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THE BRIDGESWORLD 11  
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LUCKNOW, THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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12 VIVACITY

# Farmers for Spl Session to repeal laws

## Union threatens to cut off Capital from NCR cities if demands not met

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Braving cold, farmers protesting at Delhi's Singhu border against the Centre's agriculture reform laws on Wednesday asked the Central Government to call a special session of Parliament to repeal new agriculture laws and threatened to block other roads of the national Capital if their demands are not met.

Addressing a press conference, Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal accused the Centre of dividing farmers' organisations by projecting the ongoing protests as Punjab-centric. "The Centre should call a special session of Parliament to repeal new three farm laws. We will continue our agitation till these farm laws are repealed," Pal told reporters.

Meanwhile, the protest at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in Ghazipur intensified, leading to the closure of a key route connecting the national Capital with Uttar Pradesh. At the Chilla Border, which connects Delhi with Noida, more farmers from Firozabad, Meerut, Noida and Etawah started gathering, prompting the authorities to close the key road stretch for the second consecutive day.

Representatives of farmers' organisations from other parts of the country will also be involved under Kisan Samyuk Morcha to decide the future course of action against the new farm laws, Pal said.

The Krantikari Kisan Union president said repre-



Farmers prepare food for others during their Delhi Chalo protest march against the Centre's new farm laws at Singhu border in New Delhi on Wednesday

sentatives of farmer organisations will give their point-wise objections to the Union Ministers at a meeting scheduled for Thursday.

Another farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chadoni said that if Centre does not withdraw the laws, more steps will be taken in the coming days to press their demands.

Before the Press conference, leaders of around 32 farmer organisations held a meeting which was also attended by Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait at the Singhu border.

The talks between the Centre and agitating farmer

unions on Tuesday failed to end the standoff, and the two sides will now meet again on December 3.

The farmer unions rejected the Government's offer to set up a committee to look into issues raised by them and said they will intensify their stir until their demands are met.

Farmers from the neighbouring States of Punjab and Haryana have been camping at five border points of Delhi for a week now. The number of protesters swelled at Delhi border points on Wednesday. Police stepped up security after thousands blocked key gateways into the national Capital.



Darshan Pal, president of Krantikari Kisan Union, addresses a press conference during their Delhi Chalo protest march against the new farm laws at Singhu border in New Delhi on Wednesday

# Transporters back 'ann daata', to halt ops from Dec 8

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coming forward in support of agitating farmers, transporters have threatened to halt operations in northern India from December 8 if the Government fails to address concerns of the farming community.

The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), representing about 95 lakh truckers, about 50 lakh bus and taxi operators on Wednesday served an ultimatum to the Centre.

"The AIMTC has already

extended its support to the farmer agitation from day one. We have decided on stopping our operations strategically starting from north India and if the Government does not address the issue of the farmers. Then we may decide to go for shutting down of transport operations nationwide in their support," AIMTC president Kultaran Singh Atwal said.

He said the road transport fraternity of the country has extended its full support to farmers who are "ann daata" (food providers).

**Continued on Page 11**

As farmers are in for long haul at Noida-Delhi border, Chilla route was partially reopened on Wednesday.

The Noida Traffic Police in the morning advised commuters heading to Delhi to take the DND or Kalindi Kunj route instead of the Chilla route through the Noida Link road which was closed due to the demonstration since Tuesday evening.

One of the carriageways on the route was opened in the evening, allowing commuters coming from Delhi to enter

Noida as the protestors continued to sit on the other side of the road amid heavy police deployment.

The Delhi Traffic Police said beside the Tikri and Singhu borders, the Jharoda and Jhatikra borders have been closed for all kinds of "traffic movement". The Badusarai border is open only for two-wheelers. Available open borders to Haryana are Dhansa, Daurala, Kapashera, Rajokri NH 8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera.

**Continued on Page 11**

# CCTV cameras must at CBI, ED offices, police lock-ups: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court directed the Centre on Wednesday to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the CBI, the ED and National Investigation Agency (NIA), which conduct interrogations and have the power of arrest.

A bench headed by Justice RF Nariman said that states and Union Territories (UTs) should ensure that CCTV cameras are installed at each and every police station, at all entry and exit points, main gate, lock-ups, corridors, lobby and reception as also areas outside the lock-up rooms so that no part is left uncovered.

The apex court had in 2018 ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses.

It said further that the CCTV systems must be equipped with night vision and have audio as well as video footage and it shall be mandatory for the Centre, states and UTs to purchase such systems which allow storage of data for maximum period possible, at least one year.

"In addition, the Union of India is also directed to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment in the offices of Central Bureau of



Investigation, National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Department of Revenue Intelligence, Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), any other agency which carries out interrogations and has the power of arrest," said the bench, also comprising Justices KM Joseph and Aniruddha Bose.

"As most of these agencies carry out interrogation in their office(s), CCTVs shall be compulsorily installed in all offices where such interrogation and holding of accused takes place in the same manner as it would in a police station," the bench said in its order.

The top court said that in September this year, it had impleaded all the States and UTs in the matter to find out the exact position of CCTV cameras in each police station as well as constitution of Oversight Committees in accordance with the April 3, 2018 order.

**Continued on Page 11**

# U-turn: China places order for 5,000 tonne rice from India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid standoff with India along the LAC, China increased its rice purchase from India for the first time in at least three decades, placing order for shipment of about 5,000 tonnes of broken rice in the last two months. Broken rice is used in making noodles and in the wine industry.

India is the world's biggest exporter of rice and China is the biggest importer.

According to the All India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA), China has started importing Indian rice after a gap of two years and placed orders for shipment of about 5,000 tonnes of non-basmati rice as it is the cheapest in the world rice market.

Indian traders have contracted to export 100,000 tonnes of broken rice for December-February shipment at around \$300-320 per tonne. Other grades such as white rice 25 per cent broken and 5 per

cent are ruling between \$330 (\$24,600) and \$360 (\$26,800) a tonne free-on-board.

China, the world's largest producer and importer of rice, used to place restriction on imports from India via various means. In 2006, China was given market access for Indian rice, but shipment took place only during the 2017-18 fiscal.

Beijing imports around 4 million tonnes of rice annually but avoided purchases from India, citing quality issues. China's traditional suppliers, such as Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Pakistan, have limited surplus supplies for export and were quoted at least \$30-60 per tonne more compared with Indian prices.

Indian rice exports for the January-October period of the current calendar year have already exceeded the shipments for the whole of last year. Over six million tonnes have been exported during January-October against 5.1 million tonnes in the entire 2019.

Countries like Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone in West Africa, who are traditional buyers of non-basmati rice from India, increased their purchases during the pandemic.

# LMC bond listed on BSE, CM Yogi says a step towards self-reliance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a historic first in North India, the bond of Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) was listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday. The chief minister participated in the traditional ringing bell ceremony and described the listing of the LMC bond as "the starting of a new era" in the history of the state.

"The listing of the Rs 200-crore municipal bond is a step towards self-reliance. UP will play a pivotal role in fulfilling the state's commitment towards Atmanirbhar Bharat," the chief minister said in Mumbai.

The chief minister said that the listing of the bond manifested the faith of investors, entrepreneurs and the industry in the policies of Uttar Pradesh.

"The state has achieved second rank in Ease of Doing Business because it provided basic infrastructure facilities to the people of the state," Yogi Adityanath said, adding that the state was taking giant strides towards industrialisa-



tion. "This listing is important in changing the work culture of the municipal corporations in the state. It will help not only Lucknow in augmenting infrastructural facilities but also motivate other corporations to work in such direction. Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation will soon bring its bond on the BSE," the chief minister said in the presence of entrepreneurs, investors and BSE officials.

He said it was a matter of pride for UP that the Lucknow Municipal Corporation had raised Rs 200 crore through its bond issue. "It is the trust of the investors which UP has earned

during the last three-and-half years of governance. It will help in improving infrastructure in urban areas," he said.

The chief minister also said that his government was encouraging the MSME units of the state for listing on NSE and BSE. So far 15 units have taken steps to meet their financial needs by listing on BSE, he added. "The policies of the Uttar Pradesh government are investment-oriented. We are constantly striving for simplicity and ease for investors. In recent times, due to the single window system, the needs and expectations of the investors are

**Continued on Page 11**

# US court blocks H-1B rules that ban foreign staff

## Ruling to benefit Indian employees

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In a huge relief to tens of thousands of Indian professionals and top American IT firms, a US court has blocked two H-1B regulations proposed by the Trump Administration to restrict the ability of American companies to hire foreign employees.

H-1B visas is a non-immigrant visa that allows American companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The US issues up to 85,000 H-1B visas each year. Usually, they're issued for three years and renewable.

Most of the nearly 600,000 H-1B visa holders are from India and China.

In his 23-page order on Tuesday, US District Judge Jeffrey White of Northern

District of California blocked the Trump administration's recent policy that required employers to pay foreign workers on H-1B visas significantly higher wages.

He also set aside another policy that narrowed the eligibility of H-1B valued by US tech firms and other employers. As a result of the ruling, the Department of Homeland Security rule on occupations and other issues that was to come into effect from December 7, stands invalid. The Department of Labour rule on wages, which took effect on October 8, is also now no longer valid.

The Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the nation's health, and millions of Americans have been impacted financially by restrictions imposed on businesses, large and small, during the pandemic; the consequences of those restrictions has been a fiscal calamity for many individuals, the judge wrote.

**Continued on Page 11**

# UK 1st country to OK Pfizer's Covid vaccine, shots next week

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK on Wednesday became the first country to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine against Covid-19 after "rigorous" analysis by its independent regulator, paving the way for mass vaccinations from as early as next week among people at the highest risk of death from the deadly virus.

The British regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), says the jab, which claims to offer up to 95 per cent protection against Covid-19 illness, is safe for roll out.

The UK Government said the approval follows a "rigorous" analysis of the data, conducted at a faster pace but without any compromise on standards.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson welcomed the "fantastic" news and confirmed that the vaccine will begin to be made available from next week.

"It's the protection of vaccines that will ultimately allow us to reclaim our lives and get the economy moving again," said Johnson.

The vaccines require two doses 21 days apart, with strong immunity response kicking in

after seven days of the second dose. The MHRA said it will continue to monitor the data on a rolling basis once the vaccines are deployed among the British public.

"I am thrilled. Help is on its way... we can see the dawn. Let's redouble our efforts to follow the lockdown rules. It's been a very tough 2020 but 2021 will be brighter," said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

The UK Government has formally accepted the recommendation from the MHRA, which means the two-dose vaccine can be injected into arms of high-risk categories within days. Around 10 million doses should be available soon, with the first 800,000 arriving in the UK in the coming days.

**Continued on Page 11**

# HC ex-judge Karnan held for insulting judges, their wives

PTI ■ CHENNAI

CS Karnan, former judge of the Madras and Calcutta High Courts, was arrested here on Wednesday following a complaint against him for making vulgar comments against judges and remarks against judges, police said.

The arrest comes after a video clip surfaced recently in social media, in which, Karnan, allegedly made objectionable remarks against judges and their wives.

He was arrested by the Central Crime Branch personnel from his suburban residence, a police official said. Several sections of the IPC,

including those related to insulting the modesty of a woman, intentional insult to public servant sitting in judicial proceeding, using obscene words, criminal conspiracy and intimidation, have been invoked against the former judge.

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act has been invoked against him. He has been slapped with 67A of the Information Technology Act for transmission of explicit obscene material.

A woman advocate lodged a complaint against him and following investigation, he has been arrested, the official said.

# Kohli is fastest batsman to hit 12,000 ODI runs

PTI ■ CANBERRA

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday became the fastest cricketer to score 12,000 ODI runs, breaking a record held by legendary compatriot Sachin Tendulkar.

Kohli reached the milestone during the third and final match against Australia. Kohli, who needed 23 runs for the landmark coming into the match, touched the figure in his 242nd innings when he took a single off Sean Abbott in the 13th over of the India innings.

In comparison, it took Tendulkar 300 games to get there. The 32-year-old Indian captain was playing in his 251st ODI and averages close to 60 in the format with 43 hundreds and 59 half centuries.

# UK PM likely to attend R-Day as chief guest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is likely to be the chief guest for the Republic Day function next year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited him for the national event during his telephonic talks recently. It will be the first high-profile visit by a foreign dignitary to India during the ongoing global pandemic.

While India and the UK are yet to officially announce the visit, reports on Wednesday here indicated that Modi invited Johnson during his talks on November 27. The British Prime Minister invited Modi to the G-7 summit there next year.

If the visit materialises, Johnson will be the first United Kingdom Prime Minister to be the chief guest of the Republic Day parade after more than 25

years. The last British Prime Minister to be the chief guest was John Major in 1993.

Besides the invitations, the two leaders discussed the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, climate change, and other related issues.

"The leaders reiterated their shared desire to impart a quantum jump to the India-UK partnership in the post-Covid, post-BREXIT era, and agreed that there was tremendous potential for enhancing collaboration in trade and investment, scientific research, mobility of professionals and students, and defence and security," an official said. In November, acting British High Commissioner to India Jan Thompson had said Johnson will soon make an "in person" visit to India.

**Continued on Page 11**



# CM Yogi: UP to build the most beautiful film city

## Meets Bollywood personalities in Mumbai

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Asking for suggestions from Bollywood personalities regarding the film city that is to come up in Noida, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that as per the government's promise, it was committed to building the most beautiful film city in the world.

The chief minister, who was interacting with Bollywood stars, directors and producers in Mumbai on the last day of his two-day visit, said: "We are open to all kinds of suggestions from you as it is your film city. It will be built according to your requirements and you are welcome to UP."

He sought to make it clear that his idea behind the whole thought-process was to give the country another state-of-the-art film city equipped with all technical and modern logistics. "UP has a rich resource in terms of manpower and knowledge which we want to use

## Yogi rolls out red carpet for businessmen, industrialists

**Lucknow (PNS):** Assuring security, respect and a conducive environment, the Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday rolled out a red carpet for businessmen and industrialists to come and invest in the "New UP" as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said they were always welcome in the state of unlimited possibilities — UP. "We will give you safety, security, respect and a conducive atmosphere for setting up your businesses," Yogi Adityanath said while enthusing confidence that Uttar Pradesh was soon going to compete with the best of the world in the field of basic infrastructure.

He said the vast population of UP was a huge resource for the state as well as a big market for the business.

In an interaction with the top businessmen of the country in Mumbai dur-

ing his two-day visit, the chief minister spoke about some landmark projects taking shape in the state while pointing out that there was a lot of investment potential in tourism, One District One Product (ODOP) and MSME sector.

"The biggest greenfield airport of Asia is coming up in Jewar (Noida) while the Purvanchal Expressway and Bundelkhand Expressway are under construction while work on about 600-km-long Ganga Expressway linking Meerut and Prayagraj will commence in June 2021. These expressways will have corridors along them which offer a good investment opportunity," the chief minister said.

He said that out of 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, many still required medical colleges and there was an opportunity for investors to make these medical colleges

During the interaction, the film personalities also gave suggestions and some of them also expressed the desire to meet the chief minister in person to discuss their films and projects.

The UP government's initiative on the film city was also lauded during the meet.

The chief minister said that besides providing excellent basic facilities, the film city

of culture and history of Bundelkhand and the Ayodhya of Lord Ram, UP has everything the film industry requires in terms of resources and the locales," he said.

