


**OPINION 8**  
**LAC DEADLOCK**  
**CONTINUES**
**WORLD 11**  
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# Talks inconclusive, farmers adamant on laws' repeal

## Unions reject Centre's proposal to set up committee to look into farmers' issues; another round of discussion tomorrow

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing farmers' agitation shows no signs of an early end as the farmers' unions on Tuesday rejected the Centre's proposal to set up a committee to look into issues raised by them against the new farm laws and threatened to intensify their protests if their demand for a repeal of the new farm legislations are not met.

With the two separate meetings between the agitating organisations and the Centre, represented by three Union Ministers, ending without any resolution, the Government has called for another round of discussion on Thursday, December 3.

"The meeting was good and we have decided that the talks will be held on 3rd December. We wanted a small group to be constituted but farmers' leaders wanted that the talks should be held with everyone, we do not have problem with it," Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said after the meeting with 35 unions at Vigyan Bhawan. He along with Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and MoS Commerce Som Parkash held the talks with the farmers' representatives.

"We appeal to the farmers to suspend the protests and come for the talks. However, this decision depends on farmers' unions and farmers," he said. Tomar had suggested the formation of a committee comprising farmers' and Government representatives besides agricultural experts to discuss the farm laws but it was summarily rejected by the unions.

Later, the Ministers met with farmers' leaders from Haryana, UP, and Uttarakhand, at Krishi Bhawan. "We told leaders to form a smaller group



Farmers gather at the Singhu border during their ongoing Delhi Chalo protest against Centre's new farm laws in New Delhi on Tuesday  
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

and discuss the act clause by clause. The Government has no objection over any discussion," Tomar said.

"The farmer's organisations rejected the Government's proposal to form a committee to look into the issues related to the new farm laws," said Roopsingh Sanha, member of Bharat Kisan Union.

"Tomorrow, there will be an important meeting of the leaders of the farmers' organisation, in which today's meeting with the Government will be reviewed," said Wark Singh, leader of All India Kisan Sabha. The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) said in a statement that the talks remained inconclusive and the Government's proposal was not acceptable to farmers' unions.

Continued on Page 11

## Capital roads clogged as police limit movement at entry points

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Even as thousands of farmers staged protests peacefully at Tigr and Singhu borders of the Haryana-Delhi borders amid heavy security deployment at all entry points to the national Capital for the sixth consecutive day, serpentine queues of vehicles clogged the roads in parts of Delhi on Tuesday.

The closure of borders also resulted in heavy traffic on other alternate routes between Delhi and Haryana as Delhi Police kept the Singhu and Tikri borders with Haryana closed for traffic and heightened checking at other places in view of the ongoing farmers' protest.

Meanwhile, students from



Delhi on Tuesday put up posters and pictures at Singhu Border to highlight the plight of farmers across the country and create awareness on a range of issues.

The closure of borders has also resulted in heavy traffic on

other alternate routes between Delhi and Haryana. "Singhu border is still closed from both sides. Please take alternate route. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba Chowk & GTK road. Traffic is very very heavy. Please avoid outer ring road from Signature Bridge to Rohini & vice versa, GTK road, NH 44 & Singhu border," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

"Tikri border is closed for any Traffic Movement. Badusarai and Jhatikara borders are open only for two wheeler traffic. Available open Borders to Haryana are Jharoda, Dhansa, Daurala, Kapashera, Rajokri NH 8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera," it said in another tweet.

Continued on Page 11

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other leaders' comments regarding the ongoing agitation by farmers, India on Tuesday termed the remarks as "unwarranted" and "ill informed." It also asserted that the stir is an internal matter of the country.

Making this assertion here, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We have seen some ill-informed comments by Canadian leaders relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democrati-

New Delhi asserts farmers' stir is an internal matter of India, terms Trudeau's remarks as 'unwarranted' and that is why we have reached out through multiple means directly to Indian authorities to highlight our concerns."

In a stern message, New Delhi said, "It is also best that diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes."

The rebuttal came a day after Trudeau in a video posted on his Twitter account said, "The situation is concerning and we are all very worried about family and friends and I know that is a reality for many of you. Let me remind you, Canada will always be there to

defend the right of peaceful protest."

He also said, "We believe in importance of dialogue and that is why we have reached out through multiple means directly to Indian authorities to highlight our concerns."

He made these remarks while addressing the Indian community in Canada during an online event on Monday to mark the 551st birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Continued on Page 11

## Delhi notifies 1 farm law, to examine two

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has notified one of the three Central farm laws and is examining the remaining two, officials said on Tuesday.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 was notified on November 23, said a senior Delhi Government official.

"The remaining two laws are under examination by the development department of the Delhi Government," he said.

The ruling AAP said the notification allows farmers to sell their crop anywhere, including outside mandis. Selling of fruits and vegetables was already de-regulated in Delhi many years ago; now this holds for grains too, it said.



A farmer holds a flag, with a picture of Shaheed Bhagat Singh printed on it as they stage a protest at Singhu border on Tuesday  
PTI

## BILKIS DADI TURNED AWAY FROM SINGHU BORDER PROTEST SITE

New Delhi: Bilkis Dadi, the octogenarian who was the face of the months-long anti-citizenship law protest at Shaheen Bagh in the national capital and featured in the Time magazine, was on Tuesday stopped by Delhi Police personnel at the Singhu Border where thousands of farmers have been demonstrating against the Centre's new farm laws, officials said.

## BJP ally in Haryana suggests written assurance on MSP

Chandigarh: The BJP's ruling coalition partner in Haryana, the Jannayak Janata Party, on Tuesday suggested the Centre should give a written assurance to farmers that the minimum support price system will continue. The remark by JJP chief Ajay Chautala comes on the day independent MLA Sombir Sangwan withdrew support to the BJP Government.

# BSF went 200m inside Pak to unearth infiltration tunnel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian security forces recently went almost 200 metres inside Pakistan to unearth a tunnel which was used by terrorists to infiltrate the Indian territory in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Security forces went inside Pakistan for almost 200 metres, the starting point of the tunnel, used by the terrorists eliminated last week by Indian security forces," a top official claimed.

A 150-metre long underground tunnel estimated to have been used by terrorists for infiltrating inside Jammu & Kashmir was detected near International Border in Jammu & Kashmir's Samba sector on November 22.



The security forces had then recovered mobile phones from the possession of terrorists killed by them which

helped the forces to unearth the tunnel.

For his part, addressing the troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) during its 56th raising day event here, junior Home Minister Nityanand Rai on Tuesday said the recovery of tunnels and drones along the India-Pakistan border is a proof of the hostility of the neighbouring country towards India.

The Minister said there is an atmosphere of "uncertainty" along this border as ceasefire violations are often carried out by the other side.

"These activities are done by our neighbour to aid infiltration and smuggling of arms and drugs along the India-Pakistan border," he said.

Rai praised the force for

## Recovery of tunnels and drones along border is a proof of Pak hostility: Rai

securing the borders despite harsh terrain and bad weather. He officiated as the chief guest after Union Home Minister Amit Shah skipped the event due to some "important official work", officials said.

The parade event started after over two hours' delay at a BSF camp in south-west Delhi's Chhawla area.

The 2.65 lakh personnel strong BSF was raised this day in 1965. It is primarily tasked to secure the frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The BSF is the world's largest border guarding force deployed along 6386.36 km of International Border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Continued on Page 11

# Air quality 'very poor' in Delhi, Noida, G'gram; 'severe' in Gzb

## National Capital's air quality to sink to 'severe' today

STAFF REPORTER/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/NOIDA

Delhi's air quality remained "very poor" on Tuesday and is predicted to turn "severe" this week due to unfavorable meteorological conditions.

While, in the NCR cities, the air quality plunged to "severe" level in Ghaziabad, while it remained 'very poor' across Noida, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Gurgaon, according to data provided by a Government agency on Tuesday.

The presence of pollutants



PM2.5 and PM10 also remained high in the five immediate neighbours of Delhi, according to the air quality index (AQI) maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The average 24-hour AQI at 4 pm on Tuesday was 367 in the national Capital, 424 in Ghaziabad, 388 in Greater

Noida, 387 in Noida, 335 in Faridabad and 311 in Gurgaon, according to CPCB's Sameer app.

According to the index, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The maximum wind speed in Delhi was 8 kmph on Tuesday and is expected to be 10 kmph on Wednesday, the IMD said. The minimum temperature was 8.1 degrees Celsius on Tuesday and the maximum 27.2 degrees Celsius, it said. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

## SC rejects Chanda Kochhar's appeal against sacking as ICICI Bank CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected Chanda Kochhar's appeal against the Bombay High Court order which had dismissed her plea against her termination as the managing director and CEO of ICICI Bank, saying the issue falls within the realm of a private bank and employee.

"Sorry, we are not inclined to interfere with the HC order," a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said.

The SC was hearing Kochhar's appeal against the March 5 order of the high court which had dismissed her plea against termination as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank.

Continued on Page 11

# Need to vaccinate entire population may not arise: Centre

## 'Covid transmission chain will break if critical mass of people get doses'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said the need to vaccinate the entire population to combat Covid-19 may not arise "if we're able to vaccinate a critical mass of people and break virus transmission".

"Vaccination would depend on the efficacy of the vaccine and our purpose is to break the chain of Covid transmission," ICMR DG Balram Bhargava said even as Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan asserted that the Government never spoke of vaccinating the entire country.

The health officials were addressing a Press conference here.

"I just want to make this clear that the Government has never spoken about vaccinating the entire country. It's important that we discuss such scientific issues, based on factual information only," said the Health Secretary on being asked how much time it will take to vaccinate the entire country.

On Monday, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the Central Government plans to provide coronavirus vaccines to around 25-30 crore people by July-August next year.

"In the first 3-4 months of next year, there is a possibility that we will be able to provide vaccine to the people of the country. By July-August, we have a plan to provide vaccine to around 25-30 crore people

and we are preparing accordingly," Vardhan had said.

Sources said as per suggestions by the Centre, the

## Covid +ve posters treat patients as untouchables: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Thursday once signage or posters are pasted outside the homes of Covid-19 patients, the people affected are treated as "untouchables". However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said "its guidelines do not contain any instructions regarding affixing of posters or other signage outside the residences of Covid positive patients."

## Private labs to charge ₹700 for RT-PCR test

Lucknow (PNS): A day after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked private labs to reduce prices for RT-PCR tests, the government announced that the private labs will now charge Rs 700 for the RT-PCR test for COVID-19, also called the gold test. Earlier, the labs were charging Rs 1,600 for this test. Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that if a

Continued on Page 11

staff and those above 60 years who would receive Covid-19 vaccine on a priority basis

when the vaccine becomes available.

Continued on Page 11

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,28,826	47,246	16,91,412
Karnataka	8,86,227	11,792	8,50,707
Andhra Pradesh	8,68,749	6,996	8,54,326
Tamil Nadu	7,83,319	11,722	7,60,617
Kerala	6,08,358	2,271	5,44,864
Delhi	5,74,380	9,260	5,33,351
Uttar Pradesh	5,43,888	7,761	5,12,028
West Bengal	4,86,799	8,476	4,54,102
Odisha	3,19,103	1,797	3,12,734
Telangana	2,70,318	1,461	2,59,230
Rajasthan	2,70,410	2,331	2,40,105
Chhattisgarh	2,39,215	2,892	2,16,990
Bihar	2,36,098	1,268	2,29,365
Haryana	2,35,997	2,456	2,15,797
Assam	2,12,776	981	2,08,393
Gujarat	2,11,257	4,004	1,92,468

**Covid-19 IN INDIA**  
**TOTAL**  
**CASES: 94,95,661**  
**DEATHS: 1,38,090**  
**RECOVERED: 89,26,950**  
**ACTIVE: 4,28,390**





# Ayodhya mahant’s 7-point demands to President

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Atop mahant of Ayodhya, Mahant Paramhans Das, has written a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind, saying that



## NOTICE

I have changed my name from Sanjay Gupta to Sanjay Kumar S/o babulal, R/o H.N.368 Tulsinagar Orai, Distt-Jalaun.

## NOTICE

I, Army No. 4197413Y, Naik Girish Lal S/o Late Ranjeet Ram, Unit 15, Kumaon C/o 56, APO, hereby declared that in my service records inadvertently the name of my wife's name Munni, while her correct name Munni Devi, may be recorded in my service records.

## NOTICE

I 1558606N NK Avsar Ahmed Khan s/o Nisar Ahmad Khan Vill & Post-Inayatpur Tehsil & Distt. Sultanpur(U.P.). Hereby declare that in service record my son date of birth incorrectly mentioned as 21/12/1999 which should be read and written as 21/12/2002.

## NOTICE

I, Army No. 4201359W L/Nk Hanuman Singh Chouhan S/o Sri Manohar Singh, Unit 15, Kumaon C/o 56, APO, hereby declared that in my service records inadvertently the name of my wife's name Dimple Chouhan and D.O.B. 01.04.1988, while her correct name Dimpal Kanwar and D.O.B. 01.01.1990 may be recorded in my service records.

## NOTICE

I, Pawan Kumar S/o Ram Nagina Chauhan, Vill-Maleri Kot, Post-Pawani Tehsil-Ghosi, Dist-Mau (UP) (1) That in may wife high school certificate her name mentioned at Pratima Chauhan D/o Subash Chauhan (2) that in my service documents her name is Pratema Chauhan that in service documents my wife name is Changed from Pratima Chauhan.

## NOTICE

I 13949736M H/NB/SUB Mahafooz Ahmed S/O Nisar Ahmed Vill&Post Inayatpur Tehsil & Distt. Sultanpur(U.P.) hereby declare that in service records my daughter DOB is incorrectly mentioned as 27/01/1996 which should be read and written as 10/02/2003.

## NOTICE

I 14811522N ACP/NB/SUB Mushik Ahmad S/O Istiyaq Ahmad Vill & Post Inayatpur Tehsil & Distt Sultanpur(U.P.) hereby declare that in service record my wife name and DOB is incorrectly mentioned as Shahr Bano DOB 22/11/1979 which should be read and written as Saher Banoo DOB 20/10/1979 respectively.

## NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Original Lease Deed dated 19.01.1983 registered on Serial No. 168 and Original Free Hold Deed dated 07.11.2003 registered on Book No.1, Volume No. 2531, Page No. 259 to 272 at Serial No. 22170 and Original Allotment Letter dated 12.06.1975 vide Letter No. 2261 and Original Power of Attorney dated 30.08.1989 registered on Book No.4, Volume No.1270, Page No. 82 to 87 at Serial No.3612 of Plot No. 174, Block-E, Scheme - II, Sujatganj, Shyam Nagar, Kanpur Nagar admeasuring area- 668.88 Sq. Meter, are lost and not traceable. All persons having any claim in respect thereof by way of sale , exchange, mortgage, charge, lien or otherwise Howsoever are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned within a period of 15 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which, the claim of such person/s will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Vijay Kumar Duggal S/o Rajendra Singh Duggal and Smt. Shalini Duggal W/o Vijay Kumar Duggal both R/o House No.54, Durga Housing Society, Shiv Katra Lal Bangla, Kanpur Mob.9839084441

# IKEA to invest ₹5,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Swedish company IKEA will open 25 outlets in the country with an investment of Rs 10,500 crore. The Swedish MNC will invest Rs 5,000 crore in UP. The company's focus is on four cities of Purvanchal and five of central UP. IKEA, one of the world's largest companies making furniture and home applications, is going to start its outlet in Noida in just a few weeks. The Swedish company, which is opening its outlets in 52 countries and providing a large number of jobs and business, is preparing to open around a dozen outlets in UP by investing Rs 5,000 crore.

The UP government has provided 4,7833 square metres of land in Noida for the IKEA outlet which will be the company's largest outlet in India.

The Yogi Adityanath government has achieved another major success in increasing employment and trade in UP through the investments of renowned companies of the country and the world.

Along with allotting land to IKEA in Noida, the state government has sealed a plan of investment of Rs 5,000 crore by

IKEA, which has opened more than 433 centres in 52 countries of the world.

Official sources said here that the investment by IKEA was expected to generate direct and indirect employment for 50,000 people .

The Swedish company plans to connect people with franchise chains even in small towns of UP. The Yogi Adityanath government had inked memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with investors at the UP Investors' Meet in 2018.

Starting with Noida, IKEA plans to open at least three major outlets in Purvanchal and central UP. The plans for other outlets will be finalised with the opening of the Noida centre.

The company will start all its outlets by 2025, according to the plan set with the Yogi government.

IKEA's investment, which has provided a large number of jobs and trade by opening its centres in America, Europe, North Africa, West Asia and East Asia, is believed to generate a large number of jobs.

With the help of furniture, home appliances and food sector, the Yogi government is

going to prepare the people of UP as well as their own way of business in a big way.

According to experts, the company will sell its products online as well as open franchises and showrooms in different cities through which a large number of people will get the opportunity of trade and employment.

Large-scale investment by a company like IKEA can indirectly connect about 50,000 people with employment and trade.

UP government spokesperson and cabinet Minister Sidhartha Nath Singh said that the next few months were very important in terms of employment and trade.

“Major companies of the country and the world are continuously coming forward to invest in UP. The state government is working hard at every level to materialise it. The process of the Yogi government to connect every youth of the state with employment and trade is moving ahead with full speed;” he said, adding that companies were coming to the state one after the other.

“We are realising a self-reliant UP campaign,” the minister said.

# 18-month-old raped by minor in Agra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a beastly act reported from Agra , a minor boy lured an 18-month-old girl by offering her toffee and toys and later left her in a critical state after she started bleeding heavily due to sexual assault on her.

The victim was admitted to hospital.

The father of the girl, a native of Basti locality of Etmadulla in Agra, lodged a report in this regard with the police.

Local Circle Officer Rajeev Kumar Singh said a case was registered and the accused was arrested on Tuesday.

In another sensational incident, a rape victim was kidnapped in broad daylight by the accused in Fatehpur. Father of the victim, who was working with other family members in the field, said that over half-a-dozen Tavera-borne miscreants stopped near his field on Monday afternoon and forcibly bundled his daughter in the vehicle.

He said that after they heard the screams of his daughter, they and other villagers rushed to her rescue but the accused escaped with the girl.

The police reached the spot and claimed to be taking the help of CCTV footage to identify the miscreants.

On October 7 last year, the same girl was kidnapped by some goons but was later rescued by the police. The cops had registered a rape case under POCSO Act and sent the accused Kuldeep Lodhi, Jai Singh and Meena Singh to jail.

Now the police apprehend that the same accused could be behind the crime as one woman was also spotted in the Tavera.

Meanwhile, a local court in Firozabad sentenced a man accused of raping and murdering a minor, to death on Tuesday.

For the first time, a death penalty has been given under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) in Firozabad.

The case pertains to the Chandpura village in the Sirsaganj area where an eight-year-old girl went missing from a Chhath programme in her neighbourhood on March 17, 2019. When she did not return home till late, the family members started searching for her but in vain.

The people informed the family that the girl was last seen with Shiv Shankar alias Bantu at around 2200 hours. The girl's body was found in a wheat farm the next morning. The victim had strangulation marks in her neck.

# Youth, sister-in-law commits suicide

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Forced by his family members to enter into wedlock with another girl, a youth and his sister-in-law, both having an affair, committed suicide in Fatehpur district.

Their bodies were found hanging from the ceiling of a room in their house on Tuesday morning.

As soon as the police got information about the suicide, they reached the spot with a forensic team and started the investigation. They sent the bodies for post-mortem and were waiting for the autopsy report. Reports said that 22-year-old Ram Milan, a native of Babhanatara village of Lamheta under the Ghazipur police station, was having an affair with Sunita, wife of his elder brother. Sunita already had two children but still she entered into relations with Ram Milan and wanted to live with him as husband and wife.

Recently when the family members learnt of the affair, they first forced the two to end it but when both refused to give up, they settled Ram Milan's marriage with another girl.

Facing strong opposition from the family and coming to know that the family wanted to get Ram Milan married somewhere else, both decided to end their lives so that they could die together. On Monday night, both hanged themselves from the ceiling of the room in which Sunita was sleeping with her 3-month-old daughter.

On Tuesday morning, when the door was not opened and the infant started crying, the family members tried to get the door open and when one responded they somehow opened the door and entered inside and were shocked to see the bodies of both Raam Milan and Sunit hanging with the same saree.

They immediately informed the police about the incident. A case was registered and further investigation was on.

# 55.47% polling in Council polls for 11 seats

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An estimated 55.47 percent voters exercised their franchise in the biennial polls for 11 graduate and teachers constituencies seats of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council on Tuesday.

Election Commission sources here said that the polling was peaceful though at some places minor disputes arose over faulty voter list and verbal disputes took place between the supporters of various political parties.

Voting percentage in the six

teachers constituencies was better than the five graduate constituencies.

A total of 12,69,817 voters were eligible to cast their franchise in the five graduate seats at 1,808 polling booths while 2,06,335 voters were eligible to vote in the six teachers constituencies in 813 polling booths.

There were 199 candidates in the fray from five graduate and six teachers constituencies spread over the entire state. There were 114 candidates in the fray in the graduate constituencies and 85 in

the teachers constituencies.

The Election Commission had deployed 11 observers; one in each constituency, to conduct free and fair elections.

Besides, 952 sector magistrates, 413 zonal magistrates were also deployed to maintain law and order during polling.

All the booths had micro observers, one in each booth and the polling was intensively video-graphed.

The polling was held as per the Covid protocol, and face masks, social distancing and hand

washing was made compulsory for the voters who were screened before they entered the booth.

The graduate constituencies where the biennial polls were held on Tuesday were Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut division and Allahabad-Jhansi division.

The teachers constituencies where polling was held included Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut division, Bareilly-Moradabad division and Gorakhpur-Faizabad division.

# 16 districts get new police chief

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday shifted 19 IPS officers, including police chiefs of 16 districts.

According to an official communiqué, SP (City) in Muzaffarnagar, Satpal will be SP of Fatehpur, replacing Prashant Verma who will join as SP of Kannauj, in place of Amrendra Prasad Singh who will be new SP of Sonbhadra.

Additional Commissioner in Lucknow, Amit Kumar-2, will be the new SP of Chandauli in place of Hemant Kutiyaal, who goes to Balrampur in the same capacity. SP (Rural) in Ghaziabad, Neeraj Kumar Jadaun, will be the new SP of Hapur, replacing Sanjeev Suman, who will now join as additional commissioner in Lucknow.

SP (East) in Agra, Pramod Kumar will be the new SP of Lalitpur while SP (Rural) in Saharanpur, Ashok Kumar

Meena, will be the new SP of Fatehgarh.

SP (City) in Aligarh, Abhishek, has been shifted as deputy commissioner in Noida and SP (West) in Agra, Ravi Kumar, as deputy commissioner of police in Lucknow.

SP (Rural) in Meerut, Avinash Pandey, will be the new SP of Mainpuri, replacing Ajay Kumar who will be the SP of Firozabad .

SP (City) in Gorakhpur, Dr Kaustum, will be the new SP of Sant Kabir Nagar and SP (Yamunapur) in Prayagraj, Chakresh Mishra, will be the new SP of Sambhal,

SP (Security) at Varanasi, Sukriti Madhav, will be the new SP of Shamli. SP (Rural) in Shahjahanpur, Aparna Gautam, will be the new SP of Auraiya replacing Suniti, who will now join as SP of Amroha in place of Vipin Tada, who goes as SP, Ballia. The government also posted 12 officers, including district police chiefs who were

shunted out earlier in the day.

SP, Sonbhadra, Asheesh Srivastava, has been shifted as SP (Intelligence) in Lucknow, SP Sambhal, Yamuna Prasad, as SP AIG PAC Headquarters, SP Shamli, Nityanand Rai, as SP (Intelligence) in Lucknow, SP, Sant Kabir Nagar, Brijesh Singh, as SP Dial-112, SP, Ballia, Devendra Nath, as SP, CB CID in Lucknow, SP, Balrampur, Dev Ranjan Verma, as SP (SIT) in Lucknow, Deputy Police Commissioners in Lucknow, Swapnil Mangain and Charu Nigam as SP (EOW) in Lucknow and Commandant of 6th Battalion PAC in Meerut respectively.

Similarly, SP, DGP office, Aparna Gupta, has been shifted as SP (Railways) in Moradabad, SP Fatehgarh, Anil Mishra, as SP, DGP office, SP Lalitpur, Mirza Major Beg, as SP, UP Power Corporation Limited, and SP, Firozabad, Sachindra Patel, as SP, ATS in Lucknow.

# Man killed for ‘honour’ in Bijnor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In what seems to be a case of honour killing, a man was brutally battered to death with stones and later burnt so that no one could identify him.

The sensational killing took place in Bijnor a few months after the victim's brother eloped with a Muslim girl but was arrested.

His body was found last Friday but a big portion of it was burnt and the face was also crushed with some blunt object so the identification could be made only on Monday evening.

The victim was identified as Shivam. His family has now filed a complaint against six people, including the brothers and father of the girl.

According to reports, the burnt body of a youth was recovered near the Jhalu bus stand on Bukhara road by the Bijnor police last Friday. A blood-stained stone was found near the body. The youth was killed by heavy blows to the face and head. SP (City) Laxmi Niwas Mishra, CO (City) Kuldeep Gupta, and City Kotwal Rajesh Solanki reached the spot and started investigation. A dog squad was also deployed to find clues to the killer(s).

The victim was later identified as Shivam, a resident of Bhadwan Nagar Complex, by his relatives.

As per the reports, Shivam went out on Thursday evening after asking his family members to prepare food but never returned. The family searched for him but did not find him

so they reported the matter to the local police. On Friday evening, his half-burnt body was found by the locals. However, his identification could be made later by the family members.

After his identification, Vasu, brother of the deceased, said that his other brother Sagar ran away with a Muslim girl from the neighbourhood. Around five months ago, he was arrested and sent to jail by the police. The girl was handed over to her family, while Sagar is still in jail. Vasu said that Shivam used to take a stand for his brother Sagar. The people from the Muslim community in the neighbourhood were irked by his attitude. Vasu alleged that the girl's brother and father killed Shivam.

Police have started looking for the accused, but all of them are absconding.

