70.45	67.10	67.85
HEG	792.00	806.45	771.45	778.00
PNBHOUSING	231.50	243.25	231.50	238.85
LALPATHLAB	1877.80	1894.10	1810.00	1855.35
IGL	399.00	399.00	383.10	387.95
JAICORPLTD	92.00	94.75	89.90	91.40
DIXON	8135.95	8181.00	7870.00	7922.80
RAIN	114.00	116.80	105.20	108.85
INDIANB	65.20	65.20	60.45	62.20
GRSE	224.50	228.10	215.85	218.55
ITI	141.80	142.95	135.20	137.80
BLUESTARCO	524.75	562.40	524.05	543.95
NOCIL	118.15	118.40	110.10	112.95
GODFRYPHLP	956.35	962.80	932.00	938.00
SUZLON	3.71	4.04	3.71	4.04
EXIDEIND	167.30	168.50	161.25	162.85
AJANTPHARM	1650.00	1664.00	1603.90	1629.30
HEIDELBERG	182.80	201.65	180.30	193.65
DBL	352.50	360.00	343.90	351.55
FINCABLES	280.00	290.85	276.60	280.75
EIHOTEL	78.70	80.30	72.70	75.10
ABB	942.25	958.95	934.00	947.70
SWANENERGY	139.70	140.55	132.60	134.00
GILLETTE	5035.00	5208.80	5022.50	5031.00
JAMNAAUTO	39.30	40.85	38.50	39.55
AARTIIND	998.05	1028.40	988.65	1009.00
DEEPAKFERT	160.80	161.45	151.85	156.05
GODREJAGRO	494.80	494.80	477.30	484.35
NAM-INDIA	272.00	274.45	266.75	268.70
KEC	307.60	319.90	305.10	307.85
WESTLIFE	374.75	384.00	360.65	369.75
SPARC	181.90	187.90	175.45	178.20
HEXAWARE	391.10	408.90	391.10	392.60
RITES	250.00	254.90	246.15	248.35
ADANIGAS	160.00	160.70	155.60	158.35
JKPAPER*	95.70	98.75	95.20	96.05
PETRONET	265.20	266.85	257.30	260.00
GNFC	170.55	173.70	167.00	169.15
ICICIGI	1364.50	1375.40	1306.00	1310.35
FDC	328.45	336.50	318.00	322.30
CESC	598.95	601.25	581.80	598.20
LTI	2494.00	2494.00	2424.10	2450.00
WELCORP	111.65	113.70	105.45	106.65
CGCL	198.05	204.00	198.05	203.00
BAJAJCON	186.80	186.80	177.25	179.85
MAHLIFE	222.70	255.05	221.45	233.25
SHOPERSTOP	178.00	182.90	169.05	171.60
NHPC	20.50	21.45	20.45	20.60
AMBER	1699.90	1786.00	1699.00	1725.00
FSL	55.45	55.45	50.20	52.30
DCAL	195.10	196.85	184.65	185.90
JKTYRE	63.60	64.35	62.50	62.80
JYOTHYLAB	139.95	144.70	138.45	141.05
JUSTDIAL	389.45	392.00	385.00	387.70
CEATLTD	893.00	896.95	872.90	882.75
AMBUJACEM	220.55	224.50	218.90	220.15
NH	346.00	353.35	323.15	332.00
SONATSOFTW	317.65	317.65	300.40	305.45
INOXLEISUR	260.00	265.75	248.80	257.45
MFSL	531.05	537.00	520.45	522.90
RALLIS	304.50	306.00	292.00	295.70
PHOENIXLTD	604.00	665.90	593.60	637.00
JBCHEPHARM	778.80	779.00	758.45	766.40
BAYERCROP	6169.95	6249.00	6050.00	6080.90
ARVINDFASN	146.00	146.00	132.10	132.10
DISHTV	8.50	8.55	7.83	7.99
BALRAMCHIN	141.00	144.70	140.45	141.95
GPPL	80.80	80.80	78.15	79.55
IFBIND	428.70	445.00	406.00	424.00
INDIACEM	117.65	117.90	113.55	114.35
TORNTPOWER	343.05	345.15	340.55	342.70
PRESTIGE	230.00	238.90	230.00	232.70
AUBANK	724.00	724.00	702.05	707.30
JTEKTINDIA	75.00	75.35	72.00	73.45
TATACOFFEE	109.90	109.90	103.35	105.20
PFIZER	4599.95	4599.95	4458.80	4486.30
WHIRLPOOL	2018.50	2049.70	2000.15	2020.00
KEI	369.00	376.00	361.30	370.95
SHK	81.60	81.90	76.25	76.90
IRCON	96.45	98.50	94.40	94.80
TNPL	121.00	123.65	117.30	119.30
FCONSUMER	11.50	11.50	10.93	11.20
FORTIS	133.80	137.35	132.20	135.80
JSLHISAR	87.00	91.50	84.35	88.00
VBL	771.45	789.00	760.00	779.00
CANFINHOME	368.75	380.00	368.75	372.95
GMRINFRA	21.45	21.60	20.80	20.95
METROPOLIS	1689.70	1689.70	1628.35	1679.95
CREDITACC	590.05	611.95	576.30	598.00
APLAPOLLO	2127.05	2250.55	2127.05	2192.00
3MINDIA	21200.00	21254.60	20839.10	20910.00
JINDALSAW	60.45	60.80	58.00	58.60
CHENNPETRO	81.80	82.20	79.10	79.55
HAWKINCOOK	4790.90	4835.00	4706.00	4758.50
RADICO	405.90	406.15	389.95	397.10
IDBI	39.65	39.95	38.65	38.85
SOBHA	227.40	235.45	224.30	228.70
MRPL	33.15	34.10	33.00	33.35
BAJAJHLDNG	2705.00	2706.00	2566.00	2601.85
INDIAMART	2974.80	2993.00	2890.00	2923.00
TRIDENT	6.88	6.88	6.60	6.74