The function conducted by UP Film Development Council Chairman Raju Srivastava was attended among others by eminent film personalities like Rahul Mittra, Subhash Ghai, Boney Kapoor, Manmohan Shetty, Satish Kaushik, Arjun Rampal, Jayantilal Gada, Tigamshu Dhulia, Anil Sharma, Ravi Kishan. It may be recalled that

The function conducted by UP Film Development Council Chairman Raju Srivastava was attended among others by eminent film personalities like Rahul Mittra, Subhash Ghai, Boney Kapoor, Manmohan Shetty, Satish Kaushik, Arjun Rampal, Jayantilal Gada, Tigamshu Dhulia, Anil Sharma, Ravi Kishan. It may be recalled that

actor Akshay Kumar had met the UP chief minister on Tuesday night. Also present in the meeting were UP cabinet ministers Satish Mahana, Sidharth Nath Singh and Ashutosh Tandon besides Additional Chief Secretary (MSME and Information) Navneet Sehgal who outlined the purpose and the objective behind the meet.

# ‘Maha govt threatening Bollywood through ‘underworld’ channels’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reacting to Shiv Sena allegation that Uttar Pradesh was trying to steal the film industry from Mumbai, UP's Minister of State for Minority Welfare and Muslim Waqf, Mohsin Raza, said that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government of Maharashtra was threatening Bollywood through "underworld" channels.

"The Maharashtra government is acting under pressure from the underworld and that is evident from the statements by senior Shiv Sena leaders, including Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Sanjay Raut. It seems there is some kind of a pressure on them,"

Raza said while talking to a select group of reporters here on Wednesday.

He said that the Maharashtra government was terrified over Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Mumbai and the response he got from Bollywood and industrialists and therefore the Shiv Sena leaders had issued statements against the UP chief minister and his attempt to set up a film city in Noida.

A day before Yogi Adityanath's visit to Mumbai, the Shiv Sena had alleged a conspiracy to snatch away the city's film city to UP, and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had vowed not to allow anybody to "forcibly" take away business-

es. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut had even said it was not easy to shift Mumbai's film city elsewhere even though attempts had been made for it.

"Uttar Pradesh has no plans of taking away the film business out of Mumbai. It is an 'open competition' and the one who gives the right atmosphere and security in which talent can work will get the investments," Raza said. He said that Uttar Pradesh had a rich heritage of culture. "There are sites of cultural heritage like Mathura, Kashi, and Ayodhya. There are several film-makers, directors and artists who want to leave Mumbai and come to Uttar Pradesh but they are being intimidated via the underworld," he said.

## Yogi making lofty announcements, says Akhilesh

**Lucknow (PNS):** Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said that as the UP assembly elections were round the corner, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was busy making phoney announcements and touring different states.

He said Uttar Pradesh had never witnessed such a situation where the chief minister was ignoring the responsibility of his state and was more interested in campaigning in elections in other states.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Akhilesh Yadav said that the chief minister was apparently aware of the fact that the people of the state were disillusioned with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the directionless regime of the Yogi Adityanath. He said never in the history of UP, a chief minister ran the government merely on the basis of tall claims and lofty announcements.



### NOTICE

To inform that I have lost my original DCI registration certificate No-A-8197 and Uttar Pradesh dental council registration certificate and card its used by anyone will be illegal. Urvashi Singh D/o R.P. Singh B-1296, Indra Nagar Lucknow.

### नीलामी सूचना

दिनांक 14.12.2020, प्रातः 11:30 बजे उ०प्र० राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम, सी-13, विपिन खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ निष्प्रयोज्य सामग्रियों आदि की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु० 5,000/-—नगद/आई.पी.सिंह एण्ड सन्स

# 29 killed in separate road accidents

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

At least 29 persons were killed and several injured in separate accidents reported during the past 24 hours.

Eight people were killed in Kaushambi, three each in Shravasti and Chitrakoot, two each in Unnao, Lalitpur, Jhansi, Siddharthnagar and Jalaun, one each in Kanpur, Sultanpur, Firozabad, Budaun and Chandauli, police said on Wednesday.

In Kaushambi, eight people were killed when a sand-laden truck overturned on a stationary SUV in Kada Dham area of the district, police said.

The victims were returning to Shahjapur after attending a wedding ceremony in Deviganj when the accident took place, in the wee hours of Wednesday.

Superintendent of Police Abhinandan said the bodies were taken out of the vehicle with the help of gas cutters and sent for post-mortem. Luckily, two girls travelling in the SUV managed to come out the window. They escaped with minor injuries.

The truck driver is absconding and police are trying to trace him.

The victims hailing from Prayagraj were identified as Shashi (35), Om Gupta (10), Prakashini (50), Neha aka Richa Gupta (28), Poonam Devi (40), Sneha Gupta aka Mushkan (15), Soma Tewari (16), Shivraj (24).

Expressing grief over the accident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the loss of lives. He directed the local administration to provide all possible help to the family members of the victims.

In Shravasti, three members of a family, including two women, were killed after being knocked down by a vehicle.

Reports said that Ram Charan (30), a resident of Siswa in Sirsiya locality in Shravasti, was returning with his wife Rukma (24), his sis-

ter Susheela (24), 4-year-old daughter when his motorcycle was hit by an unknown vehicle near a guest house in Bhinga. All of them were seriously injured. They were rushed to the district hospital by the local residents but the doctor pronounced Ram Charan, Rukma and Susheela dead. The child was still battling for her life.

In Unnao, two vehicles collided on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Bangarmau Kotwali area under Unnao district on Wednesday.

Two people, including the car driver, died and two others were seriously injured. The injured were admitted to hospital for treatment.

The local police said that a car collided with an unknown vehicle in front of Agra-Lucknow Expressway near Golupavur village in Bangarmau Kotwali area, causing the death of 24-year-old Deepak Kumar Pandey and a woman who was driving the car. Two women, Mandika and Suman, were also injured.

In Jalaun, a woman and her son died when two bikes collided in Kuthaundh area on Tuesday.

In three separate incidents in Chitrakoot, three persons were killed late Tuesday night.

In Lalitpur, Chandra Bhan (39), a resident of Mahuruni and his friend Brijesh died in a mishap late Tuesday night. In Jhansi, a DCM fell from a bridge when its tyre burst on Jhansi-Shivpuri road under the Sipri Bazaar police station, killing Neeraj Kushwaha (25) and Sohaib (30) on the spot.

In Siddharthnagar, two unidentified persons died in a mishap in Pakadi-Jogiya road on Wednesday morning. In Kanpur, Shashi Gupta died in a mishap near Dadanagar factory while one Akash was killed in a separate mishap in Jasrana locality of Firozabad.

One person each was killed in mishaps in Budaun, Sultanpur and Chandauli.



**यू पी प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
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**अल्प कालीन निविदा सूचना**

**Construction of Main Building upto Slab Level (Including Slab) Hostel Building upto Slab Level (excluding Slab) and Tube Well with Boringof District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) at Himmatpur Sai, Distt.- Kasganj (U.P.) कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय के नोटिस सं०-82/GM(T&C)/UPPCL/2020-21 दिनांक 02.12.2020 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। यह निविदा http:// www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 03.12.2020 से उपलब्ध रहेगी, जिसको दिनांक 03.12.2020 से 18.12.2020 को अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/ अपलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण व शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर देखा जा सकता है।**

**महाप्रबन्धक (तक० एवं परि०)**



विश्व

दिव्यांग दिवस

3 दिसम्बर, 2020

संदेश

मुझे हार्दिक प्रसन्नता है कि पूरे विश्व की भांति उत्तर प्रदेश में भी **03 दिसम्बर, 2020** को **‘विश्व दिव्यांग दिवस’** उल्लासपूर्वक मनाया जा रहा है। सर्वविदित है कि दिव्यांगजन में किसी न किसी प्रकार की विशेष प्रतिभा विद्यमान होती है। दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग द्वारा प्रदेश के दिव्यांगजन की इच्छाशक्ति को जागृत कर उनके आत्मविश्वास को दृढ़ करते हुए उनकी प्रतिभा को विकसित कर आत्मनिर्भर बनाये जाने का निरन्तर प्रयास किया जा रहा है, जिससे वह समाज की मुख्यधारा में अपना योगदान दे सकें।

आप सहमत होंगे कि दिव्यांगता के कारण जीवन में कठिनाई आती है, किन्तु दृढ़ इच्छाशक्ति हो तो व्यक्ति इस कठिनाई पर विजय प्राप्त कर सकता है। दिव्यांगजन के प्रति मिथ्या सहानुभूति के स्थान पर उनमें दृढ़ इच्छाशक्ति विकसित करने के लिए सरकार प्रयासरत है तथा दिव्यांगजन में विद्यमान विशिष्ट प्रतिभा को निस्कारने के लिए कृत संकल्प है।

प्रदेश सरकार दिव्यांगजन के सामाजिक उत्थान हेतु निरन्तर प्रयासरत है और इसी के दृष्टिगत हमारी सरकार द्वारा दिव्यांगजन के लिये विभिन्न नई योजनाओं को मूर्त रूप दिया जा रहा है। माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा भी कोरोना काल में 10,67,786 दिव्यांगजन को पेंशन के अतिरिक्त इस वर्ष रु. 1000/- की अतिरिक्त धनराशि भी उपलब्ध करायी गई है। हमारी सरकार 40% से अधिक दिव्यांगता से ग्रसित सभी पात्र दिव्यांगजन को पेंशन उपलब्ध कराती है। हमारी सरकार द्वारा दिव्यांगजन की सुविधा के लिये एक उच्च कोटि के लिम्ब सेन्टर का भी निर्माण कराया गया है तथा खेलने की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने के लिये जनपद लखनऊ में एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्टेडियम का निर्माण कराया गया है। हमारी सरकार दिव्यांग नौनिहालों को उच्चतम स्तर की शिक्षा देने के लिये कटिबद्ध है। लखनऊ स्थित ‘प्रयास’ विद्यालय का अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के मानक आई.एस.ओ. 9001:2015 से प्रमाणीकरण इसका एक उदाहरण है।

मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि प्रदेश के समस्त दिव्यांगजन राज्य सरकार द्वारा संचालित योजनाओं का सदुपयोग कर पूरी क्षमता के साथ अपने जीवनपथ पर आगे बढ़ेंगे।



**(योगी आदित्यनाथ)**  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिव्यांगजन के विकास हेतु संचालित योजनाएं

- दिव्यांगजन हेतु भरण पोषण अनुदान (पेंशन प्रतिमाह रु. 500/-) ■ प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण योजनान्तर्गत दिव्यांगजन को रु. 1000/- की अतिरिक्त अनुदान सहायता ■ कुष्ठावस्था पेंशन योजना (प्रतिमाह रु. 2500/-) ■ कृत्रिम अंग/सहायक उपकरण योजना ■ दिव्यांगजन से शादी करने पर पुरस्कार योजना ■ दुकान निर्माण/संचालन योजना ■ श्रवणबाधित बच्चों के कॉमिलयर इम्प्लॉट हेतु रु. 6.00 लाख का अनुदान ■ उ.प्र. राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम की बसों में दिव्यांगजन को निःशुल्क यात्रा की सुविधा ■ विशिष्ट दिव्यांगजन के सशक्तिकरण हेतु प्रत्येक वर्ष राज्य स्तरीय पुरस्कार ■ मोटराइज्ड ट्राई साइकिल वितरण योजना ■ दिव्यांगजन के सहयोग हेतु राज्य निधि की व्यवस्था ■ बचपन डे केयर सेन्टर्स का संचालन ■ विशेष विद्यालयों (ममता/स्पर्श/संकेत/प्रयास) का संचालन ■ दिव्यांग बच्चों हेतु विशेष माध्यमिक विद्यालयों की स्थापना ■ दिव्यांगजन की उच्च शिक्षा हेतु डॉ. शकुन्तला मिश्रा राष्ट्रीय पुनर्वास विश्वविद्यालय, लखनऊ का संचालन ■ डिस्लेक्सिया एवं ए.डी.एच.डी. पर अध्यापकों का प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम ■ मानसिक मंदित एवं मानसिक रूप से रुग्ण दिव्यांगजन हेतु आश्रय गृह सह प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र का संचालन ■ जिला दिव्यांग पुनर्वास केन्द्रों का संचालन ■ शासकीय भवनों में दिव्यांगजन हेतु बाधा रहित वातावरण का सृजन ■ दिव्यांगजन हेतु लखनऊ में खेल स्टेडियम व लिम्ब सेंटर की स्थापना





**सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश**

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# Corona graph in city stable: Addl CMO

236 test +ve,  
356 recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Additional CMO MK Singh said on Wednesday that the graph of coronavirus cases in Lucknow is stable and it has eased their concerns regarding huge spike after festive season. "The picture is clear that there has been no spurt in cases after festivities, but we need to wait for some more time till the wedding season is over," he said. He added that the coronavirus graph has plateaued and is stable, as the cases have dipped in areas which had maximum cases.

About winter season, he said not much can be stated about the impact of cold weather on the virus, though there are experts who have been commenting on the same. Singh, however, pointed out in winter season, cases of cold and cough are likely to increase which will help them in carrying out the testing of such patients since their teams are testing symptomatic people.

On how most of the health official have been able to keep themselves away from infection



despite attending meetings and carried out routine work, he said: "The most important thing is personal hygiene, washing hands, masking up and ensuring social distancing. There are almost 50 staffers in the office and these are the simple tricks which I regularly ask them to follow."

He pointed out that no person in the Integrated Control and Command Centre has tested positive for coronavirus.

On Wednesday, 236 persons tested Covid positive in Lucknow on Wednesday while 356 patients recovered. The death toll stands at 1,008 while

there are 3,447 active cases in the district. The fresh cases included 28 from Indiranagar, 20 from Gomtinagar, 17 from Rae Bareilly road, 14 from Madaon, 13 from Vikasnagar, 12 each from Chowk & Jankipuram and 10 each from Ashiyana & Thakurganj.

Across the state, 1,799 persons tested positive, including 80 in Kanpur, 162 in Ghaziabad, 78 in Varanasi and 157 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,47,308. There were 29 deaths across the state, including six in Lucknow, four in Kanpur, two each in Varanasi, Rae Bareilly, Rampur & Unnao,

and one each in Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Ayodhya, Moradabad, Agra, Lakhimpur Kheri, Ghazipur, Bahraich, Bijnor, Shamli & Ambedkarnagar, taking the toll to 7,817. Besides, 2,607 patients recovered, taking state's recovery figures to 5,16,694.

The total number of persons who have defeated coronavirus in Lucknow so far has reached 67,791. A senior health official said the good recovery rate could be attributed to a larger percentage of young patients with less or no comorbidities, as also early detection and treatment of senior

citizens. "Most of the youngsters have recovered in home isolation. However, elder patients are not advised to go for home isolation and we don't allow them to stay home. Home isolation is for ten days, followed by seven days of quarantine," the official said.

Meanwhile, nodal officer for Covid-19, KGMU, Dr D Himanshu said that during winter season, people should be more careful about observing precautions as this weather could make the disease more acute. "Those suffering from respiratory problems should ensure precautions and avoid stepping out in the cold in the morning and also adhere to Covid-19 guidelines," he said. About the post-Covid scenario, he said they could say with experience that several things might happen. "The most common post-Covid symptom is chronic fatigue which can last up to three months, persistent dry cough, loss of smell & taste, lung fibrosis etc," he said.

He added that they have seen several dormant viruses turn active. "This is because Covid leads to the suppression of immunity and use of steroids leads to activation of other viruses," Dr Himanshu said.