The SP has assured the family that police will take strict action against the culprits.

The Bijnor police said that a case had been registered against Naseem and others based on the complaint of the deceased's brother. The police also said that necessary action was being taken against them.

The accused named in the case are Asgar, his sons Naseem, Naem, Ejaz, and another person Arif. The people of the locality have alleged that the girl with whom Sagar had run away was pregnant. Shivam was married and had two children. Station incharge (City) Rajesh Solanki said that Shivam was murdered as a vendetta. Police are currently investigating the case and looking for the accused.



## क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

म०सं०-162, उत्तर मोहाल (निकट चण्डी होटल), राबर्ट्सगंज, सोनभद्र।

पर्यावरणीय अधिसूचना दि० 14.09.2008 के अन्तर्गत ‘लोक सुनवाई’ हेतु

आम-सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जनपद-मिर्जापुर में अवयस्क खनिज के खनन हेतु प्रस्ताय उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड में प्राप्त हुए हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रख्यापित प्राविधानानुसार लोक सुनवाई का आयोजन जिलाधिकारी, मिर्जापुर द्वारा नामित अपर जिलाधिकारी की अध्यक्षता में आवेदक / परियोजना के समक्ष अंकित तिथि, समय एवं स्थल पर वैश्विक महामारी कोविड-19 के दृष्टिगत सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करते हुए किया जाना प्रस्तावित है :-

क्र.सं.	परियोजना का नाम व पता	खनन क्षेत्रफल	लोक सुनवाई की तिथि एवं समय	लोक सुनवाई स्थल का नाम व पता	लोक सुनवाई हेतु नामित अध्यक्ष
1	मेसरस जय मॉ भण्डारी, आ०सं०-484, ग्राम-पट्टी कला, चुनार, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)।	क्षेत्रफल-0.948 हेक्टेयर (9480.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 08.01.2021 मध्याह्न 12.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, अहरोरा, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
2	मेसरस ममरेज कन्स्ट्रक्सन प्रा०लि०, आ०सं०-37, ग्राम- डकही, चुनार, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)।	क्षेत्रफल-1.21 हेक्टेयर (12100.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 08.01.2021 अपराह्न 1.30 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, डकही, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
3	मेसरस राहुल सिंह, आसं-78, ग्राम-खन्दायजमती, चुनार, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)।	क्षेत्रफल-0.607 हेक्टेयर (6070.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 08.01.2021 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, सक्तेशगढ़, चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
4	मेसरस ममरेज कन्स्ट्रक्शन प्रा०लि०, आ.सं.-188मि. खण्ड न० - V/1, ग्राम-लाहौरा, तहसील- चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर (उ.प्र.) अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)	क्षेत्रफल-2.02 हेक्टेयर (20200.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 08.01.2021 अपराह्न 4.30 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, लाहौरा, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
5	मेसरस मालती देवी, आ०सं०-137, ग्राम-कंचनपुर, चुनार, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)।	क्षेत्रफल-0.809 हेक्टेयर (8090.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 08.01.2021 मध्याह्न 12.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, कंचनपुर, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (भू०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
6	मेसरस श्रीमती जय प्रमा देवी आ०सं०-754, ग्राम-जिगना, चुनार, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)।	क्षेत्रफल-1.212 हेक्टेयर (12120.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 08.01.2021 अपराह्न 2.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, जिगना, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (भू०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
7	मेसरस श्री कुमुद कुमार (मॉ विन्ध्यवासिनी ट्रेडर्स), आ.सं.-37, ग्राम-डकही, चुनार, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)	क्षेत्रफल-1.21 हेक्टेयर (12100.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 08.01.2021 अपराह्न 4.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, डकही, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (भू०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
8	मेसरस ममरेज कन्स्ट्रक्शन प्रा.लि., आ.सं.-188मि. ग्राम-लाहौरा, चुनार, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज-बिल्डिंग स्टोन / सेण्ड स्टोन	क्षेत्रफल-0.909 हेक्टेयर (9090.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 09.01.2021 अपराह्न 1.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, लाहौरा, तहसील-चुनार, जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (भू० / वि०-रा०), मिर्जापुर
9	मेसरस इंदुलता पाण्डेय, आ०सं० - 1141मि. ग्राम-दादीराम, सदर, मिर्जापुर अवयस्क खनिज बिल्डिंग स्टोन (सेण्ड स्टोन)	क्षेत्रफल-0.607 हेक्टेयर (33534.00 घनमीटर / वर्ष)	दिनांक: 09.01.2021 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे	प्राथमिक विद्यालय, दादीराम, तहसील-सदर जनपद-मिर्जापुर	अपर जिलाधिकारी (भू० / वि०-रा०), मिर्जापुर

राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड द्वारा पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या-एस०ओ०1533, दिनांक 14.09.2006 यथासंशोधित एस०ओ०3007(ई) दिनांक 01.12.2009 के प्राविधानों के अनुपालन में उपरोक्त परियोजनाओं की लोक सुनवाई उपरोक्त सूची में अंकित परियोजनाओं हेतु उक्त यर्णित स्थान, दिनांक एवं समय के अनुसार आयोजित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। उक्त परियोजनाओं की लोक सुनवाई हेतु जनता के सुझाव, विचार एवं टिप्पणियाँ आदि आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। परियोजना से सम्बन्धित ई०आई०ए० एवं इसका संक्षिप्त अभिलेख निम्नलिखित कार्यालयों में उपलब्ध है :

(1) जिलाधिकारी, मिर्जापुर, (2) कार्यालय जिला पंचायत, मिर्जापुर, (3) उपायुक्त उद्योग, जिला उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन केन्द्र, मिर्जापुर (4) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, मध्य क्षेत्र, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पंचम तल, केन्द्रीय भवन, सेक्टर-एच, अलीगंज, लखनऊ, (5) उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, टी०सी०-12वी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ एवं (6) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, 182, उत्तर मोहाल, निकट चण्डी होटल, राबर्ट्सगंज, सोनमद्र

अतः सर्वसाधारण को इस आग सूचना के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रस्तावित अवयस्क खनिज के खनन हेतु प्राप्त प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति संबंधी प्रकरण के निस्तारण हेतु उक्त अंकित तिथि, समय एवं स्थल पर लोक सुनवाई की कार्यवाही निर्धारित की गयी है, जिसमें वैश्विक महामारी कोविड-19 के दृष्टिगत सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करते हुए आप उपस्थित होकर अपना सुझाव व आपत्तियाँ प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अथवा सुझाव / आपत्तियाँ लिखित रूप से इस प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन की अवधि में उपरोक्त वर्णित कार्यालयों में प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।

**क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी**



# Covid deaths touch 1,000-mark

240 test +ve,  
309 recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Covid deaths in Lucknow touched the 1,000-mark on Tuesday even as the fatality rate continues to be low at 1.4 percent. The state capital is followed by Kanpur with 779 deaths, Meerut (404), Varanasi (379), Prayagraj (354), Gorakhpur (322) and Moradabad (170). Kasganj has the minimum deaths (5), followed by Shravasti (7) and Mahoba (9).

On Tuesday, 240 cases were detected in Lucknow while 309 patients recovered. The fresh cases included 22 from Gomtinagar, 19 from Chowk, 18 from Indiranagar, 15 from Rae Bareilly road, 14 from Ashiyana, 11 from Hazratganj, and 10 each from Alambagh, Chinhath & Vikasnagar.

Across the state, 1,703 persons tested positive for coronavirus, including 87 in Kanpur, 127 in Ghaziabad, 112 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 156 in Meerut, 113 in Agra, and 127 in Ghaziabad. There were 29 deaths in the state, including seven in Lucknow, three each in Meerut & Etawah, two each in Varanasi, Bahraich & Balrampur, and one each in Kushinagar, Kanpur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Muzaffarnagar, Azamgarh, Shahjahanpur, Bulandshahr, Pratapgarh, Chandauli, Jalaun, Banda & Shravasti.

According to a senior health official, the fatality rate of Lucknow is way less than that of other parts of the country and even across the globe. The Covid positivity rate in Lucknow went down margin-

## CM asks officials to enforce Covid guidelines

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Directing officials to ensure adherence to the Covid guidelines, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that effective arrangements should be maintained for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

Presiding over an unlock review meeting at his official residence here, the chief minister also said that people should be continuously made aware about the precautions to be taken against COVID-19. He said public address systems along with other publicity media should be used to inform people about ways to protect themselves from novel coronavirus. He said these publicity mediums should also be used in major markets and important places to spread awareness.

The chief minister also directed officials to intensify enforcement activities for making masks mandatory.

He said a special action plan should be prepared for effective control of coronavirus infection in Lucknow



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a meeting with officials for unlock review on Tuesday

Pioneer

and Meerut districts. He said the district magistrates and chief medical officers of all the districts should hold a review meeting regularly in the Covid hospitals in the morning and at the Integrated Command and Control Centre in the evening and

make future strategies. The chief minister also directed officials to further strengthen contact tracing and surveillance systems.

He said all works related to the establishment of the cold chain for COVID-19 vaccine should be completed

by December 15 in all the districts. He said that home isolation should not be allowed for elderly, respiratory disease patients, pregnant women, people suffering from various diseases and small children who were infected with COVID-19.

## LMC bond listing today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The nation will witness the unique convergence of cultural, financial and glamour worlds as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be attending the historic listing ceremony of the Lucknow Municipal Corporation bond on Wednesday, the first such listing in the entire northern region on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Before launching the bond, which has been given an AA rating by India Ratings and AA (CE) by Brickworks Rating, the state machinery initiated a series of reforms to improve the accounting and financial management practices, ensuring transparency and time bound delivery to the investors.

"The successful launching of this bond will not only transform the image of Lucknow Municipal Corporation but would also help mobilise further investments, especially as the municipal bodies of Ghaziabad, Varanasi, Agra and Kanpur Nagar get ready to launch their own bonds in coming months," a senior official said.

During his Mumbai visit, the UP chief minister will also meet top industrialists of the country along with Bollywood stars for accelerating the industrial development of the state



along with setting up a film city, officials here said on Tuesday.

The chief minister will be discussing these issues with the industrialists and bankers, including N Chandrabab Naidu, Chairman of Tata Sons, Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani of Hiranandani group, Baba Kalyani of Bharat Forge, Suprakash Chaudhary, CEO of Simmons, SN Subramaniam, Chairman of L&T, Vikas Jain of Capital Services, Sanjay Nair, Chairman of KKR Ltd, Jaspal Bindra, Chairman of Centrum Capital Ltd, Sukaran Singh, CEO and MD of Tata Advanced Systems, Harshvardhan of Tata Defence Technology, Ashish

Rajvansh of Adani Defence, Rajat Gupta of Ashok Leyland TS Darbari, CEO and MD of Texmaco Defence System.

The chief minister will also meet prominent film personalities to roll out the roadmap for the development of the film industry in Uttar Pradesh. The film industry giants whom the UP chief minister is scheduled to meet include Rahul Mittra, Subhash Ghai, Boney Kapoor, Bhushan Kumar of T-Series, Jatin Sethi of Zee Studio, Anand Pandit, Baba Azmi, Neeraj Pathak, Randeep Hooda, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Jimmy Shergill, Taran Adarsh, Komal Nahta and Raj Kumar Santoshi.

## CM in Mumbai to give impetus to film city

### Ernst & Young to prepare DPR

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Mumbai is likely to give an impetus to the state government's efforts to set up a hi-tech film city in Noida as he has given instructions to the officials to speed up the project so that production can start within a year's time.

"To meet the chief minister's expectations, Ernst & Young has been selected by the government as an advisory agency for preparing the detailed project report (DPR) of the infotainment city. This agency is preparing the DPR, keeping in mind the proposal of the film-makers and the film policy of the state government. It is expected that the DPR will be ready soon and work will begin on the ground after that," a senior official said here on Tuesday. He said the chief minister had already had several rounds of meetings with Bollywood stars and people who matter regarding construction of the infotainment city to be built on 1000 acres in Sector 21 of Noida.

In a meeting held in Lucknow on September 22, the chief minister had sought suggestions from representatives of the film industry for developing a Film City, on which the giants of the film industry had given their suggestions to the Yamuna Expressway Authority.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with actor Akshay Kumar in Mumbai

"Apart from this, the bigwigs had also urged Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to provide facilities for pre-production, production and post-production of film making under one roof. They had also sought facilities for sound mixing, special effects, colour transformation, video editing. The film studio was suggested to be constructed in such a way that the exterior there looks like a luxurious building, so that shooting can be done and it can be changed according to the need," the official said and added that the work had started on the basis of suggestions given by the celebrities. During his visit to Mumbai, the chief minister is expected to meet 41 Bollywood stars.

"During this many, investment proposals are also expected to come for Film City and it is expected that the chief minister will also discuss investment proposals with the veterans of Bollywood," the official said.

Yogi reached Mumbai on Tuesday evening and met Akshay Kumar. On Wednesday, the chief minister will meet the celebrities for about four hours from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. He will also meet Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council Chairman Raju Srivastava, Gorakhpur MP and famous artistes Ravi Kishan, Dinesh Yadav 'Nirahua', Bollywood stars Randeep Hooda, Arjun Rampal and Satish Kaushik.

## Thieves make off with ornaments, cash from 3 houses

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Cash and ornaments were stolen from the house of a Health department employee in Sarojininar police station area. The incident came to light on Tuesday when the house owner and his family returned from a wedding in Kanpur. As per reports, Mahendra Singh Yadav of Vastum City Colony, along with his family, left for Kanpur on November 26. When Yadav returned home on Tuesday morning, he found the locks broken. As he entered the house, he came to know that around Rs 30,000 in cash and ornaments had been stolen.

Cash and ornaments were also stolen from the house of a constable driver in Madaion. As per reports, Rohit Kumar of Madaion is posted in Lucknow and is a native of Etawah. On the occasion of Diwali, he, along with his family, had gone to his native place and the house was locked. After his leave was over, he returned to Lucknow on Sunday night and found the cash and ornaments stolen. He said the thieves made off with Rs 62,000 in cash and ornaments.

In another incident, thieves sneaked into the house of a property dealer in Ganesh Vihar Colony of Madaion and decamped with cash and ornaments. Ashish Maurya, along with his family, had gone to his native house for some work and returned on Tuesday. Maurya found the locks broken. When



he checked, he came to know that thieves had made off with Rs one lakh in cash and ornaments from the house.

Meanwhile, Gomtinagar police on Tuesday arrested a man who had duped several persons of cash on the pretext of house allotment under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The accused was identified as Ashish Patel of Gomtinagar. According to police, Ashish is the director of a private company dealing in real estate business. Patel allegedly took cash from unsuspecting people on promising a rebate of 30 per cent under PMAY and invested in plots under Purvanchal Vihar project.

### FIRE

A fire broke out at a house in Sarojininar on Tuesday afternoon in which property worth lakhs of rupees was damaged. No casualty was reported in the incident and the police were estimating the losses. Reports said the fire broke out around 3 pm at the house owned by Ramraj of Satyalok Colony. Before help could arrive, the fire damaged furniture and other items in the house.

## Students made aware of changed post-Covid employment scenario

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Corporate trainer Vaibhav Mediratta from Indian Academy of Employment and Education Research informed students about the changed business scenario and challenges post-Covid.

He was speaking at a webinar on 'Re-skilling and new emerging challenges in the job market post-Covid' organised on Tuesday under the joint aegis of BBAU and Indian Academy of Empowerment and Education Research.

Organising secretary of the programme Ramesh Kumar Chaturvedi and head of Rural Management department Kushendra Mishra were present on the occasion.

Mediratta suggested the students the characteristics which they would need to

develop in order to get a job in a good company. He advised the students to read and learn about the owners of unicorn companies and their journey.

The students were also advised to get information about demand and supply, consumer behaviour, their requirement, culture and civilisation of different regions of India through required knowledge and information.

He asked the students to read at least 10 headlines daily from leading business newspapers and magazines for 90 days continuously, and also shared the basic mantra of continuity and discipline with the students for success. It was an interactive session in which all the students asked questions and received solution to their problems. A large number of students participated in the programme.



There was huge rush in banks on Tuesday after the strike ended

Pioneer

## Fake diagnostic centre busted

Lucknow (PNS): A fake diagnostic centre was busted on the complaint of a doctor in Maal police station area on Tuesday. Four persons were arrested for operating the centre and they were identified as Anil Pandey, Anup Shukla, Dr Rishi Raj, and Anand Singh.

According to police, a complaint was lodged by Dr Shyam Madhesia alleging that a fake diagnostic centre was functional near Jehta road in Maal area. "I came to know about the fake diagnostic centre through another person. The centre used my degree and name to operate the centre," Madhesia stated in the FIR. He said he only has one diagnostic centre and it is at Digha trisection in Bahraich district.

## HIV+ woman can also become mother: CMO

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An HIV positive woman can also become a mother and the newborn can be saved from the infection, Chief Medical Officer Dr Sanjay Bhatnagar said while speaking at a programme organised at his office on the occasion of World Aids Day on Tuesday.

The programme was organised for the distribution of ration kits to HIV infected mothers. Speaking on the occasion, he said World Aids Day is celebrated on December 1 every year and the theme this year is bringing the world together against AIDS. He told women about the precautions which should be observed in the times of pandemic. He

said they should follow social distancing and wash their hands with soap and water from time to time.

He also asked them to take antiretroviral therapy for HIV regularly and nutritious food because it helps in building immunity. ACOE Ajay Raj said it is possible to carry out secure pregnancy of HIV positive women because they are tested at the time of pregnancy and the medicine administered thereafter. Nearly 14 women were given ration kits containing 15 kg flour and other essentials.

Meanwhile, to commemorate World AIDS Day, the Law department, School of Legal Studies of BBAU organised an awareness programme under

### World Aids Day is celebrated on December 1. The CMO told women about the precautions which should be observed in the times of pandemic

the aegis of Legal Services Centre. On the occasion, dean of School of Legal Studies Sudarshan Verma discussed the reasons for the spread of HIV infection.

Head of the department Sanjeev Chaddha discussed

measures to prevent AIDS. Teachers Pradeep Kumar, Anees Ahmed, Mujib-ur-Rehman and Sufia Ahmed expressed their views on AIDS awareness and control.

Anees Ahmed stressed on the combined role of government and society for prevention of AIDS. Mujib-ur-Rehman stressed on education among youths for prevention of AIDS while Sufia Ahmed referred to the legal rights of people suffering from AIDS due to medical negligence.

Pradeep Kumar stressed on the need to bring AIDS patients into the mainstream of society. In her address, Shweta Trivedi spoke on the global solidarity and cooperation of society and government on AIDS

prevention.

Ragini Narayan threw light on removing the misconceptions related to AIDS and honouring AIDS victims in society while Gargi Vohra discussed the provisions of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunity and Deficiency Prevention (Prevention and Control) Rules, 2018.

Speakers also discussed prevention of AIDS by controlling the use of infected needles and infected blood, need to provide social respect to AIDS victims, need to organise regular programmes on AIDS awareness, role of society along with government and inclusion of AIDS victims into the mainstream of society.

Notice Inviting e-Tender	
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Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed offset printing presses having Web Offset Machine/ Sheet Offset Machine for printing and supply of REP materials.	
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The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <a href="https://assamtenders.gov.in">https://assamtenders.gov.in</a> , with proof of payment of non refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/ Scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule	
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# Election for graduates', teachers' constituencies passes off peacefully

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The election for the Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies in Varanasi division passed off peacefully on Tuesday and the fate of candidates was sealed in the ballot box. The voting percentage for the election of Teachers' constituency was recorded enthusiastic but the same for the election of Graduates' constituency was recorded lacklustre. The counting will take place on December 3.

The voting began at 8 am this morning at polling booths amidst an elaborate security arrangement. In the morning, the voting was very slow but as day approached the voters started turning up at the polling booths particularly to vote in favour of their candidates who were in election fray for the Teachers' constituency but at the same time, the electorates showed no enthusiasm in the election of the Graduates' constituency as their turn-up was very low and it remained till the



Polling for two MLC seats being held at a centre in Varanasi on Tuesday **Pioneer**

end of voting. The state ministers Dr Neelkanth Tiwari and Ravindra Jaiswal also used their franchises and cast their votes at Harishchandra PG College and Gopi Radha Inter College respectively. More than 65.84 per cent voters' turnout was recorded for the election of Teachers' constituency, while nearly 32.44 per cent voting was recorded for the election of Graduates' constituency.

Earlier, the voting began amidst an elaborate security arrangement to ensure peaceful and free election. The CCTV cameras were also installed at polling booths to ensure fair polling. As many as 94 micro observers, 21 static magistrates and nine zonal magistrates have been appointed to keep a close watch on the voting process. The District Magistrate and Returning Officer

Kaushal Raj Sharma visited the polling booths to take stock of the polling process. He also inspected the strong room where the ballot boxes were kept after the polling.

With this, the fate of candidates contesting elections for Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies was sealed in the ballot box. A total of 311 and 120 polling booths were made in the division to ensure smooth election of Graduate and Teacher constituencies respectively including as many as 73 and 21 polling booths respectively in Varanasi district. In Varanasi division, the districts include Varanasi, Bhadohi, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Ballia, Jaunpur, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra. As many as 22 and 12 candidates are in election fray on the seat of Graduate's and Teacher's constituencies respectively. The total number of voters for the Graduate's and Teachers' constituencies for Varanasi division was 2,09,813 and 33,466 respectively in Varanasi district.

# 59 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 59 new Covid-19 patients have been detected in the district, increasing the total number of cases to 19,211 on Tuesday. The day saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 310. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 71 and out of them, 70 have been recovered from home isolation while one from a hospital, increasing the numbers to 15,274 and 2,865 respectively. The total number of patients who have been

recovered so far is 18,139, leaving 762 active cases. The recovery rate is 94.41 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.61 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 36 positive patients were found out of 1,767 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,27,650 and the results of 837 are awaited. Out of them, 4,08,462 were negative, while 19,188 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,47,373.

Earlier, a female aged 61 and a male (78) from Bhelupur and Kakarmatta respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,508 including 222 red zones. Two green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,286 green zones with six new ones. Under the ongoing mass/group antigen tests, the passengers were tested at both

Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) and Manduadhri railway station but all the 65 and 37 tests were found negative there respectively.

Besides, one out of 210 tests has been detective positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura while all 146 tests at Government Women's Hospital, 55 at CHC Shivpur, 40 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, 85 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and 35 at SSH BHU were found negative.

# CRB flags off 40th BLW loco

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chairman of Railway Board (CRB) Vinod Kumar Yadav flagged off the 40th locomotive manufactured in the month of November last in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on Tuesday. The flag off was done through video link, in the presence of Rajesh Tiwari, Member (Traction and Rolling Stock), General Manager of BLW Anjali Goyal and her team of officers and staff flagged off the locomotive named 'Deepshakti' from Locomotive Test Shop in BLW.

CRB who is also Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board appreciated that with the turnout of the 40th 6,000 HP electric locomotive for the month of November, BLW has surpassed its own record of manufacturing 31 electric locomotives in a month, achieved in July this year. 'This event is a historic record, achieved on the auspicious day of Dev Deepawali. This is a result of meticulous planning on shop floors for better space management and seamless material availability strengthened during the month of November,' Yadav said.

According to the CRB, in four years, this production unit has completely repurposed its infrastructure to switch over from making diesel locomotives to electric locomotives. The staff and officers have risen to the challenge of



GM Anjali Goyal flagging off Deepshakti loco from BLW in Varanasi on Tuesday

reskilling and reorganising the shop floors, machines, jigs and fixtures and planning process for transition to electric locos. The culmination of this process is marked by the historic feat of turning out the highest electric locomotive count of 40 in a month, from a single assembly line, which is also equipped to assemble diesel locomotives for exports and non-railway customers. 'The shift of the production line from diesel to electric locomotives at BLW is in line with the Ministry of Railways' multi-pronged strategy of lowering the fuel bill, reducing carbon footprint, reducing dependence on import of fuel and enhancing average speed and hauling capacity of trains,' he said.

'BLW should try to strive for 'Zero Defect' and become such a brand name in loco manufacturing that its locos

never fail en-route and only come to shed for scheduled maintenance. This standard can be achieved by learning from current failures, carrying out root cause analysis, taking suitable corrective actions for checking future repetition of the fault,' he said, adding that he was sure that under the dynamic leadership of its current GM Anjali Goyal, the committed team of BLW will achieve new heights and will be seen as a world class brand.

Rajesh Tiwari expressed pride in the achievements of this Production Unit in catching up on cumulative production achieved till November last year. He observed that BLW has manufactured 169 electric locomotives up till November 20, against 168 to end November 2019. 'This is despite the COVID-19 lock-

down in April and May last, when production was nil in April and only eight locomotives were turned out in May. BLW is thus stepping up supply of electric locomotives, in pace with expansion in the electrification of Indian Railways' network,' he said.

Anjali Goyal said 'this is BLW's humble contribution to keeping the wheels of manufacturing running in the Indian economy, with determination to overcome the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is also BLW's new 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' milestone. The electric locomotive production line has 98% indigenous materials input, supporting MSMEs and the domestic manufacturing sector in a large way. The annual procurement of BLW in 2020-21 is ₹3,000 crore. A substantial share of material is procured from MSMEs.'

'In 2019-20, purchases from MSMEs were nearly ₹ 1,400 crore. The turnover of nearly ₹ 4,000 crore per annum adds to the manufacturing GDP of the economy. BLW is also working on a prestigious export order of 3,000 HP cape gauge diesel locomotives to Mozambique. This was put on the fast track in November last. Under this order, for the first time a 12 Cylinder Crankcase is being manufactured in BLW,' she added.