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
HUDCO	36.80	37.15	34.80	35.40
ABCAPITAL	61.00	61.15	58.25	58.55
CASTROLIND	122.00	123.00	121.30	122.05
TEAMLEASE	2173.05	2226.00	2087.00	2122.75
GRAPHITE	184.90	187.65	178.00	178.90
ASTRAL	1074.25	1076.30	1023.30	1053.30
HATHWAY	36.30	38.60	35.75	37.50
MPHASIS	1183.00	1200.10	1177.45	1194.35
SYMPHONY	846.00	875.00	820.00	832.90
COCHINSHIP	348.75	348.75	334.00	338.45
CYIENT	380.00	389.50	362.05	370.00
VGUARD	161.50	162.35	159.55	159.80
ERIS	537.55	546.35	523.05	536.95
ATUL	5344.00	5389.40	5208.00	5208.05
JKLAKSHMI	281.00	281.00	268.60	271.15
SUNTECK	227.90	227.90	210.00	215.85
ABBOTINDIA	16674.25	16710.90	16290.00	16475.00
BANKINDIA	49.25	49.25	46.90	47.40
GARFIBRES	1900.00	1901.75	1819.05	1875.00
INDOCO	246.00	256.95	243.00	246.50
MAHABANK	12.03	12.61	11.94	12.05
TV18BRDCST	34.10	34.10	32.85	33.05
SYNGENE	488.00	501.20	482.70	490.30
ADANIPOWER	37.70	37.85	37.05	37.20
CHAMBLFERT	156.60	156.60	151.45	153.05
VARROC	227.00	230.60	203.95	211.85
RAJESHEXPO	470.00	473.55	459.90	460.50
SUDARSCHEM	419.10	431.05	415.50	417.05
JSL	44.00	47.00	43.60	44.95
LINDEINDIA	709.60	749.00	709.60	735.60
ZYDUSWELL	1644.95	1675.00	1604.05	1612.05
ASTRAZEN	3323.00	3378.75	3309.90	3322.35
VAIBHAVGBL	1800.00	1842.95	1692.10	1698.80
GICRE	141.50	145.80	140.00	141.95
KALPATPOWR*	246.00	250.35	239.95	242.40
TCIEXP	772.00	813.00	759.00	763.35
GET&D	117.40	118.80	107.50	107.50
GLAXO	1524.00	1547.80	1505.00	1511.55
GODREJPROP	875.70	876.55	848.10	859.30
WABAG	141.00	142.10	131.60	135.75
MINDAIND	283.50	295.60	280.15	284.65
HSCL	46.90	46.95	44.65	45.00
SKFINDIA	1496.00	1556.45	1496.00	1513.30
IEX	194.00	194.00	183.25	185.75
MIDHANI	214.90	215.95	207.00	209.80
RCF	49.60	50.50	48.40	48.50
VIPIND	277.50	277.50	262.90	265.65
AEGISLOG	196.75	202.20	185.25	191.15
IRB	122.45	122.75	118.50	119.70
QUESS	369.95	374.60	356.75	365.45
ADANITRANS	245.00	245.00	235.25	236.85
SCHNEIDER	80.80	80.80	76.20	76.65
KNRCON	215.50	223.00	211.25	215.90
KAJARIACER	408.00	408.00	397.05	402.85
KTKBANK	43.90	43.90	42.25	42.50
DHANUKA	820.05	828.20	765.50	790.75
FORCEMOT	970.00	991.70	941.00	951.25
ISEC	491.20	493.45	472.00	480.00
THYROCARE	697.00	717.50	695.00	702.70
KPRMILL	541.00	573.75	512.85	533.30
NILKAMAL	1239.00	1286.35	1232.00	1232.50
TIINDIA	604.80	609.20	584.00	591.75
STRTECH*	132.50	133.40	128.60	130.25
DCBBANK	83.00	83.30	81.00	81.05
J&KBANK	17.35	17.60	16.60	16.80
LUXIND	1433.00	1446.00	1365.00	1365.00
NBVENTURES	52.95	55.00	51.95	53.30
TIMKEN	972.00	999.05	955.00	956.50
ASTERDM	134.85	136.50	130.00	131.45
THERMAX	754.55	771.75	741.80	749.00
BRIGADE	149.95	153.55	146.00	149.35
CARBORUNIV	257.50	265.00	251.10	252.55
SWSOLAR	258.95	261.00	247.10	250.50
LTTS	1596.10	1618.15	1555.00	1563.00
WELSPUNIND	48.65	48.65	46.70	46.70
KRBL	293.60	297.95	285.35	285.85
ENDURANCE	977.95	977.95	925.65	961.00
UNIONBANK	30.25	30.40	29.35	29.55
IFCI	7.50	7.50	7.04	7.10
GUJALKALI	324.00	327.75	318.10	320.00
ESSELPRO	268.00	273.75	265.00	267.55
GSFC	62.15	62.60	60.40	61.00
HFCL	16.59	16.59	15.15	15.40
SUMICHEM	270.25	276.55	268.50	269.70
SCI	60.40	60.95	58.10	59.05
CROMPTON	251.60	251.65	246.35	250.50
HERITGFOOD	318.85	336.25	313.45	327.60
GREAVESCOT	87.25	87.25	83.50	83.70
SHANKARA	341.15	364.45	341.15	348.00
MAHINDCIE	120.00	121.85	116.60	120.00
SANOFI	8199.00	8345.60	8135.00	8325.00

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
HINDCOPPER	38.95	39.40	36.90	38.45
HONAUT	31949.90	32100.00	30040.60	30728.00
CRISIL	1745.20	1765.15	1706.00	1725.00
OBEROIRLTY	374.00	377.10	363.80	364.35
PCJEWELLER	16.67	16.81	16.16	16.31
BLUEDART	1944.00	1974.00	1900.00	1908.40
REPCOHOME	130.30	136.95	130.30	131.50
OFSS	3040.00	3049.80	2994.90	3015.00
AIAENG	1689.00	1714.25	1668.35	1696.85
SJVN	22.25	22.90	22.15	22.35
GSPL	214.90	214.90	208.05	211.20
AKZOINDIA	2022.85	2022.85	1980.00	2007.00
BIRLACORPN	609.00	616.20	597.00	602.15
EIDPARRY	288.00	293.20	277.70	282.50
EDELWEISS	77.50	77.70	74.95	76.20
UJJIVANSFB	35.50	35.50	34.35	34.45
UCOBANK	13.93	13.93	13.56	13.64
FINOLEXIND	461.80	461.80	446.00	453.00
PERSISTENT	1010.00	1010.00	978.00	992.30
OIL	95.85	95.85	93.85	94.10
BALMLAWRIE	116.45	116.45	112.90	113.75
ORIENTREF	176.00	184.15	172.00	183.50
UFLEX	331.95	335.95	320.00	325.85
ORIENTELEC	178.35	179.05	174.00	175.35
BASF	1296.20	1304.00	1278.55	1282.60
FLUOROCHEM	472.40	477.25	449.85	457.95
PGHH	10218.95	10225.90	10000.00	10040.00
VRLLOG	157.40	157.40	149.35	149.65
DCMSHRIRAM	354.90	361.00	345.05	358.50
NIACL	118.00	118.40	115.10	116.45
MAHLOG	300.00	305.00	290.00	293.60
CHOLAHLDNG	393.35	401.65	371.00	379.95
TAKE	48.70	49.20	46.20	47.80
MOIL	150.50	150.50	147.00	149.00
INFIBEAM	75.00	75.15	72.55	73.25
TATAINVEST	780.20	784.80	763.70	764.30
IIFL	74.00	74.00	70.60	71.25
SUPREMEIND	1217.55	1221.45	1200.10	1210.00
LAXMIMACH	3126.95	3153.70	3041.85	3051.00
SFL	1377.75	1377.75	1343.00	1356.20
KSB	510.00	538.15	510.00	521.50
POWERINDIA	911.20	920.00	902.00	907.50
MMTC	19.30	19.80	18.80	18.85
GULFOILLUB	641.65	666.00	635.00	640.00
SUPRAJIT	178.20	180.00	167.60	169.35
JMFINANCIL	79.00	79.90	76.50	77.15
SUNDRMFAST	452.20	455.00	436.50	440.55
CENTURYPLY	137.00	138.00	130.40	131.60
GESHIP	265.15	265.45	257.60	258.85
TASTYBIT	12544.00	12544.00	11952.00	12285.95
DBCORP	82.50	83.30	78.00	79.00
PGHL	4710.00	4791.55	4674.00	4684.05
INTELLECT	191.00	196.00	181.75	187.45
RATNAMANI	1143.60	1159.75	1103.45	1123.25
MINDACORP	73.95	74.45	71.10	72.00
JCHAC	2032.30	2068.00	2015.00	2028.35
HIMATSEIDE	81.45	81.45	76.70	78.30
ZENSARTECH	175.00	175.00	172.30	173.00
NLCINDIA	51.40	51.60	50.15	50.25
GODREJIND	382.50	387.05	369.10	372.25
MAHSCOOTER	3022.90	3022.90	2972.20	2992.60
ORIENTCEM	68.95	69.35	66.90	67.80
CCL	263.00	263.00	252.00	255.10
VSTIND	3320.05	3440.50	3320.05	3396.75
MHRIL	183.25	187.00	171.20	172.10
SOLARINDS	1050.00	1050.00	1025.05	1027.00
FINEORG	2292.35	2292.35	2243.20	2290.00
ITDC	235.00	237.95	224.95	228.10
IOB	10.70	10.70	10.31	10.40
JAGRAN	39.50	40.80	39.00	39.80
VTL	715.80	723.95	694.70	710.00
KPITTECH	81.00	81.00	75.25	77.45
TIMETECHNO	39.25	39.75	38.10	38.70
CENTRALBK	18.15	18.15	17.60	17.70
GHCL	147.60	153.95	147.60	150.00
PNCINFRA	145.60	145.85	139.00	140.00
PRSMJOHNSN	48.00	49.45	47.65	48.00
TCNSBRANDS	351.55	363.60	341.00	342.00
TATAMETALI	510.30	521.90	501.85	510.00
TVSSRICHAK	1475.00	1498.00	1422.45	1444.00
OMAXE	75.50	75.95	74.20	74.30
ALLCARGO	101.25	104.25	100.80	101.75
LAOPALA	208.90	208.90	191.80	195.00
DALBHARAT*	797.00	798.45	775.00	780.10
SIS	382.80	386.65	369.70	371.45
AAVAS	1435.40	1435.40	1390.00	1395.30
NAVNETEDUL	83.15	83.15	76.70	77.40
STARCEMENT	88.85	89.10	87.00	87.55
KANSAINER	476.65	480.05	468.15	474.65
WABCOINDIA	6995.20	7010.00	6995.15	7005.10
JKCEMENT	1523.50	1529.15	1503.55	1504.85
CARERATING	411.70	419.90	404.00	407.00
TTKPRESTIG	5431.55	5453.35	5350.60	5406.90
MASFIN	666.00	667.30	647.90	651.70
GDL	82.40	83.90	82.40	83.05
MAHSEAMLES	219.00	221.05	210.40	212.90
IIFLWAM	1053.85	1075.15	1053.85	1073.55
VMART	1805.00	1807.75	1735.10	1768.55
CERA	2383.00	2425.35	2352.55	2382.00
SOMANYCERA	136.85	136.85	132.10	134.10
ESABINDIA	1406.00	1412.00	1351.85	1360.00
GEPIL	503.00	503.00	491.05	491.75
GRINDWELL	520.30	526.40	515.80	521.00
MOTILALOFS*	666.00	680.00	661.00	667.65
TVTODAY	218.00	218.65	207.70	209.20
CSBBANK	193.50	194.20	191.00	192.10
SCHAEFFLER	3521.85	3537.30	3484.25	3495.00
INDOSTAR	267.95	267.95	251.35	255.05
SPANDANA	630.45	637.90	621.30	625.80