# Job-seeker duped of ₹3 lakh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth and his aide duped a job-seeker of around Rs 3 lakh after promising him a job in UP Secretariat. The victim had earlier lodged a case against the accused at Alambagh police station.

As per reports, the victim, identified as Rishi Kumar of Bharthana in Etawah, came in contact with the accused, Ankit, while working with a private company in Alambagh some time ago. Rishi was told that he might get a job through Ankit's friend Lavkush who was said to have a good rapport with officials at Secretariat. An unsuspecting Rishi transferred Rs 3.5 lakh to the bank account of Ankit and Rs 1.3 lakh in the bank account of Lavkush. However, the accused failed to fulfill their promise following which Rishi lodged a complaint against them at Alambagh.

In the presence of police, the accused first gave Rs 90,000 to Rishi and later gave another Rs 90,000. On police intervention, the accused promised to pay the remaining amount later. Months later, the accused threatened Rishi when the latter demanded his money back. Having failed to get help from Alambagh

AS PER REPORTS, THE VICTIM, IDENTIFIED AS RISHI KUMAR OF BHARTHANA IN ETAWAH, CAME IN CONTACT WITH THE ACCUSED, ANKIT, WHILE WORKING WITH A PRIVATE COMPANY IN ALAMBAGH SOME TIME AGO

police, the victim petitioned his case to senior officials and a case was registered against the accused.

## YOUTH HANGS SELF

A youth committed suicide at his house in Hasanganj police station area on Wednesday morning. Police said he was addicted to alcohol and was under some mental pressure. As per reports, Sunil Kumar (27) of Bhandola Tola Nai Basti in the locality was found hanging from the ceiling in a room with a scarf tied around his neck. The incident came to light around 11:30 am on Wednesday. No suicide note was recovered from the scene.

Meanwhile, a joint team of Indiranagar police and cyber crime branch on Wednesday nabbed four youths on the charges of having duped people of Rs 40 lakh. The accused were identified as Jungsher Singh, Mangal Singh, Sumit and

Mushid, all of Ghaziabad. They reportedly owned their crime and said that they would make calls to their targets using fake SIM cards.

## VHP LEADER ATTACKED, GOLD CHAIN LOOTED

A leader of Hardoi district unit of Vishwa Hindu Parishad accused a group of men of attacking him and looting his gold chain in Madaon on Wednesday.

As per reports, the victim, identified as Naresh Dixit, is a district-level office-bearer of VHP. He said he, along with his colleague Mayank Tiwari, was going to Sandila via Faizullahganj in Madaon when Chhunna, Salman and 20 others stopped his car. "They pulled me out of the car and thrashed me. They then looted my gold chain," Dixit alleged. He said he had a verbal duel with some people a couple of days back over an issue related to religion.

# ADB to provide loan for power projects

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Manila-based multilateral financial institution, Asian Development Bank (ADB), will provide a loan of USD 562.8 million (about Rs 4,143 crore) for power projects in Uttar Pradesh. The ADB has approved a USD 430-million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to improve the quality and reliability of power supply in Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh Power Distribution Network Rehabilitation Project will improve the efficiency and sustainability of power supply in the state. The project is estimated to benefit seven crore people in 46,000 villages. It will also finance the construction of a parallel network of 11-kilovolt feeders with a total length of 17,000 km to separate the distribution of electricity between residential consumers and agriculture consumers.

This will facilitate the use of solar energy to meet the demand of agriculture, increase in electricity supply duration to rural residential consumers, and energy and water conservation. In addition, the project will improve gender inclusivity, corporate governance and financial management capacity of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL).

UPPCL sources said, "Reliable and sustainable power distribution and service is an important aspect to India's growth and development. This project fully supports the Power for All vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a sustainable and inclusive way."

The existing rural power distribution networks will be upgraded to enable the provision of reliable supply to customers in rural Uttar Pradesh in a financially sustainable manner.

# LDA signs pact with NEDA for power efficient buildings



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority on Wednesday signed an MoU with NEDA for construction of energy efficient buildings in the city. District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash, who also holds the additional charge as LDA vice-chairman, said the MoU (memorandum of understanding) would serve as a milestone for Lucknow.

"Now, 100 percent energy efficient and energy compliant buildings will be constructed and 30 percent of energy will be saved through these measures. It will not only help us save energy but also cut down the greenhouse effect which impacts environment. It will help consumers a lot because their electricity bills will be reduced by 30 percent while water conservation and greenery around the buildings will also be taken care of," he said, adding that it would improve the quality of life as well.

Prakash said the process of passing the map through LDA would be the same and only these aspects would be included so that the buildings are energy efficient. He said the energy standards set up by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and other state and national agencies would be included in the maps passed by LDA. The VC said that LDA and UPNEDA should hold a workshop in this regard in which all the builders should be invited and awareness spread amongst them on the issue. He said that for a smart city, it is necessary to emphasise on hygiene, greenery and energy. UPNEDA director assured support for training of LDA officials and builders. In the houses being constructed under Prime Minister Awas Yojana by LDA and UP NEDA at Sharda Nagar, the Energy Conservation Building Code standards have been included because of which Bureau of Energy Efficiency has given them five-star rating.




## एमएसएमई को मिला आधार बढ़ा औद्योगिक विकास और रोजगार

### 3,54,825 एमएसएमई इकाइयों को रु. 10,390 करोड़ का ऋण

### एक जनपद एक उत्पाद कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत 5,000 प्रशिक्षार्थियों को टूलकिट

## वितरण समारोह

(ऑनलाइन)

मुख्य अतिथि

## योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक: 3 दिसम्बर, 2020 | समय: पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान: 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

मुख्य उपलब्धियां

- ♦ प्रधानमंत्री रोजगार सृजन कार्यक्रम, मुख्यमंत्री युवा स्वरोजगार योजना, एक जनपद एक उत्पाद वित्त पोषण सहायता योजना, मुद्रा योजना एवं अन्य योजनाओं के अंतर्गत 3,24,911 एमएसएमई इकाइयों को रु. 9,074 करोड़ का ऋण वितरण।
- ♦ आत्मनिर्भर भारत योजना के अंतर्गत 29,914 इकाइयों को रु. 1,316 करोड़ का ऋण वितरण।
- ♦ एक जनपद एक उत्पाद प्रशिक्षण एवं टूलकिट वितरण योजना के अंतर्गत वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष में 16,000 प्रशिक्षार्थियों को प्रशिक्षण।



सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम तथा निर्यात प्रोत्साहन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



# 13-year-old physically challenged girl raped

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 13-year-old mentally challenged girl was raped by a man in a village in the Sungarhi police circle of Pilibhit. The accused, who is a family friend, took the girl with him on the pretext of buying her toffees and raped her. The crime was committed last Friday, but the girl's family avoided filing a complaint in fear of losing the family's reputation.

An FIR was finally lodged by the victim's family after the

local police contacted them. The girl was sent for medical examination on Monday and her statement was also recorded in the presence of senior officers. SHO Atar Singh said that the accused had been booked under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Efforts were being made to arrest the accused.

Meanwhile, in another incident which brought bad name for the khaki, a policeman posted in Gonda district sexually harassed a woman and later shot at a man who objected to his conduct and threatened to call the police. The incident took place in Azamgarh on Tuesday evening and the accused cop was arrested along with two of his accomplices and a report was sent to his seniors in Gonda to initiate departmental action.

The accused cop was identified as Sarvesh and the injured man as Kishanlal, who was taken to a local hospital from where he was referred to the Varanasi medical college hospital in view of his critical condition. The incident took place under the jurisdiction of Sarameer police station in Kamalpur village when the

policeman, who was in an inebriated state, allegedly harassed a woman. The victim woman and her friends were on their way to a wedding ceremony in the village when the incident took place. The policeman and his friends were consuming liquor on the road and made offensive comments at the women while they were on the way. When Kishanlal objected, a fight broke out. The altercation turned violent resulting in Kishanlal being shot at.

In Bhadohi, five people barged into the house of a woman and set her afire by sprinkling kerosene on her and fled after locking the room, the police said. On hearing the cries of the woman, the locals took her to a hospital where she is undergoing treatment, Station House Officer KK Singh said, adding that she has suffered 50 percent burn injuries.

The accused also later visited the victim in the hospital and threatened her with dire consequences if she reported the matter to anyone, the police said, adding that the woman confided in her father when he arrived here on November 27 from Mumbai where he works.

An FIR was registered against the accused and efforts were on to nab them, Singh said.

## Council election counting today

**Lucknow (PNS):** Counting of votes to decide the fate of 199 candidates contesting for the 11 seats of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council from graduate and teachers seats would be taken up from Thursday morning. An estimated 55.47 per cent of the voters had exercised their franchise in the polling for these 11 Council seats on Tuesday.

Election Commission sources here said on Wednesday that all preparations for the smooth conduct of counting of votes had been made and elaborate security would be in place in and around the counting centres.

The counting will commence at 8 am on Thursday and will continue till the results are declared. The voting has been done on ballot papers and there is a preferential voting system, hence the counting will take more time than the counting of the votes polled in electronic voting machines (EVMs).

The 11 seats where the biennial polls were held are Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut division and Allahabad-Jhansi division (all graduate constituencies) and Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut division, Bareilly-Moradabad division and Gorakhpur-Faizabad division (all teachers constituencies).

# Nadda to visit UP from Dec 25 to 28

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party national president JP Nadda will be visiting Uttar Pradesh for four days from December 25 to 28 to take stock of the organisational preparedness for panchayat elections. A decision regarding this was taken in the meeting of the party's state office-bearers here on Wednesday. The meeting was presided over by BJP national vice-president and in-charge of the state, Radha Mohan Singh.

“The BJP national president will tour UP for four days from December 25 to 28. For the first two days he will stay in

Lucknow while on the other two days he will tour other parts of the state,” Singh told reporters here.

He also said that the recently-elected presidents and in-charges of all the 18 mandals of the party would organise workshops in which party workers would be educated about the policies of the party and the pro-people schemes of the Central and state governments. When asked whether all these activities in party were because of panchayat elections in the state slated for early 2021, Singh said BJP was the only political organisation of the country which worked all the 12 months.

# Old woman set on fire by daughter-in-law

**Lucknow (PNS):** A woman tried to burn alive her 75-year-old mother-in-law in Bahraich while a 21-year-old woman was set afire allegedly by her neighbours in Bhadohi.

According to reports from Bahraich, Gupti Devi, a resident of Gudiyanpurwa hamlet of Sujauli in Bichiya, was working in the field when she had some argument with her daughter-in-law, Kusumawati, on Wednesday noon.

Suddenly, Kusumawati brought petrol and sprinkled it on Gupti and set her ablaze.

When the victim cried for help some villagers rushed and rescued her but by then she sustained serious burns. She was taken to a local hospital from where she was referred to the district hospital because of her critical condition. The police registered a case and claimed to be investigating the matter.

## CITYBRIEFS

### MERIT LIST

The overall merit lists for the entrance exams held at Lucknow University have been declared and uploaded on the website. LU spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said the portal for uploading documents has been reopened till December 4. “All candidates who have already uploaded their documents can edit them, if required. The choices of applicants can also be edited in those programmes where they are available. The applicants of BPED, MPED and MED programmes who appeared in the entrance exams also have to upload the marksheets of qualifying exams and other documents on the UnLOC portal. The result of BPED, MPED and MED programmes will be declared soon,” he said.

### GOLD MEDAL

Armaan Arya, a class V of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus 1, has won gold medal in national interschool online competition, ‘Brainobrain Wonderkid-2020’. The competition was organised under the aegis of educational institution ‘Brainobrain’. Students of over 1,500 noted schools across the country participated in the competition.



# Key Islamic shrine issues ‘fatwa’ endorsing UP Ordinance against forcible conversion

**Bareilly (UP):** A prominent Islamic shrine here in Bareilly has issued a religious decree banning religious conversion by force or allurements, endorsing the Uttar Pradesh's recent ordinance aimed at curbing inter-faith marriages as an alleged ploy for conversion.

Bareilly's Dargah-e-Ala Hazrat, one of the most revered shrines for the Bareilvi sect of Sunni Muslims, issued the ‘fatwa’ terming the forcible and fraudulent conversion as against the tenet of Islam.

In his decree, issued on Tuesday evening, the president of Markaz-e-Darul Ifta of Dargah-e-Ala Hazrat, Mufti Musibur Rahman Rajvi, said in the light of Quran and ‘Shariat’, religious conversion by force or allurements is illegal.

Markaz-e-Darul Ifta president issued the decree in response to some posers by Rashtriya Sunni Ulema Council president Maulana Interzar Ahamad Kadri on the issue

of interfaith marriages and entailing conversion. Kadri had asked if a Muslim man can religiously convert a non-Muslim girl after marrying her by fraud.

The Rashtriya Sunni Ulema Council president had also asked if there exists in ‘Shariat’ (Islamic laws) any phenomena of ‘love jihad’, a derogatory coinage referring to the alleged campaign of Muslims forcing Hindu girls to convert in the guise of love.

On the question about “love jihad”, the fatwa said Islam has no place for any such thing.

“It is a social evil that extends from Western civilization. Love is an English word and jihad an Arabic. It is not related to each other. In the eyes of the Shariat, love jihad has no status,” the fatwa said.

The Darul Ifta ulema has also supported the ordinance brought by the Uttar Pradesh government recently against wrongful conver-

sion. This fatwa has also been trending on social media.

The Uttar Pradesh ordinance, aimed at curbing forcible or fraudulent religious conversions including those in the garb of marriage, had got the assent of state Governor Anandiben Patel. It provides for a jail term up to 10 years for any violations. The law which deals with different categories of offences, provides for declaring a marriage “null and void” if wman has ben converted only because she had undergone an inter-faith marriage, and those wishing to change their religion after marriage need to apply to the district magistrate. The Yogi Adityanath government had on November 24 approved the draft of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, which also curbs religious conversions only for the sake of marriage, dubbed by BJP leaders as ‘love jihad’.

PTI

# Ladakh: Soldiers fighting fit in harsh winter

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Alongside brave Indian soldiers who are occupying ‘icy heights’ and braving adverse weather conditions in the eastern Ladakh sector it is the team of doctors, care surgeons and paramedics, drawn from different command hospitals who are working round the clock to keep them fighting fit.

To accommodate the large Army of soldiers in the highest battleground the Indian Army has already created state of the art modern infrastructure facilities to cater to the special needs of the soldiers stationed at forward locations at an altitude of 16,000 to 18,000 feet.

Super specialists and senior surgeons from different command hospitals have been roped in to perform special duties ranging between six to eight weeks at some of these forward locations to ensure safety of brave soldiers. Specialists have been stationed at a Forward surgical centre (FSC) in the eastern Ladakh sector to provide immediate treatment to the needy soldiers deployed along the LAC. Official sources said, “Field hospitals on ground zero are fully functional and are already performing specialised treatment for extreme winter-related issues faced by troops.”

According to a doctor who had

recently completed his tenure at a high altitude location in the Siachen sector, “patients normally complain of high altitude ailments such as breathlessness when they are deployed at a forward location”.