# HIV awareness programme held

**VARANASI (PNS):** On the occasion of World AIDS Day, HIV awareness programme was organised in the ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) Centre and OPD of Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) by ART Centre and COE BHU. On this occasion a video awareness program was displayed along with banners and posters. It was attended by Prof BK Das, Director, IMS BHU, Prof SK Mathur, Medical Superintendent, SSH, Prof OP Mishra, Prof Shyam Sundar, Distinguished Professor Department of Medicine, Prof Nisha Rani (Obs & Gynaecology), Prof Madhukar Rai (Medicine), Prof Shampa

Anapurwa (Microbiology), Dr Ranjan Bhatnager, Dr Nilesh and Dr Manaswi Chaubey, Prof Jaya Chakravarty, Programme Director, Centre of Excellence in HIV (COE) and Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Society (UPSACS). It has 25,000 registered PLHIV and approximately 6,000 patients take their ART medicine regularly monthly. It is the only Centre of Excellence (COE) in HIV care in UP and Bihar and provides first, second and third

line ART for patients from UP and Bihar. The centre provides anti retro viral drugs and anti tubercular drugs for HIV-TB co-infected patients free of cost and all the blood investigations are done free of charge in SSH BHU. It is one of the HIV training centres for UP and conducts regular distance learning seminar series through telecommunication. COE BHU has the capacity to do its own viral load testing with the help of Department of Microbiology through RTPCR. The centre has been functioning fully with COVID-19 precaution during this pandemic. A lot of research on HIV is also being conducted in the centre. In the awareness videos, Dr

# No mask-no voting witnessed at some polling booths

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

‘No mask-no voting’ was witnessed at some polling booths on Tuesday when voting started at a low note in the morning for Graduate constituency MLC election of Allahabad-Jhansi seat. Polling percentage was as usual low for this election being contested by 14 candidates.

The Allahabad-Jhansi Graduate constituency comprises eight districts, and maximum number of contestants, nine, were from Prayagraj district itself.

Following COVID-19 guidelines all precautions were taken at polling centres and booths for maintaining physical distancing. Whether or not the Election Commission had issued instructions to officials at a good number of polling booths did now allow the voters to cast their vote when they arrived without a mask on their face. The electorate, however, managed to possess a mask to vote for the candidates of their choice.

Proper security arrangements were made in and



around polling centres, and the polling parties had been dispatched on Monday itself for their respective booths with all polling material. Prayagraj district had been divided into eight zones and 24 sectors for this election. As many as 116 polling booths had been created at 46 polling centres for maintaining physical distancing. In city area only 22 polling centres had been created, and

white circles were marked for social distancing.

Though the scheduled polling timing was from 8 am, the voters started reaching booths after 9 am. On the whole the poll percentage was quite low. Total number of voters for this Allahabad-Jhansi Graduate constituency was 1.70 lakh out of which 63,264 were in Prayagraj only.

Besides police forces, PAC

and Quick Response Teams had also been deployed for maintaining peace and order.

Meanwhile, a good number of MPs and MLAs found their names missing from the voters list of Graduate constituency election in Prayagraj, and surprisingly most of them are from the ruling BJP.

Media incharge of the Phulpur MP Keshri Devi Patel has informed that the MP reached her permanent address polling booth in Shankargarh with her husband Gulab Singh Patel, retired principal, son former MLA Deepak Patel and other family members, but could not cast their vote because the list did not show their names. Phaphamau MLA Vikramajit Maurya from Baharia block and MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai had to face the same problem at their respective polling booths. Now there is every possibility that strict action will be taken against the officers and employees responsible for this negligence because this time the sufferers are MP and MLAs, that too from the ruling party.

# 74 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of people who got infection free from corona was higher than new infected ones. On Monday, where 90 people became infection-free, 74 people were found positive. This was confirmed by Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for Corona. He said that with the findings of 74 new patients, the total number of corona patients in the district has increased to 26,608.

According to the Health department report, a total of 4,835 people were tested for corona on Monday. In this, an antigen test of 2,602 people was done, while 1,999 people got RTPCR check. 96 people got tested in a private lab. About 138 people were tested by Truenat. The number of active cases has reached 821 after new infections have been detected.

Of them, 76 people are admitted in SRN Hospital, 21

in Beli and 24 in private hospitals while 700 people are in home isolation.

About 16 people have been discharged from hospital out of 90 people who became infection free. Three were discharged from Beli, one from a private hospital and 12 from SRN Hospital. A total of 25,384 people have been infection free so far.

On Monday, corona was confirmed in many people on Monday including a doc-

tor of the Anesthesia department of Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, ward boy, PA of an ADJ of Allahabad High Court. Dr Rishi Sahai informed that among those who got infected included a teacher of Jwala Devi Inter College, assistant manager of SBI, senior manager of NTPC Meja, primary school teacher of Karchhana, Pratappur, chief loco inspector, director of private coaching centre, accountant of AG Office among others.

# Police turn to tech upgradation to strengthen vigilance system

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The city police have turned to technology upgradation to strengthen the vigilance system. The 39 vehicles of UP112 (police emergency vehicle) got two fixed and one 180 degrees rotation-cum-high zooming camera installed, known as the mobile surveillance system, to equip itself better.

Apart from having a network of over 1,044 CCTV camera sets installed across the city's prominent locations including crossings and inter-

sections, the installation of fixed and 180 degrees rotation-cum-zooming cameras on 112 police vehicles would enhance security and vigilance systems for the police authorities.

IG (Prayagraj range) KP Singh said that installation of fixed and 180-degree rotating-cum-zooming cameras on 112 vehicles would boost police surveillance systems particularly in those pockets not covered under the CCTV network. He said, 'Cops sitting in the integrated command and control centre (ICCC) would also be

able to monitor live activities on screens with the help of fixed and rotating cameras. These cameras also come with the ability to record footage. IG said that the rotating camera could move up to 180 degrees and with the infrared facility, police could also record activities during night hours. With the installation of the fixed and rotating camera, cops would also be able to maintain vigilance in those pockets which have no CCTV sets. 'The cops would be able to record all activities taking place on the

streets in case of violence and arson' violent protests (dharana etc. with the help of 112 Vehicles,' said the senior cop. 'The recording would also help police to identify lawbreakers, and in the investigations,' he added. He also said that the cops sitting in ICCC would be able to witness live telecasts of the protests, dharna and other public gatherings of large-scale.

The installation of the fixed and rotating camera on 112 vehicles would help police to offer solid electronic evidence.

# Bride's body found in bedroom

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Panic gripped the area under Mauaima police station after the body of a 28-year-old bridegroom's body was found in her bedroom of the wedding house. The groom escaped overnight. The incident took place under the Mauaima police station in Prayagraj.

On hearing the information, the members of the deceased girl who came weeping and wailing has filed a case of murder against the groom and his family by giving a complaint to the police. The police arrived on the receipt of information and after reviewing the situation, questioned the family members.

Mohammad Nafees, son of Khalil Ahmad, a resident of Mianji Mohalla of Mauaima town, was married to Nuzhat Bano, daughter of Mohammad Naseem, a resident of Sevai village under the Soraon police station. Nafis Ahmed's baraat arrived from Mauaima on Sunday. After a late evening farewell ceremony after 'Nikah,' he came to his house in Mauaima with other family members. After having dinner on Sunday night, the bride and groom went to the room. When the women of the house reached the bride's room on Monday morning, they were shocked to see the view there. Seeing the bride's corpse on the bed and the groom disappearing, the women screamed. As soon as information was

received about the incident, a crowd of people gathered around. In the meantime, the family members of the girl also reached the house weeping and wailing. They also reported the incident to the local police. After the information, the police reached the spot after investigation and took the body and sent it for post-mortem.

Inspector Ramkeval Patel, incharge of the Mauaima police station, said that reports of murder have been lodged against the family members, including the groom, on the basis of the written complaint being given by the family members of the deceased. Police are investigating the case.

**VDO DIES IN ROAD MISHAP** : In a tragic incident, a 23-year-old Village Development Officer (VDO) was killed in a road accident near NCR headquarters at Jhalwa in Dhoomanganj. The accident occurred when he was returning to his home in Kalindipuram on his bike. Police reached the spot on the receipt of information and took the body into its custody and sent it for postmortem.

Mahesh Kumar is a resident of Omprakash Sabhasad Marg in Kalindapuram. His son Manish was the Village Development Officer. His current posting was in the Singhpur block of Amethi district. The day before, he came home to attend the wedding ceremony held at the acquaintance's house in Kanhaipur,

Dhoomanganj. After marriage, he stayed at his Tau's house living in Kanhaipur. He left for his home on his bike around 11.30 pm on Tuesday. He had hardly reached the NCR headquarters that the high speed Innova car coming from the front hit his bike. The collision was so severe that it fell away and caused serious injuries. The police rushed him to the hospital but the doctors declared him dead. On the other hand, after the accident, the accused driver left the car and escaped from the spot.

**MANY PRINCIPALS REFUSE TO OPEN SCHOOLS FOR CLASS VI TO VIII:** Principals of several schools affiliated to UP Board have refused to open the institutions for class VI to class VIII students from December 15. The principals have sent a report in this regard to the District Inspector of Schools (DIOS) informing that already classes IX to XII are functioning. Still, the strength of students is reasonably low. At the same time, government-run primary and upper primary schools have not opened.

The principals said that since the count of positive corona cases has once again started to rise in the district, opening the schools for class VI to VIII students is not advisable. In such a situation, schools should not be opened from December 15 for them, reasoned the Education department officials. UP Board Secretary Divyakant Shukla

had issued a letter to all DIOS on November 24 asking district-level officials to seek feedback regarding the opening of the schools from principals of the institutions. Given the growing case of COVID-19 infections, the principals of most of the schools have submitted their reports to DIOS with the opinion that schools should not be opened further, officials added. The DIOS has, in turn, submitted his report to the UP BBoard Secretary who has sent the same to the state government. If officials are to be believed, it is very much unlikely that the schools for class VI to VIII students would open from December 15.

DIOS, Prayagraj, RN Vishwakarma said, 'Following the guidelines of 'Unlock 5.0, schools for classes IX to XII have been opened, and teaching work is being done physically by the teachers concerned for students coming in staggered batches. Principals of schools were also contacted to get the feedback for opening the school for students from class VI to VIII. Still, around 70 per cent of the principals are of the opinion that schools should not be opened from December 15 for these students. Information about this has been sent to the UP Board Secretary.

Meanwhile, on the same lines, there seems a remote possibility of the opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas for classes VI to VIII in the present COVID-19 pandemic.





The District Magistrate, Alok Tiwari, along with other district and police officials chaired the Samadhan Diwas at Narwal on Tuesday

Pioneer

# DC concern over rise in basement digging in city

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has expressed concern over the sharp rise in basement digging in the city limits, especially in the commercial areas, and has directed the Kanpur Development Authority to conduct a thorough probe into the recent diggings to find out if they were done after obtaining a no objection certificate (NOC).

The KDA has appealed to the people to give it information about basement digging, assuring them that their names would be kept secret.

It may be mentioned here that in commercial areas like Naveen Market, Coolie Bazaar, Birhana Road, Chatai Mohal, General Ganj, Naya Gang, Jhajharia Market etc. that are very congested, the land rates and rents are too high. This has prompted owners of shop to dig basements, mostly unauthorisedly, to extend their shop spaces.

The recent house collapse in Coolie Bazaar was just the tip of the iceberg as digging for constructing basement goes on secretly at night and no one is able to get even a hint of it.

Loha Mandi Vyapar Mandal president RK Jain

said as the cost of housing space continues to rise and space remains scarce, expanding a property to include a basement was an attractive option.

He, however, added that while the expansion was considered a smaller construction project, it still had health and safety risks.

He said though the KDA was making periodic inspections since 2011, but ironically the basement digging was continuing in a hush-hush manner.

He cited the example of LLR Medicine Market where shopkeepers have encroached upon a road and dug huge

godowns for storing medicines.

KDA joint surveyor RK Pandey said the practice of building a basement directly below or next to an existing building had suddenly raised its head in Kanpur Nagar and it was illegal.

He said the person living on the ground floor never came to know that somebody had constructed a huge godown under his or her house.

He said often these kind of secret diggings resulted in the collapse of the whole building. He said this caused significant safety risks for workers and the public.

## 85 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 85 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 85 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 30,734 cases. He said that 10 cases were discharged from hospital. He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city were reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 783. The CMO said at present 1124 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4309 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## Two killed in separate road accidents

KANPUR (PNS): Two persons, including a newly-wedded woman, were killed in separate road mishaps in Kanpur Dehat during the past 24 hours.

A newly-wedded woman, identified as Gudiya alias Sapna, who was returning to her in-laws' place with her uncle Govind and aunt Saroj of Gaholia village on a bike, was fatally injured when a speeding dumper knocked them down from behind near Nariha village. Gudiya, daughter of Ramdas of Nariha in Akbarpur Kotwali area, was married to Suraj of Kohawa, Bilhaur, on November 24. Two days ago, she had gone to her parents' house and was returning from there on Monday afternoon.

Gudiya, her uncle and aunt were seriously injured and admitted to a private nursing home by the local residents. From there, Gudiya was referred to the district hospital in Kanpur Nagar but she succumbed to her injuries on the way.

In another road mishap, a motorcyclist was fatally knocked down by a speeding Omni in Shahjapur village on Etawah-Kanpur highway in Kanpur Dehat on Monday afternoon. The NHI ambulance took him to the district hospital where the doctor pronounced him dead. He was identified as Roop Singh (40) of Kanchausi Bazaar, Auraiya.

# Combing operation conducted

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

In order to instil confidence among the people SP Ajay Kumar Singh conducted intensive combing operation in Naxal-infested area under Madihan police station on Monday. The combing operation which aimed at strengthening the police-public relationship was conducted not only in the residential area but the jungle area too in Deori village. During the combing the SP became aware with the ground realities of the area and interacted with people. He directed the cops concerned to keep themselves updated with activities and keep in close touch with the people. He directed the SHO to keep the field staff more active and review the situation regularly. He said a close watch should be kept in the area and all activities should be monitored so that no one could mislead the innocent people of the area. The SP was accompanied by SHO Raj Kumar Singh, police force and PAC.

TRAFFIC MONTH: IG range Piyush



Srivastava while addressing the concluding ceremony of traffic month at Police Lines as the chief guest on Monday urged the people to follow traffic rules. He said to make people aware about traffic rules the police department was organising a month-long awareness programme every year. SP Ajay Kumar Singh said that deaths

were high due to road accidents than those due to crime. He said that though their awareness drive had concluded as per the schedule but the cops were committed to ensuring the enforcement of rules in the larger interest of the society. He appealed to people to consider traffic personnel as their friends because they worked hard to regulate the traffic and expect them to follow the rules. The programme concluded with gratitude being expressed to teachers, students as well as social workers who worked hard for the success of the awareness drive. Prominent among those who graced the programme were CO city, traffic incharge, reserve inspector, Police Lines and others.

## Initiative to make film shooting process easier

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

As an innovative initiative for providing single window online facility to film producers to get permission for shooting in railway premises, its station or coach the integration of railway is being with the web portal of Film Facilitation Office (FFO). In order to make the process of shooting of film in the railway premises easier through www.ffa.gov.in, web portal of FFO, which is under the National Film Development Corporation Limited railway is

being connected online. The producers for obtaining permission for film shooting will have to apply through the online form available on the FFO portal, CPRO PK Singh said. The chief public relations officers of all zonal railways will be given the ID and password of web portal through which the applications given by filmmakers will be observed and according to the effective guideline permission can be granted. Through this portal it will be convenient for the filmmakers to get permission for shooting in the rail-

way premises promptly. It is noteworthy here that many stations of North Eastern Railway (NER) have been equipped with modern facilities due to which shooting of many feature films and documentaries have been done here, including at Lucknow City station 'Bareilly Ki Barfi', and 'Nikamma' at Lucknow Jn 'Pati, Patni Aur Woh', at Katghodam station, 'Shubh Nikah' and 'Juan Abhi Baki Hai' and at Manduadih station 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan' etc. Remarkable work has been done in the direction of cleanliness and safety at the stations of NER.

## Gorakhpur-Dehradun spl from today

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration keeping the convenience of the passenger in mind will run the 05005 Gorakhpur-Dehradun biweekly special from December 2 to 30 and 05006 Dehradun-Gorakhpur biweekly special from December 3 to 31. All coaches will be reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO said. The 05005 Gorakhpur-

Dehradun biweekly special will leave December 2 to 30 every Wednesday and Friday leave Gorakhpur at 21.15 hrs and after stopping at Khalilabad, Basti, Mankapur, Gonda, Barabanki, Lucknow (NR) Hardoi, Shahjapur, Bareilly, Rampur, Moradabad, Najibabad, Luxar and Haridwar reach Dehradun at 13.50 hrs. On the other hand, the 05006 Dehradun-Gorakhpur biweekly special will from December 3 to 31 every

Tuesday and Thursday leave Dehradun at 15.20 hrs and after stopping at Haridwar, Luxar, Najibabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi Lucknow (NR), Barabanki, Gonda, Mankapur, Basti and Khalilabad reach Gorakhpur at at 07.55 hrs. A total of 14 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, three of general second class, six of sleeper, two of AC third and one of AC second class will be attached in the train.

## Changes in timings of puja specials

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is making changes in the timings of special trains being run for the convenience of passengers. As a result the following puja special trains will be run at a changed time and their period of run is also being extended. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

**UDAIPUR-NEW JALPAIGURI WEEKLY PUJA SPL:** The 09601 Udaipur-New Jalpaiguri weekly puja special train will till December 26 leave Udaipur at 00.45 hrs, Ranapratap Nagar Jn at 00.54 hrs, Mavli at 01.27 hrs, Kapsan at 01.55 hrs, Chanderia at 02.35 hrs, Bhilwara at 03.30 hrs, Bijainagar at 04.16 hrs, Nasirabad at 04.52 hrs, Ajmer at 06.35 hrs, Jaipur at 09.25 hrs, Alwar Jn at 11.13 hrs, Rewari at 12.53 hrs, Gurgaon at 13.33 hrs, Delhi Cantt at 13.59 hrs, Delhi at 15.05 hrs, Moradabad at 18.33 hrs, Bareilly at 19.57 hrs, Lucknow at 23.45 hrs, the second day Barabanki at 00.38 hrs, Gorakhpur at 05.00 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 05.57 hrs, Siwan at 06.55 hrs, Chhapra at 08.00 hrs, Hajipur at 09.20 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 10.10 hrs, Samastipur at 11.25 hrs, Khagadia at 13.00 hrs, Katihar at 15.25 hrs and Kishanganj at 17.00 hrs and reach New Jalpaiguri at 18.35 hrs. The 09602 New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur weekly puja special will till December 28 leave New Jalpaiguri at 08.15 hrs and after stopping at Kishanganj, Katihar, Khagaria, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Chhapra, Siwan, Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur, Barabanki, Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Delhi, Delhi Cantt, Gurgaon, Rewari, Alwar Jn, Jaipur, Ajmer, Nasirabad, Bijainagar, Bhilwara, Chanderia, Kapsan, Mavli, Ranapratap Nagar and reach Udaipur at 03.15 hrs.

**BARAUNI-ERNAKULAM PUJA SPL:** The 02521 Barauni-Ernakulam weekly puja special train will till December 30 leave Barauni at 22.51 hrs and after stopping at Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Sonpur, Chhapra, Siwan, Bhatni Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur, Khalilabad Basti, Mankapur, Gonda, Barabanki, Badshahnagar, Aishbagh, Unnao, Kanpur Central, Pokhrayan, Orai, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Kurwai

Kethora, Bhopal, Itarsi, Ghoradongri, Betul, Amla, Nagpur, Sevagram, Chandrapur to 06.40 pm, Ballarshah, Sirpur Kagaznagar, Belampalli, Mancherial, Ramagundam, Warangal, Khammam at 12.30 pm, Vijayawada, Chirala, Angole, Nellore, Gudur, Chennai Central, Katpadi, Jolarpettai, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Palghat, Ottappalam, Wadakkanchery, Thrissur, Irinjalakuda, Chalakkudy, Angamali, Aluva and Ernakulam Town reach Ernakulam Jn at 11.30 hrs. During the return journey the 02522 Ernakulam-Barauni weekly puja special will till January 3 leave Ernakulam at 10.15 hrs, and after stopping at Aluva, Angamali, Chalakkudy, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Wadakkanchery, Ottappalam, Palghat, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Chennai Central, Gudur, Nellore, Angole, Vijayawada, Khammam, Warangal, Ramagundam, Mancherial, Belampalli, Sirpur Kagaznagar, Balharshah, Chandrapur, Sevagram, Nagpur, Amla, Betul, Ghoradongri, Itarsi, third day Bhopal, Lalitpur, Jhansi, Orai, Pokhrayan, Kanpur Central, Unnao, Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki, Gonda, Mankapur, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Bhatni, Siwan, Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, at 22.50 hrs and reach Barauni at 00.05 hrs.

**RUN OF TRAINS EXTENDED:** The railway administration has decided to extend the run of the following puja special trains for the convenience of passengers. The 08311 Sambalpur-Manduadih puja special train will be run till December 30, the 08312 Manduadih-Sambalpur puja special till December 31, the 09057 Udhna-Manduadih puja special train will be run till December 25 and the 09058 Manduadih-Udhna puja special train will be run till December 27. The days and timings of their run and their rake composition will remain as notified earlier. Meanwhile the 01115 Pune-Gorakhpur weekly puja special train will be run till December 31. The 01116 Gorakhpur-Pune weekly puja special will be run till January 2. The 02167 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Manduadih daily puja special will be run till December 31. The 02168 Manduadih-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus daily puja special

train will be run till January 1. The 02135 Pune-Manduadih weekly puja special train will be run till December 28 with modified rake composition. According to the it two coaches of generator-cum-luggage van, three of general second class, 12 of sleeper, four of air-conditioned third and one of air-conditioned second class will be attached in this train. The 02136 Manduadih-Pune weekly puja special train will be run with a revised rake composition till 30 December 2020. According to the changed rake structure, two coaches of generator-cum-luggage van, three of general second class, 12 of sleeper, four of air-conditioned third class and one of air-conditioned second class will be attached in this train. The 01407 Pune-Lucknow weekly puja special train will be run till December 29. The 01408 Lucknow-Pune weekly puja special train will be run till December 31. The 01033 Pune-Darbhanga weekly puja special train will be run till December 30. The 01034 Darbhanga-Pune weekly puja special will be run till January 1. The 02165 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Gorakhpur bi-weekly puja special train will be run till December 31. The Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Bi-Weekly puja special train will be run till January 1. The 01079 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus - Gorakhpur weekly puja special train will be run till December 31. The 01080 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus weekly puja special will be run till January 2. The 02031 Pune-Gorakhpur biweekly puja special train will be run with modified rake composition till December 29. According to the changed rake structure, two coaches of generator-cum-luggage van, three of general second class, 12 of sleeper, four of air-conditioned third and one of air-conditioned second class will be attached in the train. The 02032 Gorakhpur-Pune bi-weekly puja special train will be run with modified rake composition till December 31. According to the changed rake composition, two coaches of generator-cum-luggage van, three of general second class, 12 of sleeper, four of air-conditioned third and one of air-conditioned second class will be attached in the train. The 02143 Pune-Barauni biweekly puja special train will be run till December 27. The 01144 Barauni-Pune biweekly puja special will be run till December 29.

# Shekhar visits Tulsi Upvan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar on Tuesday visited the Tulsi Upvan where the Uttar Pradesh government is constructing the Ramayan Theme Park, and took stock of the ongoing works.

He said the project, costing

around ₹ 5.88 crore, was being developed by construction agency NPCC, which was a Government of India corporation.

The divisional commissioner said the project was 90 percent complete and finishing touches were being given to it.

He added that the testing for son et lumiere to be staged there was underway and it

would be finalised by the end of this month.

Shekhar said as per the feedback from the officials, the Tourism department was planning to complete all the works in the next two months and necessary arrangements were being made for its inauguration.

He added that the project also had a theme park audio-

rium with audio visual equipment and LED illumination.

He said for the first one year the operation of the theme park and its maintenance would be done by the NPCC and then the park would be handed over to either the Tourism department or the Kanpur Nagar Nigam for operation and maintenance.

# World AIDS Day seeks to destigmatise the disease

KANPUR (PNS): World AIDS Day was observed across the globe on Tuesday to create awareness about the disease among the vulnerable sections of society.

This year the theme was 'Ending AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact', which focused on creating global solidarity among people who live with HIV and also seek to destigmatise the health issue.

However the good news was that the World Health Organization (WHO) said that the world had made incredible progress on HIV-AIDS over the last decade.

Addressing a virtual session on the World AIDS Day, head of the department of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University's Institute of Health Sciences and ex-president of Indian Medical Association's Kanpur chapter, Dr Pravin Katiyar, said the objective of seminars and rallies was to create awareness among the masses so as to effectively eradicate this immune disease which damaged the precious human resource across the world.

He said the credit of decline in AIDS could be given to two factors, one, increased awareness on safe sex and, second, the new drugs which addressed current challenges with antiretroviral therapy (ART), such as pill burden, toxicity and drug-resistance.

Dr Katiyar said these new agents had not only been developed from established drug classes, namely nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) and protease inhibitors (PIs), but also included innovative ways of suppressing viral replication.

He said integrase inhibitors and chemokine receptor blockers had been developed which, combined with NRTIs, NNRTIs and PIs, comprised highly active antiretroviral therapy regimens that were able to tackle all aspects of the HIV life cycle with minimal toxicity.

Dr Katiyar said the credit for this also went to the pharmaceutical companies which formulated these powerful drugs into fixed-dose combinations, providing exciting new strategies for reducing pill burden, thus ensuring adherence and limiting the emergence of drug-resistance.

He added that the vast majority of patients receiving ART in the developing world were still on first-line regimens, thus allowing time for newer agents to be made available as part of the third-line treatment option.

Dr Katiyar said the generic drugs were on an average a third of the price when compared with medicines of brand companies. He said the distribution of these agents in the developing world had been contingent on the lack of product patents in India over older drugs, the issuance of voluntary licences by brand companies to generic manufacturers, and the non-enforcement of patents.

He said India was the world's largest producer of generic medicines, accounting for more than 80 percent of the global ARV purchasing, supplying the majority of ARVs to developing countries.

Dr Katiyar said the production and export of generic pharmaceutical agents was being challenged by ongoing negotiations for an EU-India Free Trade Agreement that

could potentially overrule India's national patent laws. He said as newer ARVs were more widely-patented than older drugs, this threatened the supply of life-saving medicines to where they were needed most.