US will collapse if Biden is elected Prez: Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump has said that the US would collapse and become the world's laughing stock if the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee Joe Biden wins the November 3 presidential elections.

Trump said Biden's proposed policies were not good for the country.

"Today, we saw Joe Biden continue to politicise a pandemic and to show his appalling lack of respect for the American people. That's what it is. At every turn, Biden has been wrong about the virus, ignoring the scientific evidence and putting left-wing politics before facts and evidence," Trump told reporters on Thursday at the White House.

"The world will be laughing and taking full advantage of the United States if Joe Biden ever became President. Our Country would COLLAPSE!" Trump said in a tweet.

Trump's tweet included a Fox News video clipping in which its news anchor was critical of Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal for praising Biden. The Fox News anchor described Jayapal as socialist and a genuine radical.

"Sleepy Joe opposed both the China and the Europe travel bans. You know that. He opposed the China travel ban that I instituted very early and the Europe travel ban that I instituted quite early. If I listened to his advice, hundreds of thousands more people would have died. This is according to many people," the president said.

Trump alleged Biden wants to fling open American borders, allowing the pandemic to infiltrate every American community. "He wants to have ridiculous open borders. I've been saying from the first day I started campaigning for this great office that if you have open borders, you don't have a country. You don't have a country, with open borders. So he wants open borders. The Democrats want open borders," he said.

While Biden will allow rioters, looters and millions of illegal aliens to roam free in our country, he also wants the federal government to issue a sweeping new mandate to law-abiding citizens, Trump alleged.

"He wants the President of the United States, with the mere stroke of a pen, to order over 300 million American citizens to wear a mask for a minimum of three straight months. He thinks it's good politics. Different states are different, both in terms of the atmosphere and also in terms of the coronavirus problem," he said.

"If the President has the unilateral power to order every single citizen to cover their face in nearly all instances, what other powers does he have," Trump asked. The president alleged that Biden rejects the scientific approach in favour of locking all Americans in their basements for months on end.

"We've been dealing pretty strongly over the last number of weeks. But he wants them in the basement for months on end," he said. ***PTI***

Nepal's ruling CPN forms 6-member task force to resolve party rift

Kathmandu: The ruling Nepal Communist Party on Friday formed a six-member task force to resolve the intra-party rift as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' resumed their talks after a hiatus of over a week.

The taskforce, led by General Secretary Bishnu Poudel, will recommend ways to sort out the differences in the party after Prachanda and senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal demanded Prime Minister Oli's resignation.

The task force also has Standing Committee members Shankar Pokhrel, Janardan Sharma, Bhim Rawal, Surendra Pandey and Pampha Bhusal, according to party sources.

The decision to form the task force was taken after a meeting between Oli and Prachanda on Friday.

The two leaders resumed their talks on Thursday and held a one-on-one meeting at the Prime Minister's residence at Baluwatar in Kathmandu to sort out their differences and resolve the intra-party rift. This was their first meeting after over a week.

Oli during a television interview on Wednesday said that the ongoing intra-party tussle will be settled within five days.

Oli and Prachanda have held several meetings to sort out the differences between them. But, as the Prime Minister did not accept the condition of a one-man-one-post, the talks failed. Oli has refused to give up his post as prime minister as well as a co-chairman of the NCP.

A bitter internal feud has been brewing in the ruling NCP after top party leaders, including Prachanda, demanded Oli's resignation, saying his recent anti-India remarks were "neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate." They are also against Oli's autocratic style of functioning. ***PTI***

Kabul begins release of final 400 Taliban, talks to follow

Kabul: Afghanistan has released the first 80 of a final 400 Taliban prisoners, paving the way for negotiations between the warring sides in Afghanistan's protracted conflict, the government said Friday.

Javid Faisal, spokesman for the National Security Council's office, made the announcement.

Taliban officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to speak to the media, said 86 prisoners were freed. It wasn't immediately known when the remaining prisoners would be freed.

Prisoner releases on both sides are part of an agreement signed in February between the US and Taliban. It calls for the release of 5,000 Taliban held by the government and 1,000 government and military personnel held by the insurgent group as a good will gesture ahead of intra-Afghan negotiations.

Talks are expected to be held in Qatar where the Taliban maintain a political office. Several Afghan leaders told The Associated Press talks could begin by August 20.

These negotiations are to lay out a framework for a post-war Afghanistan.

Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad spent a year-and-a-half negotiating the peace deal aimed at allowing American troops to return home and end America's longest military engagement.

US troops have already begun leaving and by November less than 5,000 troops are expected to still be in Afghanistan down from nearly 13,000 when the agreement was signed Feb. 29.

American and NATO troop withdrawal is contingent on the Taliban keeping their commitment not to allow militant groups to use Afghanistan against the United States or its allies. The withdrawal is not tied to successful talks between the warring sides.