Sometimes patients also complain of stomach ache due to sub zero temperature conditions and over dose of packaged food. Soldiers also report fluctuation in their blood pressure and brain stroke, Heart attack, color blindness etc. To address the issue, soldiers are directed to perform yoga asanas and breathing exercises, whenever possible to stay fit. Defence sources said, “medical Officers are deployed with each unit along with nursing assistants and other paramedics. In addition, surgical teams are also stationed at a Forward Surgical centre to cater to any contingency in the operational area.” These sources said, “For every Brigade centre there exists one field hospital and for every Division headquarter there is one Forward Surgical centre”. To ensure their own fitness, doctors need one week acclimatization if they have to be stationed at an altitude up to 9,000 feet.

The acclimatization period is extended by four more days if a doctor is stationed at an altitude up to 13,000 ft and further four days acclimatization is required for higher altitude locations up to 16,000 to

19000 feet. Last month, Army doctors achieved a major feat at an altitude of 16,000 feet as they successfully removed an appendix of a soldier in a dug-in at a forward surgical centre in the Eastern Ladakh.

The surgery was performed by a team of three doctors including a Lt Colonel, a Major and a Captain on a soldier, who could not be evacuated by chopper due to the weather conditions. According to official sources, “To protect soldiers from harsh weather conditions in the region adequate winter clothing has been provided to them to beat sub zero temperature conditions”.

Besides ensuring availability of basic amenities including high protein diet, routine ration, fuel supplies, soldiers have been accommodated in Arctic tents which can sustain temperatures between -20 to -40 degrees in the region. At base camps, centrally heated barracks have been set up, equipped with modern heating appliances to protect the soldiers.

The Indian army had rushed additional troops in the region to beef up its defences after the deadly face-off between the Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan valley on June 15, 2020. Twenty soldiers including a commanding officer of an Infantry battalion made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

# Special court grants bail to Showik

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nearly three months after his arrest in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, Showik Chakraborty - the brother of Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty, was granted bail by the Special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act Court here on Wednesday.

Special NDPS court judge G B Gurao granted bail to him on a personal bond of Rs 50,000.

Showik (24) had been arrested along with late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's house manager Samuel Miranda on September 4. His actress-sister Rhea was arrested in connec-

tion with the Sushant death-related drug case on September 8. While Rhea was granted bail by the Bombay High Court on October 7, Showik was denied bail by the bail.

In a fresh bail application filed on Showik's behalf before the NDPS court, his lawyer Satish Maneshinde had said that no drug was recovered from his client's possession and that the NCB's only evidence against his client was using the statements of co-accused as the evidence.

Maneshinde had cited a recent Supreme Court ruling which said that the statements of the accused recorded under Section 67 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act by the NCB

officials (who were considered “police officers”) could not be considered confessions He had told the court that in the light of the SC ruling there was no reason to keep his client behind the bar. He has claimed that in light of the ruling, there is no reason to keep him behind bars.

The NCB, which is investigating the various drug angles linked to the death of the late actor, had alleged that Rhea and her brother Showik used facilitate drug deliveries and payment through credit cards, cash and other payment gateways. At one stage, the NCB had accused Rhea and Showik of being “active members of a drug syndicate” and financing drugs for use by Sushant.



**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY  
E-TENDERING NOTICE**

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager,  
N.E. Railway, Varanasi for and on  
behalf of President of India invites  
Tender through E-Procurement  
system "Open Tender" for the supply  
of the following item. Complete  
description of the item and other  
terms and conditions are available  
on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
**E-Tender No.:** 50205505, **Due  
Date:** 05.01.2021, **Description:**  
Supply, Installation and Testing,  
Commissioning of SMPs based IPS,  
**Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,67,654/-,  
**Quantity:** 08 Nos. **Note:**-Interested  
firm may get themselves registered  
on IREPS through Class-III Digital  
Certificate issued by CCA. Manual  
offer is un-acceptable.

**Sr. Divisional Materials Manager  
CPRO/S-40 Varanasi**

About any passenger amenity complain  
SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

**"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH  
INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"**

**राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम**  
कार्यालय मुख्य प्रबंधक, सी.बी.एस आगरा, जयपुर।

**केन्द्रीय/स्टील/वाहन उद्योग स्थल डेन बाबत।**

केन्द्रीय बस स्टैण्ड, सिन्धी कैंप, जयपुर पर विभिन्न स्टील/केन्द्रीय, सुलभ कॉम्प्लेक्स  
के लिये लाइसेन्सधारी नियुक्त किये जाने हैं। प्रस्ताव देने की अंतिम तिथि 04.12.2020 को  
दोपहर 02.00 बजे तक है। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी निगम वेबसाइट  
[www.rsrcr.rajjasthan.gov.in](http://www.rsrcr.rajjasthan.gov.in) पर एम् राज्य लोक उपापन पोर्टल (SPPP) पर  
(UBN is RT-C2021SL0B00345) सी देखी जा सकती है।

राज.संसाध.सी/20/7229 विवरण 135/2020-21 मुख्य प्रबंधक



**विद्युत नगरीय वितरण  
मण्डल – द्वितीय, कस्को  
कानपुर। ई-निविदा  
सूचना**

अनुमयी एवं कुशल ठेकेदारों  
से निम्न लिखित कार्य हेतु जानना।  
इन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती  
है। कार्य से सम्बन्धित निविदा प्रपत्र  
यूएपीओएनआई000/कस्को की  
ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट [https://  
etender.up.nic.in/www.kesco.  
co.in](https://etender.up.nic.in/www.kesco.co.in) पर उपलब्ध है। वेबसाइट पर  
उपलब्ध निविदा सूचना में  
व्यानुमान धनराशि, धरोहर धनरा.  
शि, निविदा मूल्य, कार्य पूर्ण करने  
की अवधि, निविदा डालने की  
तिथि, निविदा खोलने की तिथि  
तथा अन्य नियम व शर्तों का उल्लेख  
है। क्रसं. 1, निविदा संख्या – 20/  
EUDC-II/2020-21, कार्य का नाम-  
विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल  
–द्वितीय, कस्को, कानपुर के अधीन  
विभिन्न वितरण खण्डों में स्थापित 33  
केवी0, 11 केवी0 एवं एल0टी0  
लाइनों में अद्यानक होने वाले माइटी0  
ब्रेकडाउन को अटैण्ड करने एवं  
उनके अनुक्षण तथा बकायेदार  
उपभोक्ताओं के सरोजनों के विच्छेदन  
एवं पुनर्संयोजन तथा उपभोक्ताओं की  
शिकायतों को अटैण्ड करने इत्यादि  
का कार्य कराये जाने के लिये 70  
अदद पैदल गैंग (1 लाइनमैन एवं 2  
अकुल श्रमिक) उपलब्ध कराये  
जाने के कार्य हेतु। निविदा प्रपत्र का  
मूल्य रु0 88500.00, (NEFT के  
माध्यम से), धरोहर धनराशि  
4,00,000.00 (NEFT के माध्यम से),  
कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 12 माह,  
निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि व  
समय 23.12.2020, समय 14.00 बजे

तक, तकनीकी बिड खोलने की  
तिथि व समय 23.12.2020, समय  
16.00 बजे तक, वित्तीय बिड  
खोलने की तिथि व समय तकनीकी  
बिड स्वीकृति के उपरान्त। क्रसं. 2,  
निविदा संख्या– 21/EUDC-  
II/2020-21, कार्य का नाम: विद्युत  
नगरीय वितरण मण्डल – द्वितीय,  
कस्को, कानपुर के कार्यालय तथा  
अधीनस्थ वितरण खण्डों/परीक्षण  
खण्ड तथा उपखण्डों में स्थापित  
कम्प्यूटर सम्बन्धी समस्त कार्य हेतु  
38 कम्प्यूटर आपरैटरों उपलब्ध  
कराये जाने के कार्य हेतु। निविदा  
प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु0 5900.00, (NEFT  
के माध्यम से), धरोहर धनराशि  
80,000.00 (NEFT के माध्यम से),  
कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 12 माह,  
निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि व  
समय 23.12.2020, समय 14.00 बजे  
तक, तकनीकी बिड खोलने की  
तिथि व समय 23.12.2020, समय  
16.30 बजे तक, वित्तीय बिड  
खोलने की तिथि व समय तकनीकी  
बिड स्वीकृति के उपरान्त।  
अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास बिना कोई  
कारण बताये निविदाओं को स्वीकार  
/अस्वीकार करने का पूर्ण अधिकार  
सुरक्षित होगा। इच्छुक अनुमयी एवं  
कुशल ठेकेदारों से अनुरोध है कि  
नियमित रूप से उक्त वेबसाइट का  
अवलोकन करते रहे, क्योंकि निविदा  
के सम्बन्ध में कोई परिवर्तन अथवा  
अतिरिक्त सूचना वेबसाइट पर ही  
उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी। अधीक्षण  
अभियन्ता (डि0) मण्डल– द्वितीय,  
कस्को, कानपुर पत्रांक–7093,  
दिनांक– 02.12.2020 “राष्ट्रहित में  
बिजली बचाए”



**मह्यौचल विद्युत वितरण  
निगम लिमिटेड, अल्प –  
कालिक ई-निविदा सूचना**

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा ई-पोर्टल  
<https://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक  
18.12.2020 को समय 12.00 बजे  
तक ई-निविदा अपलोड की जानी  
है। ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग  
दिनांक 18.12.2020 समय 14.00  
बजे खोली जाएगी। निविदा संबंधी  
समस्त जानकारी मध्यांचल विद्युत  
वितरण निगम लिमिटेड की वेबसाइट  
[www.mvnl.in](http://www.mvnl.in) पर भी अवलोकित की  
जा सकती है, परन्तु निविदा का प्रथम  
व द्वितीय-भाग [https://etender.up.  
nic.in](https://etender.up.nic.in) पर ही अपलोड किया  
जायेगा। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना  
कोई कारण बताये किसी अथवा  
सभी निविदाओं को निरस्त करने/  
संशोधन करने / विभिन्न फर्मों के  
मध्य विभक्त करने का अधिकार  
सुरक्षित है। 1. निविदा सं0  
68 /विन0विन0म0(प्रथम) /2020-21  
लेसा सिस-गोमती लखनऊ के  
कार्य क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत विन0विन0म0  
प्रथम एवं अष्टम के सभी खण्डों/  
उपखण्डों एवं परीक्षण खण्डों में  
ए-4 साइज बिलिंग पेपर्स की दोनों  
तरफ छपाई सहित) अपूर्ति (5000  
नाग) का कार्य एवं उससे संबंधित  
अन्य विविध कार्य निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य  
रु0 3000/-+18 प्रतिशत जी.एस.टी.  
रु0 540/- सहित कुल रु0 3540/-  
अप्रतिदेय, एवं धरोहर राशि रु0  
15000.00 मात्र। (इस कार्य में ‘क’  
श्रेणी लाइसेंस धारकों की शर्तों में  
शिथिलता रहेगी) 2 निविदा सं0  
69 /विन0विन0म0(प्रथम) /2020-21  
लेसा सिस – गोमती लखनऊ के  
कार्य क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत विन0विन0म0  
तृतीय एवं सप्तम के सभी खण्डों/  
उपखण्डों एवं परीक्षण खण्डों में  
ए-4 साइज बिलिंग पेपर्स की  
(दोनों तरफ छपाई सहित) अपूर्ति  
(5000 नाग) का कार्य एवं उससे  
संबंधित अन्य विविध कार्य निविदा  
प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 3000/-+18 प्रतिशत  
जी0एस0टी0 रु0 540/- सहित कुल  
रु0 3540/- अप्रतिदेय, एवं धरोहर  
राशि रु0 15000.00 मात्र। (इस  
कार्य में क श्रेणी लाइसेंस धारकों

की शर्तों में शिथिलता रहेगी)  
3. निविदा सं0 70 /विन0विन0म0  
(प्रथम) /2020-21 विन0विन0ख0  
राजमवन के अन्तर्गत 33 /11  
केवी0 विद्युत उपकेंद्रों व्लाड्ड रोड  
के अधीन राज्य सम्पत्ति अधिकारी  
सी0वी0आई0डी0 गेटद हाउस बदलर  
पैलेस, लखनऊ के पक्ष में 90  
किंवा0 (एल0वी0-1) में विद्युत  
संयोजन निर्गत किये जाने का कार्य  
एवं उससे संबंधित अन्य विविध कार्य  
निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 3000/- +  
18 प्रतिशत जी0एस0टी0 रु0 540/-  
सहित कुल रु0 3540/- अप्रतिदेय,  
एवं धरोहर राशि रु0 29000.00  
मात्र। 4. निविदा सं0 71 /विन0  
विन0म0(प्रथम) /2020-21 विन0विन0  
ख0 (राजमवन) के अधीन 33 /11  
केवी0 उपकेंद्रों क्रमशः सी0जी0  
सिटी-4 एवं हरिहरपुर के क्षेत्रों के  
अन्तर्गत जमा योजना के स्वीकृत  
प्राक्कलनों एवं पैकेज के सापेक्ष  
विद्युत तंत्र की स्थापना का कार्य  
एवं उससे संबंधित अन्य कार्य।  
निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 3000/- +  
18 प्रतिशत जी0एस0टी0 रु0 540/-  
सहित कुल रु0 3540/- अप्रतिदेय,  
एवं धरोहर राशि रु0 15,000.00  
मात्र। 5. निविदा सं0 72 /विन0विन0  
म0(प्रथम) /2020-21 विन0विन0ख0  
(राजमवन) के अधीन 33 /11 केवी0  
उपकेंद्रों क्रमशः सी0जी0 सिटी-7  
एवं अर्जुनगंज क्षेत्रों के अन्तर्गत जमा  
योजना के स्वीकृत प्राक्कलनों एवं  
पैकेज के सापेक्ष उपभोक्ताओं के  
स्वीकृत भार को अनुमृक्त किये जाने  
हेतु आवश्यक विद्युत तंत्र की  
स्थापना का कार्य एवं उससे संबंधित  
अन्य कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0  
3000/- + 18 प्रतिशत जी0एस0टी0  
रु0 540/- सहित कुल रु0 3540/-  
अप्रतिदेय, एवं धरोहर राशि रु0  
20,000.00 मात्र। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल  
(प्रथम) मविनिनिऊ लेसा भवन,  
दिनांक 02.12.2020, राष्ट्रहित में  
बिजली बचाए, टोल फ्री –  
1800-1800-440”

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
OFFICE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-3, P.W.D, PRAYAGRAJ**

**e-Tendering (Tender Notice) (Second Call)**

No-2783/5A/2020 Date- 26-11-2020

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

Sl. No.	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Bid Documents (Rs)	Times of Completion (Days)	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the Work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of D.M.	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Praya-graj	Special Repair at Nalaih Bridge on S.H. -106 at Prayagraj Meia Area.	1750000.00	15000.00	500/-300/-+GST	30 Days	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-3, P.W.D, Prayagraj (UP)	Superintending Engineer, Prayagraj, Circle, Prayagraj (UP)	D.M., Prayagraj, (UP)	Chief Engineer, Zone, P.W.D, Prayagraj (U.P.)

2- Time allowed for completion of work is as mentioned in column no.7, including rainy season. 3- Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB)4. Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB) 4- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 10-12-2020 to 18-12-2020 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 12:30 Hours on 18-12-2020 according govt Order No 14/2020/879/23-7-2020-176 Dt 25-08-2020 through Prahar App <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahar>. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 18-12-2020 at 03:30 Hours. 5- The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.