He said drugs that were currently under patent included agents that could be used in third-line regimens which were not currently available to the majority of patients failing second-line treatment in the developing world.

Dr Katiyar said concerns over the quality of generic drugs was being addressed by bioequivalence studies conducted by the FDA, approval of which rendered the products eligible for purchase, and such quality assurance checks were necessary to ensure quality medicines were distributed to the developing countries.

He said in resource limited settings, the most pressing short-term priority in the management of AIDS was the scale-up of cost-effective antiretroviral therapy.

He added that as per the WHO, COVID-19 had a profound effect on people living with HIV, as it had for many diseases.

He said the recent data from the National AIDS Control Organisation showed that the number of new HIV cases in India had fallen significantly but the pace of decline was quite slow.

Dr Katiyar said the latest NACO report stated that Mizoram had the highest adult HIV prevalence in the country, followed by Manipur and Nagaland. He said other states with high adult HIV prevalence were Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Delhi.

## Non-judicial stamp papers worth ₹ 10 lakh stolen

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Non-judicial stamp papers worth ₹10 lakh were stolen from the vault of a stamp vendor near Bilhaur Kotwali gate on Monday night.

Mukesh Kumar Srivastava of Maharana Pratap Nagar, Bilhaur, is a stamp vendor in tehsil near Kotwali gate.

He said after Sunday and Monday holidays, when he went to his chamber on Tuesday morning, he found the locks of his vault broken and non-judicial stamp papers worth ₹10 lakh missing.

The local police reached the spot and carried out investigation.

The lawyers demanded that the case be worked out within 24 hours.

Inspector Prayag Narain Bajpai said investigations were on to nab the culprit.

Sources said the chamber's lock was found intact at 7 am on Tuesday morning. But after an hour, the lock was found broken.

It appears that the theft was committed on Tuesday morning.

## Orientation programmes reduce anxiety, acclimatise freshers: MPIPS principal

KANPUR (PNS): Maharana Pratap Institute of Professional Studies Principal Dr Mamta Shukla, while addressing a virtual orientation programme, said starting college could cause much anxiety in a fresher who stepped on the campus more because of all the unknowns. However, she said, the objective of the institute was to apprise the students of the realm of the institute, from academics to social activities.

The MPIPS has carved a niche for itself in the field of quality education and thus it focuses on every effort to make the students feel comfortable and confident. She said regardless of the nature of the programme, three objectives must be present in all orientation programmes, firstly, introducing students to the institute life, secondly, acclimatising them to their new surroundings and finally providing an opportunity to the institute to meet the new members. She added that it was the duty of the coordinator of orientation programme to design it to bring these three goals together. The programme opened with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana to mark the beginning of an auspicious occasion for welcoming the new batch of students. The principal said the institute wanted students to be present on the campus but still it was happy to connect virtual classes for the students who would pursue courses in management studies and computer application.

Anchor Mayank Shukla the head of computer application department shared details of the training sessions and seminars held every year for the students.

He further emphasised the importance of discipline and regular studies which was much needed in a professional course. He said good placement was what every student wanted.

Nandini Sawney, head of training and placement gave an account of placement and training record. The students had a lot of queries which were answered in an interactive session.







# Oxford case doesn't necessitate halting of vaccine trials: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The initial findings into the 'adverse event' allegedly suffered by an Oxford Covid-19 vaccine trial participant in Chennai did not necessitate halting of the trials, the Centre on Tuesday said even as Serum Institute of India (SII) on Tuesday asserted that the Covishield vaccine will not be released for mass use unless it is proven immunogenic and safe.

"It is the role of the drug regulator to ascertain or refute any causal link between the event and the intervention," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press briefing here on allegation of the 'adverse event' in a SII trial. He added that it will not affect vaccine timelines in any way.

A 40-year-old man who was a volunteer in the third phase of the 'Covidshield' vaccine trial in Chennai has alleged serious side effects, including a virtual neurological breakdown and impairment of cognitive functions. He has sought Rs 5 crore compensation in a legal notice to Serum Institute and others, besides seeking a halt to the trial.

However, the SII rejected the charges as "malicious and misconceived" and said it will seek damages in excess of Rs

100 crore. The company said the serious adverse event (SAE) that happened to the volunteer, though unfortunate, was in no way induced by the vaccine and asserted that the Covishield vaccine will not be released for mass use unless it is proven immunogenic and safe.

While replying to a query from reporters here at the presser, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said adverse events occur with drugs or vaccines or any other health intervention.

"If any adverse event warrants hospitalisation then it is called a serious adverse event. It is the role of the drug regulator, after collating all the data, to ascertain or refute whether there is a causal link between the event and intervention. "That causal link whether it has to be ascertained or refuted has to be done by the DCGI and all the papers in connection to the five parameters have been submitted to him accordingly for review," he said. It is done purely on a scientific basis and the assessment is done with very objectively-based criteria and initial causality assessment findings did not necessitate stoppage of these trials, he added.

Bhushan added that he does not want to comment on specifics of the case as the matter was in court. "But it is seen

that most of the discourse on adverse events in the media suffers from inadequate information and facts.

"Whenever a clinical trial starts the subjects are required to sign a prior informed consent form. This is a global practice which happens across countries," he explained.

Prior consent form tells the subject about the possible adverse events that may happen in case one decides to participate in a clinical trial, Bhushan said, adding that if one understand the implications of the prior informed consent then the form is signed by the subject.

Without the signature, a subject cannot participate in a clinical trial, he said.

"Secondly, these trials of vaccines or medicines are multi-site and multi centric; they are conducted in multiple hospitals and multiple states. And at each site there is an institutional ethics committee which is independent of the vaccine manufacturer or the government," Bhushan said.

He said that whenever in the course of a trial any adverse event happens, this ethics committee takes note of it and within a period of 30 days gives a report to the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) about the event.

The DCGI investigates if

## Cases per million in India lowest in world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as India's overall Covid-19 tally stood at 94,62,809 on Tuesday and the fatality toll touched 1,37,621, the Government claimed that among all the big nations in world, cases per million in the country at 211 cases/million are the lowest. Last seven days trends shows that European nations are witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases, said Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary.

Talking to reporters here he said that currently, there are 4,35,603 active cases, whereas 88,89,585 patients have been cured and discharged so far.

"The recovery rate stands at 93.94 per cent, and the fatality rate is 1.45 as per cent," he said asserting that the timely steps initiated by the Government are delivering positive results.

According to the data available from the Union Health Ministry, Maharashtra continued to be the worst-hit state with 18,23,896 cases till date.

there is a one to one relation between the vaccine and the

adverse event and then they permit it to go to another

stage, he said.

## Covid +ve posters treat patients as untouchables, says SC; Centre says no guideline for signage

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Thursday said that once posters are pasted outside the homes of Covid-19 patients, these people are treated as "untouchables", reflecting a different "ground reality".

The Centre informed the apex court that although it has not prescribed this rule, the practice has nothing to do with "stigmatising" Covid-19 patients as it is aimed at protecting other people.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said that the ground reality is "something different" and as once such posters are pasted at their homes, they are treated as untouchables.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that some states on their own are pursuing this practice to prevent the spread of the virus.

Mehta said the Centre has filed its reply to the plea in pursuance of the top court's direction, he said.

At present, SII vaccine tri-

als are in phase 3 after all investigation, and Bharat Biotech

tion asking it to consider issuing nationwide guidelines to do away with practice of pasting posters outside the homes of Covid-19 patients. "Let the counter filed by Union come on record we will take it up on Thursday," the bench said.

The apex court on November 5 had asked the Centre to consider issuing the guidelines to do away with practice of pasting posters outside the homes of COVID-19 patients. It had directed so without issuing any formal notice to the Centre on one Kush Kalra's plea seeking framing of the guidelines.

The bench had observed that when the Delhi government has agreed in the high court not to paste posters, why cannot the Centre come up with guidelines dealing with the matter for the entire country?

On November 3, the AAP government had told the Delhi High Court that it has instructed all its officials not to paste

posters outside homes of Covid-19 positive persons or those in home isolation; and the ones pasted have been ordered to be removed.

The government had told the high court that its officials have also not been allowed to share details of Covid-19 positive persons with their neighbours, resident welfare associations or Whatsapp groups.

Kalra, in his plea before the high court, had contended that freely circulating to Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and on Whatsapp groups, the names of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 was "leading to stigmatisation and drawing of unnecessary attention".

The petition had stated that COVID-19 positive persons "ought to be given privacy to cope with and recover from the illness in peace and away from prying eyes".

"Rather, they are being made the centre of public attention...," it had said. **PTI**

# Difference erupts among farmers

### After KMSC refused to attend meeting called by Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Differences erupted among farmers unions as some of them did attend the meeting called by the Centre on Tuesday. Punjab-based farmers' body Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) on Tuesday refused to participate in a meeting demanding that representatives of all farmer unions be invited for talks. The KMSC is one of the 32 Punjab farmers' bodies invited for talks with the Centre. KMSC has demanded that several farmers' bodies have not been invited and moreover the Prime Minister Modi is not holding this meeting.

Of the 36 farmer union leaders, 30 hail from Punjab and remaining six owe allegiance to Sanyukt Kisan Morcha and other farmer organisations from Haryana and other places.

KMSC general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said

## BJP condemns Canadian PM's remarks on farmers' protest, calls it interference

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and former Sparty General Secretary Ram Madhav Tuesday asked Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 'locus standi' in expressing concerns over the farmers' protests in India and accused him of interfering in India's sovereign matters.

Canada has a huge Sikh population and had in the past a Sikh politician holding the key post of Defence Minister.

In a statement, the Canadian Prime Minister has expressed concern over the farmers' agitation on the outskirts of the Delhi borders, mostly spearheaded by Sikh

farm leaders.

Trudeau is the first world leader to speak out on the farmers' protests in India. He had also said he had reached out to Indian authorities over the issue.

"What is his locus standi? Isn't it tantamount to interference in India's sovereign matters?", Madhav tweeted while sharing a news article on Trudeau's comments over the protests, which have intensified over the past few days.

Madhav had earlier on Monday shared an article about the farmers' protests, headlined, 'Is Khalistan the reason for farmers' march to Delhi?'

Farmers, mostly from

Punjab and Haryana, are holding protests at the Singhu, Tikri, and Ghazipur borders of the national capital against the new farm laws passed by the Modi government and demanding legal guarantee for the continuation of the Minimum Support Price for their farm produce.

A day before BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya had linked farmers agitation with 'Khalistani & Maoist'. He had also lashed out at the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for, on the one hand, implementing new farm laws in his state while at the same time backing agitating farmers demanding their annulment.

spiry of the Centre," he said.

Reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that these farm laws are in the interest of the farming community, Pandher said, "He (the PM) has already given his decision before the meeting. And now, no minister can go against the PM."

that they will not attend the meeting. "If 32 Punjab-based farmers' bodies have been invited (for talks), a committee representing around 500 farmers' organisations is also there which should have also been invited," he said. Pandher accused the government of trying to divide the protesting

farmers by not inviting all the farmer unions.

"By not inviting all farmers' bodies, an attempt is being made to divide the farmer organisations. If we attend the meeting, it will be presumed that this agitation (against farm laws) is only taking place in Punjab which could be the con-

# EC okays ETPBS's overseas extension

## Wants Govt to make necessary amendments at earliest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To extend electronically transmitted postal ballot system (ETPBS) facility to overseas voters, the Election Commission (EC) has approached the Law Ministry to permit Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to cast their votes, so far available to service voters, to eligible overseas Indian voters. As of now, overseas Indians are free to cast their votes in constituencies they are registered. This regulation is seen as restrictive as only a few thousand Indians living overseas have registered as voters, the maximum being from Kerala and Punjab.

In a letter to the legislative secretary in the law ministry on November 27, the EC said with the successful execution of ETPBS in case of service voters, it is now "confident" that the facility can also be extended to the overseas electors. For overseas electors, the EC has said the voter will have to intimate the returning officer that he or she wants to use a postal ballot. The returning officer will then electronically transmit the ballot paper to the voter by means specified by the EC. The Commission requested the government to make necessary amendments at the earliest "which will go a long way in not only facilitating exercise of right of overseas electors but also further boosting the image of the country internationally".

"The Commission is tech-



nically and administratively ready to extend this facility in general elections to legislative assemblies of Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry," the EC said. Elections in these state are due sometime in April-June next year.

It said the poll panel has been receiving several representations from Indian diaspora residing abroad to facilitate voting through postal ballots since such overseas electors are not in a position to be present in their polling area as travelling to India for this purpose is a costly affair and otherwise also, they cannot leave the country of their residence owing to specific compulsions of employment, education or other engagements. "Due to protocols associated with COVID-19, problem further gets compounded," the letter to the law ministry said. The poll body observed that Section 62

of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 envisages the right to vote for every citizen registered in the electoral roll who is not subject to disqualification for voting.

"Therefore, it is necessary to explore all avenues to enable exercise of a franchise by all eligible electors," it said.

According to rough estimates, there are about one crore Indians settled abroad, of whom about 60-70 lakh could be of eligible voting age. They could hold considerable sway in election results, especially in states such as Punjab, Gujarat and Kerala, where a number of expats hail from. Under ETPBS, postal ballot is sent electronically to a service voter. The service voter downloads it and uses a specific envelope to return it to the returning officer of his constituency. The postal ballot should reach the returning officer by 8.00 am on the day of the counting.

Counting of votes begin with counting of postal ballots at 8.00 am.

Personnel of armed forces posted outside their constituencies in forward areas, personnel of central armed police forces posted in outside their constituencies state police personnel posted on poll duty, embassy staff are considered as service voters. The EC has suggested amending the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to extend ETPBS for overseas electors. The rules were amended in October, 2016 to allow service voters use ETPBS.

In 2018, the government tried to grant proxy voting rights to overseas electors through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1951. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and was awaiting Rajya Sabha's approval when it lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

adverse event and then they permit it to go to another

# CRPF planning to change Khaki uniform

## To look unique, give separate identity to largest paramilitary force

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF is mulling over changing the Khaki uniform of the 3.25 lakh strong paramilitary to impart a unique identity and be at par with the defence forces.

Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force AP Maheshwari on Tuesday addressed all the formations of the Force online seeking comments on changing the khaki uniform to reflect the unique character of the world's biggest paramilitary.

"CRPF being the largest paramilitary force is the sentinel of the Union (of India) with regard to Internal Security. The main Khaki in uniform which is worn by CRPF personnel is very common with all the State/Union Territory police and paramilitary forces. Besides Khaki uniform is also being worn by postal delivery man as well as delivery boys of LPG supplier which somehow degrade our quality/action," reads a CRPF circular regarding DG's address to the officers and jawans on the issue

It further said, "In order to make the CRPF more unique



with the uniform and to give a separate identity, a new uniform other than Khaki should be introduced which is the need of the hour."

Keeping in view the pattern of uniform/dress of other police forces of the world, the issue regarding change in Khaki uni-

form presently worn by all CRPF officer and personnel since its inception is being examined at the Directorate level, officials said, adding new pattern other than Khaki uniform may be introduced to make the Force more unique, different in identify and to

give special focus on the identity of the force at par with Army, Navy and Air Force.

The issue of change in character of the uniform being a policy matter which involves the pride of the entire CRPF, suggestions from all formations have been sought, they added.

# Navy successfully test-fires Brahmos

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sustaining the momentum of Operational readiness in the backdrop of the tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India on Tuesday successfully test fired a naval version of the Brahmos missile. This test is part of a series of tests carried out using various missiles in the past three months to ramp up preparedness.

The latest test of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile was conducted in the Bay of Bengal in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the past few days, the Army and the IAF had conducted validation trials of the missile. In fact, the Navy had also tested the missile capable of hitting a target at 400 km in the Arabian Sea six weeks ago.

Brahmos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms. Sources said the test-firing of the missile on Tuesday was 'successful'.

The anti-ship version of the missile was launched by INS Ranvijay striking the target ship at maximum range with pinpoint accuracy in the Bay of Bengal at nine am. The target was a de-commissioned ship and the missile destroyed it after performing extremely complex manoeuvres, they said.

The Brahmos as a prime strike weapon will ensure the



warship's invincibility by engaging naval surface targets at long ranges, thuse-affirming the destroyer as one of the several lethal platform of Indian Navy fitted with the weapon system.

The armed forces have already inducted the 290-km range land and warship-based versions of the missile which travels at a speed of three times the speed of sound at more than Mach 2.8.

On November 24, the Indian Army had 'successfully' test-fired the surface-to-surface Brahmos missile. The range of the new land attack version of the missile was extended to 400 km from the original 290 km.

India has already deployed a sizeable number of the original Brahmos missiles and other key assets in several strategic locations along the

LAC in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

In the last two-and-half months, India has test-fired a number of missiles including an anti-radiation missile named Rudram-1 which is planned to be inducted into service by 2022.

The IAF on October 30 test-fired the air launched version of the Brahmos from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal. The IAF is also integrating the Brahmos super-sonic cruise missile on over 40 Sukhoi fighter jets which is aimed at bolstering overall combat capability of the force.

The Brahmos missile provides the IAF a much-desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

# SC unhappy over shirtless man who appeared on video conferencing link

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed displeasure when a shirtless man was seen on the video-conferencing link during the hearing of a matter.

"Even after seven-eight months of video conferencing hearings, these things are happening," said a bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta.

"This is not done," the bench observed, after the shirtless man was visible on the screen during the hearing.

This is not the first time such untoward incident has happened in the apex court during hearings being conducted through video-conferencing.

The top court, which has restricted its functioning amid the COVID-19 pandemic, is presently hearing matters through video-conferencing. On October 26, a similar incident had happened before a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud when an advocate was seen on the screen while he was shirtless.

"I do not like to be hard to anyone but you are on screen. You have to be careful," Justice Chandrachud had observed.

In June, a lawyer had appeared in a virtual hearing in the apex court while lying on bed and donning a T-shirt, drawing displeasure of the judge who observed that "minimum court etiquette" should be followed given the public nature of hearings.



## Talks at last

The farmers have managed to keep politicians at bay from their movement, fought on their own and forced an agenda on the Govt



The farmers have made their point about their anxieties over the new farm laws enacted by the Modi Government and forced the latter into negotiations. And they want a result and no further confabulations with committees that may just dilute their cause. To that extent they have been successful but shouldn't let the situation drift endlessly and egoistically. Hopefully, the Government will at least spell out the details of the new laws, which are broadly in the domain of interpretation at the moment, where the devil is in the detail and which are largely gestational. We must give it to the farmers that they have forced the need for clarity and a point by

point analysis of consequences though their dramatic agitprops may not have been endorsed by all. Yet without them, they wouldn't have got the high table. It is also an opportunity for the Government to justify its farm liberalisation agenda, its long-term, reformist impact and rid itself of the charges of selling out to corporations. Politically, the ruling BJP had not expected to be cornered like this by a movement spearheaded by a majority of farmers' organisations, which kept their agitation largely apolitical. In fact, this is probably the first of its kind dissent movement that has shunned politicians, though the latter have tried to latch on to it, considering the agricultural community forms 60 per cent of the voting population. Activists, sportspersons and celebrities from across the spectrum, too, have thrown their weight behind it but the momentum of the past few months, the strategy to waylay the Government with civil disruptions and refusal to budge from core issues without reassurance have been the result of farmers' unions banding together. The Government may claim that the new farm laws will help farmers with open markets, pick-ups from farm gate, better prices and partnerships with food majors, particularly elevating the lot of smaller cultivators. But the farmers fear free market forces will deprive them of guaranteed minimum prices for their produce and reduce the level-playing field of Government *mandis*. Besides, smaller farmers that the laws intend to rescue could be exploited and browbeaten by large corporations. And while the Prime Minister may assure that both the old and new models could work together, farmers are not entirely wrong in anticipating that the swamp of corporatisation could decimate the parallel, protected market. The examples of contract farming failing in the sugarcane sector, with farmers still chasing their dues, and PepsiCo suing farmers in Gujarat are difficult to ignore. Considering the food bowl in North India is mostly affected by the MSP issue, given its reliance on cash crops of wheat and paddy, the Government has realised that it cannot get away by passing the blame of the agitation on the Opposition or the Left liberals.

Particularly, when its own allies are attacking it over the new laws and its key partner in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), has already walked out. The BJP may not need its allies anymore, given its own numerical strength in Parliament, but with more of them threatening to leave the fold, it runs the risk of being labelled an absolutist that shuns the morality of a coalition dharma or refuses to answer tough questions. The farmers' issue has undoubtedly also given a reason for the BJP's allies to make themselves heard and not be taken for granted. The latest to insist upon a clarity on MSP is Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), which is partnering the Manohar Lal Khattar Government in Haryana and whose leader Dushyant Chautala is the Deputy Chief Minister. His father and senior leader Ajay Chautala said the BJP should be accommodative of farmers' interests than running roughshod over them. At the same time, an independent MLA, Somvir Sangwan, pulled out of the State's ruling coalition. And in Rajasthan, Nagaur MP and leader of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), Hanuman Beniwal, said he would reconsider his party's support to the Centre if the new laws are not withdrawn. Parties like the JJP are caught between a rock and a hard place. Dushyant Chautala, particularly, draws his strength from the youth and farmers and knows that he can deliver by being part of governance. It is for this reason that he cannot walk out of the coalition. Yet the new laws hurt his constituency the most. Should the JJP withdraw on moral grounds, the BJP can run the Haryana Government with Independents and even attempt to break the JJP. Anyway Dushyant's post-poll alliance with the BJP, despite campaigning against it during the polls, was an unhappy deal intended purely to have a say in Government. The Haryana elections are still some four years away but the party is using the farmers' agitation to step up its rhetoric and test popular response. If the controversy over the farm laws is resolved, it can always claim it forced the issue on its alliance partner. If not, it can always claim that it had taken a high moral ground by joining issue with the farmers. Perhaps that's the reason why Ajay Chautala, and not Dushyant, is taking an activist position. Unlike the SAD, which cannot appear anti-farmer with the Punjab Assembly elections in 2022, the JJP has time to weigh the pros and cons. At the moment, its core base of Jats and farmers is angry. But should the laws yield rich dividends eventually, JJP would be strengthened. The BJP could turn this around to its advantage by at least assuring the farmers of some protection against price fluctuations, if not yield on the MSP, considering that runs counter to the privatisation implicit in the new laws. It can also put out its own narrative of how liberalisation would hurt incomes of richer, well-connected farmers as well as affect State Government revenues, which is why politicians in Punjab are protesting so loudly compared to marginal farmers in other States. But in the end, it has to do this through a consultative, not a confrontationist, approach. It doesn't harm to give a listen. It doesn't weaken authority either.

## Women in power

While women have held key positions in the US before, Joe Biden is going for increased representation



While the United States (US) is heading for the 250th anniversary of its independence from the colonial British Empire, it has taken that nation an incredibly long time to elect a woman to a very high office. It has had women in incredibly powerful positions before — Nancy Pelosi, for example, is the Speaker of the US House of Representatives and there have been three Secretaries of State in Madeline Albright, Condaleeza Rice and Hillary Clinton. Yet until Kamala Harris won with Biden, none of these positions were directly elected. In that regard, the US is far behind most other large democracies such as India and the UK, where

the people have voted in women to power. Perhaps that's the reason why Biden has announced an all-woman communications team, named Janet Yellen as nominee to lead the Treasury and Neera Tanden as nominee for the Office of Management and Budget. If anything, he is normalising the gender parity discourse.

As many have predicted, given Biden's advanced age, he may go for a single term and this tenure might well be a chance for Kamala Harris to audition for the top job after Donald Trump spectacularly beat Hillary Clinton in the 2016 elections. It remains to be seen if and when the US will vote a woman to the top job. But Biden's appointments are clearly a vote of confidence in women, who make up half the population. There should be more women in top political roles across the world and leaders like New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern are a great inspiration for demonstrating muscularity of purpose while being empathetic. However, the fact of the matter remains that the world is still rather patriarchal and women are rarely a voting 'bloc' anywhere in the world. It is tragic that a woman has to prove her worth to lead a nation in a man's world despite the dramatic success of leaders like Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi and Magaret Thatcher, all of whom led their nations into war and won. Can Biden's nominees change that perception of women? That remains to be seen. After all, Biden still has over 50 days before he takes the oath of office.

# opinion08

## LAC deadlock continues

Modi has been tricked by the Chinese and misled by his civilian advisors into letting the guard down and creating a deficit of capability



ASHOK K MEHTA

The 870-km Line of Actual Control (LAC) in East Ladakh is now in a state of stalemate after China gobbled up Indian territory. The prospects of any disengagement by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) are receding even as Beijing has reportedly created a model village intruding into Bhutanese territory near the disputed Doklam plateau. Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was the Government's senior-most Minister at the prestigious *Hindustan Times* Leadership Summit that was held virtually this year. What a disappointment he was! During the Q&A, he kept dodging the questions with vague answers on the state of play along the LAC that was tantamount to suppressing information on the Chinese aggression. To his credit though, he did pledge that the Modi Government will not allow an inch of land to be grabbed or let the ground situation change unilaterally when both have become fait accompli.

On whether Rafale was a game changer, he skipped the question, saying that he would let experts answer it, though he did travel to France to do a "shastra puja" while inducting it into the IAF. In sharp contrast, while dealing with Pakistan, he was a tiger. That, in brief, is India's tragic two-front predicament — fragile and unsustainable, given the absence of a strategic vision that has been compounded by the economic downturn.

In mid-October, the Chinese had made a conditional proposal for a limited disengagement from north and south banks of Pangong Lake, asking India to vacate Chushul heights on Kailash range first in exchange of their withdrawal from the Fingers area. Apparently, India either rejected it or sought clarification, considering the strategic utility attached to the Kailash range. During the ninth round of integrated civil military dialogue, there was no word from China as India is keen that PLA returns to its original pre-May positions. That clearly is not happening. China watchers have reported that PLA commanders have had a rethink on the Pangong Lake — a specific disengagement proposal, which reflects a perceived PLA weakness, following the Special Frontier Force's occupation of commanding heights overlook-



ing PLA assets. Further, PLA border guards and military, who are not properly acclimatised and accustomed to occupying posts on the LAC and on heights opposite the Kailash range, are likely to confront severe "winterisation woes." The strategic advantage gained by India through the pre-emptive commando action in August is well established. The Chinese feel that they can live with it as they know India will not exploit the military advantage. Still, the Indian Army's vast experience in Siachen, Kargil and other high altitude posts gives it an advantage over the PLA. Both sides are substantially deployed on the LAC for the first time and will face extreme weather problems.