Last weekend, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani held a traditional council meeting known as loya jirga to get a consensus on the release of a final 400 Taliban he said were accused of serious crimes, saying without explanation that he could not unilaterally decide to release them. ***AP***

Letting Iran arms embargo expire is 'nuts': Pompeo

Vienna: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday urged an extension to a UN arms embargo on Iran, saying it would be "nuts" to let it expire.

Opposition from UN Security Council veto powers China and Russia is expected to block a resolution to extend the blockade beyond October.

Pompeo reiterated during a visit to Vienna that Iran should not be allowed to buy and sell weapons, calling the Islamic Republic "the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism".

"I mean that's just nuts... We're urging the whole world to join us" to extend the arms embargo, he said.

As things stand arms sanctions are set to be eased gradually from October, under a Security Council resolution blessing a 2015 deal Iran signed with world powers to limit its ability to develop a nuclear bomb -- in exchange for easing trade barriers.

The landmark deal has come under strain since the US pulled out of it in 2018.

As Washington has re-imposed crippling sanctions, Tehran has in turn stepped up its nuclear activities again since last year.

Pompeo urged Tehran to provide "full, transparent and immediate cooperation" with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitors Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal.

Stepping up enrichment

After meeting Pompeo on Friday, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi told reporters that Iran had still not granted the agency access to two sites where it has requested access in order to clarify questions about possible undeclared nuclear activity in the early 2000s. ***AFP***

China attacks new US demand to register Confucius Institutes

Beijing: China accused the United States on Friday of trying to "demonise and stigmatise" relations between the two countries, in a scathing attack on the Trump administration's designation of Chinese-funded language and culture programmes in the US as foreign missions of the Chinese Communist Party.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said branches of the Confucius Institute US Centre operating at US schools and colleges are a "bridge and link to help people from all over the world learn Chinese, understand China, and strengthen educational and cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries."

Zhao said the accusations against the institutes were without basis and were motivated by "ideological prejudice and self-interest." "The relevant US approach is to demonise and stigmatise the normal operation of China-US cooperation projects. We strongly deplore and oppose it," Zhao said at a daily briefing. ***AP***

Officials: US seizes Iranian gas heading for Venezuela

Miami (US): The Trump administration has seized the cargo of four tankers it was targeting for transporting Iranian fuel to Venezuela, U.S. Officials said Thursday, as it steps up its campaign of maximum pressure against the two heavily sanctioned allies.

Last month, federal prosecutors in Washington filed a civil forfeiture complaint alleging that the sale was arranged by a businessman, Mahmoud Madanipour, with ties to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization.

At the time, sanctions experts thought it would be impossible to enforce the U.S. Court order in international waters.

A senior U.S. Official told The Associated Press that no military force was used in the seizures and that the ships weren't physically confiscated.

Rather, US Officials threatened ship owners, insurers and captains with sanction to force them to hand over their cargo, which now becomes US Property, the official said. Prosecutors alleged the 4 ships were transporting to Venezuela 1.1 million barrels of gasoline. But the tankers never arrived at the South American country and then went missing. ***AP***

11 killed, 27 missing in rain-triggered landslides in Nepal

Kathmandu: Powerful landslides triggered by torrential rains hit central Nepal's Sindhupalchowk district on Friday, killing at least 11 people and leaving 27 others missing, an official said.

The landslides hit Jugal Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchowk district, 130 kilometers east of Kathmandu on Friday morning.

Five people who sustained serious injuries have been airlifted by the Nepal Army in a helicopter and brought to the district headquarters where they are undergoing treatment, the official said. ***PTI***

Mail-in ballots sent to Trump, First Lady in Florida

Palm Beach: President Donald Trump has requested a mail-in ballot for Florida's Tuesday primary elecTion, despite weeks of criticizing the practice.

Ballots were mailed on Wednesday to both the president and First lady Melania Trump at the Mar-a-Lago resort, which Trump lists as his legal address, according to online Palm Beach County elections records. Both previously voted by mail for the presidential preference primary in March, according to records.

Assange will never have fair trial chance in UK, US: Ex-Ecuadorian Consul

London: Former Ecuadorian Consul in London Fidel Narvaez told Sputnik ahead of Friday's administrative hearing in Wikileaks founder Julian Assange's extradition case that the whistleblower will never get a fair trial either in the UK or in the United States.

"There is plenty of evidence showing that Assange is a victim of a judicial persecution and that he is not getting a fair extradition trial here in the UK, and certainly will not have a fair trial in the US," the former diplomat told Sputnik in a phone interview.

According to Narvaez, the judicial persecution against the Australian journalist began even before he was arrested on April 11, 2019, at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he enjoyed political asylum for seven years to avoid being sent to Sweden until Ecuador's current government handed him into the UK police last year. ***AFP***

Thousands flood Belarus capital as protests grow

Minsk (AP): Tens of thousands of people flooded the heart of the Belarus capital of Minsk on Friday in a show of anger over a brutal police crackdown this week on peaceful protesters that followed a disputed election, as authorities sought to ease rising public fury by freeing at least 2,000 who were jailed after earlier demonstrations.

Factory workers marched across the city shouting "Go away!" in a call for authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko to resign after 26 years of iron-fisted rule that was extended in an election Sunday that protesters denounced as rigged.

Friday's crowds grew to more than 20,000, filling central Independence Square.

About a dozen soldiers guarding the nearby government headquarters lowered their riot shields in what the demonstrators saw as a sign of solidarity, and women rushed to embrace and kiss the guards.

Earlier, police didn't interfere as the protesters marched across the city, reflecting Lukashenko's apparent attempt to assuage the opposition by stepping back from the violent police crackdowns seen across the country earlier this week.

The release by the Interior Ministry of about 2,000 of the nearly 7,000 people detained was seen as another move to defuse popular outrage. It said more would be freed.

Many who were released spoke of brutal beatings and other abuse by police, and some showed bruises on their bodies. Some of them wept as they embraced waiting relatives.

A woman embraces a soldier guarding the Belarusian Government building in an exaggerated show of friendliness in Minsk, (Belarus) on Friday. Some thousands of people have gathered in the centre of the Belarus capital, Minsk, in a show of anger over a recent brutal police crackdown on peaceful protesters that followed a disputed presidential election. AP

Demonstrators have swarmed the streets ever since Sunday's election in which officials reported that Lukashenko won 80% of the vote to win a sixth term in office.

His main challenger, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who fled on Tuesday to neighboring Lithuania, posted a new video in which she disputed the results of the vote and demanded that the government start a dialogue with demonstrators.

European Union foreign ministers are due to meet to discuss possible sanctions against Belarus over the ferocious crackdown that left hundreds injured since Sunday as police have dispersed the largely peaceful demonstrations with stun grenades, tear gas, rubber bullets and severe beatings. At least one person has been killed.

Thousands of factory workers who previously formed the core of Lukashenko's base have joined the protests, denouncing the police crackdown and demanding a new election, raising the prospect of a nationwide strike.

"Our entire shop voted against Lukashenko and then we suddenly learned that he won by a landslide," 42-year-old assembly worker Dmitry Glukhovsky said outside the Minsk Automobile Plant, or MAZ.

"They not only have cheated us but also beaten us up, and no one is going to accept that."

Iran, Turkey lash out at UAE over agreement with Israel

Tehran: Iran and Turkey lashed out at their regional rival the United Arab Emirates on Friday over its decision to normalise diplomatic relations with Israel in a US-brokered deal, accusing it of betraying the Palestinian cause.