UP 157347 Date 28.11.2020  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

Executive Engineer  
Construction Division-3, U.P.P.W.D., Prayagraj

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता नलकूप निर्माण खण्ड, अयोध्या**

**अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या-02/अधि0अभि/नान0ख0अ0/2020-21 दिनांक-07.12.2020**

पत्रांक-725 दिनांक-26.11.2020

**वित्तीय स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में**

**1101 असफल राजकीय नलकूपों के पुनःनिर्माण एवं आधुनिकीकरण की परियोजना**

**ई-निविदा सूचना (अल्पकालीन)**

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से उत्तर प्रदेश सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग में वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत निविदाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे दशाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	मात्रा (नग)	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु0 में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रु0 में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य + जी.एस.टी. (रु0 में)	कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि	पंजी-कृत श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Supply and carriage of pea gravel 2.00mm to 3.35 mm size from Lalkaua to Bahraich store Tubewell Construction Division Ayodhya including cost of royalty, loading unloading and stacking at store excluding G.S.T	211 घनमीटर	9.99	1.0	450.00 + GST (नियमा-नुसार)	30 दिवस	"C" अथवा उच्च श्रेणी

बिड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 07.12.2020 से 12.12.2020 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 12.12.2020 को समय दोपहर 10.15 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते है। इसकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 12.12.2020 को अपरान्ह 01.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

उप0 157368, दिनांक-28.11.2020,  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता  
नलकूप निर्माण खण्ड, अयोध्या

**Office of the Superintending Engineer, RED, Circle Chitrakoot Dham-Banda.**

**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice (IInd Call)**

Letter NO-139/SERED/PMGSY-MAHOBATender/2020-21 Dated-26-11-2020

1. The Superintending Engineer, RED, Circle, Chitrakoot dham-Banda on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for Renewal of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the district of Mahoba for Groups No. UP4805R, UP4806R, UP4807R, including theirafter maintenance for five years. The eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD/UP RES, in appropriate class (A, or B as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/ MES/ P&T/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments,

2- Date of release of Invitation for



# Ex-Congress MP flays PM for defending farm laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In his bid to seek the support of the farmers in the wake of ongoing farmers' agitation in Punjab, senior Congress leader and former Delhi MP Mahabal Mishra came here on Wednesday and interacted with the farmers in Rohania-Mohansarai area. During his dialogue with the farmers, Mishra described the three farm laws as a 'black law'. The place is not far from Khazuri near Raja Talab where a couple of days ago Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly defended the farm laws while addressing a public meeting in his parliamentary constituency.

According to Mishra, defending the anti-farmers laws during his recent visit here and terming the ongoing agitation of the farmers as 'misleading one' by the PM just showed his arrogance of power. 'As a result of the constant cheating of farmers since 2014, today the BJP govern-



Ex-Congress MP Mahabal Mishra holding dialogue with farmers in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

ment has lost the trust of the farmers in the entire country,' he said, adding that as a result of which the farmers have now surrounded Delhi for a decisive fight.

Former MP also criticised the BJP and its IT Cell for using indecent language and unrestrained charges against

the agitating farmers. He said that such insult of 'Annadata' (farmers) by the BJP is unfortunate. Mishra alleged that under the conspiracy, the BJP wants to give a wrong form to the agitating farmers by adopting various manipulations and vicious statements to provoke the agitators, but today the

farmers of the country are full of senses.

According to Mishra, the farmers came on the roads taking a pledge to fight against the anti-farmer government and they are determined to return home when their demands are fulfilled. "The farmers unanimously demanded the government to ensure the provision of minimum support price (MSP) in the law, to maintain a fixed limit on contract farming and a certain criteria on the storage of essential commodities with a sincerity," he said, adding that the consent should be made after communicating with the farmers, otherwise, the farmers will give a befitting reply to the government.

The Kisan Sambad (dialogue) programme was coordinated by Vinay Shankar Rai and mainly attended by Mewa Patel, Dinesh Tiwari, Baliram Patel, Vijay Shah, Khiladi Upadhyay, Amrit Lal Patel, Prem Shah and Sunnar Patel.

## Pahadia Mandi ready for counting of votes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

All preparations have been made for counting of votes polled for the elections to Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies on Tuesday last. The counting of the Varanasi division will begin at 8 am on Thursday at Pahadia Mandi, here amid tight security. There will be restrictions on taking out victory procession by the winning candidate after the counting.

As many as 14 tables have been installed in counting halls to ensure the smooth and peaceful counting of Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies each. But there will be a separate table of the returning officer. The counting will begin at 8 am amid tight security arrangement and is expected to be completed by evening.

The employees and police personnel will discharge their duty on the counting venue in two shifts of 12-12 hours. None will be allowed to enter the



counting hall with mobile handset and there will be deployment of security personnel at the entry points of the counting venue to avoid the entrance of unauthorised persons during the counting.

The agents of candidates will be allowed to enter the counting hall only after the thermal scanning in order to follow the guidelines of COVID-19.

There will be restrictions

on taking out victory procession by the winning candidate and affecting the traffic after the counting.

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma held a meeting with police officers and personnel on counting duty at Police Lines here on Wednesday and issued directives to them regarding the counting.

It may be said here that the polling for the election of Teachers' and Graduates' con-

stituencies in Varanasi division passed peacefully on Tuesday. The voting percentage for Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies was recorded as 68.83 and 39.33 respectively in Varanasi division.

The minimum 32.44 per cent was recorded in Varanasi of Graduates' constituency, while the maximum 47.25 per cent was recorded in Mirzapur district. The 46.31, 39.29, 37.11, 39.08, 44.83 and 44.03 per cent voting was recorded in Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Bhadohi, Sonbhadra and Ballia district respectively.

Similarly, the minimum 64.14 per cent polling was recorded in Ballia in Teachers' constituency and the maximum 77.35 per cent was recorded in Mirzapur while 65.84, 75.24, 66.37, 71.99, 69.49 and 72.25 was recorded in Varanasi, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra districts respectively.

## 90 new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 90 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district, increasing the total number of cases to 19,301 on Wednesday. The day saw one more death, increasing the toll to 311. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 96 and out of them, 93 have been recovered from home isolation while three from the hospitals, increasing the number to 15,367 and 2,868 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 18,235, leaving 755 active cases. The

recovery rate is 94.47 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, 33 positive patients were found out of 2,629 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,30,449 and the results of 1,408 are awaited. Out of them, 4,11,205 were negative, while 19,244 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,50,666. Earlier, a male aged 25 from Bachav succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH

BHU), while a male (74) from Nati Imli died at Medwin Hospital. With the addition of seven new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,515 including 218 red zones. There are 2,297 green zones with 11 new ones.

Meanwhile, on the instructions of the state government, mass/ group antigen tests will be conducted at marriage/ banquet halls, catering units, band parties, flower/ light decoration units etc from Thursday and on Tuesday at 30 sampling sites, 541 people were tested, one was found positive, while 378 samples were sent for RT-PCR

testing. The passengers continued to be tested at both Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) and Manduadih railway station but all the 82 and 69 tests were found negative there respectively.

Besides, one out of 58 tests has been found positive at Swami Vivekanand Hospital Bhelupur, while two out of 103 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar. However all the 240 tests at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, 187 at Government Women's Hospital, 65 at CHC Shivpur and 125 at SSH BHU have been found negative.

## Panjab Singh gets IFFCO award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Noted agricultural scientist and former Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Panjab Singh has been selected for the prestigious 'US Awasthi IFFCO Award 2020' for his life time achievements in the field of agriculture development and agriculture research. Prof Singh has also served as Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), GOI and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi and at present he is



Prof Panjab Singh

the Chancellor of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central

Agricultural University, Jhansi. The award carries a cash prize of ₹. 25 lakh, a gold medallion and citation. The award will be presented at the FAI Award Ceremony on December 7 in New Delhi.

Prof Singh's contribution in agriculture education, research and development as researcher, policy maker, planner, research and education leader in different capacities spanning over more than four decades has helped India achieve food self sufficiency and food security through first rate human resource development in various sectors of agriculture edu-

cation, research and development. Prof Singh, who hails from Anantpur village of Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh, is also credited for his towering contribution in establishing Rajiv Gandhi South Campus of BHU in Mirzapur. This award is the most prestigious award promoted by the fertiliser industry for an individual's contribution to agriculture growth in India.

Last year this award was conferred to 2020 World Food Prize Winner Dr Rattan Lal, a distinguished soil scientist at the Ohio State University in the United States.

## HDFC ERGO authorised for Varanasi under PMFBY

VARANASI (PNS): State government has authorised HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company to implement the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for Rabi season this year not only in Varanasi but also in many other districts of this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) including Bhadohi, Chandauli,

Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra apart from Lalitpur. The scheme will be implemented in the districts for many crops notified under the scheme by the state government and the cut-off dates to obtain the cover is December 31. PMFBY scheme insures farmers against any losses in crop yield arising out of a wide

range of external risks such as drought, floods, dry spells, landslides, cyclones, hurricanes, hailstorm, inundation, pests, diseases and others. For the purpose of determining the loss in the yield, the state government will plan and conduct Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) on the notified crops in areas notified for the scheme.

In case the yield data, based on CCEs conducted, concludes to be low then the farmers will be considered to have suffered a shortfall in their yield for which the claims will be payable to the farmers. The scheme provides insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including pre-sowing, harvesting and post-harvest risks.

## CRB reviews safety measures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Chairman and CEO Railway Board Vinod Kumar Yadav and other members of Railway Board reviewed position of safety, freight and parcel loading, goods shed functioning and other important items through video conference held with General Managers of Zonal Railways and Divisional Railway Managers.

At the outset, CRB & CEO Yadav said that safety is our first and foremost concern and we have to remain focused to safety in train operations. He particularly stressed on safety at manned level crossings and proper maintenance of point and crossing zones of track. He congratulated zonal railways for improved freight loading performance in November-2020 and asked

zones and divisions to keep this momentum going. Yadav also mentioned that use of artificial intelligence and data analysis will play a crucial role in future maintenance and operation of Railways and advised General Managers to ensure that adequate officials from each zone are trained in this field for which online training programmes are being organised by Railway Board.

During the video conference General Manager NCR Rajiv Chaudhry apprised Railway Board that North Central Railway is monitoring mobility of trains continuously and achieved highest ever interchange of 532 trains on November 30, 2020 surpassing previous best of 515 trains interchanged on March 25, 2020. He also informed

Railway Board on steps taken to improve conditions of goods shed and marketing efforts taken to boost originating freight loading further.

On the front of freight loading, North Central Railway has achieved many important milestones in November-2020. During the month, originating freight loading of North Central Railway crossed one crore tonnes mark and so far, total 101.6 Lakh tonnes freight has been loaded in current financial year. With positive loading performance since last six months, NCR has surpassed last year loading of 100.6 lakh tonnes freight loaded till November in the last financial year. In November 2020, North Central Railway has loaded 14.8 lakh tonnes freight which is 3.5 lakh tonnes more

than the loading in November-2019 and earned originating freight revenue of ₹ 151 crore registering growth of 69.5 per cent over the freight revenue of ₹ 89.12 crore of November-2019.

This performance of North Central is particularly significant keeping in view fewer working days in November-20 as compared to last year on account of Diwali and Chhath festivals. As on November 30, 2020 originating freight revenue of NCR in current financial year is ₹ 1075 crore registering growth of ₹ 196 crore over freight revenue of ₹ 879 crore in same period of last financial year.

NCR GM congratulated officials from divisions and HQ for this sustained positive growth in freight loading and revenue.

## GM reviews Magh Mela preparedness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

North Central Railway has prepared a lay out for Magh Mela preparation, and the General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed preparedness for Magh Mela-2021 with AGM Ranjan Yadav, PHODs of North Central Railway, DRM Prayagraj, Mohit Chandra and other officials from HQ and Prayagraj division.

North Central Railway has made elaborate plan for safe and comfortable transport of pilgrims travelling in and out of Prayagraj during the Magh Mela 2021. In this review meeting a detailed presentation covering arrangements made during previous Magh Mela, this year Mela challenges, infrastructure works, traffic plan, assistance required etc. was made by Prayagraj division.

On the front of infrastructure status of important works in Prayagraj area like superfat washing line, G+5 multistorey building, skywalk, platform no. 7 and 8 resurfacing at

Prayagraj Jn station and other works at Prayagraj Chheoki, Naini and other stations were reviewed. Presentation made by Prayagraj division covered estimated and actual outward Railway passengers and special trains operated in Magh Mela-2020 to work out requirements for Magh Mela-2021 which as per civil authorities is expected to attract similar crowd. Besides previous Magh Mela experience, regular train running and carrying capacity during COVID-19 shall also be accounted for to work out requirement of special trains for Magh Mela-2021.

Like previous Mela, entry and exit at main stations during main bathing period shall be regulated to have distinctively separate entry and exit and approach roads jointly agreed and issued by Railway and Civil authorities. Mela Controls manned by officers shall be operated at all stations which will be centrally connected with main control being set up at Prayagraj Jn. station. CCTV feed from different Railway stations and important

locations of Mela and City shall be made available in central control tower. Adequate arrangements for communication like Hot lines, VHF sets, control phones, PA system are being made available at stations and control towers. Like previous years, passenger facilitation and exhibition centre has been planned in Mela area equipped with enquiry and ticketing system. Adequate emergency measures like ambulances, medical teams, firefighting arrangements etc. are planned and mock drills are being conducted to assess actual efficacy of these arrangements. Provision of adequate signage, demarcation of stations and passenger enclosures to handle direction wise traffic, colour coding of direction wise traffic and elaborate arrangements for dissemination of information to public have also been planned. Additional security, commercial operating and maintenance personnel are also being arranged for smooth conduct of Mela. Besides operating additional ticket coun-

ters, mobile ticketing units and hand held METMs shall also be deployed.

Beside these standard arrangements North Central Railway is also planning for additional requirement for safe and efficient handling of pilgrims during current crisis of COVID-19. These arrangements include screening arrangements for passengers and special medical booths to handle passengers with COVID-19 like symptoms; arrangements for physical distancing in enclosures, platform and trains; provision of adequate sanitiser dispensers and other hand hygiene arrangements; segregation of passengers limited to each train capacity; frequent cleaning of enclosures, platforms, trains and other area coming in contact with passengers etc.

General Manager advised that besides regular coordination meetings with civil authorities, items requiring coordination with adjoining Northern and North Eastern Railways should also be monitored closely.

## 77 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of people who became free from corona infection remains consistently higher than the new ones. About 102 people became infection-free on Tuesday as well. In this, 20 people were discharged from hospitals, while home isolation of 82 people has been completed.

On the other hand, 77 new patients have been found infected with the deadly virus. Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer of Corona confirmed this. He said that one person has also died on Tuesday from corona. On Tuesday, former District Congress president Anil Dwivedi was also found infected.

He said that the total number of corona infected in the district has reached 26,685. While the number of infection-free people is 25,536. Covid test was conducted by 5,031 people on



Coolie and GRP personnel spreading awareness about COVID-19 at Prayagraj Jn in Prayagraj

Pioneer

Tuesday. Apart from this, 14 people have been discharged from SRN Hospital, three from Beli and two from private hospital while 118 coro-

na patients are admitted in these three hospitals.

Most patients are admitted to SRN Hospital. Treatment of 74 people is

going on here.

While 21 people in Beli and 23 in private hospital are admitted and undergoing treatment.

## 8 die, two injured in road accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Eight persons died, while two others sustained injuries in a road accident on Tuesday night in the neighbouring district of Kaushambi. Most of the victims were women and they belonged to Ramanand Nagar, Allahpur, Prayagraj.