According to high-resolution satellite maps from MAXAR Technologies, hardened ammunition bunkers have been constructed 2 km from Sinche-la Pass on the Bhutan-China border, which are connected to an all-weather-road that stretches 5 km across the Doklam plateau. A village named Pangdon has come up 2 km inside Bhutan, which is connected to a 9 km track adjacent to Doklam on territory that Bhutan claims. A September 2020 study by STRATFOR, the world's leading intelligence and geo-political platform, says that after the Doklam crisis in 2017,

when China was forced by Indian troops to stop constructing a road on the disputed land, it was compelled to double its military infrastructure, including helipads and air bases. After the Doklam standoff was defused, the Chinese merely suspended road construction for a few months and later resumed building the road towards Jampheri Ridge in Bhutan but not on the disputed India-China-Bhutan juncture that India had blocked. The study says that the PLA military activity is camouflaged by creating civilian projects near LAC, which can double up for military use and these areas are off limits for the local population. This latest intrusion is near Torsa river on Doklam plateau, which is an Indian red line.

The Bhutanese Ambassador to India, Vetsop Namgyel, said: "There is no Chinese village inside Bhutan. Satellite images show some settlement near the standoff point, Doklam. The village is not on the Bhutanese side." A Government source said that we would come in only when the PLA intrudes and leaves Bhutan to handle civilian intrusions. The Chinese Government television network producer Shen Shiwei was the first to show the village but later removed it. The Chinese have mastered the art of keeping military intrusions

disguised as civil settlements and have done it in Nepal as well. The Indian Army's gateway Doklam post must keep an eagle eye as it will be the first responder if the PLA crosses the red line again.

Clearly, the Chinese are creating new pressure points on the LAC as India starts demonstrating its options in hand, which it can enlarge and militarise as part of the progress in Indo-Pacific strategy, especially in the Indian Ocean Region. As India is seriously outmatched along its northern borders and the LAC, it is working on enhancing its maritime deterrence focussed on China's Malacca dilemma. Every day, six to seven giant Chinese tankers sail through the Indian Ocean carrying 10 million barrels of oil. The challenge for India is in making the Chinese feel the heat of their Malacca dilemma through a countervailing strategy, through which escalation can be managed.

Despite the Government's whitewash of PLA intrusions, some lessons, not new, are evident: Bolstering early warning and surveillance of PLA activities with real time intelligence from US, now that the four foundational agreements have been signed. This will stop our forces from "being surprised." We must monitor Chinese behaviour as distinct from their

military activities and occupy commanding heights pre-emptively. Galwan was not held and had it been occupied, it would have provided an additional bargaining chip. Counter intrusions should be swiftly executed as was done in 2013 at Chumar to offset the Depsang encroachment. The Chinese are firmly ensconced at Depsang again and are refusing to budge.

Last month, President Xi Jinping asked the PLA to be battle-ready. This month, he urged the PLA to transition from battle readiness to winning the war. India's self-inflicted LAC injuries are being camouflaged by a Government blessed with an overwhelming political mandate but it still won't allow the LAC issue to be discussed in Parliament freely. Nehru, the former Prime Minister that this Government trashes, led a flourishing debate in Parliament on the Aksai Chin hara-kiri. Modi is one of the most charismatic and performance-proof Prime Ministers India has had. He too has been tricked by the Chinese and misled by his civilian advisors into letting the guard down and creating capability deficit by painting a no-war setting.

(The author is a former Major-General of the Indian Army and commentator and a columnist on defence and security issues)

## SOUNDBITE

The situation (pertaining to Indian farmers' protest) is concerning... Canada will always be there to defend the rights of peaceful protestors.

Canadian Prime Minister —Justin Trudeau



The Gujarat Govt slashes the rates of RT-PCR tests for COVID-19 in private laboratories, effective from today itself.

Gujarat Chief Minister —Vijay Rupani



He (my father) is a wife-beater and an abusive, depraved man. We finally decided to act against him and this stunt is a reaction to that.

Student activist —Shehla Rashid



Average daily positivity rate last week was 3.72%. Among all the big nations in the world, cases per million in India (at 211 cases/mn) are the lowest.

Secretary, Health Ministry —Rakesh Bhushan



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Opportunist leaders

Sir — The ongoing agitation against new agricultural laws exposes the self-interest of those in power and also those in the Opposition. It is beyond understanding why the Government allowed the gathering of a large number of agitators in the National Capital Region while people were not allowed (and rightly, too) to enjoy their religious and cultural festivals like Ramlila and Chhat Puja. Should a congregation be allowed in the middle of a raging pandemic?

It is significant to note that the agitation is mostly limited to farmers from Punjab reportedly because middlemen in other parts of the country are mainly politicians from the same State. Moreover, if some corporate groups get advantage of the new laws, then, of course, there has to be a code of ethics binding them. New laws can, in fact, create a healthier situation in the agricultural market in the long run, similar to the dairy market where companies like Amul and Mother Dairy have benefited many in the trade.

The Central Government should present a study-based analysis to convince farmers and

### Tours over governance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his right hand man Amit Shah have had a great success in diverting the nation's attention from real issues like the ongoing farmers' agitation. Right before a scheduled protest or agitation against their policies, they go on random tours, which turn out to be massive crowd pullers, owing to the former's popularity.

The important question, in the current scenario, is why our Prime Minister had to visit the Serum Institute to check on the progress in the development of vaccine against COVID-19. Did he have any tips for the scientists, who are considered to be domain experts? Are there doubts about their expertise? And this comes at a time when farmers of neighbouring States in North India have been consistently protesting to have their demands met.

On the other hand, Shah decided to go canvassing for the municipal corporation elections in Greater Hyderabad. Doesn't that denude the stature of a Home Minister? Normally, this makes better fodder for most electronic media organisations, which have proven to be



unworthy of being called the fourth pillar of democracy. The Government must take care of basic problems rather than channeling all its energy into interactive entertainment that doesn't do any good for the country and only helps leaders and their party become more popular and stay in the headlines.

Navneet Seth  
Dhuri

assuage their fears and anxieties. And should welcome dialogue rather than allowing a mounted spectacle to make headlines.

Madhu Agrawal  
Delhi

### Selectors' fault

Sir — The decision to omit opener Rohit Sharma from the cricket tour in Australia has

proven unwise as bowlers anyway seem to be out of form. His absence has definitely affected the team's performance.

India's bowling has been a matter of grave concern since Australia set a huge target in two consecutive One Day International (ODI) matches. While the team's trumpcard, Jasprit Bumrah, is not in his rhythm, Yuzvendra Chahal,

who has an outstanding record on Australian soil, also seems to be out of form.

The Australian team must be expecting a clean sweep after wrapping up the ODI series and, therefore, the "Men In Blue" ought to play with absolute determination in Canberra to secure their pride.

Tushar Anand  
Patna

### Trust deficit

Sir — While farmers continue to protest against the new Acts, there appears to be a significant trust deficit between their representatives and the Central Government. The law isn't radical but promises to boost agricultural markets. Most States have headed in the direction of liberalisation over the last few years through legislative changes. Therefore, there is no going back.

The Government has promised that MSP will continue. But there is more that can be done. MSP is a great idea for bringing stability in the income of farmers. The Centre should come up with a concrete proposal to mitigate farmers' anxieties. Also, the farmers have to understand that flirting with extreme identity issues, when the demand is largely economic, undermines their cause.

The Government must reach out to them sensitively and assure them that their income will be protected. The situation is not as intractable yet.

N Sadhasiva Reddy  
Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



FIRST COLUMN

## How do we bridge this gap?

India has the highest gender digital divide with only 21 per cent of women being mobile internet users, while the number stood at 42 per cent for men



ARCHANA DATTA

The recent suicide of a girl from a reputed women's college in Delhi created a stir. A student of B.Sc Mathematics (H), Aishwarya Reddy was distraught over the lack of a stable home internet connection, a functioning mobile phone and a laptop. While reaching out to an actor for financial help, Reddy rued, "Due to online classes, it became extremely important to study...on a laptop. There is no way to buy a laptop as our family is completely in debt." Earlier, a students' union survey in her college found that 30 per cent of the students did not have a laptop and 40 per cent lacked a proper internet connection. A scholarship management portal that interviewed 10,000 students aged 12-28 years across India, from families with an annual income below ₹7 lakh, reported that only 17 per cent had access to a laptop, four per cent to a tablet and for the rest 79 per cent, smartphones were the primary mode for online learning. A poor internet connection was the biggest challenge for 57 per cent. Meera Desai, Professor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, says, "About 30 per cent students are facing issues in terms of owning or using a device. Plus there are mobile data issues." According to a media report, only eight per cent of all households, with members between five and 24 years, have both, a computer and an internet connection. As the pandemic struck, the World Bank warned about a learning crisis, "long-term losses in human capital and diminished economic opportunities." The UNESCO voiced concerns about the adverse impact on human rights of over 60 per cent of the world's students. To keep the education system running, the world moved on to a digital mode but this brought to the surface many long-standing issues with regard to access and affordability. In the case of India, the "pandemic arrived before it got on board the information superhighway, which became a vivid marker of the digital divide as only a third of the population managed to avail the facilities of online learning," says Meeta Sengupta, an educationist and Salzburg Fellow. India already has a huge digital divide with only 23.8 per cent households having access to the internet. While in urban areas it is 42 per cent, in rural areas it dips to 14.9 per cent.

With prolonged school closure, India, with a network of 1.5 million schools and an estimated 320 million learners, is struggling with e-learning. A NCERT study says that at least "27 per cent of students lack access to smartphones or laptops to attend online classes... and teachers were also found wanting in skills for online teaching." A study by the Azim Premji Foundation on the public school system in 26 districts in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Uttarakhand, too, disclosed the frustration of teachers with the digital method of learning because of the "impossibility in establishing any emotional connect with children or making any meaningful assessment of their learning outcomes." Sengupta fears that "since our education system puts so much pressure on pace and limits opportunities by age, those left behind would never be able to catch up... lack of empathy in times of crisis would hurt the poorest students the most." India already had 32 million out-of-school children before the pandemic. Unfortunately, the draft education policy, while encouraging e-learning platforms, is silent on the issues of equity or quality.

The gender digital divide (GDD) has been further amplified by digitisation of education, says UNESCO. India has the highest GDD with only 21 per cent of women being mobile internet users, while the number stood at 42 per cent for men. A recent ground situation analysis from 10 Government schools in Patna and Muzaffarpur districts in Bihar found that more boys (36 per cent) than girls (28 per cent) have access to smartphones. In the case of girls whose families had phones, the device was almost always with a male member and they couldn't use it either for online classes or for receiving calls from the school mentor. While a study among 3,000 marginalised families in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar, Assam, Telangana and Delhi says that 70 per cent didn't have enough food and "though the pandemic had negative impacts on schooling boys and girls, yet the latter faced an additional impact and long-term consequences. About 37 per cent of the girls were uncertain about their return to school." Rahul Goswami, CEO and co-founder, Lakshya Jeevan Jagriti, a Delhi-based NGO, which works among slum dwellers, laments that, "whatever gains had been made through the counselling of underprivileged families for educating their daughters, have come to nought. Even though online classes are going on, many girls have been forced out of the system due to the lack of devices, connectivity or emotional support." More often, girl students are pushed into care work. "This was the case during the pandemic, too. As their studies are still not considered a priority, resources are always gendered and patriarchy-controlled," laments Desai. "Institutions and the power structures of the State failed to take responsibility of the students' distress. The education sector has not even been recognised as an essential service," she adds.

Undoubtedly, Reddy's untimely death has exposed a huge systemic gap which failed to notice the digital deprivation, economic and emotional vulnerabilities of students, especially girls. Now, many educational institutions and alumni associations are coming up with plans for financial support and scholarships. Under 'Digital India', a plan is also about to give free laptops, PCs, mobiles to four crore students by 2025-26. Let us hope that Reddy's tragic story is not repeated in 'Digital India', which is based on the motto of "power to empower." (The writer is a retired IIS officer, and a media educator)

THE NEWS ABOUT THE FARMERS' STIR IN INDIA IS CONCERNING. CANADA WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF PEACEFUL PROTEST.  
—CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU



DEAR JUSTIN TRUDEAU, TOUCHED BY YOUR CONCERN BUT INDIA'S INTERNAL ISSUE IS NOT FODDER FOR ANOTHER NATION'S POLITICS.  
—SHIV SENA LEADER PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

# HEIs have their task cut out

They need to develop agility, resilience and flexibility to cater to diverse educational needs of the student community and other stakeholders and to remain frontrunners in quality education



BALVINDER SHUKLA

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak and the resultant lockdowns, the entire education sector collapsed across the globe. The future was uncertain for all, particularly for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), as there was lack of preparedness among educators, students, academic administrators and policy makers alike. Are the students going to lose a year was the question bothering most educationists, parents and the scholars themselves. To respond to the unprecedented situation, the entire sector needed to unlearn and relearn its pedagogy. Hence, the HEIs were forced to explore new teaching methodologies, including remote and online education.

This was a major challenge given the fact that the Indian higher education sector engages approximately 14.16 lakh teachers in 51,649 institutions, both public and private, and caters to almost 3.74 crore students. Each year, about 91 lakh students pass out from colleges and universities across the country. Therefore, the lockdown posed a tremendous challenge for the HEIs as they had to deal with students' emotional, physical and financial difficulties on one side and grapple with decreasing enrolment numbers, funding problems and the training of faculties to cope with the new online teaching methods and so on, on the other side.

Given the socio-economic challenges thrown up by the pandemic, if this uncertainty continues for one more quarter, it will result in short and long-term consequences for the entire education sector. HEIs with strong brand values, a good academic leadership and governance, better stakeholder engagement and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure did well during these tough times as they could overcome the challenges posed by the lockdown by shifting to remote teaching-learning. By using online platforms and ICT technologies, they ensured that there was no academic loss to students.

Many private institutions and universities are looking forward to an enriched intellectual opportunity from this crisis and are prepared to address any adversity. However, at the same time there are some State-funded HEIs and a few private participants who are still facing difficulties in ensuring delivery and learning outcomes for their students.

Academicians and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) students are worried about missing out practical and critical problem-solving skills. Even though instructors are being trained by most HEIs to develop high-tech ways of simulating field and laboratory experiences, for many institutions, it is not possible to do so due to geographical disadvantages and financial barriers.

Though Government educational portals are providing support and universities are coming up with models to address such issues, the digital divide, economic inequality, inclusiveness and non-affordability are some issues that need to be addressed on a war footing.

Another major challenge that all HEIs faced was to assess the mental health of final year students who graduated in this academic year. They were not sure whether they would get suitable job offers commensurate with their qualifications. This problem is compounded by the fact that most of the companies have withdrawn placement offers due to the struggling economy.

Plus, another trend impacting HEIs is the preference of students to attend institutions, colleges and universities on the criteria of location. They are not going by the repute of HEIs and are

“THE HEIs AND THEIR FACULTY NEED TO THINK DIFFERENTLY AND EMBRACE ICT FOR ALL OPERATIONS, STARTING FROM ADMISSIONS, TEACHING-LEARNING, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM AND E-CONTENT, E-RESOURCES (VIRTUAL LABS AND LEARNING RESOURCES), INDUSTRY INTERACTION, STUDENT INTERACTION AND SUPPORT, STUDENT PROGRESSION AND SUPPORT, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE”



more keen to avoid COVID-19 hotspots. Plus, because of the job losses and salary cuts faced by their families, students are opting for HEIs that don't charge too much fee. This decentralisation of HEIs and preference for local institutions will increase in future as parents will prefer to settle for lesser-known local institutions with the hope that they would switch over to another better-known/branded institution for award of degree under the Academic Credit Bank and Credit Transfer Provision of the National Education Policy 2020.

The enrolment depression has also increased due to remote learning as many students changed their minds and decided to defer their higher education plans for this academic year. The most common reasons include doubts about the quality of remote teaching, lack of rich on-campus experience and the costs, which are being perceived as too high for an online experience.

Due to the economic difficulties faced by their parents, a vast majority of students expected tuition fee discounts, but as that did not materialise, it ultimately led to lower enrolments in the current academic session in many of the HEIs. The enrolment has also been affected due to shifting of academic calendars of institutions, which is providing less time to first-time students of higher education for understanding academic philosophy, culture, systems and processes, resulting in loss of learning opportunities.

During the pandemic, the HEIs faced many challenges of student support remotely. They struggled to fulfill the educational requirement of students through effective and remote teaching-learning and assessment practices; improve teaching practices at the university level in the context of the development and integration of digital

technologies; nurture and enable the development of learners as active and responsible citizens, critical thinkers, problem solvers, equipped for life-long learning.

They also faced challenges of enabling online internships, project works and placements; encouraging and promoting scholarly activities of students and faculty members; effective engagement of students, faculty and staff members.

Internationalisation of studies was another problem as worldwide travel was closed due to the pandemic. Generating revenues/funds, maintaining cash flows for sustainable development and meeting the regular expenditure was another area of concern. The degree of impact of the challenges naturally varied for public-funded HEIs and private-funded ones.

Due to the severe downturn, the Government announced several stimulus packages to boost the economy. Though the Government is making every effort to provide all necessary assistance, it needs to work quickly for the holistic development of education to create a resurgent India. It is imperative that the Government brings out a comprehensive National Education Policy 2020 on a blended mode of education. The sooner its implementation happens, the better for all the stakeholders of higher education.

In times of crisis, apart from the initiatives of the Government, steps should be taken at the institutional level as well. Institutions are required to provide emotional and health support to their stakeholders so that they do not face any depression or distress. The stakeholders in turn should guide students and boost their morale. Stakeholders should keep in constant touch with their students and motivate them to opt for self-employment, provide informa-

tion about various start-up schemes implemented by State Governments and the Centre.

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has undertaken a great initiative to produce a "COVID-19 Response Tool Kit" for Indian HEIs, which has been developed to help build institutional resilience for academic planning and continuity. This can be used as a reference document and checklist by education institutions to enable a more effective and planned reopening and to ensure that critical institutional aspects are addressed and necessary measures are considered to maintain academic continuity.

Every challenge throws up a new opportunity. Higher education has many possibilities and challenges, too, during this COVID era. While each level of education faces its unique challenges, it is the higher education segment that may end up, by necessity, triggering a learning revolution. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the education system forever. It has set a "new normal."

The HEIs and their faculty need to think differently and embrace ICT for all operations starting from admissions, teaching-learning, assessment, curriculum and E-content, E-resources (virtual labs and learning resources), industry interaction, internationalisation, student interaction and support, student progression and support, alumni engagement, communication and governance.

Therefore, HEIs need to develop agility, resilience and flexibility to cater to diverse educational needs of the student community and other stakeholders and to remain frontrunners in quality higher education.

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor Professor, Entrepreneurship, Leadership and IT, Amity University)

# Animal farming to blame for antibiotic apocalypse

With a huge unregulated livestock sector, India's antibiotic use in animals is estimated to increase by 82 per cent by 2030



VARDA MEHROTRA

In his 1945 Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Alexander Fleming, the developer of Penicillin, had warned, "The time may come when Penicillin (would) be bought by anyone in the shops. There is the danger that the ignorant man may easily underdose himself and by exposing his microbes to non-lethal quantities of the drug, make them resistant."

Before we started using antibiotics in the 1940s, a lot of things had the possibility of turning fatal: Right from giving birth, to getting a small scratch,

from undergoing a surgery to sexually transmitted infections. Antibiotics helped us stop infections caused by bacteria. But in less than eight decades, humanity is faced with what Fleming described as antibiotic or antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared AMR as one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity and "the biggest threat to modern medicine." By 2050, AMR will take more than 10 million lives and the cumulative cost to the global economy will be \$100 trillion, says a study titled 'Antimicrobial resistance in the environment: The Indian scenario' published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* in 2019.

Antimicrobials (including antibiotics and antivirals) are medicines used for treatment and prevention of infections in humans and animals. AMR occurs when the bacteria and viruses mutate over time and no longer

respond to the medicines, thus, making them ineffective in treatment of the disease. This kills more people than cancer and road accidents combined. The big question is, what is contributing to such a high rate of antibiotic resistance deaths? We may find answers in a sector that uses more antibiotics than any other industry, and that is animal farming.

**Animal Farming and AMR:** India is the fourth-largest consumer of antibiotics in animal farming, according to a report by the Centre for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy. With a huge unregulated livestock sector, India's antibiotic use in animals is estimated to increase by 82 per cent by 2030. With a rapid growth and demand for dairy, meat and poultry, the Indian livestock industry continues to turn towards antimicrobial agents for increased production. Studies published in the *Veterinary World* have found antibiotic-resistant bacteria in

cow and buffalo milk samples taken from across India. Additionally, shrimp exports from India (which is the second-largest fish producing country globally) are banned in four countries, and the European Union continues to hold its concern over the use of antibiotics in Indian shrimps.

Animals farmed for consumption are raised in cramped and unhygienic conditions, needing excessive antibiotics to prevent and/or treat infections arising out of their living conditions. As antibiotics are regularly used to prevent infections, the bacteria infecting these animals develop a resistance to the drug and are capable of reproduction. Antibiotics are also routinely administered to "fatten up" the animals before slaughter.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates that by 2030 the amount of antimicrobials used in farmed animals will be 1,05,596 tonnes

or 9,57,95,079 kg. According to *Global Trends in Antimicrobial Use in Food Animals*, published in *PNAS*, one kg of beef uses 45 mg of antimicrobials and one kg of chicken uses 148 mg of antimicrobials.

Researchers from ETH Zurich, Free University of Brussels, and the Princeton Environmental Institute suggest that countries like India should restrict the use of antibiotics in farm animals.

Another source of AMR could be linked to livestock discard. A study from Netherlands says that more than one-third of the samples collected from pig and cattle faeces contained more than one antibiotic or its residue. Given improper disposal of animal waste and overcrowded shelters, one can speculate that the situation in India would be worse. In other words, animal farming is making us sick.

**Battling AMR by going plant-based:** The most effective way to

counter antibiotic resistance through farmed animals is to go plant-based. People can include more vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, beans and legumes in their diet.

For those who find it challenging to give up meat, there are several plant-based meat substitutes available in the market that have great taste and texture like tofu, tempeh, seitan and texturised vegetable protein, mushrooms, jackfruit, eggplant, beets, and cauliflower.

By going plant-based, people are also sparing an animal's life and the cruelty they undergo at the slaughterhouse. Moreover, shifting to a plant-based diet helps reduce the risk of developing any chronic or degenerative disease that can put people at an additional risk during the current or future pandemic.

(The writer is the Executive Director of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations)



## TWO DIFFERENT ATTITUDES

India's business media derides farm subsidies, which most countries give their farmers, as a drain on resources. The financial largesse the tycoons get is called business incentive. This mismatch in the State's approach to the two groups has been a trigger for the peasant uprisings. (Dawn editorial)



# Sensex, Nifty gallop to closing highs on recovery hopes, vaccine boost

**Mumbai:** Equity benchmarks surged to lifetime closing highs on Tuesday as better-than-expected GDP data and progress on the COVID-19 vaccine front gave fresh impetus to investor bullishness.

A strengthening rupee and persistent foreign capital inflows further boosted market sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 505.72 points or 1.15 per cent to end at its fresh closing record of 44,655.44.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 140.10 points or 1.08 per cent to close at its all-time high of 13,109.05.

Sun Pharma was the top performer in the Sensex pack, spurring 5.51 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, ONGC, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Auto.

On the other hand, Kotak Bank, Nestle India, Titan, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and NTPC were among the main laggards, shedding up to 1.40 per cent.

World equities perched near all-time highs as strong factory output figures from China bolstered expectations of a swift economic recovery.

Meanwhile, Moderna Inc applied for emergency author-

isation for its COVID-19 vaccine in the US after full results from a late-stage trial showed around 94 per cent effectiveness.

“The markets started December trading on a strong footing raising the benchmark to a fresh high due to a good GDP data. The Manufacturing PMI released today showed a slight contraction in manufacturing activities compared to the previous month, though growth remained strong.

“Markets across the globe made a positive start to the month expecting an extension of November’s record-breaking gains along with strong hopes of coronavirus vaccine. We believe that this optimism can sustain in the near term with a shift towards mid and small caps, led by lag effect,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

India’s economy recovered faster than expected in the September quarter as a pick-up in manufacturing helped GDP clock a lower contraction of 7.5 per cent, official data showed after market hours on Friday.

However, India’s manufacturing sector activity lost momentum and fell to a three-month low in November amid

## Rupee soars 37 paise

**Mumbai:** The rupee surged 37 paise to settle at ₹73.68 against the US dollar on Tuesday, buoyed by foreign fund inflows into domestic equities.

Besides, positive developments on COVID-19 vaccine front, improved domestic macro-economic data and weakness of the American currency against key rivals also supported the rupee.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at ₹73.93 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.44 and a low of ₹73.93.

The local unit finally closed at ₹73.68 against the American currency, registering a rise of 37 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled 17 paise lower at ₹74.05 against the US dollar.

Forex market was closed on Monday on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. **PTI**

## Gold rises by ₹45, silver gains ₹407

**New Delhi:** Gold prices rose ₹45 to ₹48,273 per 10 gram in the national capital on Tuesday on a positive global trend, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at ₹48,228 per 10 gram on Monday.

Silver prices also gained ₹407 to ₹59,380 per kg, compared with ₹58,973 per kg in the previous trade.

“Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were trading up by ₹45 in line with recovery in global gold prices despite rupee appreciation,” HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

The spot rupee was trading around 4 rupee stronger against the dollar during the day, he added.

In the international market, gold and silver were trading higher at \$1,812 per ounce and \$ 23.34 per ounce, respectively. **PTI**

Collections of tax on the sale of goods and rendering of services came in at ₹1,04,963 crore in November, the finance ministry said.