Iran's Foreign Ministry called the deal a "dagger that was unjustly struck by the UAE in the backs of the Palestinian people and all Muslims."

Turkey said the peoples of the region "will never forget and will never forgive this hypocritical behaviour" by the UAE.

The UAE, which has never fought Israel and has quietly been improving ties for years, said the agreement put a hold on Israel's plans to unilaterally annex parts of the occupied West Bank, which the Palestinians view as the heartland of their future state.

But the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the UAE had no authority to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians or "to make concessions on matters vital to Palestine." ***AP***

Palestinians say UAE deal hinders quest for Mideast peace

Jerusalem: Israel's agreement to establish diplomatic ties with the United Arab Emirates marks a watershed moment in its relations with Arab countries, but the Palestinians say it puts a just resolution of the Middle East conflict even farther out of reach.

The UAE presented its decision to upgrade long-standing ties to Israel as a way of encouraging peace efforts by taking Israel's planned annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank off the table, something Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu swiftly rebuffed by insisting the pause was "temporary."

From the Palestinian perspective, the UAE not only failed to stop annexation, which would dash any remaining hopes of establishing a viable, independent state. It also undermined an Arab consensus that recognition of Israel only come in return for concessions in peace talks — a rare source of leverage for the Palestinians.

"I never expected this poison dagger to come from an Arab country," Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian official and veteran negotiator said Friday.

"You are rewarding aggression. ... You have destroyed, with this move, any possibility of peace between Palestinians and Israelis."

President Donald Trump has presented the US-brokered agreement as a major diplomatic achievement and said he expects more Arab and Muslim countries to follow suit.

Israel has quietly cultivated ties with the UAE and other Gulf countries for several years as they have confronted a shared enemy in Iran.

In Israel, the agreement has renewed long-standing hopes for normal relations with its Arab neighbors.

Netanyahu has long insisted, contrary to generations of failed peace negotiators, that Israel can enjoy such ties without resolving its conflict with the Palestinians. For now, he seems to have been proven right. "It's hard to claim right now that the 53-year-old occupation is 'unsustainable' when Netanyahu has just proved that not only is it sustainable, but Israel can improve its ties with the Arab world, openly, with the occupation still going," wrote Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist for Israel's Haaretz newspaper.

But the Middle East conflict was never between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, which have fought no wars and share no borders.

And the nature of the agreement will likely force the Palestinians to harden their stance and redouble their efforts to isolate Israel.

The Palestinian Authority issued a scathing statement in response to the move, calling it a "betrayal of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinian cause," language clearly aimed at inflaming Arab and Muslim sentiment worldwide. The Palestinians have called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League and the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation to condemn the move.

But in those forums they will be pitted against the oil-rich UAE, which has deep pockets, allies across the region and even more influence in Washington following the agreement with Israel.

The international campaign is "meant to isolate the Emiratis so that other countries will not take the same step," said Ibrahim Dalalsha, a Palestinian analyst. "Whether it will succeed in this or not, it remains to be seen."

New Zealand extends Auckland lockdown

Wellington (AP): New Zealand's government on Friday extended a lockdown of its largest city Auckland for another 12 days as it tries to stamp out its first domestic coronavirus outbreak in more than three months.

The outbreak has grown to 30 people and extended beyond Auckland for the first time.

Until the cluster was discovered Tuesday, New Zealand had gone 102 days without infections spreading in the community. The only known cases were travelers quarantined after arriving from abroad.

Health authorities believe the virus must have been reintroduced from overseas, but genome testing hasn't found a link with any of the quarantined travelers.

That has prompted authorities to investigate whether shipping workers were a source, after several employees at a food storage facility were infected.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said extending the Auckland lockdown, which began Wednesday, would give authorities time to get a handle on the virus cluster and isolate those infected.

"Together, we have got rid of COVID before," Ardern said in a highly anticipated address.

"We have kept it out for 102 days, longer than any other country. We have been world-leading in our COVID response, with the result that many lives were saved and our economy was getting going faster than almost anywhere else. We can do all of that again."

All of the new cases in the outbreak appear to be linked through family or work connections. The only known infections outside Auckland are two people in the central North Island town of Tokoroa who were visited by infected family members from Auckland. Officials said they thought the chances were low the virus would spread further in Tokoroa.

Several of those infected work at an Americold food storage facility in the Auckland suburb of Mt. Wellington.

Officials are looking at the possibility that workers on a freight ship or at the port may have spread the infections, despite physical distancing requirements at those sites and orders preventing ship workers coming ashore.

Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said they were doing rigorous testing at Auckland's port "as part of our investigation just to follow that chain of the Americold goods that might have come in through the port and been transported to that Mt. Wellington depot."

Officials are also investigating the possibility the virus could have survived from abroad on chilled or frozen food boxes and then infected workers in New Zealand, a scenario they consider unlikely.

SHORT CIRCUITS

ISHAAN KHATTER

I am exhilarated to be a part of *Pippa*, a film of such magnitude and importance. It is directed by Raja Krishna Menon. Getting to play the suave and spirited tank commander Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta is a true privilege. I'm looking forward to the exciting experience of the film.

CHUNKY PANDAY

When I came into films in the late 80s and early 90s, it was all about these heroes doing the right things. The hero couldn't dream of doing anything negative, but then came SRK and he did films like *Darr, Baazigar* and now slowly, I have seen that even Akshay (Kumar) is doing it. Ranveer (Singh) has done it so convincingly in *Padmaavat*.

NAMIT DAS

I feel it is extremely important to make these big challenges of human existence a conversation in the public domain. What better way to spread awareness about them than through music? 'We are one' irrespective of caste, culture, religion, creed and colour. As humans, we need to do better and empathise with each other.

SUKHWINDER SINGH

The title track of the film, *Mere Desh Ki Dharti* is special for more than one reasons. The lyrics are beautiful yet powerful. The music stays with you. It's really an honour to be a part of such a spectacular song. What's most exciting is that it's releasing on Independence Day, the most befitting tribute to our country, our motherland.

VIKRANT MASSEY

The script of *14 Phere* hit me hard. The ideology of the film and the thought behind the story is something that has been with me, individually. It is a beautiful story that speaks of things relevant in today's times. I am looking forward to working with Kriti (Kharbanda).

INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL 60 MINUTES

SHADES OF INDIA

As India marks its 74th Independence Day, National Geographic celebrates the pride of the nation by releasing never-seen-before images through an aerial lens

Representation of a meteorite entering earth's atmosphere.

India is known for its rich cultural heritage and history. From archaeological wonders like Taj Mahal to majestic palaces and forts, all narrate the testimony of our nation's regal lineage. As India marks its 74th Independence Day, National Geographic celebrates the pride of the nation by releasing never-seen-before images of the country through an aerial lens. These images have been shot as part of its forthcoming two-part series titled *India From Above*. Narrated by Dev Patel, the film highlights different aspects of our country from geological wonders, marvels of human engineering to some of the big festivals. Shot across one year spanning the length and breadth of the country using advanced 4k aerial filming technology, the series is a fitting tribute to our vibrant nation. From covering the largest democratic exercise in human history to ensuring ancient technique and skills are preserved for future generations, the film reveals how India is embracing its path to forge its future.

(The second part of the series premiers today at 10 pm on National Geographic.)