A good number of people had gathered at Maheshwari Garden in Deviganj Kaushambi to attend the marriage ceremony of Pankaj Gupta's son who lived in Shahjhatpur, under the Kokhraj in Kaushambi. In late night hours a Scorpio accommodated 10 persons including four children and six women to come to Prayagraj. Near Kadadhaam crossing the driver got confused and got down to enquire about way to Prayagraj. Suddenly a sand laden truck lost balance and over turned on the ill fated Scorpio. The SUV got sandwiched between the road and the truck. Two girls sitting near the window suffered the trouble and jumped out to

save their lives, while the remaining eight died on the spot. Gas cutters were used to pull the bodies out.

Later cranes were called to pull the truck up and take out the bodies from the SUV. The dead included Shashi Gupta, Om Gupta, Prakashini, Richa Gupta, Poonam Devi, Sneha Gupta, Soma Tiwari, and Shivraj.

**PVT HOSPITALS GIVEN ONE MONTH'S TIME FOR RENOVATION:** Now the private hospital and nursing home operators no longer need to be bothered about renovating their hospitals. This is because they have been given a full month's time by the Health department. If the registration date of their hospital is over, then no action will be taken by the department.

The process of registration and renewal of private hospitals was postponed in view of the coronavirus infection period. It has been directed on behalf of the government that no pressure will be made by the department to renew reg-

istration of all hospitals. They have been given exemption for renewal till the month of December.

Additional Chief Medical Officer Dr Tirath Lal said that the renovation process was stopped to prevent corona infection. Till December 31, all hospitals were given this exemption. The registration and renewal process will begin in January. In the meantime, if the health team raids hospitals, then no action will be taken against them if registration is not renewed. After this order, the hospital operators are quite relieved.

**THEATRE ARTISTES SPREAD WORD ABOUT ROAD SAFETY:** Theatre artistes, the transgender community and college students have joined hands with the police to spread awareness about following traffic norms among commuters in Prayagraj.

In one of the initiatives, traffic police roped in two theatre artistes to dress up as the Hindu god of death Yamraj to spread word about road safe-

ty and to request commuters to wear helmets and seat belts.

The artistes were spotted carrying swords, a mace and a whip and were seen stopping commuters not wearing helmets at Subhash Crossing on Saturday.

Deputy SP (Traffic) Shivam Todi said that the theatre artistes interacted with commuters driving two-wheelers without wearing helmets and gifted them helmets.

He also said that members of the transgender community have also joined the drive. 'They urged commuters to wear masks and helmets while driving two-wheelers. The groups also interacted with car drivers and discussed the importance of wearing seat belts with them. Traffic police launched the road safety drive as part of the activities organised during the ongoing 'Traffic month'.

The drive aimed to create awareness about road safety and instill a sense of responsibility among commuters.



# GSVMMC screening volunteers for phase 2 & 3 trials of Covid vaccine

## DM hints at restrictions, night curfew

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The GSVMMC Medical College began screening of volunteers for phase-2 and phase-3 trials of Russian vaccine Sputnik-V.

Around 200 people had earlier volunteered but only 30 of them had been selected on various medical and technical grounds. The selected candidates will not undergo blood and COVID-19 tests.

Besides, the medical college will send the sample reports of the volunteers regarding liver, kidney and heart to the Indian Council of Medical Research.

GSVM Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal said Dr Reddy's Laboratories had joined hands with Russia for the testing of Sputnik-V vaccine.

He said the company had done all basic groundwork and had started trials at 12 important places in the country.

He said emphasis was being laid on selecting perfect healthy volunteers and they would be vaccinated.

Prof Kamal said with the fresh spike in COVID-19 cases in several states, the UP government had made special arrangements to contain the spread of novel coronavirus

infection and district magistrates had been vested with the power to impose night curfew in case the disease continues to spread this winter.

He advised people to refrain from moving out in public places, especially in the morning and nights when it is foggy.

He also advised people to put on face masks and ensure they maintained social distancing.

He said on an average, 100-150 novel coronavirus positive cases were surfacing each day and this was a major cause of concern.

Meanwhile, District

Magistrate Alok Tiwari said the district administration was planning to impose strict restrictions on shopping malls, markets, public places and religious places.

He added that the COVID-19 protocol was not being followed, especially at religious places, and people were thronging there and accepting prasad and touching the deities which was against the COVID-19 protocol.

The district magistrate cautioned that in case the novel coronavirus positive cases continued increase, there would be no option but to impose night curfew in the city.

## 90 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 90 more coronavirus positive cases on Wednesday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 90 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 30,824 cases. He said that 41 cases were discharged from hospital. He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city were reported till Wednesday evening keeping the death toll to 786. The CMO said at present 1066 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4271 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## ACS warns 1st, final year MBBS students not attending classes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Dr Rajneesh Dube expressed concern over the failure of medical students to turn up for offline classes and directed the authorities to ensure they summoned all the batches and started teaching on full scale.

He cautioned the students of MBBS first year and final year that if they remained absent, they would not be allowed to appear for their examinations.

Dr Dube was addressing the GSVMMC Medical College doctors and professors through video conferencing.

He said the top priority for holding exams would be given for first and final years and thus the classes for these two had already started. He cautioned the authorities that all the classes be conducted in the desired manner at every cost.

He said all the Covid hospitals would not be converted to non-Covid hospitals and they should be run as they were currently being run.

He said wherever there was a need to increase beds, it should be done as well.

He expressed apprehension that in December, there was every possibility that there could be an increase in COVID-19 cases and thus the entire team need to remain alert and ready.

GSVM Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal said the practical classes of first year MBBS of the medical college had already started and it was being carried out strictly as per the COVID-19 protocol.

He said information had been sent to the parents and guardians of those students who had failed to turn up.

He said the clinical classes of final year had also started and each batch consisted of 40 students.

## Unit making fake black salt, rock salt busted

KANPUR (PNS): The Naubasta police unearthed a unit manufacturing fake black salt and rock salt in Saraswati Nagar on Wednesday and recovered around 35 MT processed and unpacked goods from there. Police raided the unit on the complaint of a salt manufacturing unit owner of Kidwai Nagar and order issued by a court in Agra. According to reports, Sushil Kumar Gupta of Kidwai Nagar produces black salt and rock salt. His son Satyam Gupta said he had been receiving information about the availability of duplicate goods under their brand name in the market for the past several months. During investigation, it was found that the goods were being supplied from the Nayaganj shop of Virendra Kumar Gupta of Bakhtauripurwa. These duplicate goods were being prepared in a factory situated in Saraswati Nagar. Satyam Gupta immediately filed a complaint with the police and the cops raided the place on Wednesday and recovered a huge quantity of duplicate black salt and rock salt with the brand name of the Kidwai Nagar unit. Station House Officer Satish Kumar Singh said on the orders of Agra court, the police force conducted the raid with the complainant.

# Puja special trains extended

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has decided to extend the run of the following puja special trains. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

**TATA-CHHAPRA PUJA SPL:** The 08181 Tata-Chhapra puja special train will till December 31 every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday depart from Tatanagar at 21.25 hrs, Purulia at 23.30 hrs, on second day 00.03 hrs from Anara, from Asansol at 02.00 hrs, from Chittaranjan at 02.21 hrs, from Madhupur Jn at 03.01 hrs, from Jasidih at 03.31 hrs, from Jhajha at 05.20 hrs, from Gidhaur at 05.31 hrs, from Jamui at 05.45 hrs, from Mananpur at 06.00 hrs, from Kiul at 06.37 hrs, from Hathidah at 07.17 hrs, from Barauni at 09.25 hrs, from Bachwara at 09.46 hrs, from Dalsinghsara at 10.03 hrs, from Nazirganj at 10.13 hrs, from Ujarpur at 10.28 hrs, from Samastipur at 11.17 hrs, Khudiram Bose Pusa at 11.36 hrs, from Dholi at 11.50 hrs, from Muzaffarpur at 12.25 hrs, from Goraul at 12.51 hrs, from Bhagwanpur at 13.02 hrs, from Hajipur at 14.23 hrs, from Dighwara at 14.56 hrs and reach Chhapra at 16.20 hrs. On the other hand, the 08182 Chhapra-Tata puja special train during the return journey will till December 31 every Wednesday, Thursday,

Saturday and Sunday depart from Chhapra at 12.30 hrs, from Dighwara at 13.10 hrs, from Hajipur at 14.30 hrs, from Bhagwanpur at 14.47 hrs, from Goraul at 14.57 hrs, from Muzaffarpur at 15.45 hrs, from Dholi at 16.08 hrs, from Khudiram Bose Pusa at 16.25 hrs, from Samastipur at 17.10 hrs, from Ujarpur at 17.20 hrs, from Nazirganj at 17.29 hrs, from Dalsingh Sara at 17.40 hrs, from Bachwara at 18.20 hrs, from Barauni at 20.20 hrs, from Hathidah at 20.49 hrs, from Kiul at 21.37 hrs, from Mananpur at 21.53 hrs, from Jamui at 22.10 hrs, from Gidhaur at 22.24 hrs, from Jhajha at 22.55 hrs, from Jasidih at 23.35 hrs, on second day from Madhupur at 00.02 hrs, from Chittaranjan at 00.46 hrs, from Asansol at 02.05 hrs, from Anara at 03.18 hrs, Purulia at 04.00 hrs and reach Tatanagar at 06.20 hrs.

**MUZAFFARPUR-AHMEDABAD PUJA SPL:** The 05269 Muzaffarpur-Ahmedabad weekly puja special will from December 3 to 31 every Thursday depart from Muzaffarpur at 21.20 hrs, from Hajipur at 22.15 hrs, from Sonpur at 22.27 hrs, from Chhapra at 00.25 hrs, on second day from Siwan at 01.20 hrs, from Bhatni at 02.00 hrs, from Deoria Sadar at 02.32 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 04.20 hrs, from Khalilabad at 05.02 hrs, Basti at 05.29 hrs, from Gonda at 07.05 hrs, from Lucknow at 10.45 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 12.55 hrs,

from Tundla at 15.45 hrs, from Agra Fort at 17.00 hrs, from Achhnera at 17.40 hrs, from Bharatpur at 18.20 hrs, from Jaipur at 21.25 hrs, from Phulera at 22.23 hrs, from Ajmer at 23.45 hrs, on the third day from Marwar at 01.38 hrs, from Abu Road at 04.05 hrs, from Palampur at 05.05 hrs, Mahesana at 06.00 hrs and reach Ahmedabad at 07.40 hrs. During the return journey the 05270 Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur weekly puja special from December 5 to January 2 every Saturday will depart from Ahmedabad at 18.00 hrs, from Mahesana at 19.10 hrs, from Palampur at 20.38 hrs, from Abu Road at 21.30 hrs, from Marwar at 23.45 hrs, from Ajmer at 02.10 hrs, on second day from Phulera at 03.22 hrs, from Jaipur at 04.40 hrs, from Bharatpur at 08.00 hrs, from Achhnera at 08.45 hrs, from Agra Fort at 10.10 hrs, from Tundla at 11.00 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 14.15 hrs, from Lucknow at 15.45 hrs, from Gonda at 17.50 hrs, from Basti at 19.08 hrs, from Khalilabad at 19.36 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 20.55 hrs, from Deoria Sadar at 22.57 hrs, from Bhatni at 22.34 hrs, from Siwan at 23.19 hrs, on third day from Chhapra at 00.54 hrs, from Sonpur at 01.55 hrs, from Hajipur at 02.10 hrs and reach Muzaffarpur at 03.58 hrs.

**CANCELLED:** The railway administration due to low occupancy has permanently cancelled the run of 15078/15077 Tanakpur-Chopankpur-Barwadih-Tanakpur Link Express with immediate effect, CPRO PK Singh said.

## Accused held

CORRESPONDENT ■ HAMIRPUR

Police arrested an accused wanted in connection with the incident in which a grocery trader was looted a week ago along with ₹50,000 in cash and sent him to jail. The police had already sent the other accused in this regard to jail.



SSP Jogendra Kumar giving details about six arrested criminals during a press conference at the Police Lines-situated White House in Gorakhpur

# Three killed in road accidents

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Three persons, including a woman, died in road mishaps in the district here. As per the reports, Rakesh Dubey, a resident of Ratevra village in Prayagraj district, had come to perform rituals at Gadbadadham temple. While returning home when Rakesh reached near Hanuman Singh Patel Inter College on Rateh-Lalapur road under Halia police station, he lost control over his motorcycle at a speed breaker and his wife, Shakuntala (40), fell from it. As a result Shakuntala sustained serious injuries and died on way to the hospital. In another incident, Dabhal Patel (30), a resident of Bhatti village, had gone to attend a marriage along with his friend, Babloo (32). While returning his motorcycle collided with a mound of stone ballast in Maluaan village under Madihan police station as a result of which they sustained serious injuries and Babloo died during treatment at the hospital. Meanwhile in another incident under Kachhawaan police station Shivdatta Vishwakarma (24) who was going on a motorcycle collided with a hand cart in Khairia village near Sankat Mochan temple. As a result the hand cart owner and motorcyclist got injured. On getting information the Kachhawaan police brought the injured to a hospital but Shivdatta succumbed to his injuries. An earlier report said the Madihan police was informed that an accident had taken place near Kisan Inter College in Dhanisariya village. On the information that a motorcyclist had been hit by a trailer RJ-05-GB/5084 the police reached there. They found that the motorcyclist had died on the spot. The police informed his family and impounded the trailer. The deceased was identified as Anshuman Singh (22), son of Shankar, a resident of Kolepur Hargarh village under Jigna police station.

**MEGA LOK ADALAT:** The District Legal Services Authority (DLA) is organising a mega Lok Adalat on December 12 as per the direc-

tion of its headquarters. A joint press conference was held by the ADJ-I Jitendra Mishra and DLSA secretary Amit Yadav recently for giving details. ADJ Jitendra Mishra said that as per the spirit to give relief to litigants such initiative was taken by the apex court. He said the Lok Adalat will start from 10:30 am on the scheduled day. He said not only cases of district headquarters but those pending at the tehsil level headquarters will be taken too. The tehsil level courts had been directed too to refer cases which could be settled through mutual understanding, he added. Referring to bank-related cases, he said that parties had been asked to register them for Lok Adalat either through the banks or directly at DLSA. DLSA secretary Amit Yadav said that on the direction of DJ pre-litigation cases of banks were to be settled too and for it bankers had been asked to provide maximum waiver as was possible. He said cases related to traffic challan, electricity bills, water tax, motor vehicle accident compensation, labour, land acquisition, marriage disputes, rent, easement etc cases would be taken. Apart from them he said cases which had been already uploaded on National Judicial Data Grid will be taken up positively, the officer said.

**CAUGHT:** Under the drive to check the evasion of revenue through mining produce the mining department caught 10 vehicles recently. As per the reports, on the direction of the DM and under the supervision of mines officer PK Singh mines inspector AK Dwivedi was patrolling the Madihan area when he launched a checking drive. He was taken aback when he found a vehicle transporting the mining produce without MM-11. Sending the vehicle to police station when the officer continued his drive, total 10 vehicles were caught within few hours. All the vehicles were sent to Madihan police station which will be released only on the order of the DM and depositing an amount of ₹4 lakh as fine, last reports received here said.