The collections were higher than ₹1.03 lakh crore recorded in November 2019 but were ₹192 crore lower than October 2020 collections.

Barring consumer durables, all BSE sectoral indices finished in the green, led by realty (3.49 per cent), telecom (2.52 per cent), teck (2.42 per cent) and IT (2.39 per cent).

The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.94 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul ended with significant gains. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading mixed in early deals.

The rupee strengthened 37 paise to close at ₹73.68 against the US dollar. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.10 per cent lower at USD 47.83 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital markets as they purchased shares worth Rs 7,712.98 crore on Friday, according to provisional exchange data. **PTI**

## India’s manufacturing PMI slips to 3-month low in Nov

**New Delhi:** India’s manufacturing sector activity lost momentum and fell to a three-month low in November amid slower increases in factory orders, exports and buying levels, a monthly survey said on Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) fell from 58.9 in October to a three-month low of 56.3 in November, indicating that the manufacturing sector growth remained strong, despite losing traction.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.

“The Indian manufacturing sector remained on the right path to recovery, with strong growth of new orders and output sustained during November,” Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit, said.

Lima further noted that “the softening of rates of expansion seen in the latest month does not represent a major setback, since these are down from over decade highs in October, a spike in COVID-19 cases and the possibility of associated restrictions could undermine the recovery”.

As per the survey, aggregate new orders rose at the slowest pace in three months. **PTI**

## GST revenues cross tn-mark for 2nd straight month at over ₹1.04L cr in Nov

**New Delhi:** GST collections posted growth for the third month in a row in November over the previous year collections, in signs that the economy continues to reflate after a strict lockdown.

Collections of tax on the sale of goods and rendering of services came in at ₹1,04,963 crore in November, the finance ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. The collections were higher than ₹1.03 lakh crore recorded in November 2019 but were ₹192 crore lower than October 2020 collections.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, which directly reflects the state of economic activity, had plummeted to a record low of ₹32,172 crore in April after the government imposed a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Subsequent easing of lockdown restrictions helped collections rise. The collections witnessed the first year-on-year growth in September and last month, it crossed the psychological ₹1 lakh crore-mark. November is the second straight month when GST revenues have topped ₹1 lakh crore. One lakh crore is one trillion.

The year-on-year growth in GST collections in November stood at 1.4 per cent while in

October and September, it was at 10 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

“In line with the recent trend of recovery in the GST revenues, the revenues for the month of November 2020 are 1.4 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.

During the month, revenues from import of goods was 4.9 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 0.5 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year,” the ministry said in the statement.

The gross GST revenues collected in the month of November 2020 were ₹1,04,963 crore, out of which central GST was ₹19,189 crore and state GST was ₹ 25,540 crore. IGST was ₹ 51,992 crore, including ₹ 22,078 crore collected on import of goods, and cess was ₹8,242 crore, including ₹809 crore collected on import of goods, the statement said.

Last week, sources in the finance ministry said that GST officers have identified top 25,000 taxpayers who had filed GST returns in October but have not done so for November. Till November 28, 80 lakh GST returns were filed for that month. **PTI**

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	13,062.20	13,128.40	12,962.80	13,109.05	140.1	
GAIL	103.65	112	103.1	110.8	8.15	
SUNPHARMA	518	542.75	512.65	541	29.35	
INDUSINDBK	863	900	858.1	900	42.35	
TECH	420	434.2	418	434	16.3	
UPL	900	914.15	871.65	910.05	33.2	
ONGC	78.5	82	77.05	81.4	2.9	
GRASIM	867	910.7	862.15	906.75	31	
BHARTIARTL	467.75	482.5	460.5	479.2	15.95	
INFY	1,105.05	1,140.25	1,105.05	1,137.05	37.05	
ADANIAPORTS	415	426	412	423.9	12.35	
ICICIBANK	479.7	488.5	474.3	484.2	10.85	
SHRECEM	25,555.00	25,655.50	24,549.40	24,849.75	543.4	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,175.10	3,248.95	3,161.00	3,242.00	68.45	
ULTRACEMCO	4,815.00	4,937.20	4,805.00	4,904.60	102.6	
JSWSTEEL	354.5	359	351.85	357.6	7.4	
TCS	2,679.00	2,735.90	2,624.45	2,729.00	49.35	
HDFC	2,237.00	2,324.00	2,217.65	2,296.20	39.95	
BPCL	374.9	381.45	371	379.5	6.5	
HCLTECH	824	835.7	815.1	835	12.9	
IOC	85	86	84.1	85.9	1.3	
M&M	736.4	736.5	708.05	732.6	10.6	
COALINDIA	753	760	741.75	756.5	10.9	
SBIN	245	248.95	244.25	247.65	3.4	
TATASTEEL	592	592	576.95	584.85	7.5	
RELIANCE	1,940.35	1,966.25	1,930.05	1,954.10	24.3	
HINDALCO	230.8	231.5	222.5	229	2.65	
WIPRO	352.7	353.9	346.25	353.7	3.2	
MARUTI	7,141.80	7,141.80	6,975.20	7,100.00	64.2	
ITC	126	127.1	124.7	126.3	0.75	
ITC	195	196.35	192.4	194.6	0.95	
ASIANPAINT	2,275.00	2,275.00	2,206.20	2,226.00	10.7	
SBILIFE	849.9	855	840.2	849.35	3.3	
AXISBANK	611	615	596.2	603.85	2.25	
DIVISLAB	3,770.00	3,770.00	3,596.60	3,620.00	10.9	
POWERGRID	194.85	196.45	191.65	191.65	0.9	
DREDDY	4,870.00	4,870.00	4,806.00	4,835.10	6.15	
HEROMOTOCO	3,120.00	3,129.90	3,070.05	3,108.20	-0.65	
EICHERMOT	2,559.95	2,584.90	2,525.00	2,532.50	-2.15	
HINDUNIVR	2,159.00	2,159.00	2,129.60	2,134.90	-3.3	
BRITANNIA	3,702.50	3,702.50	3,595.55	3,629.90	-8.05	
TATAMOTORS	182.35	182.4	178.1	178.95	-0.5	
BAJAJNSIN	8,800.00	8,828.85	8,712.65	8,728.00	-30.8	
HDFCLIFE	63.25	65.6	63.95	64.36	-3.2	
LT	1,140.00	1,140.00	1,111.20	1,116.60	-6.4	
NTPC	94.7	96.2	93.45	94	-0.7	
HDFCBANK	1,440.85	1,449.00	1,425.50	1,429.05	-11.8	
BAFINANCE	4,951.20	4,952.40	4,825.25	4,854.00	-54.8	
TAIFAN	1,383.00	1,386.40	1,335.00	1,343.00	-18.2	
KOTAKBANK	1,930.00	1,930.00	1,864.55	1,876.10	-31	
NESTLEIND	18,067.80	18,067.90	17,331.55	17,430.00	-458.95	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	30,656.05	30,766.90	30,481.35	30,734.20	400.3	
DMART	2,330.00	2,450.00	2,315.00	2,430.00	140.8	
MOTHERSUMI	149.85	158.65	146.3	156.8	8.75	
ITI	3,271.25	3,471.35	3,202.05	3,353.00	152.55	
UBL	1,040.00	1,091.00	1,035.10	1,087.00	48.05	
BANKBARODA	51.55	54.2	51.15	53.7	2.35	
DLF	197	197.5	189.6	195.1	7.9	
ICICIPRULI	449	459	442.75	456	16.3	
AUROPHARMA	876.25	899.1	869.2	896.75	28.2	
MCDOWELL-N	554	569.15	547	566	17.6	
BOSCHLT	12,849.50	13,321.95	12,650.00	13,220.05	403.95	
INDIGO	1,530.00	1,571.45	1,515.00	1,560.00	45.85	
NMDC	97	99.95	95.9	99.3	2.9	
PNB	33.9	34.65	33.3	34.45	1	
BANDHANBNK	371	381.75	367	377.35	10.35	
ACC	1,738.00	1,745.00	1,705.90	1,750.00	44.95	
HAVELLS	79.1	83.95	79.81	82.95	20.55	
LUPIN	894	914.35	892.15	912	20.2	
PEL	1,405.85	1,435.00	1,390.25	1,414.10	26	
MARICO	370.95	375.3	362.5	373.5	5.8	
ICICIGI	1,470.00	1,499.90	1,459.05	1,473.15	21.75	
TOURNPHARM	2,630.00	2,670.50	2,609.70	2,651.70	36.6	
DABUR	503.05	507	500.6	506.35	6.55	
BERGEPAINT	648.7	657.85	647.1	655.65	7.9	
PETRONET	255	255.85	251	254.15	2.9	
BIOCON	436.95	438.35	429.55	434	4.65	
CONCOR	409.5	413	397.4	410.2	4.15	
PGH	10,619.20	10,719.50	10,548.30	10,622.00	102.1	
HINDPETRO	210	212.5	208.8	211.35	2	
GODREJCP	712	715.55	702.55	706.5	6.75	
CADILAC	459.1	459.45	442.3	454	3.9	
PIDILITIND	1,557.90	1,562.55	1,534.30	1,555.00	12.45	
BAJAJHLNG	3,115.50	3,115.50	3,060.00	3,080.10	21.35	
ADANTRANS	379.85	385	372.05	378	1.7	
PPC	108.8	109.35	106.95	108.65	0.45	
SIEMENS	1,500.90	1,545.00	1,490.15	1,518.50	5.05	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,171.95	1,171.95	1,140.00	1,154.20	2	
AMBI	262	269.55	260.9	261.5	0.45	
SBICARD	800.05	807	796.95	799.8	0.5	
ABROTINDIA	15,425.00	15,504.95	15,350.00	15,399.95	0.9	
ADANIGREEN	1,133.90	1,156.00	1,082.35	1,133.00	-3.4	
GICRE	141.4	142	139.5	140.25	-0.7	
COLPAL	1,540.25	1,540.25	1,493.00	1,504.10	-9.6	
HINDZINC	232	235	227	228.2	-1.5	
OFSS	3,065.00	3,065.00	3,011.05	3,018.00	-22.15	
INFRATEL	223	225.2	215	216.2	-2.4	
HDFCAMC	2,549.00	2,549.35	2,500.00	2,508.00	-30.8	
TATACONSUM	554	554	525.3	529.9	-8.1	
ALUMKA	2,845.00	2,867.00	2,777.45	2,790.00	-51.65	
NAUKRI	4,380.50	4,426.50	4,180.00	4,210.00	-96.35	
IGL	500.95	503.85	481	483.85	-12.55	

BSE 500									
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP					
RELIANCE	1935.25	1965.9	1931	1954.3	TATACHEM	392	408	387.5	405.15
IDEA	9.77	10.34	9.61	10.05	IGL	497	501.55	481.4	482.45
SBN	244.8	248.9	244.25	248.05	GRANULES	423	438	423	428.6
INDUSINDBK	862.2	900	857.7	895.1	RVNL	22.4	23.1	22	22.95
INFY	1105.55	1139.7	1105.55	1137.25	IBALEAST	65.4	70.95	65.1	69.6
BHARTIARTL	464.25	482.2	460.55	479.35	ICICIGI	1475	1500	1459.5	1471.2
BAJFINANCE	494.5	499.9	482.4	487.2	IOC	85	86	84.1	85.8
HDFC	2240	2323.35	2218.15	2304.95	DCBBANK	110	115.85	108.95	112.25
TATAMOTORS	183.25	183.25	178.1	179.7	SUNTV	447.9	450.8	439.45	444.65
TATASTEEL	590.5	590.5	577	585.55	BPCL	378	381.15	379.55	379.15
AXISBANK	609	611.75	596.25	603.45	TV18BRDCTV	30.3	32.1	29.25	31.4
SUNPHARMA	517	542.45	514.75	539.75	HINDUNIVR	2154	2154	2129.2	2132.25
ONGC	78.5	82	77	81.5	HFPL	100.25	115.75	100.25	113.15
GAIL	104.35	111.9	103.3	110.8	BALKRISIND	1700	1715	1638	1653.85
DIVISLAB	3760	3760	3599.75	3620.5	SHRECEM	25100	25515.05	24585.95	24903.6
IBULHSGFIN	188.5	194	185.3	188.75	IRCTC	1352	1367	1348	1358.7
ADANIENIT	398.7	423.85	394.85	421.85	TAKE	40.3	46.35	40.3	44.55
ITC	194.5	196.25	192.4	194.45	MANAPPURAM	180	180.95	172.75	173.5
KOTAKBANK	1934	1934	1864.8	1874.95	WOCKPHARMA	460	472.8	450.1	462.15
TATAPOWER	65.45	69.35	65	68.75	APOLLOTYRE	185	188	182.9	186.9
ICICIBANK	483	488.5	474.15	485.25					
TCS	2680	2735	2625.1	2726.95					
ADANIGAS	358.2	371.7	352.4	360.75					
HDFCBANK	1440	1448.85	1426.8	1433.55					
FEDERALBNK	63.25	65.85	62.25	65.65					
HCLTECH	828.1	835.8	815.05	834.05					
ADANIPORTS	414	425.75	411.75	423.75					
BHEL	33.25	34.4	32.85	34.05					
LUPIN	896	914	892.25	909.75					
LICHSGFIN	327.15	342.4	326	339.3					
ADANIPOWER	38.6	41.8	38.6	41.1					
MOTHERSUMI	150	158.65	146.35	157.4					
MARUTI	7105	7120.95	6981.1	7099.1					
INFRATEL	228	228	215.05	215.95					
LTI	3230	3469.45	3230	3352.4					
LAUREDDY	4861.15	4868	4805.9	4827.65					
DAVANGERE	319.9	326.75	310.5	327.6					
CADILAC	461	461	442	453.45					
UPL	418	434	418	433					
VEDL	122	122.35	119.9	121.55					
ASIANPAINT	2260	2260	2206.85	2229.7					
DLF	189.6	197.4	189.6	195.05					
TATACONSUM	50	553.75	525.5	528.9					
ACC	1719.5	1788.05	1706.85	1747.45					
TITAN	1371	1385	1335	1341.6					
CIPLA	750.35	759.95	746.65	755.55					
HDFCLIFE	650	655	639.5	647					
INDUSTALST	244.5	257.3	243.6	253.5					
MCD	1615.5	1620	1588	1593.15					
DMART	2311	2450	2311	2440.5					
ULTRACEMCO	4802.75	4936	4802.75	4909.8					
WIPRO	353	353.7	346.35	352.9					
MUTHOOTFIN	1160.2	1165	1140.15	1153.45					
L&TF	86	89	84.1	87.8					
MRF	79059.95	80000	77622.9	79599.2					
BAJAJFINSV	8815	8825	8720	8739.4					
NBCC	26.25	28.35	25.85	28.05					
BANDHANBNK	367.1	381.65	367.1	377.2					
LIT	1132	1135	1111.95	1115.7					
SKTRANSFIN	1079	1079	1018.75	1023.25					
PNB	34	34.6	33.3	34.45					
CANBK	104.25	110.4	104.15	110					
TECHM	895	914.2	872.6	906.75					
M&M	736.6	736.6	708.15	734.8					
BANKBARODA	51.7	54.2	51.2	53.75					
HEROMOTOCO	3150	3150	3072	3111.6					
INDIGO	1514.05	1570.6	1514.05	1559.3					
APOLLOHOSP	2360.1	2508.95	2354.7	2460.75					
ZEEL	195	198.2	190	195.6					
FORTIS	152.95	155.85	148	152.9					
RBLCBANK	224.8	227.7	220.3	225.65					
AUOPHARMA	870	899.05	870	897.25					
FRETAIL	78.25	78.65	78.25	78.75					
COALINDIA	126	126.9	124.9	126.35					
HAVELLS	800	839.8	798	823.15					
GRASIM	883.2	910.25	864.05	908					
KEC	365	378.8	358.2	375.45					
EICHERMOT	2537.3	2584.65	2519.75	2532.5					
IPCALAB	2200	2297	2200	2276.35					
ESCORTS	1415	1415	1363.45	1373.6					
JSWSTEEL	353.55	358.95	352	358					
SBNICAR	799.75	806.7	796.65	799.85					
CATERINGAT	503.5	579	503.5	560.25					
ICICIPRULI	445.05	458.7	443.05	457.5					
DEEPAKNI	874.9	895	855	864.95					
BAJAJ-AUTO	3200	3248.95	3164.1	3244.55					
GODFREYP	1167	1230	1165.85	1187.6					
ASHOKLEY	92.6	93.85	91.4	92.6					
SAIL	48.9	50.7	47.9	49.95					
ADANIENERG	1132.1	1155.65	1080.85	1133.85					
SPICETEL	71.9	75	70.2	74					
NESTLEIND	18188	18818	17350	17417.15					
HINDALCO	230	231.25	222.5	229.2					
NATIONALUM	3915	40	38.7	39.75					
MINDTREE	1425	1425	1390.95	1410.3					
NTPC	95.5	96.1	95.5	95.75					
MRMFIN	174.25	174.25	165.5	167.7					
CHOLAFIN	389.5	389.5	371.5	374.95					
POWERGRID	193.5	196.3	191.75	192.3					
SIEMENS	1510	1544.9	1489.55	1516.65					
BIOCON	431.15	438.25	430	433.25					
TATAELXSI	1602.05	1637.75	1602.05	1627.85					
BEL	111.15	112.75	110.4	111.7					
MGL	1062.95	1084.95	1048.15	1059.75					
BATAINDIA	1593	1593	1532.95	1542.1					
GRASEVESCO	85.7	88.4	82.55	87.5					
BROUGHT	12999	13314.75	12677.15	13255.45					



# CPC asserts its ‘absolute leadership’ over military

**Beijing:** China’s ruling Communist Party has reinforced its “absolute leadership” over the country’s two million-strong force, asserting that the PLA should function strictly under the party’s command, as Beijing plans to build a fully modern military on par with the US by 2027.

The two million-strong People’s Liberation Army (PLA), the world’s largest, functions as an arm of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in the one-party state, unlike other militaries of the world which function under their respective governments.

“The military should abide by the fundamental principle of absolute Party leadership over the armed forces,” said the Politburo of the CPC headed by President Xi Jinping which met here on Monday to review regulations on the political work in the armed forces.

A statement quoted by the

state-run Xinhua news agency issued after the meeting highlighted the role of amending regulations on political work in the armed forces, noting that it could strengthen the party’s leadership over the military-political work and promote the full implementation of the strategy of enhancing the military’s political loyalty in the new era.

Such measures would help ensure the armed forces are always under the absolute party leadership and always capable of effectively fulfilling designated missions in the new era, thus contributing to the cause of delivering the party’s goal of building a strong military and building a world-class military in all respects, the statement said.

Since taking over power in 2012, Xi - who has emerged as the most powerful leader after Mao Zedong, heading the party, military and the presi-

dency - has been constantly highlighting that the PLA should function under the absolute leadership of the CPC.

He carried out the biggest shakeup of the military in the last five years through his anti-corruption drive in which over 50 top Generals of the PLA including two Vice-Chairmen of the Central Military Commission (CMC) were taken down, enabling Xi to reinforce his leadership firmly over the military and the party.

Xi, 67, heads the CMC, the overall high command of the PLA and he is the only party leader and the civilian in its ranks. He has the prospect of a life-long tenure in power as two five-year term rule for the President has been removed by the national legislature in 2018.

Besides completely restructuring the PLA from top to bottom, Xi had also downsized its strength by shredding three lakh troops. **PTI**

# Biden gets access to President’s Daily Brief

**Wilmington:** Joe Biden on Monday got his first look as president-elect at the President’s Daily Brief, a top secret summary of US intelligence and world events — a document former first lady Michelle Obama has called “The Death, Destruction, and Horrible Things Book.”

Biden has already had eyes on different iterations of the so-called PDB, which is tailored to the way each president likes to absorb information.

More than a decade ago, Biden read President George W Bush’s PDB during Biden’s transition into the vice presidency.

After that, he read President Barack Obama’s PDB for eight years.

Now, after a four-year break, he’s reading President Donald Trump’s PDB.

“The briefers almost certainly will be asking Biden what he prefers in terms of format and style,” said David Priess, author of “The President’s Book of Secrets,” a history of the PDB. “At a minimum, they’re



seeing what seems to resonate most with him so that when they make the book his book, they can tailor it to him.”

Obama’s PDB was a 10- to 15-page document tucked in a leather binder, which he found waiting for him on the breakfast table.

Later in his presidency, he liked reading the ultra-secret intelligence brief on a secured iPad.

“Michelle called it ‘The Death, Destruction, and Horrible Things Book,’ Obama wrote in his recently released book, ‘A Promised Land.’

“On a given day, I might read about terrorist cells in Somalia or unrest in Iraq or the fact that the Chinese or Russians were developing new weapons systems,” Obama wrote.

“Nearly always, there was mention of potential terrorist plots, no matter how vague, thinly sourced, or unactionable — a form of due diligence on the part of the intelligence community, meant to avoid the kind of second-guessing that had transpired after 9/11.” **AP**

## ARIZONA, WISCONSIN CERTIFY BIDEN AS WINNER

**Washington:** Two battleground states of Arizona and Wisconsin on Monday formally certified Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden as the winner.

Incumbent Donald Trump had won both the states in 2016.

In Wisconsin, Biden won by 20,700 votes against Trump, who has refused to concede the election results so far. He alleges that there were

massive voters’ fraud and electoral malpractice.

Certifying the result, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers said, “Today, I carried out my duty to certify the November 3rd election, and as required by state and federal law, I’ve signed the Certificate of Ascertainment for the slate of electors for President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.” **PTI**

## Trump’s controversial coronavirus adviser resigns

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump’s controversial special adviser on the coronavirus, Dr. Scott Atlas, has resigned.

During his four months in the role, Atlas, who had no formal experience in public health or infectious diseases, questioned the need for masks and other measures to control the pandemic that has killed over 268,000 people in America.

While questioning the usefulness of masks he was against lockdowns and promoted the idea of herd immunity.

The 65-year-old the Stanford University neuroradiologist resigned on Monday at the end of his 130-day temporary assignment, according to US media reports.

Atlas tweeted a photo of his resignation letter on Monday. In the letter, he said his “advice

was always focused on minimising all the harms from both the pandemic and the structural policies themselves, especially to the working class and the poor.” “I sincerely wish the new team all the best as they guide the nation through these trying, polarised times,” he wrote, apparently referring to President-elect Joe Biden’s incoming coronavirus team. **PTI**

# Iran’s Parliament advances bill to stop nuclear inspections

**Tehran:** Iran’s Parliament on Tuesday advanced a bill that would end UN inspections of its nuclear facilities and require the government to boost its uranium enrichment if European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal do not provide relief from oil and banking sanctions.

The vote to debate the bill, which would need to pass through several other stages before becoming law, was a show of defiance after the killing of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist last month.

The official IRNA news agency said 251 lawmakers in the 290-seat chamber voted in favor, after which many began

chanting “Death to America!” and “Death to Israel!”

The bill would give European countries three months to ease sanctions on Iran’s key oil and gas sector, and to restore its access to the international banking system. The US imposed crippling sanctions on Iran after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear agreement, triggering a series of escalations between the two sides.

The bill would have authorities resume enriching uranium to 20%, which is below the threshold needed for nuclear weapons but higher than that required for civilian applications. **AP**

## 76 Franciscan nuns test positive at monastery in Germany

**Berlin:** Seventy-six Catholic nuns have tested positive for Covid-19 after an outbreak at a Franciscan convent in north-western Germany, church authorities said Tuesday.

Another 85 nuns received negative test results at the monastery in Thuiene, not far from the Dutch border, the convent’s Mother Superior told The Associated Press.

“We are grateful that so far nobody is in the hospital,” Sister Maria Cordis Reiker said.

Local health authorities put the entire monastery under quarantine late last week after the first cases of coronavirus were discovered there. Most Catholic nuns in Germany are elderly women because convents have had difficulties for decades recruiting young women for their cause. **AP**

## AZERBAIJAN FULLY RECLAIMS LANDS AROUND NAGORNO-KARABAKH



An Azerbaijani man holds a national flag riding a horse as he celebrates the transfer of the Lachin region to Azerbaijan’s control, as part of a peace deal that required Armenian forces to cede the Azerbaijani territories they held outside Nagorno-Karabakh, in Aghjabadi, Azerbaijan on Tuesday **AP**

## TALKS INCONCLUSIVE...

It further said protests will now intensify across the country until their demands are met. The Government side gave a detailed presentation on the minimum support price, agriculture produce marketing committee Act and other provisions of the three farm laws and tried to convince them that these laws are not against the farmers. The farmers, however, remained adamant on their demand that the Government should abolish the legislations.

The Government reasoned that a high-level committee must be formed to look into the issues and wanted the farmer representatives to further consider the proposal. Sources said the Ministers were of the view that it was difficult to reach a decision while interacting with such large groups and therefore they suggested meeting with a smaller group, but the farmer leaders were firm that they would meet collectively only. The unions also know that agitating farmers at borders will not be satisfied with the meeting, which is generally perceived as a way to put an issue in cold storage.

Prior to the meeting Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Piyush Goyal attended a meeting over the farmers’ protest at BJP chief JP Nadda’s residence.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs in the meanwhile issued a statement saying the Government continues to procure Kharif crops at its MSP from farmers as per its existing MSP Schemes and about 29.70 lakh farmers have already benefited from ongoing Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21 procurement operations with MSP value of Rs 60038.68 crores. It also said paddy procurement for Kharif 2020-21 is continuing smoothly in the procuring States & UTs of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

## INDIA SLAMS...

Trudeau said he would be remiss if he did not recognise the “news coming out of India about the protest by farmers. The situation is concerning and we are all very worried about family and friends and I know that is a reality for many of you.” Trudeau is the first world leader to comment on the farmers’ protests.

“We believe in the importance of dialogue and that’s why, we’ve reached out to multiple means, directly to the India authorities to highlight our concerns. This is a moment for all of us to pull together,” the Canadian leader in a video posted by the World Sikh Organisation.