Ghanshyam Singh, Deputy Commandant of the Border Security Force, leads the Camel Contingent at a rehearsal. By Abhik Wadhwa

A sea of blue solar panels. By Abhik Wadhwa

The shifting sand dunes of the Thar at the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan. By Raunak Sharma

Our drone glides past one of the fourteen gopurams as it captures the intricate carvings of the Meenakshi Amman Temple. By Raunak Sharma

The terrain of Ladakh as dusk approaches. By Abhik Wadhwa

A celebration of colour as the festivities for Holi kick off at the temple premises in Nandgaon. By Abhik Wadhwa

An aerial view of pilgrims taking a holy dip at the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati at the Kumbh Mela. By Gaurav Agarwal

The Chand Baori, a stepwell that is approximately thousand years old. One that served as the primary source of water for countless villagers. By Raunak Sharma

One of the many waterfalls in the wettest place in the world, cascading down the Khasi Hills. By Abhik Wadhwa

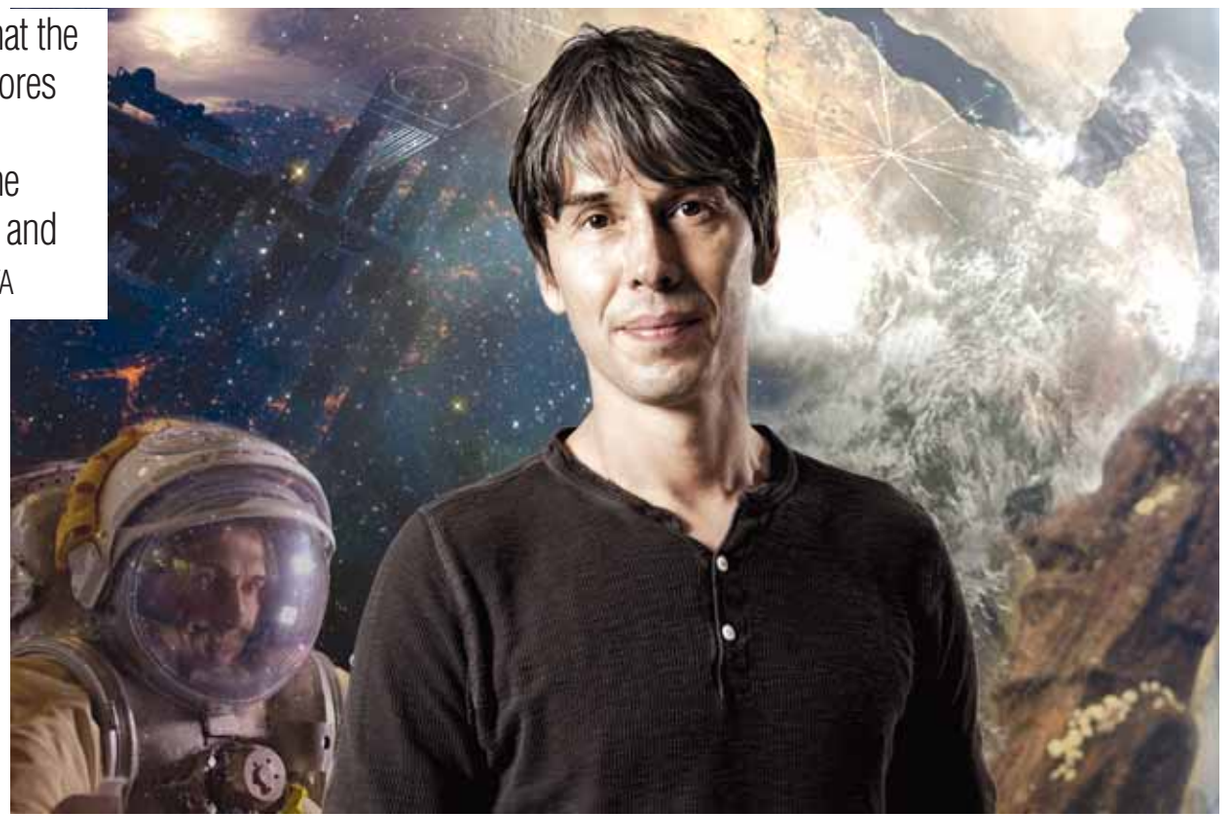
The Vizhinjam village. By Anurag Jetly

India's second lunar exploration kicks off as the GSLV Mark III leaves its launchpad. By Jagya Naik M

CONVERSATION 60 MINUTES

'A LOVE LETTER TO HUMAN RACE'

Presenter BRIAN COX says that the series, *Human Universe,* explores the answers to the greatest questions ever asked about the existence of planets, alien life and the human brain. By TEAM VIVA



It is a story of humankind, told through the greatest questions ever asked. 'Where are we in the Universe?' 'What is the destiny of our planet?' 'How did the human brain arise and why did we develop consciousness?' 'Will our search for alien life be successful, or Earth is the only planet with life? Are we alone?'

Answering these questions, the series, *Human Universe* offers a new perspective on human life, combining dramatic photography with innovative CGI all set in spectacular locations across the world as it explores the ultimate wonder of the universe — us.

Excerpts of a conversation with presenter Brian Cox:

❖How would you sum up the series?

Human Universe is a love letter to the human race. It sounds like a very simple definition of a series but it didn't begin that simply. It started out as a cosmology series, an astronomy series, asking questions about how we came here, questions about the evolution of the human race, the origin of the Universe itself. Well, what we realised during the shoot was that, it was, it really became a series about our values.

Modern science has taught us that we are very rare as well as insignificant, and so the trick in the series was to put those two things together — what does it mean to be rare, and then, the consequence of an almost unbelievable series of accidents, but also insignificant. How do you marry these things?

The answers were — our rarity gives us value and also, because our existence seems to be completely meaningless, we're equally insignificant. We didn't have to be here. Hence, I think we have a responsibility to look after ourselves, to protect ourselves, to find out about the Universe, and to do science.

In this way, if you put all these thoughts together, ultimately, you get a love letter.

❖What's special about the series?

I think of all the series I've made, this one is my favourite. I have a soft spot for the 'Wonders of the Solar System' because it's the first big thing that I did. And this one I think, for me, addresses the biggest questions. Undoubtedly, we're asking questions about, at one level, our existence, how did we come to be here, not only us as human beings, given the origin of life on Earth, but also the Universe itself. And the fact that modern, 21st century science is beginning to address these questions is remarkable.

At another level, it's also hinting at deeper questions like how to value ourselves and science, proceed for the future, and respect the acquisition of knowledge. This has been made most explicit in the fifth programme, which is polemic. Many would have seen it in the past through series like *Cosmos, The Ascent of Man,* and some of James Burke's works. They have polemical elements.

I think this series is a bit old-fashioned, but in a good way. It has a collective opinion, which is delivered as mine but was actually generated throughout the series, through the collaboration with the crew and the directors, and everybody who worked on the series. I think that is what gives it some added depth and resonance.

❖What was your most memorable experience during the shoot?

The strangest experience I've ever had filming anything was the Soyuz capsule return into Kazakhstan. The reason is that the snow there was quite heavy and our vehicles were very under-powered. Essentially, we had the wrong vehicles, so we couldn't get there and got stuck. It was a disaster because it's the centre part of the series — return of the Soyuz capsule into Kazakhstan — and we were faced with a situation where we couldn't film it because we couldn't reach there.

A film crew working for the Russian Army said to us, 'We can fit two of you in our vehicle. If you jump on these two snowmobiles and chase us and see if you can find us out there in the Kazakh wilderness.' So, I and Paul O'Callahan, the cameraman, jumped onto the snowmobiles, left everybody else and went off with the Russian Army, with no communication with our team.