# NTPC Vindhyachal bids farewell to 5 employees

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

With the belief that NTPC Vindhyachal has been able to establish itself as India's largest power plant only because of the untiring efforts of its employees, the Vindhyachal management honoured five employees who had retired in November for their contribution to the success of the project. Maintaining social distancing in view of the pandemic and taking all necessary precautions as per the guidelines of the Government of India, the employees who had retired in November i.e. Deputy General Manager (Control & Instrumentation)



On the occasion the head of all retired employees wished them good health. The departmental heads presented mementoes to the retired employees of their respective departments and extended their best wishes on behalf of the NTPC family for their happy and healthy life.

# Street plays staged on AIDS Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vijay Kumar Panjari on the occasion of World AIDS Day on Tuesday at North Eastern Railway (NER), Varanasi Division's Manduadih railway station a team of Divisional Hospital, Varanasi, gave detailed information to passengers and employees about AIDS caused by the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Besides the members of Bharat Scouts and Guides District Association staged 'nukkad natak' (street plays) at Manduadih railway station for raising aware-



ness about HIV/AIDS. On the occasion the team of Divisional Hospital said that initially World AIDS Day was seen connecting only with children and youth, but later it was found out that HIV infection could affect any person of any age. Subsequently, in 1996, the United Nations on HIV/AIDS took up the task of promoting it globally and started working on prevention and education under the World AIDS campaign in 1997. The divisional medical team stressed on taking precautions for protection from AIDS. They said that its symptoms included weight loss, continuous cough, frequent cold, fever, headache, fatigue etc.

# DC orders action against illegal soil mining

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has expressed grave concern over the failure of the authorities in preventing rampant soil mining and warned them of strict action.

The warning comes in the wake of six tractor-trolley load of soil caught entering the city limits from Ghatampur.

The divisional commissioner said in a recent crack-down, 22 truckloads of red sand and gravel mined unauthorisedly were seized as the

owners were unable to produce any legal sanction for the mining.

He directed the officials concerned to carry out surprise raids at the place of mining and intercept trucks carrying unauthorised soil, red sand and gravel when they move on the roads, especially at night.

He said only 152 legal sanctions had been given to brick kiln owners to dig soil and the rest were unauthorisedly running the trade.

The divisional commissioner said the officials concerned had stated that illegal

mining was being done mainly between Ghatampur-Hamirpur highway.

He ordered strict monitoring of the mining work and asked officials to impound all trucks and tractor-trolleys carrying illegally mined sand, red sand or soil.

Meanwhile, SDM AK Srivastava clarified on Wednesday that no legal sanction had been given for soil mining. He said the kanungo had been sent to the site to find out on what authority sand and soil mining was being carried out.

He said that majority of the mining was done on the basis of muscle power or under political patronage.

He said strict action would now be taken against those who were found to be continuing with the mining of sand and soil.

The SDM said the district administration was about to issue mining leases for sand and red sand for Ganga and Yamuna rivers.

He said apart from the sanctioned places, no one was allowed to do mining of sand and red sand or soil.

# New PCCIT takes charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Pritam Singh, took over the charge of western UP and Uttarakhnad in a formal function on Wednesday.

He has been assigned the additional charge along with western UP. He will also look after e-assessment work at Dehradun.

He takes over the charge following the retirement of Ajay Das Mehrotra recently.

Singh interacted with the staff and officials and said it would be his endeavour to ensure that there was perfect coordination with the departments so as to take the department to new heights. The staff also gave a warm send off to Mehrotra as well.



The New Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Pritam Singh takes over charge.

Pioneer

## Fire in metal works unit

KANPUR (PNS): A fire broke out in the godown of Raghav Metal Works situated near the Excise department office in Tannery Compound under Sisamai police station due to electric short-circuit on Wednesday afternoon. Five fire tenders immediately reached the spot and controlled the flames by dismantling the windows and roof of the godown.

Raghav Metal Works owned by Sunil Jain manufactures safety guards and bumpers of vehicles. Around 12 noon, seeing thick smoke on the first floor, the factory workers informed the unit owner and fire brigade about the fire.

Chief Fire Officer MP Singh said in the absence of any way to reach the first floor, efforts were made to extinguish fire by dismantling the window glasses and roof. He said the walls of the building had sustained cracks due to the devastating fire.

## THEFT

The locked house of a police head constable was burgled in Dayanand Vihar in Kalyanpur. Head constable Mukesh Singh is posted in Etawah. He along with wife and two children had gone to Mangalpur (Kanpur Dehat) to attend the marriage ceremony of his brother-in-law Vivek on Sunday. On returning home on Wednesday, he found jewellery worth around Rs 1 lakh and Rs 20,000 in cash missing from the house.

# Kidwai Nagar Kriya Ghar in a shambles



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kriya Ghar, a place to perform post-funeral rituals situated in H-1 Block of Kidwai Nagar, is in a shambles.

Built with the efforts of social worker late Mahesh Prasad Bajpai on 200 square yard area about 30 years ago, the Kriya Ghar was renovated by corporator Geeta Jaiswal some time ago. After the renovation, all the amenities required to perform post-funeral rituals were available there. These included two large water tanks, submersible pump, tiled floor, over half-a-dozen water taps, separate bathrooms for women and a big hall with cement ceiling.

During monsoon, all the rituals could be performed in the premises. It was considered to be the best Kriya Ghar of south city area, equipped with sufficient street lights.

At present, the Kriya Ghar is in a pathetic state as nobody, including the corporator who lives at a 10-minute walking distance in K Block, and the MLA living hardly 500 metres away in G Block, is concerned about it. With the passage of time, all the amenities earlier available at the Kriya Ghar have disappeared with the submersible pump lying out of order. Now, before performing the post-funeral rituals, people have to place order for a water tank from Jal Kal Vibhag. The

poor families being unable to place order for water tanker are compelled to wait for their turn to fetch water from the nearby hand pump. And male members of he bereaved families, including children, have to get themselves tonsured in the open.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad activist Satish Bajpai said in the absence of the earlier amenities, it was more difficult for the women to bathe and exchange clothes in the open during winters near the hand pump.

Bajpai urged the local corporator, the legislator, the mayor and the municipal commissioner to restore the amenities that were available in the Kriya Ghar.



# Panel for country’s climate change goals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has set up a national-level panel for a coordinated approach to pursue the country’s climate change goals under the 2015 Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which aims to limit the global temperature rise well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Led by the Union Environment Ministry, the panel will include members from over a dozen ministries of the Central Government to avoid conflict and ensure synergy between various ministries working towards to approach India’s ambitious climate change goals.

The “Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA)” with the Union Environment Secretary as its head which was notified by the Government last month would interact with officials across the Government departments, technical experts, civil society leaders and other stakeholders to drive a coordinated approach to the nation’s climate change goals

## SC questions felling of trees to widen roads

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday wondered why felling of trees was necessary to widen roads or to keep them aligned in a straight line, and suggested that roads could instead be zigzag, which would help reduce speed of vehicles and save lives by avoiding accidents.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said: “Why do roads have to be laid in a straight line by cutting trees? Keep the roads zigzag. It will reduce speed of vehicles, and also decrease road accidents and save many lives.” The observation came during hearing of a plea by the Uttar Pradesh government to fell 2,940 trees for the Krishna Govardhan Road project in Mathura.

The Chief Justice asked the state government to look at the value of trees in terms of oxygen supply they will provide in their lifetime, and then evaluate their importance. The top court observed that though the Public Works Department had assured that it would compensate by planting similar number of trees in another area, felling of 90-year-old tree and then replacing



it with a week-old sapling did not make sense. “It is obvious that there cannot be compensatory reforestation if a 90- or 100-year-old tree is cut down,” the court remarked. “It is not possible for us to accept compensation in merely arithmetical terms, especially when there is no statement forthcoming from the Uttar Pradesh government or the PWD as to the nature of trees — whether they are classified as shrubs or large trees,” the bench said, citing absence of information or record in connection with the age of the trees proposed

to be chopped. “It is clear that the only effect, if the trees are retained, will be that the roads will not be straight and therefore incapable of high-speed traffic. Such an affect may not be necessarily deleterious,” added the bench. The Chief Justice told the counsel for Uttar Pradesh government and state PWD that the valuation of trees cannot be done in terms of timber, and instead they should be valued by taking into account their oxygen-producing capacity over their remaining life span, assuming they might be cut now.

under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

India has ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. India’s NDC’s primarily targets by 2030 a reduction in the emissions intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 33 to 35 percent; achieving about 40 percent installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources; energy efficiency; and creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover.

The Government noted that AIPA is needed to ensure a “coordinated response on climate change matters that protects the country’s interests and ensures that India is on track towards meeting its climate change obligations under the Paris Agreement” including the promises made as part of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2015, as per a statement here from the Union Environment Ministry.

The panel is also expected to “define responsibilities of concerned ministries for” achieving India’s NDC goals and receive periodic information updates to monitor, review and revisit climate goals to fulfill the requirements of the Paris Agreement.

## Shah addresses DGPs, hails cops’ Covid role



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time ever, the country’s top police brass began on Wednesday virtually amid the coronavirus pandemic. Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the DGPs and senior police officers across the country from the Intelligence Bureau Headquarters virtually in the presence of heads of paramilitary organisations.

About 250 officers in the rank of DGP and IGP from all states, union territories and central government are taking part in the four-day virtual meet, organised by the Intelligence Bureau and being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NSA Ajit Doval among others.

The key role played by police during disaster and pandemic, new-age crimes like cyber terrorism, radicalisation of youth and Pakistan-sponsored militants in Jammu and Kashmir will be discussed during the deliberations, to be held in multiple sessions, a Home Ministry official said. As the role of police during the ongoing pandemic has come under wholesome praise from all quarters, the meeting is expected to discuss how to

enhance their knowledge and capabilities to handle natural disasters and such health crisis and even help in mass vaccination drive.

The state police chiefs will share their experiences in handling the pandemic and how the police have helped distressed people and migrant workers during the nationwide lockdown. The Prime Minister is likely to make special mention about the exemplary work police personnel have done while fighting the coronavirus, the official said.

According to an estimate, nearly 80,000 police and paramilitary personnel were infected by COVID-19 in the country and about 650 of them succumbed to the virus. Among the infected include about 35,000 paramilitary personnel and 25,000 policemen in Maharashtra, the worst hit state in India. Among the deaths include 100 paramilitary personnel and about 250 in Maharashtra Police, almost all of them while playing different roles during the pandemic.

The Modi Government has been organising it outside the national Capital since it came to power in 2014. The previous conferences were held in Guwahati, Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, Hyderabad, Tekanpur in Madhya Pradesh, Kevadia in Gujarat and Pune.

## Centre sets up task force for imparting technical education in mother tongue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday set up a task force to prepare a roadmap for imparting technical education in mother tongue. The task force set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Higher Education

Dept will take into consideration the suggestions made by various stakeholders and will submit a report in a month.

The Government has already started short-listing some Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology where the engineering courses

will be offered in mother tongue beginning next year.

Offering technical education in the mother tongue is part of the new National Education Policy 2020, adopted by the government recently.

The decision was taken by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in a high-level meeting attended by several directors of the IITs, academicians and Government officials.

The agenda of the meeting was to discuss and deliberate regarding the implementation of the education

policy.

Pokhriyal said that the meeting was a step in the direction towards achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision that students may pursue professional courses such as medicine, engineering, and law among others in their mother tongue.

The Minister said that while no language will be imposed on any student, enabling provisions should be made so that bright students are not deprived of technical education due to lack of knowledge of the English language.

## 5 States see spike in active Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five populated states namely Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan are reporting an increase in active Covid-19 cases in the country, particularly in the last one month. In the process, they are replacing Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, which have now started reporting a decline in active cases for the last few days, said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

India has recorded 36,604 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total Covid caseload to nearly 95 lakh while total fatality has touched 1,38,122. The total active caseload has significantly dropped to 4.28 lakh in the last 24 hours, said the official. This is the lowest after 132 days. The total active cases were 4,26,167 on 23rd July, 2020.

The daily new cases added to the country’s covid numbers have been around 30K since the past three days while the number of daily recovered cases has surpassed the daily new cases since the past five days.

Similarly, showing the positive trend, the difference in new recoveries outnumbering new cases has also improved the recovery rate to 94.03 per cent on Wednesday. The official pointed out that 78.35 per cent of the

new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs with Maharashtra reporting maximum number of single day recoveries with 6,290 newly recovered cases. 6,151 people recovered in Kerala followed by 5,036 in Delhi. On the other hand, 77.25 per cent of the new cases are from 10 States and UTs. Kerala reported the highest daily new cases at 5,375, followed by Maharashtra with 4,930 new cases.

On the fatalities front, the contribution of 10 States/UTs account for 79.84 per cent. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (95). Delhi and West Bengal follow with 86 and 52 daily deaths, respectively.

### CGHS beneficiaries to also avail health benefits of traditional medicine systems

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All CGHS beneficiaries—serving as well as pensioners—will now be able to avail the health benefits of alternate traditional systems with the Union Health Ministry approving a proposal to empanel such Centres of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy under the Government health scheme.

“Private Day Care Therapy centers of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy will be empanelled under the CGHS shortly, in a manner similar to empanelment of similar day care centres of conventional (Allopathy) medicine already provided under the CGHS,” said an official from the Ministry.

Initial empanelment of day care therapy centres will be undertaken on pilot basis for Delhi and NCR for a period of one year and subsequently would be considered for other places.

The official said that the step has been taken keeping in view of the growing popularity of AYUSH system of medicines amongst the public at large and all CGHS beneficiaries. The aim of the scheme is to improve the health and well-being, reduce health care expenditure and provide excellence in service delivery, efficiency, and comfort to the patients.

## SC nixes plea against publication of Hathras victim’s photo

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea questioning the publication of a photograph of the Hathras victim in the media, saying the court cannot legislate on it and the petitioner can make a representation on the matter to the Government.

A 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly gang-raped by four men in Hathras on September 14. She died on September 29 at Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital during treatment. Her cremation at

night by the authorities, allegedly without the consent of her parents, triggered widespread outrage. The plea, which also raised the issue of delays in the trial of cases of sexual violence, came up for hearing before a bench headed by Justice N V Ramana.

“These issues have nothing to do with law,” said the bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose.

“Right to freedom of expression is there. There is enough law for this. It is unfortunate that such incidents happen,” the bench

observed. The apex court further said, “We cannot legislate law after law” It said the petitioner can make a representation to the government.

On October 27, the top court had said the CBI investigation in the Hathras case is to be monitored by the Allahabad High Court and the CRPF would provide security to the victim’s family and witnesses in the case.

The apex court had delivered the verdict in October on a batch of pleas raising concerns on the incident and also the manner in which the teen was cremated.

## 17.6% decline in malaria cases in India: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is the only high malaria endemic country in the world which has reported a decline of 17.6 per cent in vector-borne cases in 2019 as compared to 2018, according to the latest report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Stating that various sustained anti-malarial measures are bearing results, the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday said that the

Annual Parasitic Incidence (API) reduced by 27.6 per cent in 2018 as compared to 2017, and by 18.4 per cent in 2019 as compared to 2018.

“India has sustained API less than one since the year 2012,” the Ministry said in a statement here.

As per the WHO’s World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020, India has also contributed to the largest drop in such cases region-wide, from approximately 20 million to about 6 million.



The percentage drop in the malaria cases was 71.8 per cent and deaths were 73.9 percent between 2000 to

2019, it said. India achieved a reduction of 83.34 per cent in malaria morbidity and 92 per cent in malaria mortality between the year 2000 (20,31,790 cases, 932 deaths) and 2019 (3,38,494 cases, 77 deaths), thereby achieving Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals (50-75 per cent decrease in case incidence between 2000 and 2019).