## CAPITAL ROADS...

More protesters converged near the borders of the national Capital as the stir by farmers against the agri laws appeared to intensify, prompting the

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Delhi Police to enhance security and place concrete barriers at all entry points from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The farmers remained at the Chilla border where police have been deployed on both the Delhi as well as Noida side in huge numbers, prohibiting the protestors from proceeding towards the national Capital.

In view of the closure of the road, the traffic police of Delhi and Noida have advised commuters to take alternative routes. “Chilla border that links Delhi to UP through Noida has been closed. Those drivers who want to go to Noida can take U-turn from under the Ghaziपुर-Akshardham flyover and also through Sarai Kale Khan,” the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

Its Noida counterpart also took to Twitter to caution commuters. “The Chilla border has been closed due to the ongoing protest by farmers. Commuters can take alternative Kalindi Kunj or DND routes to go to their destination,” it said.

## BSF WENT 200 M...

BSF Director General Rakesh Asthana assured the nation’s borders will be kept secure and impregnable. Asthana also delved in the BSF’s achievements, new initiatives and preparations to deal with future challenges.

At the event, Rai also flagged off the Infinity Ride 2020 of Aditya Mehta Foundation being supported by the BSF for the cause that aims to discover budding para sporting talent across the country.

The Infinity Ride 2020 is gruelling 3,800 km cycle ride from Kashmir to Kanyakumari by 28 ‘Divyangjans’ of BSF and Aditya Mehta Foundation that began with DG BSF flagging it off from Srinagar on November 19 which will culminate in Kanyakumari on January 1, 2021.

## NEED TO VACCINATE...

The States have also been asked to set up a task force under the chairmanship of State Chief Secretary on the same lines as National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration (NEGVAC) at the Centre so that they can take up the task of vaccinating priority groups as soon as the vaccine is ready for use.

The official said the States have also been asked to take stock of cold chain and refrigerated vans available in their respective States for universal immunisation programme so that the same can be used for Covid-19 vaccine administration.

The Centre has also written to all States and Union Territories to identify such people to utilise them during the mass Covid-19 vaccination drive. Among a list of categories who would qualify as potential vaccinators and will

be trained accordingly are MBBS doctors, BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) doctors, staff nurses (those who have BSc Nursing), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives of different grades, pharmacists, those students who are interning during their MBBS course, and also BDS (dentists) interns.

## SC REJECTS...

The high court had accepted the bank’s contention that Kochhar’s plea was not maintainable as the dispute was contractual and concerns a private body. During the arguments before the apex court, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Kochhar, said the high court had dismissed her plea on the grounds of maintainability. “I (Kochhar) was the MD of ICICI bank but bank recalled my earlier resignation and converted it into termination,” he said, adding, “This was wrong as it was against the norms”. Rohatgi said that Kochhar’s resignation was changed into termination and there was no prior approval. “The RBI was under obligation. You cannot convert resignation into termination. There is no question of termination as there was no previous approval as per the clause,” he said.

The bench observed, “As far as we understand, it is the RBI who can raise issue with the bank. You were in service with a private bank. RBI has to deal with the bank saying that no approval was taken”. Rohatgi said for certain class of employees, prior approval is needed. “You show us a judgement which says that you have a role, then your writ petition will be maintainable,” the bench told Rohatgi.

After Rohatgi referred to some judgements, the bench said, “RBI has given post-facto approval. You are saying there was no prior approval. You are saying that it is not the proper manner. Your whole grievance is against the private bank. There cannot be grievance with RBI.”

To this, Rohatgi said, “No. My whole grievance is against the RBI”. He said if the RBI had not granted approval then Kochhar’s termination would have been nullified. “What about my (Kochhar’s) reputation,” Rohatgi argued. The bench observed, “You can claim damages if your reputation is tarnished and if it was wrong”. Rohatgi said, “everything cannot be damages” and RBI can be asked to explain its approval as RBI has no jurisdiction to give post-facto approval.

Kochhar was terminated from the ICICI Bank months after she had voluntarily left the second largest private sector lender. The former banker had moved the Bombay High Court on November 30, 2019, challenging the “termination” of her employment by the ICICI Bank. She had contended before the high court that the bank also

denied her remuneration and clawed back all the bonuses and stock options between April 2009 and March 2018, for her alleged role in granting out of turn loans to the Videocon Group which purportedly benefitted her husband Deepak Kochhar.

Her counsel had earlier argued in the high court that her termination came months after the bank approved her voluntary resignation on October 5, 2018 and therefore, the termination is “illegal, untenable and unsustainable in law”.

The ICICI Bank had then filed an affidavit, contending the reliefs in the petition are not maintainable and it deserves to be dismissed as ICICI is a private bank and is administered under the Companies Act, not the state or its agency. On November 20, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had assured the apex court that it would not take any coercive action against Chanda Kochhar in a separate money laundering case. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had told the apex court that ED would not take any coercive step in pursuance of the enforcement case information report (ECIR) registered in the ICICI Bank-Videocon Group loan case. ECIR is equivalent to a police FIR. The ED has recently filed a charge sheet against Chanda Kochhar, Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot on money laundering charges. The Kochhars, Dhoot and others have denied the allegations. ED has slapped money laundering charges against the Kochhars and their business entities for “illegal sanctioning of loans amounting to Rs 1,875 crores to the Videocon Group of companies”. **PTI**

## PRIVATE LABS...

person went for RT-PCR test, the private labs should charge Rs 700 including the goods and services tax (GST). In case of home collection of the test sample, the charges will be Rs 900, including GST.

Meanwhile, the fresh coronavirus positive cases in Uttar Pradesh came down under 2,000 with 1,703 people testing positive during the past 24 hours on Tuesday, taking the tally to 5,45,545. But taking no chances, the UP government has directed all the districts to go for focused Covid testing for three days from Tuesday for the people taking part in marriage functions. Prasad said that the focused testing in all the 75 districts would be done of the marriage halls/ banquets staff, caterers, band party, flower and light decoration vendors from December 1 to 3. Meanwhile, there are 23,670 active COVID-19 cases in the state. A total of 5,14,087 COVID-19 patients have recovered in the state, including 2,059 during the past 24 hours. The state conducted 1,43,787 Covid tests on Monday, taking the total tests in the state to 1,94,66,550, the highest in the country.

# Nobel laureate says pandemic raising violence, trafficking

**United Nations (AP):** Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad said the coronavirus pandemic has increased trafficking of women and gender-based violence, leaving the health and safety of women “on the line.” The 27-year-old activist, who was forced into sexual slavery by Islamic State fighters in Iraq, said curfews, lockdowns and travel restrictions imposed by governments to slow the spread of the virus “have had unintended consequences on women worldwide.”

“Rather than reducing human trafficking and gender-based violence, the pandemic has increased the risk of exploitation and brutality against those most vulnerable,” she said. “Numerous countries have seen increases in reports of domestic violence since the pandemic began.”

Murad said domestic tensions have intensified in confined living spaces, and stay-at-home orders “are increasing human trafficking farther underground, out of sight of law enforcement.”

“The few resources designated for prevention, rescue and rehabilitation are being stretched thin,” she said.

“As a result, women’s health and safety are on the line. It is now difficult for many women to access psychological support (and) health care.” A member of Iraq’s Yazidi minority, Murad was among thousands of women and girls who were captured and forced into sexual slavery by Islamic State militants in 2014. Her mother and six brothers were killed by IS fighters in Iraq.

She became an activist on behalf of women and girls after escaping and finding refuge in Germany and shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018. Murad spoke virtually at a U.N. meeting Monday titled “Locked Down and Locked-In: Standing Against Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” It was organised by Nadiya Initiative, the nonprofit organization she founded in 2018 that advocates for survivors of sexual violence and aims to rebuild communities in crisis, along with UN Women and the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Murad, a UNODC goodwill ambassador for trafficking survivors, noted that Monday was International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, and expressed hope that the spotlight would “amplify the urgent need to combat gender-based violence and human trafficking.” Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the head of UN Women, said 72 per cent of trafficking victims detected globally are women and girls — and 77 per cent of identified female survivors were trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The COVID-19 pandemic will push 47 million more women and girls into extreme poverty, she said, “but business is booming for the traffickers.”

“During pandemic lockdowns, two-thirds of anti-trafficking workers reported seeing an increase in online recruitment by traffickers for the purpose of sexual exploitation online,” Mlambo-Ngcuka said.

She said the pandemic has reduced access to health care and compromised the capacity of governments and the United Nations “to report on violations, provide protection and combat impunity.”

Mlambo-Ngcuka called for urgent and coordinated global action and cited one promising response — 146 countries answered U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ call for measures to prevent violence against women and girls and promote “peace in the home” as part of their plans to tackle COVID-19.

Actress and activist Ashley Judd, a U.N. Population Fund goodwill ambassador, criticized “the toxic masculinity” taught to men and boys who attack and sexually exploit women. “I am looking forward to the day when we have no sexual and gender-based violence, especially under COVID, from which to be resilient,” she said in a virtual speech.

Germany’s Foreign Office Minister of State Michelle Müntefering said the coronavirus makes fighting for gender equality even more important. “We will not allow sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking to slip into the shadow,” she said, pledging support to Murad and others “who fight for just and equitable societies every day.”

# Lanka’s highest court rejects petitions from Muslims against COVID-19 cremations

**Colombo (PTI):** Sri Lanka’s Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed petitions filed by members of the Muslim community against the government’s regulation that makes cremations mandatory for COVID-related deaths.

Some 12 petitioners had challenged the official gazette issued in April, claiming it impinged on the fundamental rights of the island nation’s 9 per cent Muslim minority. When the pandemic broke out

in the country, the Ministry of Health revised its guidelines on March 31, ordering cremations only for persons who succumbed to or were suspected to have died of COVID-19.

The guidelines were issued after a Muslim, who tested COVID positive, passed away. On April 11, the government issued a gazette notification making cremations mandatory for COVID-related deaths. The Muslim leaders claimed the gazette was violating the

World Health Organisation recommendations which do not oppose burials. The WHO guidelines stipulate that victims can be “buried or cremated.”

UN Rapporteurs and international rights watchdogs had urged the Sri Lankan government to review the decision and respect the Muslim community’s burial rights. The court decision came as the country is currently gripped in a second wave of the pandemic.





Many people consider career as a source for monetary gains. They look forward to a joyful life based on their package or profit. PRAVEEN PARAMESWAR tells you how one should look beyond this and find a meaningful and happy career

Career contentment and joy has a considerable role in making one happy. This forms the foundation of a peaceful and satisfactory life. This article shares with you six tips to plan a career for happiness.

**Change your perception towards career**

Most of the people consider career only a source for monetary gains. They expect financial stability and to further live a luxurious life, but their career gets limited to just that — remuneration and financial numbers. They look forward to a joyful life based upon their package or profit, whereas reality lies far away from this. Nearly 30% of a person's life is spent on a career, forming a relevant part of our lives. Thus, it should not be just looked at from a way where it is getting restrained to profits or financial stability but also about professional contentment and lifelong joy that comes along with it. This change in

perception is the first step in the journey to a career for happiness.

**Make passion the profession**

Passion refers to the activities a person engages in a continuous manner without boredom and tiredness. Most people would be having one or more such areas which have been pursued with sheer passion. If any of these areas can be transitioned to profession, they would not even feel that they work for a day. Rather enjoy the bliss of each moment.

**Map personality and intelligence alignment**

Every career demands certain personality traits in people to become successful in it. If it is structured and logical approach for career as a 'banker', it is highly oriented towards relationship building for career as a 'sales person'. For a product designer it is visual intelligence and agricultural scientist it is naturalistic intelligence. Pursuing a career that is in line with the personality and intelligence ori-

**Achievement and success in career are important factors to find happiness in career. This is highly related to the knowledge and skill a person possesses to deliver his professional responsibilities**

entation makes our road easier to travel and take us to more happiness.

**Accommodate interests and comforts**

Each of us have varied interests and levels of comfort. This may include a diversity of things such as working with people v/s work with machines, indoors v/s outdoors, involvement of travel in work v/s a stable location or non-involvement of travel, routine work v/s irregular work schedules and so on. It is always appreciable if we can accommodate our interests and comforts while planning a career.

**Keep updated on knowledge and skills**

Achievement and success in career is a very important factor to find happiness in career. This is highly related to the knowledge and skill a person possesses to deliver his professional responsibilities. If one falls below par in these vital factors, they would be underperforming in work

which would lead to failure, dissatisfaction and unhappiness. In order to avoid such scenarios, it is important to keep well updated on knowledge and skills.

**Build strong relationship with colleagues**

The Harvard Grant Study finds that the happiest people in this world are the ones who are most connected with others around them. Applying this concept to work, to be happy in work it becomes extremely important to be well connected with colleagues, customers and any other set of people who we work closely with. This would contribute to happiness in a larger manner.

Along with these it is also important to celebrate every small success we get in our career. Following the above would surely help any person to be happy and purposeful in their career.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Lifology

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**How is it that little children are so intelligent and men so stupid? It must be education that does it.**

**— Alexandre Dumas**

## SRM signs MoU with AuthorCafe



SRMIST's Deputy Registrar & Director of SRM IHM Dr Antony Ashok Kumar, AuthorCafe's Consultant Sales and Strategy Punit Dhandhanian & Senior VP (HR) Shubha Kasiviswesaran, SRMIST's Registrar Dr N Sethuraman, Pro VC (Eng & Tech) Dr C Muthamizhchelvan and Joint Director (Research) Dr SRS Prabaharan at the MoU signing

The SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has signed an MoU with AuthorCafé India Pvt Ltd, a knowledge management platform for research content that facilitates academia in the creation, collaboration, review, dissemination, and administration of research content such as reports, theses, dissertations, and grant proposals.

AuthorCafé was represented by its President Dr Shanthi Krishnamoorthy, Senior Vice President (HR) Shubha Kasiviswesaran, Consultant Sales and Strategy Punit Dhandhanian and Product Manager Neelanjan Sinha. SRMIST was represented by Registrar Dr N Sethuraman, Pro Vice Chancellor (Engineering and Technology) Dr C Muthamizhchelvan, Deputy Registrar & Director of SRM Institute of Hotel Management Dr Antony Ashok Kumar, Joint Director (Research) Dr SRS Prabaharan among others.

This MoU will benefit SRMIST with the enhanced productivity of research writing through automated & streamlined workflow; make Theses content searchable, discoverable, citable and showcase their institutional research output; and enable them to onboard/launch SRMIST's own journal.

Dr Prabaharan gave a brief introduction to AuthorCafé and how SRMIST would benefit from it.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Shanthi Krishnamoorthy said, "We are very excited to have been selected by SRMIST for implementation of our product to automate their academic content publishing program. SRM has been a pioneer in many fields and once again they have shown a path for making Indian research more impactful on the global stage."

Punit Dhandhanian said, "This is a Cloud-based research writing platform, accessed from anywhere on the Internet. We need our system to adapt to the writer and not the other way around."

Dr C Muthamizhchelvan said: "SRMIST is a comprehensive university. Our approach is interdisciplinary research and such tools will help our university in the long run."

In the last few decades, we have seen some notable changes in the digital marketing industry. Today, businesses have realised the crucial role of digital marketing towards the growth of their business. It has been helping them to increase their customer reach and improve overall efficiency. This is one of the sectors, which has been growing with every passing day, opening up a wider arena for professionals to gain valuable knowledge and make a place for themselves in the evolving market. Taking up professional digital marketing training can help an individual be on top of their game in this evolving industry.

Here are some of how a professional digital marketing training can help you.

**Every day is a learning experience**

The digital marketing industry is highly dynamic in nature; therefore, professionals here need to stay up to date about the trends and other important changes. The industry's overall nature exposes an individual to various types of opportunities, situations, and problems, which ultimately can assist them tactfully manage every situation. The 360-degree approach of the digital sector makes it an opportunistic industry where you go on learning a lot about multiple aspects of a business with every passing day.

**Heightens skills and creativity**

The digital industry is in dire need of professionals across various areas that digital enables like Creative, Media, Data & Insights and Technology. The integration of various skills can help achieve Digital Business goals. The exposure allows

## Train digitally

Taking up professional digital marketing training can help an individual be on top of their game in this evolving industry, says PRASAD SHEJALE



an individual to gain practical knowledge over a theoretical one. The digital marketing industry is highly skill-driven, therefore if you have the right skill set, you can build a fruitful career with multiple growth opportunities. Therefore, one must take the right type of digital marketing training to acquire the right skills.

**Varied career options**

Digital marketing is fluid in nature; hence, once you have an overview of the industry and its func-

tioning, you will have varied career options at your disposal. It allows an individual to pick his/her own areas of skills, which can help in personal as well as professional development. This is also a sector where one can shift from departments internally to gain newer skills and further grow in their professional journey.

**Well-paid jobs**

This sector opens an opportunity for the individual to get his/her hands on high-end jobs. Attaining

professional digital marketing training can widen the scope of gaining such positions. One must also achieve the right amount of on-the-job experience to understand digital marketing's depth. While looking for such jobs, one must also keep up with their learning attitude and enrich their knowledge.

**Working time flexibility**

One of the best aspects of the digital marketing industry is that it is internet-based, making it easily accessible from anywhere at any time. Therefore, the individual's location really doesn't matter as long as he/she has a good internet connection.

While all of the above are some great benefits to look at, there are many more ways in which this industry can play a crucial role in shaping you up into a key professional. With its dynamic and evolving nature, this industry is full of opportunities. It will continue to benefit you as long as you keep up with its progress, go on learning and enhancing your skills and are up for taking up challenges and experiment with newer ways of doing things.

The writer is Founder & CEO, Logicserve Digital

## Make learning interactive

Teachers are able to keep the students engaged through interactive learning content and technology. This technique also helps drive student attention, says UMESH JOSHI

The educational ecosystem and the process of learning has become more dynamic now, that ever before. The growing advancement in the technology realms have redefined the classrooms. Technology enables students to learn at their own pace and learn with an understanding. It has made learning more interesting and teachers are able to keep the students engaged through interactive learning content and technology.

These techniques can help in driving the students' attention and makes them to go beyond the scope of imagination and actually visualise what they are learning. Hence, interactive learning content is a key ingredient for learning with an understanding.

**Engaging students to understand and learn through Interactive Learning Content**

Interactive content can be games, simulations and GIFs, which allow students to experience various processes and visualise them which would otherwise not be possible to create in a classroom environment. Interactive content keeps the student actively engaged and focused by seeking inputs from the users every now and then. This continuous approach through user engagement leads to enhanced



activity in the brain which is needed for deeper learning and knowledge retention.

One can understand this through the example of taking a cab versus driving a car to reach a destination. It is easy to notice that the person who is actually driving would remember the route much better than the person who is simply looking outside the window while the driver is driving the cab. This is similar to watching a video without actually paying too much attention to it which leads to passive learning and would not be retained in the mind for a long time.

A framework for Interactive Learning Content is designed by combining a good pedagogical structure and a robust game design

to ensure that the learning process is as efficient as possible. This is achieved by setting the context so that learner has a clear understanding of the learning objective and expected outcome.

It includes various action points and levels of engagement that will help the students learn at their own pace and move from one topic to the next topic with an understanding of the topics which have already been covered. This approach will help them to not only learn their respective subjects but also help in improving their cognitive skills.

Interactive learning content undoubtedly makes the process of learning interesting and gives the teachers a chance to use technology tools that are at their disposal to integrate in their teaching process. Although interactive learning content and using technology is important, the importance and the role of tools and physical activities in learning are equally important. Furthermore, there is a pressing need to delineate the relationship between game-based learning and academic achievement in the context of educational assessment with clearly defined metrics.

The writer is Chief Product & Technology Officer, Educational Initiatives

## New book on Indian mythology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Alfredo Covelli, an Italy based author today launched his new book *Vahana Masterclass* for children and Young Audience in the Indian market. Targeted towards readers' age (from eight to 12 years) the books will be illustrated and published by Scholastic India. Indian mythology and culture is very popular among other countries, they admire the way we worship our God and Goddesses. Our culture is simple yet powerful that people of any country feels connected with it.

The warmth and love of culture is so unique that it not only inspires our Indian authors but authors from other country to explore more about it. Alfredo had a keen

interest in our Indian culture and mythology which inspired him to write a story on Lord Ganesha for children.

The book narrates the story of the Ganesha looking for a new *vahana* to accompany him to all the great adventures around the cosmos.

Commenting on the book Covelli said: "I am excited to launch my first book in India. I always had a profound interest in the Indian culture and Hindu religion, which inspired me to write this book. *Vahana Masterclass* is my first book in English, the first for the Indian market, and the first for the children. The book is an epic adventure of four mice and their journey towards becoming Ganesha's next *vahana*."

## Mumbai varsity launches online course with upGrad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The upGrad, India's largest online higher education brand announces entry in vernacular higher education programme by partnering with Mumbai University thereby further strengthening its presence in the degree market.

The university is launching its two Master of Arts in PR & Communications and Journalism, in online & blended learning format, powered by upGrad. The programme content will be available in Hindi and Marathi along with English, a first time-ever for Mumbai university who hadn't yet gone dig-

ital with a Marathi-language programme.

What sets the programmes apart from their offline counterpart is that both programmes offer personalised learning tracks like Job Tracks, Self-Employment Track, and the Competitive Exam Track, that help learners understand their requirements and enrol for the learning track best suited for them, thus breaking the one-size-fits-all learning.

The learning modules will include live doubt-solving sessions, discussion forum, career coaching, and a 15-hour per week programme structure with live & recorded lec-

tures delivered by the industry leaders & faculty.

"upGrad, in its strategic collaboration with Mumbai University, is committed to creating a world-class learning experience that will provide learners with the guidance of industry professionals, one-on-one personality development coaching, an opportunity to network with peers online, among others. With an aim to deliver an outcome-oriented learning experience, upGrad is also offering soft skills and aptitude coaching with interview preparation, resume building, personalised career advice and others," says Phalgun Kompalli, Co-founder, upGrad.

## AI-focused certificates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Fore School of Management invites applications from corporate executives, managers, researchers, graduate and post-graduate engineering and management students, to its seven months Joint Online Certificate Course in Big Data Analytics for Business & Management. The programme aims to develop competent and committed big data professionals and analysts who can contribute significantly to this

futuristic discipline expected to create ripples across industries and segments. The course officially commences from December 19, 2020.

This is a uniquely structured programme that helps students to learn and apply it in real-world settings. The course is project-oriented. All tools, data and platforms including Deep Learning system, Hadoop-ecosystem and Kafka-streaming technologies necessary for learning data-analytics are provided to the participants in advance.



Experts say that the reduction in duration of the CAT 2020 contributed to increased time pressure in the students' minds and played a big role in pushing up the perceived difficulty levels across sections



# CAT: A tough deal

The Common Admission Test (CAT), which is a national level MBA entrance exam, was successfully conducted by IIM Indore. It's estimated that a total of 2.28 lakhs applicants candidates will appear for the exam in all three slots. A total of 76 questions were asked. There were three section s— Verbal & Reading Comprehension (VARC), Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR) and Quantitative Aptitude. The overall difficulty level of the exam was moderate to tough, similar to last year. Out of the three sections, VARC was the toughest while QA and DILR were Moderate. For slot one, DILR was moderate, the way it has been for the past. An important attribute of this section was this time there were two sets of six questions each which has never happened in the last five years. VARC: There were a total of four sets of reading comprehension questions. Two sets of RC were of 4 questions each

and the other two sets of RC had five questions each. The overall level of this section was difficult. **Quantitative Aptitude:** Around 17-18 questions were asked from Arithmetic and Algebra. The overall level of this section was moderate. There were eight Type in The Answer (TITA) questions out of the 26 questions asked in this section. No questions were asked from Permutation & Combination. Slot two was difficult compared to the difficulty level of the exam held in slot one. The level of VARC was difficult. The DILR section was also difficult while the level of Quantitative Ability was moderate. **The VARC:** Overall difficulty level of the section was difficult. There were a total of four sets of reading comprehension. Compared to last year, this section was tough. Two passages were moderate and two were difficult. Questions were not straightforward, they were inference based.

**Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning:** It was tough as compared to last year's paper. There were two sets of six questions each. Out of 24 questions, there were 18 MCQs and 6 TITA based questions. **Quantitative Ability:** The majority of the questions were from Arithmetic and Algebra. The overall level of the section was moderate and tougher than last year. Around eight-10 questions asked from Arithmetic, out of which five-six questions were of easy level. Algebra — there were around 10 questions in which three-four questions were of easy level. In QA, out of 26 questions, there were 18 MCQs and eight TITA based questions. For slot three, the difficulty level and distribution of questions in slot three remained similar to slot one and two. In slot three, the level of VARC was difficult. The DILR section was also difficult while the level of QA was moderate. The writer is Vijay Jha, President, Academics, Gradeup

On the whole, CAT 2020 can be said to have gone very smoothly, with students reporting a very positive experience from across the country. The COVID related processes also seem to have been managed very comprehensively with enough distancing between candidates. Coming to the content of the exam, the three-hour to two-hour reduction in the duration of the exam did result in a reduction in the number of questions which gave all its AIMCATs with similar number of questions after the new pattern was announced in September. **Difficulty level analysis** The reduction in duration did contribute to increased time pressure in the students' minds and played a big role in pushing up the perceived difficulty levels across sections. To add to this, the sets/passages from LRDI and VARC themselves also were tougher compared to what was seen in the CATs of the recent past. In VARC, the RC part saw more number of the tricky question types involving phrases like all.....except and also double negatives. While the Para-formation questions were similar in difficulty level to earlier, it would not help to know that the difficulty level if these questions always remained high in the earlier years as well due to the questions being of non-MCQ type.