No one spoke English, apart from one of the Russian cameramen. We stayed the night, partly in a Kazakh farmer's hut, who, as far as I could see, brought us horse and jam to eat, which was actually very good. And we finally filmed the return of the Soyuz capsule. It was a remarkable experience. You will see it at the end of episode 1, *Ape Man Space Man,* in one of the most iconic scenes of the series, that only two of us actually shot it.

(The series airs from August 17 to August 21 at 8 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

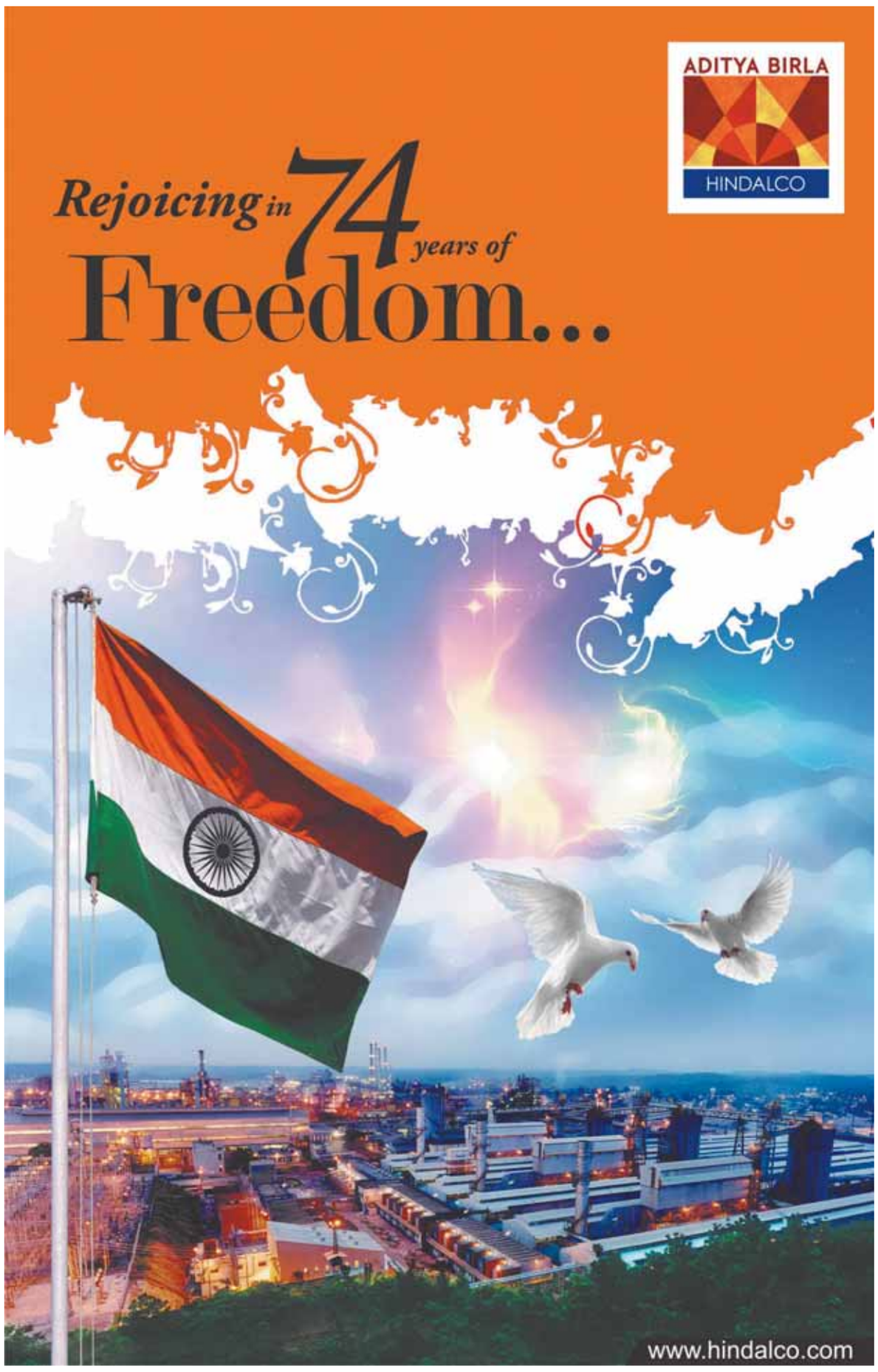
ADITYA BIRLA HINDALCO
HINDALCO INDUSTRIES LIMITED
(RENUSAGAR POWER DIVISION)

We salute the Nation on the 74th Independence Day. We reaffirm our commitment towards our key initiatives for Environmental Protection & Conservation of Natural Resources:

- Zero Liquid Discharge
- Highly efficient ESPs are installed to reduce SPM level
- Adequate Green Belt developed at Colony & Plant premises
- Installed BPC and ARW for Eco-friendly Coal Transportation from mines
- Fly ash is Available free of cost for Brick & Cement Manufacturers
- Regular Road Cleaning is being done manually & by Automated Sweeping Machine
- CSR Initiatives-Our Social development programmes run in 36 villages in the local vicinity.
- CAAQMS,CEMS Installed for Ambient, Stack & online ETP Monitoring
- Fly ash Bricks of good quality are available for Sale.
- Decantation well with recovery water system in Bichary to recover water from Ash water slurry .

Renusagar, Dist- Sonebhadra (UP) -231218
E-mail: hindalco.rsg@adityabirla.com

INTEGRITY | COMMITMENT | PASSION | SEAMLESSNESS | SPEED



चौ० चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ
कोरोना हारेगा .... देश जीतेगा
दो गज की दूरी.... मास्क अनिवार्य

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की सभी को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

कुलाधिपति आनन्दी बेन पटेल

कुलपति प्रो. एन. 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 भविष्य दृष्टि सँवारने का अथक प्रयास किया 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 आवश्यक्ताओं के अनुसार गुणवत्ता युक्त उच्च शिक्षा देने में प्रयत्नशील है। उच्च शिक्षा का जन–जन तक पहुँचाने के दायित्व का निर्वहन विश्वविद्यालय अपने सीमित संशाधनों 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 उत्कृष्ट उपकरणों से समृद्ध प्रयोगशालाएं, आधुनिक सुविधाओं से युक्त पुस्तकालय, भव्य प्रेक्षागृह, विशाल प्रशासनिक भवन, सामुदायिक केन्द्र, चिकित्सालय, कम्प्यूटर केन्द्र, वातानुकूलित बृहस्पति सभागार, मूल्यांकन केन्द्र, आठ छात्रावास, अभियांत्रिकी व विद्युत विभाग के पृथक–पृथक भवन, डाकखाना, बैंक, रेलवे आरक्षण केन्द्र, क्रीडा भवन, कुश्ती स्टेडियम, विशेष रूप से विकसित किये गये विविध खेल मैदान तथा कोर्ट, तपोवन एवं साहित्य कुटीर आदि ढांचागत सुविधायें है।