The odd-one-out questions were also tough, as was the case earlier. It may also be said that they were a tad on the tougher side this year. The para summary questions were a bit doable out of the VA part, and must have been attempted this year. Though the number of sets in LRDI was only five, finding the doable sets in the LRDI section was a bigger challenge this year. Across slots, such sets would have been best left for the last. To add further trouble, the presence of non-MCQs in these sets pushed up the difficulty level even more. The quant section was a relative relief in all the three slots, though it was a surprise this year with many more questions from Algebra which pushed the difficulty level up. Numbers did seem to get a lower representation overall this year, while P&C was conspicuously absent. Geometry & Mensuration, Time & Distance, ERPV hogged the limelight this year. Concepts like logarithms, inequalities, functions and graphs, coordinate geometry were fairly represented. The fewer number of questions available to select from did make the section tough compared to last year. The section had its share of tough questions, pushing the cutoff down. The writer is Pradeep Pandey, Academic Head, TIME, Delhi

## Upskill with data science

Many professionals are taking online classes to upgrade skills due to increased competition, says VIVEK K SINGH

Classroom education is not feasible at the moment due to the ongoing pandemic. Being confined to homes one can still utilise this time to get the same quality of classroom learning experience in the field of Data Science. Many working professionals are also opting for virtual training in order to support their abilities and re-expertise to be more skilled and competitive. We have partnered with leading IT companies and announced a post-graduation programme in Data Science that aims at achieving par excellence in the field and for those who are looking to acquire new skills.



**Vivek K Singh**  
Co-founder and CEO, Careerera

It has a track record of training thousands of professionals successfully via classroom and online training. The data science industry is growing at a healthy rate of 35.5 per cent CAGR. Experience world-class Data Science training by an industry leader on the most in-demand Data Science Skills. Gain hands-on exposure to key technologies including Python, Machine Learning, Data Visualization, SQL and Artificial Intelligence. Become an expert Data Science professional today. Accelerate your career in Data Science with the exclusive Data Science Analytics Program. The post-graduate programme in Data Science gives you wide coverage to main ideas and techniques from Python, Exploratory Data Analysis to Machine Learning, Deep Learning and more. Practical labs and assignment work bring these ideas to life with the best instructors and assistants to supervise you with the path.

### COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- 12 months online program
- An unprecedented of 1:15 faculty to student ratio
- Real-world case studies to build practical skills
- Hands-on exposure to analytics tools & techniques such as Python, Tableau, SQL
- Live lectures, online lab sessions including one-on-one interaction with career experts
- Learn industry insights through multiple industry knowledge sessions
- Closely monitored evaluation to keep pace with the changing Data Science landscape
- Access to opportunities with leading companies

### HOW TO APPLY

- Apply by filling a simple online application form
- Online aptitude test
- Screening call with faculty. Visit [www.careerera.com](http://www.careerera.com) to know more.

Traditionally, the logic for addressing the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) has been from the lens of equality, inclusion and bridging the gender pay gap. It was also encouraged from a diversity perspective. With the exponential growth of technology and digitisation, STEM fields today are driving research and innovation that impacts everyday lives. An underrepresentation of women within the field will drastically skew solutions to be inherently unequal. Research has shown that women have been historically under-represented in clinical trials, leading to medical treatments having higher chances of being ineffective for women. This is also reflective of the proportion of time and resources being spent on innovating and solving for issues affecting women in particular. A key example of this is the lack of an effective treatment plan for menstrual cramps, even in this day and age. More women in STEM driving research, innovation and technological advancement will help balance the biases that come from having homogeneous teams working on problem solving. Women driving research for women ensures solutions and innovations are mindful and responsive to the needs of women, and encourages keeping problems faced by women at the centre of innovation and research. Unfortunately, STEM fields continue to be dominated by men. In a world dominated by technology and digitization, women

constitute only 28.8 percent of STEM workers as a global average, while in India it is an abysmal 14 per cent. According to UNESCO, women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) are published less, paid less for their research and do not advance as far as men in their careers. Even the Nobel Prize, in its 120-year history, has only been awarded to 57 women, with Marie Curie being the only woman to have won this honor twice. The findings of a 2017 UN report further highlights a number of barriers that contribute to an increasing gender gap in technology and innovation, which includes limited market awareness and investment in innovations that meet the needs of women, a gender-blind approach to innovation, underrepresentation and perceived high-risk, low-reward profile of investing in innovations for women and girls, particularly from marginalised groups. Education can play a critical role in addressing this gap, as evidenced by the numerous programs to encourage more girls to pursue STEM fields by governments, industry and development organisations across the world.

## MIND IT

However, in India, despite gains in access to education for girls, high dropout rates and a social tendency to steer girls towards stereotypical female occupations persists. In professional courses, only 40 per cent of students in Bachelors of Technology (B.Tech.) courses are women. This number drops to 34 per cent for Bachelor of Engineering courses. These indicators stress the need for systemic changes that will help bring more women to the forefront of innovation in STEM fields. It calls for augmenting support for educational choices by providing increased access to opportunities and knowledge of possibilities, creating support networks, and creating policy environments to bring and sustain more women in STEM.

A research has found that parental attitudes to girls pursuing STEM education and careers, family income or assets and the presence or absence of boys in the same family heavily influenced the potential and application of girls in STEM careers. Another important enabler is the presence of more local and relatable women role models. Enabling and encouraging girls in STEM requires targeted involvement and action from multiple stakeholders to create sustainable change. It is important for us to understand the need for more women in STEM and help build a more equitable and humane future where women stake an equal claim. The writer is Aakash Sethi, CEO Quest Alliance



**The University of Sheffield, UK is delighted to offer 150 International Postgraduate Taught Merit Scholarships in 2021.**

Each scholarship is a competitive award worth 25% of the original tuition fee for a PG taught programme starting in September 2021. The scholarships are available to all new international students who meet the eligibility criteria. You must hold an offer to study at the university. Results will be announced on Friday June 11, 2021. **Eligibility:** Your programme must commence at the University of Sheffield in autumn 2021. You must receive an offer for a course studied in full at the University of Sheffield. Masters programmes split between the University of Sheffield and a partner institution are not eligible to apply for a scholarship. For tuition fee purposes you must be self-funded and required to pay the overseas tuition fee. You must not be a sponsored student To know more visit <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships/postgraduate/international-merit-postgraduate-scholarship>.

**Application deadline:** Last date to apply is May 17, 2021 by 13:00 (UK time). Applications are invited for Undergraduate Entrance Scholarships sponsored by McMaster University for the academic session 2021-2022. The bursaries are exclusively available for international students. **Eligibility:** To be eligible, applicants must have to meet the following criteria: Academic performance: Admissions average of 90% or higher. Demonstrated leadership experience and attributes, involvement in extra-curricular and/or volunteer activities in the community. All applicants must attach these given documents to the application form: academic transcripts, SAT/ACT results and AP test results. **Admission requirements:** For being admitted, you need to meet entry requirements for each qualification you plan to study. **Language requirement:** If you have been asked to demonstrate English proficiency, you must meet the minimum language requirements as specified. **How to apply:** In order to apply for the opportunity, candidates must submit the Application form to the university. **Application deadline:** The last date to apply is February 21, 2021.

**WEBSITE UPDATION/MAINTENANCE (CMS) AT UNIVERSITY LIVING**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332344](http://internshala.com/i/6332344)  
Deadline: December 10, 2020

**CONTENT WRITING AT YES U CAN SHINE**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹14,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332345](http://internshala.com/i/6332345)  
Deadline: December 10, 2020

**PROOFREADING & CLIENT INTERACTION AT INTERNSHALA**  
Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹16,667 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332348](http://internshala.com/i/6332348)  
Deadline: December 8, 2020

**HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT VALEDA HERBAL**  
Location: Delhi, Noida  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332350](http://internshala.com/i/6332350)  
Application deadline: December 10, 2020

**TECHNICAL/SALES SUPPORT AT DBUZZZ**  
Location: Lucknow  
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹9,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332351](http://internshala.com/i/6332351)  
Application deadline: December 9, 2020

**TEACHING (ROBOTICS) AT KIDI ROBOTICS**  
Location: Ranchi, Dhanbad, Kolkata  
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332353](http://internshala.com/i/6332353)  
Application deadline: December 5, 2020

**CIVIL ENGINEERING AT INVENT GRID INDIA**  
Location: Bhubaneswar  
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6332354](http://internshala.com/i/6332354)  
Application deadline: December 9, 2020

### STUDY ABROAD

## Micro-internship for international students

It is important for students to develop employability skills and gain real-world industry experience, says BRETT BERQUIST

The University of Auckland launched a virtual micro-internship programme to support the future employability of international students both in New Zealand and those studying with the University from overseas. With an aim to support students in developing their employability skills, this initiative will help students gain real-world industry experience with leading New Zealand organisations. Brett Berquist, Director International at The University of Auckland said: "This programme is just one of the many approaches we have taken to support our international students impacted by Covid-19. It provides an avenue for those who are still outside New Zealand to remain connected with their peers here and contribute to economic recovery. It's great to see our students bringing their skills and global perspectives to the project." The micro-internship is a

three-week programme involving around 20 hours of work per week, designed to accelerate the professional growth of students. Interns will work in small teams to tackle a business challenge for an Auckland-based employer. The programme includes an online induction and briefing session to get to know the team and the project. Students can access all resources virtually through an online platform where they can connect with their team, access and submit documents, receive feedback from mentors, and then present their findings to the Auckland clients. Some of the previous participating companies include Deloitte, Grant Thornton, WSP, KPMG, Auckland Transport, Anxiety Trust NZ, and smaller Auckland businesses including Devonport Chocolates and Auckland Sea Kayaks. The phenomenal success of this pilot, delivered in partnership with Global Talent Solutions, has led the university to scale up further by extending this opportunity to 500 students over two new rounds of the programme. The second round will commence in February 2021.



### IN BRIEF

#### 1-DAY DREAM INTERNSHIPS ON OFFER

Internshala, the internship and training platform has launched the second season of 1-Day Dream Internships. The initiative brings one-day internship opportunities with their dream companies like Decathlon, Jio Saavn, and Bhumi. The interested students can apply for the internships by December 2, 2020. To apply to the internships, visit: <https://bit.ly/1dreamship> Under this initiative, the selected interns will get an opportunity to experience the culture of their favorite brands. In addition to this, they stand an opportunity to earn an internship certificate, a stipend as high as ₹10,000. On the launch of 1-day Dream Internship, the founder and CEO of Internshala, Sarvesh Agrawal said: "Internshala has been bringing meaningful internship experiences to the students of India since 2010. 1-day Dream Internship is another of our initiatives that aims to bring an exciting internship experience for the students packed in just one day." Students who are selected for the internships under this initiative will get to virtually experience the culture of their dream companies, meet their team, and learn about the functioning of different team.

#### GO-FOR-GOLD INITIATIVE

The Unacademy has announced the Go-For-Gold Initiative for school students participating in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) 2021. The Initiative was started by CodeChef in 2013 to bridge the gap in talent and train aspiring contestants for the IOI. As part of the initiative, Unacademy will award a cash prize worth ₹15 lakh, along with a laptop and other rewards to any Indian student winning a gold medal at IOI 2021. Anup Kalbala, CodeChef Business Head at Unacademy said: "We are extremely elated that Unacademy has decided to carry forward our initiative. We aim to accelerate our efforts to create awareness about inculcating problem-solving and informatics in the school curriculum." Last date to register is December 7. To register, visit: [https://learning.tcsionhu.b.in/exams/ico\\_2021/](https://learning.tcsionhu.b.in/exams/ico_2021/)

#### INDIA FACT QUIZ 2020 CHAMPIONSHIP

The Delhi Technological University (DTU) engineering student makes it to top4 national finalists of India Fact Quiz 2020 Championship. Aditya Maurya, the winner of the North zone final, is student of B.Tech in Mathematics and Computational Engineering from Delhi Technological University (DTU). The regional final was conducted virtually via Zoom and aired on TV. The quiz was launched in February 2020 as India's first ever digitally gamified quiz on data and facts on India. It was conceptualised with the objective of challenging and correcting the biases of India's youth around data and facts on India, in sectors like health, education, gender, climate, welfare and population. The championship, targeting the age group between 17-25, is created as a launchpad to identify the brightest and most factual young minds of India. It was launched with an online quiz content with over 450,000 quizzers participating across India.



# India stare another whitewash

Virat's men need to lift bowling standards in order to avoid second consecutive ODI clean sweep

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Left chasing shadows in the first two games, a listless Indian team would most certainly tweak its bowling combination in order to avoid a second successive clean-sweep when it takes on Australia in the third and final ODI here at Manuka Oval on Wednesday.

A 0-3 defeat against Australia would be their second rout in consecutive ODI series having met the same fate in New Zealand earlier this year.

"We are very much determined to go out there to win the next match and see that it's not a clean sweep," top-order batsman Shreyas Iyer said when asked what his team can do to stop Australia's first in 20 years.

"Our bowlers are really positive with their work ethic and we could see that during training, a few of the bowlers practising with certain plans," he added.

The first two games turned out to be run-fests in which Australia out-batted Virat Kohli's men and before they switch over to the T20 series, a win at the picturesque Manuka Oval could do their confidence a world of good.

Skipper Kohli has been the first to admit that they have been "outplayed" in the two games and it is expected that some corrective measures will be taken in order to get their campaign back on track.

Navdeep Saini, India's fastest bowler, like a lot of others on his first tour of Australia, has looked clueless.

Such has been his plight that Kohli was forced to bowl a half-fit (bowling wise) Hardik Pandya and



even Mayanank Agarwal to complete Saini's spell after he gave away 70 runs in seven overs.

It could well be possible that one among Shardul Thakur, with an experience of 27 international games, or the 'yorker sensation' rookie left-armers Thangarasu Natarajan will be seen replacing Saini.

In case of Natarajan, it could be his international debut and a chance to test

himself in an inconsequential game before the start of the T20 series where he is sure to play a part.

It could well be a case of both Shardul and Natarajan being given a go in case Kohli decides to rest both Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami, who need to remain fit and fresh for the big-ticket Test series.

Natarajan, with his clever variations and change of pace, could pro-

vide a different dimension, as the cutters might work well and a bit of swing may be on offer on a ground which is not exactly a closed concrete jungle and may aid a bit of swing.

Never had an Indian attack looked so out of sorts as it did in the two games — hit for 69 boundaries and 19 sixes.

Kohli said that switching of formats from T20 to ODIs can't be an

excuse for a team whose core has remained pretty much the same for a considerable period of time.

The bowlers have had no idea where to bowl to Steve Smith, who has decided to single-handedly torment the opposition with back-to-back 62-ball-hundreds.

Add to it, Glenn Maxwell's power-packed finishing at the end of the innings is giving them those extra 30 runs which are creating the difference from India's perspective as the margin of defeats of 66 and 51 respectively would suggest.

The Indian captain's hasty bowling changes, including a two-over opening spell to his main bowler Bumrah, had invited criticism from one of his staunchest critics Gautam Gambhir as well as Ashish Nehra.

If the pacers have had their share of woes, the spinners have only compounded worries with their inept performances.

Yuzvendra Chahal has been the most expensive bowler in the first two games with 160 runs conceded in 19 overs and just one wicket to show for his efforts.

Ravindra Jadeja, on the other hand, has looked flat despite a decent economy rate of 6.15. The result, wicketless in both games.

In case of batting, Kohli and Rahul looked in good touch during the second game but the inability of Rahul to rotate the strike during the second Powerplay was glaring.

Still, India can take solace from the fact that in both matches, the batting looked the part and maybe, a target of 335 to 340 could have been chased on both occasions.

## Finch throws weight behind struggling Starc

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Top pacer Mitchell Starc's patchy form is among the few worries for a rampaging Australia in the ongoing series but skipper Aaron Finch on Tuesday threw his weight behind the seasoned campaigner, saying there is no need to panic just yet.

The left-arm seamer, who has an outstanding record with the new ball in white-ball cricket, has been far from his best in the ongoing series. In the two ODIs, Starc has managed to claim just one wicket while giving away 147 runs in 18 overs.

"He hasn't been at his very best, and you have to understand his standards are a lot higher than what you expect from most other people because of how dominant he's been over the last eight or nine years, especially in the white-ball formats," Finch said at the pre-match press conference.

"He'd love to be swinging the ball and getting it right early on, but the reality is when you're defending big totals and playing against good players, they're coming hard at you," he added.

With star pacer Pat Cummins rested for the final ODI, Finch said there will be discussions on how to use Starc.

"So, there'll be conversations today (Tuesday) about what we can do slightly different. Whether it's a tactical thing or when we're using him



through the innings.

"We'll chat about that today (Tuesday). But, definitely no panic stations here from my point of view," Finch said.

With star batsman David Warner ruled out of the final ODI and the series already in the bag, Finch hinted that the home side could experiment at the top.

"We haven't picked a team yet, but we've got a few options. Whether we go Wadey (Matthew Wade) in the side or Marnus comes up and opens the batting, Alex Carey has done a lot of it in the past.

"But the middle-order has been functioning really well over the last little while.

"That's the beauty of being two-nil up in the series, you can look to experiment if you want to do that or you can look to play the safe option," Finch said.

## Net bowler Porel sent back home after hamstring injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Promising Bengal fast bowler Ishan Porel's saga of injuries continued as he has been sent back home from Australia after sustaining a hamstring injury during a net session.

"Ishan Porel has a hamstring injury and is already back in India for the past few days. It's a hamstring injury but the degree of it can only be assessed once he goes to the NCA for assessment," a senior BCCI source told PTI.

With Thangarasu Natarajan already in the main squad, India's pure net bowling options have been reduced to only one with Uttar Pradesh speedster Kartik Tyagi helping out the batsmen.

Originally, Porel, Tyagi, Natarajan and Kamlesh Nagarkoti were named as net bowlers but the last one had to be pulled out even before the team left for Australia due to his frail body needing workload management.

Porel, who was with the Kings XI Punjab in the IPL, didn't get to play a game but his red ball performance in Ranji and Duleep Trophy along with impressive A tour of New Zealand last season prompted his selection as one of the four net bowlers.

"If it's a grade 1 tear, there is every chance that Porel will miss the Mushtaq Ali Trophy which is not great news for Bengal. We will now have to wait and see how his rehabilitation goes in Bengaluru. Hope he is not out for too long," the source added.

## Pak players scared of asking for break: Amir

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir says players of the national team are scared of asking for a break even when they feel exhausted as they apprehend being dropped from the side altogether due to a "communication gap" with the team management. "The problem is that if a player musters the courage to say in Pakistan cricket that he wants rest, he is dropped, so players are

now scared about speaking about it with the management," he told the *News One* channel.

"There is a mindset in Pakistan cricket where players are scared of being dropped from the team.

I think this communication gap should be removed between players and the management.

"If a player wants to take a break he should be happy to speak about it with the management and they should understand his point of view and give him a rest instead of dropping him from the team," he said.



## Warner's injury is opportunity for others to claim opening slot: Langer

PTI ■ CANBERRA

A groin injury has ruled David Warner out of at least the first Test against India and Australia coach Justin Langer says the temporarily vacant opening slot will go to the one who performs well for Australia A in the upcoming tour games against the visitors.

The Australian cricket fraternity has been debating about Warner's opening partner in the Test series with a few backing the struggling Joe Burns to keep his place while others want the young William Pucovski to open.

However, the injury to Warner has changed the scenario and has created a situation where both Burns and Pucovski could open.

Langer said, it has taken "a bit of



pressure off".

"No wonder I'm a bit more relaxed. We've won a few games and I don't have to worry about who we're going to pick for the Test side," Langer was quoted as saying by the Australian media on Tuesday.

Australia A will lock horns with India A from December 6 and against senior Indian team on December 11 in Sydney before the Test series.

"I've said it so many times, the hardest part of the job is selecting the teams, but we've got an Australia A game starting in a few days and it'll be a good opportunity for those guys against the Indian A side to put their hand up.

"And then after that is another Australia A game versus the actual Indian Test side at the SCG under lights with a pink ball," Langer said.

"We'll work out who's going to play in that game and certainly there's huge opportunities for people to put their hand up."

Talking about the enormous pain that Warner suffered after getting injured during the second ODI in Sydney, Langer said it was like receiving a gun shot.

"He's strained his abductor in his groins and they tell me it's a very painful injury. It looked like he got shot by a gun. He was in incredible pain in the changerooms after," he said.

"I'm not holding my breath that he'll be ready for the first Test match, but with that said he's the sort of elite professional who will be doing literally everything possible to be ready for it.

"We'll see what happens, but he's going to be a loss that's for sure."



## Babar dreaming of day when other batsmen are compared to him

PTI ■ KARACHI

Comparison with modern-day greats like Virat Kohli makes Babar Azam proud but young Pakistan skipper aspires to be on a pedestal from where comparisons are drawn with him.

"I feel proud to be compared to these top batsmen and to be ranked in the top five of the world. But my dream is that one day I also reach a

stage where other batsmen are compared to me and not me being compared to others," Babar said in an interview to a *YouTube* channel.

"I know that I also have to perform like them in every condition and compete with them. I also want to perform like them and win matches for the team like they do."

The 26-year old top batsman said the satisfaction one gets by scoring runs on tough overseas tours is immense and that's why he is all geared up to do well in

New Zealand.

"When you get runs in places like Australia, England, South Africa it gives you satisfaction and people sit up and take notice of you. New Zealand will be a tough series but I have psyched myself to continue my runs in the two Tests and three T20 matches."

"In England we did well and gave them a tough time so I am optimistic we can do well. Conditions in New Zealand are different and we have to adjust to those conditions. Good we are

going there early so that it gives us more time to get used to their conditions."

Babar, who was named Test captain just before the tour to New Zealand, said he was mentally prepared for Test captaincy.

"The board had indicated to me they were considering me Test captain when they made me white ball captain last year. They have told me to play fearlessly and not worry about losing matches. They will support me. They have told me I am there as captain for a long time."

## Hamilton tests corona +ve

AFF ■ SAKHIR

World champion Lewis Hamilton has tested positive for coronavirus and will miss this weekend's Bahrain Grand Prix in Bahrain, Formula One's governing body FIA announced on Tuesday.

"In accordance with Covid-19 protocols and public health authority guidelines in Bahrain he

(Hamilton) is now isolating," said an FIA statement.

"The procedures set out by the FIA and Formula 1 will ensure no wider impact on this weekend's event."

Hamilton, who on Sunday won the Bahrain Grand Prix, the first of back-to-back races in the Gulf state, has already secured a record-equalling seventh world championship this season.

Black Caps are fourth in terms of percentage points won, the factor that determines the final placings, following a change to the points

## Chance for NZ to move up in WTC table

IANIS ■ HAMILTON

New Zealand will be aiming to make full use of home conditions in their two-match Test series against the West Indies from Thursday as they bid to move up in the World Test Championship points table, currently led by Australia.

Black Caps are fourth in terms of percentage points won, the factor that determines the final placings, following a change to the points

system announced last week owing to the disruption of international cricket due to the Covid-19 pandemic, stated ICC in a media release on Tuesday.

Winning both matches of the series could see the hosts overtake England and move into third position with 0.625 percentage points after four series, having previously drawn 1-1 with Sri Lanka and losing 0-3 to Australia before pulling off a 2-0 home series win over India.

Australia replaced India at

the top spot and the two teams will fight it out in a four-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy immediately after this one while New Zealand get another chance to get WTC points on the board with a two-Test home series against Pakistan starting on December 26.

Each series of the WTC is worth 120 points, distributed evenly over the number of matches in a series. The points range from 60 for each match of a two-Test series to 24 for each match of a five-Test series.

## Marine vs Mourinho in FA Cup

AFF ■ LONDON

Premier League leaders Tottenham handed a trip to eighth-tier Marine in Monday's draw for the FA Cup third round.

Top-flight teams enter the competition at the third round stage and Tottenham were given a tie sure to capture the attention of football romantics.

Northern Premier League Division One side Marine became only the second club from the eighth tier to reach the third round after beating Havant and Waterlooville after extra time on Sunday.

Their reward is a visit from Jose Mourinho's men, who last won the FA Cup in 1991 and have not lifted a major trophy since the 2008 League Cup.

Marine boss Neil Young told the *BBC*: "It's an unbelievable draw. We will plan as best we can."

"Usually with Jose's teams, he puts pretty strong sides out. We have won seven games to get here and this is a great reward." FA Cup holders Arsenal face Newcastle at the Emirates Stadium and another all-Premier League tie sees Aston Villa against Liverpool at Villa Park.

Last season's beaten finalists Chelsea will play League Two side Morecambe at Stamford Bridge.

Manchester City, the 2019 winners, will host Birmingham, while Manchester United face Watford at Old Trafford.



## Fulham fix penalty woes to beat Foxes

AFF ■ LEICESTER

Fulham climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone on Monday after finally solving their penalty woes in a shock 2-1 win at Leicester, while West Ham rode their luck to move into fifth place with a dramatic 2-1 victory against Aston Villa.

Scott Parker's side won for just the second time in the league this season thanks to Ademola Lookman's 30th minute opener and Ivan Cavaleiro's penalty eight minutes later.

Fulham had missed three of their four previous penalties this term, but Cavaleiro held his

nerve to convert from the spot for the crucial second goal.

Harvey Barnes scored for Leicester in the 86th minute, but Fulham held on and move one point above the bottom three.

It was an emotional success for the Cottagers, with Lookman celebrating his goal by displaying one of Papa Bouba Diop's Senegal shirts after Fulham's former midfielder died aged 42 at the weekend.

Leicester would have gone second with a win, but instead they remain fourth — three points

behind leaders Tottenham — after a second successive league defeat.

WATKINS WOE

At the London Stadium, West Ham earned a third successive victory after Villa striker Ollie Watkins missed a late penalty and then saw a stoppage-time equaliser disallowed by VAR.

West Ham got off to the perfect start in the second minute when Angelo Ogbonna made an astute run to the far post and rose

above Matt Targett to head a corner past Emiliano Martinez.

Villa drew level in the 25th minute when Jack Grealish ran at the West Ham defence before letting rip with a 20-yard drive that took a slight deflection on its way past Lukasz Fabianski.

West Ham regained the lead in the 46th minute after an inspired substitution from David Moyes.

Moyes sent on Said Benrahma at half-time and with his first touch the winger chipped in a cross to Jarrod Bowen, who glanced a deft header over Villa keeper

Emiliano Martinez for his fourth goal of the season.

Villa winger Trezeguet won a penalty in the 74th minute when Declan Rice tugged at his shirt to prevent him having a shot.

Watkins has been in fine form this season, but he let West Ham off the hook as his penalty hit the bar.

There was more misfortune to come for Watkins in the final moments when he swept home from close-range, only to see the goal chalked off for the narrowest of offside decisions.