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 दीक्षान्त 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 रैगिंग–मुक्त प्रदूषण–मुक्त तथा धूम्रपान–मुक्त बनाना, जैविक खाद निर्माण द्वारा कूड़ा निस्तारण योजना का क्रियान्वयन।
6. विश्वविद्यालय परसिर में सी.बी.सी.एस. के माध्यम से शिक्षण प्रारम्भ एवं शैक्षिणिक 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 स्पिकमैके संस्था के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में शास्त्रीय/लोकसंगीत के आयोजन तथा साहित्यिक सांस्कृतिक परिषद् की पहल पर महापुरूषों 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 प्रकरणों पर त्वरित निर्णय।
14. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में चालीस वर्षा जल संग्रहण संयंत्र स्थापति किये गये एवं अनुसंधान के क्षेत्र में पं० दीनदयाल उपाध्याय शोधपीठ।
15. शैक्षणिक विभागों में पाठ्य समिति तथा शोध उपाधि समिति की बैठक का आयोजन।
16. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सौर ऊर्जा सन्यत्रण द्वारा 1260 किलोवाट विद्युत का उत्पादन।
17. स्वामी विवेकानन्द की 12 फीट की धातु की मूर्ति का लोकार्पण।
18. विश्वविद्यालय में छात्रों की समस्यों के निस्तारण हेतु Online Grievance Redressal System की शुरूआत।
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. Batany) 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, Phychology, 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 Cources :- 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, LLM), 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, प्रतिकुलपति | प्रो० एन. के. तनेजा, कुलपति

MADE IN US

Super-sub Tyler Adams' maiden Leipzig strike helps Nagelsmann's side knock-out Atletico to reach CL semis

RB Leipzig players celebrate after winning their Champions League quarterfinal match against Atletico Madrid at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon AP

AFP ■ LISBON

Leipzig stunned Atletico Madrid 2-1 on Thursday to reach the Champions League semi-finals for the first time as Tyler Adams' 88th-minute winner earned them a showdown with Paris Saint-Germain.

Atletico looked to have secured extra-time at the Estadio Jose Alvalade when Joao Felix won and then scored a penalty to cancel out Dani Olmo's headed opener early in the second half.

But Adams proved an unlikely hero for Leipzig, coming off the bench to snatch victory in Lisbon after his fired effort took a cruel deflection of Stefan Savic and flew in.

The win marks a historic night for Leipzig, who were only formed 11 years ago and played their first-ever season in Germany's top flight in 2016.

Progress to the last four also puts another feather in the cap of their coach Julian Nagelsmann, whose stock will rise even further after ousting Diego Simeone, one of this competition's most gnarly tacticians.

"I'm perhaps one of the happiest coaches in the world," Nagelsmann said.

"We were the better team, the result is totally OK. The second goal is a bit lucky but we found the space behind the defensive line. I think we were the better team today."

Their challenge is now to defeat PSG on Tuesday, the French champions who have only played three matches in almost half a year and needed a late escape to see off Atalanta on Tuesday.

"It's normal that when you get to the next round, you want more," Nagelsmann said.

"Tonight we're happy. Tomorrow we'll start looking at Paris. That will be another difficult game but we'll have a plan."

'HURTS A LOT'

For Atletico and Simeone, this was an opportunity spurned to go far in Europe at the end of what has been a disappointing season in Spain.

After Real Madrid's loss against Manchester City, only Barcelona are left to fly the Spanish flag in this tournament and they face a formidable challenge against Bayern Munich on Friday.

Questions will be asked again about the future of Simeone, who has struggled to recreate an Atletico side capable of challenging for major honours.

His notoriously defensive approach, which saw off holders Liverpool in the last 16, looked outdated here against the slick, quick and free-flowing style of their opponents.

"It hurts a lot," said Atletico's Saul Niguez. "They had superiority in many areas on the pitch, inside, outside. Many times we were not even close to stopping them."

> "When I came on I wanted to bring energy and help the team in any way possible. Getting your first goal is a little bit unexpected for me. I'm not a typical goal scorer but I'm happy I could help the team"
> **— TYLER ADAMS**

> "I'm convinced that we gave everything we had. But it wasn't enough. We have to raise our heads and try again next season"
> **— DIEGO SOMEONE**

> "Tonight we're happy, tomorrow we'll start looking at (PSI). That will be another difficult game, but we'll have a plan"
> **— JULIAN NAGELSMANN**

England, Germany & Spain book FIFA U-17 WWC tickets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champions Spain, England and Germany were on Friday named for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in India next year on the basis of their rankings after the European qualifying tournament was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) said in a media statement that the European governing body UEFA has "confirmed that England, Germany and Spain will represent Europe in the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2021".

The three countries were selected after the UEFA U-17 Women's Championship was cancelled due to the pandemic.

"The final round of UEFA U-17 Women's Championship has been cancelled because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Three teams with the highest coefficient ranking have been confirmed as the participants in the World Cup," the statement said.

Spain, England and Germany will now join hosts India, North Korea, Japan and New Zealand, who have already qualified for the tournament.

Spain had won the 2018 edition of the tournament after beating Mexico 2-1 in the final in Uruguay.

The tournamemt was originally to be held in October-November this year but pushed to 2021 (February 17 to March 7). The final will be played at the D Y Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai.

Rizwan leads Pak fight back

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Mohammad Rizwan scored a gritty, unbeaten half-century to guide Pakistan past 200 against an increasingly frustrated England before the teams were forced off because of bad light before tea on the second day of the second Test on Friday.

Pakistan was 215-8 at the enforced end of the session, with Rizwan on 53 and Mohammad Abbas on 2.

England looked like wrapping up the Pakistan innings after star batsman Babar Azam (47) edged behind a brilliant ball from Stuart Broad that seamed and squared up Babar.

That made the score 158-6 and two more wickets fell for 18 runs, with Yasir Shah (5) flashing at a delivery from Jimmy Anderson and edging to give wicketkeeper Jos Buttler another catch before Shaheen Afridi (0) was run out by Dom Sibley at the non-striker's end after a mix-up.

England's seam bowling unraveled in the final half-hour, with the field set by captain Joe Root perhaps too negative under threatening skies and with two lower-order batsmen in the middle. On occasions, there were five or six out near the boundary as Root spread the field.

Anderson has the best bowling figures, with 3-48. The tourists trail 1-0 in the three-match series after losing the first match by three wickets in Manchester. Another victory for England will clinch a first Test series against Pakistan in 10 years, and a second series of this pandemic-affected summer having already beaten the West Indies.

Willian joins Arsenal

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal have signed Brazil midfielder Willian on a three-year deal after the 32-year-old's contract with Chelsea expired.

The 32-year-old forward is an experienced player and has made more than 600 club appearances in a career spanning 13 seasons. He has played in leagues all over the world and Arsenal will be hoping he can given them a big boost next season. Willian started at Brazilian side Corinthians, before joining Shakhtar Donetsk in August 2007. In his six years there, he won four Ukrainian Premier League titles and the UEFA Cup in 2009. Four years later, he briefly signed for Anzhi Makhachkala before joining Chelsea, winning the Premier League and League Cup in his second season in England.

Aussies confirm white-ball England tour

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Australia's limited-overs tour of England will go ahead this month at bio-secure venues, officials said on Friday, after its players were given Government clearance to travel.

The confirmation ensures Australians will pad up for their first internationals in nearly six months, with Glenn Maxwell, Nathan Lyon and Marcus Stoinis recalled to the squad, while Usman Khawaja and Travis Head missed out.

Australia was originally scheduled to play three one-day and three T20 matches against England in July, but the trip was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Detailed biosecurity plans have now been agreed to ensure it can go ahead, including Government exemptions, which are required for Australians to leave the country. The team has also agreed to self-quarantine for 14 days on their return.

They depart from Perth on August 23 en route to Derby ahead of four practice matches — three T20s and a one-dayer — before three T20s and three one-day internationals in Southampton and Old Trafford, which have hotels on site.

Australia named a 21-man squad with Maxwell, Lyon and Stoinis among notable inclusions, along with three debutants — Josh Philippe, Daniel Sams and Riley Meredith.

But there was no room for Head, Khawaja, Michael Neser, Ben McDermott or D'Arcy Short, who were all named in a preliminary 26-man squad last month.