“Decrease in the incidence of malaria cases is also exhibited in the year-on-

year tally. The cases and fatalities have declined significantly by 21.27 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively in the year 2019 (3,38,494 cases, 77 deaths) as compared to 2018 (4,29,928 cases, 96 deaths).

“The total number of malaria cases reported in 2020 till October(1,57,284) has further decreased by 45.02 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of 2019 (2,86,091),” the ministry said quoting the report.

## कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सीतापुर/खीरी वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., सीतापुर

दिनांक-24.11.2020

महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदय उद्गम की ओर से लोक निर्माण विभाग उद्गम में रोड साइनेज श्रेणी 'ए' में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नीचे दर्शाये गये कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	जनपद / खण्ड का नाम	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित (लैंच में) लागत	घरोहर धनराशि (लैंच में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य समस्त कर सहित (रु में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्षा ऋतु सहित)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	सीतापुर / नि.ख.-4	जनपद सीतापुर में राज्य मार्ग / प्रमुख जिला मार्ग एवं महत्वपूर्ण अन्य जिला मार्गों पर सड़क सुरक्षा कार्य के अन्तर्गत रमल रिट्प, स्पीड ब्रेकर, स्ट्रीप साइन बोर्ड, स्पीड लिमिट साइन बोर्ड, कोशन साइन बोर्ड, स्पीडिड बार आदि का कार्य।	40.55	4.05	2715.00	02 माह

निविदा जानकारी के वेबसाइट <http://tenderup.gov.nic.in> पर दिनांक 07.12.2020 से 29.12.2020 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 29.12.2020 को सम्मन दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकेगा है। इसकी तथेकी विधि दिनांक 30.12.2020 को राहद्वार बाद 02.00 बजे सीलें लायेगी। निविदा से सम्बंधित अधिक जानकारी जानकार की वेबसाइट <http://tenderup.gov.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

हेल्प लाइन (टी.सी.सी.) नम्बर 1800-1215-7017

(आर.के.हयडस)

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
सीतापुर/खीरी वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., सीतापुर

उद्गम 157406 दिनांक-30.11.2020, विज्ञान वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

बिड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 07.12.2020 से 29.12.2020 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक 29.12.2020 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। इसकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 30.12.2020 को दोपहर बाद 02:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

हेल्प लाईन (टोल फ्री) नम्बर 1800-1215-707

उद्गम 157408, दिनांक-30.11.2020, विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।


(आर.के.सहय) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

सीतापुर/खीरी वृत्त, लोनिविदि, सीतापुर

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, AYODHYA-AMBEDKAR NAGAR CIRCLE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AYODHYA									
E-Tender Notice									
No 5873/3 KAM Ayo Ambe/E-Tendering/2020						Dated 24-11-2020			
1 The S.E. Ayodhya Ambedkar Nagar Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Ayodhya on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class A for Road Signage works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.									
2.									
Sl. No.	Distt.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.in lacs)	Cost of bid Documents	Times of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer Executing the Work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Barabanki	Work of road safety at the likely sites of an accident on other district roads under construction division-1, P.W.D in Barabanki district.	101.10	7.05	(Stationary Charges Rs. 2000 Cost +tender cost Rs. 300+54) Total Rs. 2354.00	9 Months	Executive Engineer CD-1, PWD, Barabanki	Superintending Engineer, Ayodhya Ambedkar Nagar Circle, PWD, Ayodhya	Chief Engineer Ayodhya , Zone PWD, Ayodhya
3- Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season. 4- Validity of bid will be 90 days. 5- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a> . 6- Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a> from 08-12-2020 to 14-12-2020 upto 12:00 hours. Bidders have to upload/download all documents according to the provisions of G.O No. 1/2018/30707/8-2-2018/42/12017(22) Dated 03-01-2018. Technical bids received online will be opened on 15-12-2020 at 12:30 hours. 7- Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahari Software, the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document									
UP 157273 Dated 26.11.2020					(Kishore Kumar Pahuja) Superintending Engineer, Ayodhya Ambedkar Nagar Circle, P.W.D, Ayodhya				
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.upgov.nic.in">www.upgov.nic.in</a> पर उपलब्ध है।									

DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE EX.ENGINEER (NE) II R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95						
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"						
PRESS NIT NO. 28 (2020-21)						
S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of Release of tender in eprocurement Solution	Last Date/ time of receipt of tender through eprocurement Solution
1.	Replacement of 250 mm dia CI deep/ damaged water main from Karawal Nagar road to Sanjay Chowk Moonga Nagar in Mustafabad AC-69	26,03,137.00	53,000.00	500.00	01.12.2020	15.12.2020 upto 02:30 P.M.
Tender ID No. 2020_DJB_197079_1						
All the terms and conditions including technical specification and special conditions is available on Delhi Govt. Website: <a href="https://delhi.governmentsupply.com">https://delhi.governmentsupply.com</a> , ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) (Sukhpal Chauhan) EX. ENGINEER (NE)-II Advt No. J.S.V. 245/2020-21						

INDIAN SCHOOL FINANCE COMPANY (ISFC)				POSSESSION NOTICE
REGISTERED OFFICE AT UNIT 8-2-269/2/52, PLOT NO 52, SAGAR SOCIETY, ROAD NO. 2, BANJARA HILLS, HYDERABAD 500034.				
BRANCH OFFICE AT: RATAN SQUARE BUILDING, UNIT NO. 108, 1ST FLOOR, 20A, VIDHAN SABHA MARG, HAZRATGANJ, LUCKNOW-226001				
Under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. (Appendix IV)				
Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian School Finance Company Pvt. Ltd. (hereinafter referred as ISFC) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the demanded amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned on behalf of ISFC has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8(1) of the said rules. The borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the below mentioned property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the first charge of the ISFC for the amount as mentioned herein below with future interest thereon.				
SR. NO.	BORROWER/ CO- BORROWERS/ ADDRESS AND LOAN NO.	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)	DEMAND NOTICE DATED AND AMOUNT	POSSESSION TAKEN DATE
1.	1. <b>Mr. Amar Chand Jauhar (Borrower)</b> 261, Gadi, Gadipura, Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh 2. <b>Ms. Nisha Pal Jauhar (Co-Borrower)</b> 261, Gadi, Gadipura, Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh 3. <b>Siddhartha Educational and Welfare Society (Co-Borrower)</b> Through its Trustee Mr. Amar Chand Jauhar Taxshila Public Mahavidhyalaya, Pasgawan Mohammadi, Kheeri, Lakhimpur, Mohammdi, Kheeri, Uttar Pradesh- 262804 LOAN NO. 142105000014	<b>PROPERTY NO. 1</b> All that piece and parcel of plot/ House admeasuring 194.64 Sq. Meters at village Sarai Khas, Pargana, Tehsil and District Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Boundaries are as follows: <b>NORTH:-</b> Land of Mr. Ashok <b>SOUTH:-</b> Land of Mr. Ashok <b>EAST:-</b> House of Mr. Jagdish & Others <b>WEST:-</b> Road <b>PROPERTY NO. 2</b> All that piece and parcel of plot/ House admeasuring 152.05 Sq. Meters at village Sarai Khas, Pargana, Tehsil and District hajahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Boundaries are as follows; <b>NORTH:-</b> Land of Mr. Amar Chand Jauhar and House of Munna Lal & Others <b>SOUTH:-</b> Land of Mr. Virendra Pal Singh & Others <b>EAST:-</b> House of Mr. Munna Lal and others <b>WEST:-</b> 14 Ft. Road <b>PROPERTY NO. 3</b> All that piece and parcel of part of land Khasra No. 77 admeasuring 0.213 Hectare at village Jasmari Pargana, Pasgawan, Tehsil Mohammadi and District Kheeri, Uttar Pradesh. Boundaries are as follows: <b>NORTH:-</b> Chak Road <b>SOUTH:-</b> Land of Mr. Ramchand & Others <b>EAST:-</b> Link Road <b>WEST:-</b> Siddhartha Education and Welfare Society	RS 1841669.00 (ONE CORES EIGHTY FOUR L A K H S I X T E E N T H O U S A N D S S I X H U N D R E D N I N E T E E N ONLY) AS ON 2 0 . 0 7 . 2 0 2 0 ALONG WITH INTEREST	27.11.2020
PLACE: SHAHAHANPUR DATE: 02.12.2020		AUTHORIZED OFFICE INDIAN SCHOOL FINANCE COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED		



# INDIAN SCHOOL FINANCE COMPANY (ISFC)

REGISTERED OFFICE AT UNIT 8-2-269/2/52, PLOT NO 52, SAGAR SOCIETY, ROAD NO. 2, BANJARA HILLS, HYDERABAD 500034.

BRANCH OFFICE AT: D/58/12, A-7, BANARAS-TVS, 2ND FLOOR, GHANDHI NAGAR, MOHALLA-SIGRA, VARANASI-221010

## POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. (Appendix IV)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian School Finance Company Pvt. Ltd. (hereinafter referred as ISFC) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the demanded amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned on behalf of ISFC has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8(1) of the said rules. The borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the below mentioned property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the first charge of the ISFC for the amount as mentioned herein below with future interest thereon.

SR. NO.	BORROWER/ CO- BORROWERS/ ADDRESS AND LOAN NO.	DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)	DEMAND NOTICE DATED AND AMOUNT	POSSESSION TAKEN DATE
1.	<p><b>1.Mr. Saumya Prakash Baranwal (Borrower)</b> House No. 18 (1), Atma nagar, Saidpur, Gazipur Saidpur, Jakhania, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh- 233304.</p> <p><b>2.Ms. Dipa Baranwal (Co-Borrower)</b> House No. 18 (1), Atma nagar, Saidpur, Gazipur Saidpur, Jakhania, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh- 233304.</p> <p><b>3.Ms. Neetu Baranwal (Co-Borrower)</b> House No. 0, Babhenia, Babhania part, Tehsil Sadar Saidpur, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh- 233304.</p> <p><b>4.Gyan Bharti Society, (Co-Borrower)</b> Through its Manager Mr. Saumya Prakash Baranwal, Baijo Nagar, Sadat Road, Saidpur, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh- 233304.</p> <p><b>LOAN NO. 146102000001 &amp; 146101000003</b></p>	<p><b>PROPERTY NO. 1</b> All that piece and parcel of Arazi No. 472/2, House No. Sa-1/173 AB-1, Daulatpur Khajuri, Shivpur Sadar, Pandeypur, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh with land area of 2040 Sq. Ft. &amp; BUA of 2895 Sq. Ft. (G+1 floors). Boundaries being:</p> <p><b>NORTH:-</b> House of Yatindra Narayan</p> <p><b>SOUTH:-</b> Stone road 12 ft. <b>EAST:-</b> House of Ram Murat <b>WEST:-</b> House of Radhey Shyam Jaiswal</p> <p><b>PROPERTY NO. 2</b> All that piece and parcel of Arazi No. 2, Mauza-Dahara Kala, Pargana &amp; Tehsil Saidpur, District Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh with land area of 1.32765 Hectares and boundaries are as follows; <b>NORTH:-</b> Road (Saidapur to Bahariyabad after Khat)</p> <p><b>SOUTH:-</b> Khet of Azim Ansari <b>EAST:-</b> Khet of Sri Narain <b>WEST:-</b> Border of Taz Molan</p>	<p><b>RS 7758904.00</b> (SIXTY SEVEN LAKHS FIFTY EIGHT THOUSANDS NINE HUNDRED FOUR ONLY) AS ON 27.07.2020 <b>ALONG WITH INTEREST</b></p>	27.11.2020

PLACE: Gazipur  
DATE: 02.12.2020

**AUTHORIZED OFFICE**  
**INDIAN SCHOOL FINANCE COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED**



## Trudeau messes up

The Canadian PM may want to pander to his Sikh constituency but is that worth risking diplomatic ties with India?



It looks like Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is yet to understand that his blanket support to settler Sikhs, even the extremist kind, who form his constituency and gift him a verdict, can ultimately cost him bilateral ties with India. His advocacy of the rights of protesting farmers to be heard by the Government on new agricultural laws does not just amount to interference in the internal affairs of India, it is also testimony to his political immaturity and lack of understanding on what is a complex and layered issue. For it affects the farming community as a whole and not just Punjabi farmers, who form a bulk of the migrants to Canada. And using the sacred occasion of Gurpurab to politicise an issue, which he has taken up merely to pander to his domestic concerns, is simply inappropriate. Besides, given his known sympathies for Khalistanis, his activism on Punjab farmers and their plight would be read by many quarters as linking it to and endorsing the cause of separatism. Trudeau has forgotten that Punjabis in India do not think like the Punjabis in Canada. That Khalistan has no resonance among Sikhs here, least of all farmers. Besides, as an advocate of free market, Canada has always spoken against our food subsidies at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), questioning our Minimum Support Price for staples till as late as last year. Is he then justifying this protectionism selectively because it is convenient to him? As a world leader, Trudeau is expected to calibrate each of his responses according to diplomatic nicety and not be brash or impulsive. Besides, India has been careful about not embarrassing him on his domestic issues and would expect a reciprocal courtesy. The MEA has rightly hit back, describing Trudeau's remarks as "ill informed."

It is clear that Trudeau has not learnt any lessons from his last visit to India when he was given the cold shoulder for including pro-Khalistan leaders in his delegation. Instead of thawing the chill on this issue, he has only been playing this up for his political survival. Some of the most extremist of Khalistani activists, who have been keeping the movement alive and are looking at the slightest opportunity to revive it in India, invested heavily in his campaign and ensured his victory in 2015. Ever since, Trudeau has been sympathetic to their concerns, participating in Khalsa Day parades with floats iconising militant leaders like Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Amreek Singh and Shahbeg Singh, much to India's discomfort. In a gross oversight of diplomacy, he was even seen with many radical groups that accuse India of "genocide" during the anti-Sikh riots of 1984. And this has continued despite India's protests. None of Trudeau's predecessors have been as vociferous and public about their association with pro-Khalistan leaders, clearly careful about not upsetting India. And despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself mentioning the concern such impropriety caused, groups clamouring for a "referendum 2020", where the Sikh diaspora can vote for an "independent Khalistan", have only gained traction though the Canadian Government has officially opposed it. Trudeau did nothing when 16 Canadian gurdwaras banned the entry of consular officials, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Shiv Sena members. And considering that he would not run short of protocol advisories, Trudeau has rarely given into counsel. Of course, the Sikhs have used the Canadian electoral funding system to emerge as a disproportionate influencer in the Government. Consider this, Sikhs in Canada are only 1.4 per cent of the total population of 37.5 million but they are five per cent of the Parliament and eight per cent of Trudeau's Cabinet. The Canadian Prime Minister is also compromised by his reduced lead during his second term in office, with 157 seats in the House of Commons after the 2019 polls. In a subdued role of leading a minority Government, he has not been able to ignore the heft of the New Democratic Party (NDP) whose leader Jagmeet Singh has emerged as a powerful Sikh voice in Canada, bagging 24 crucial seats. It's not a secret that Sikh legislators hold the balance of power for Trudeau as his outgoing Cabinet had four of them — Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains, Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan and Tourism Minister Bardish Chagger. Now, with Trudeau having to tread a thin line going forward, the Sikh influence will be deeply entrenched as Jagmeet, who has a vast following and was himself a prime ministerial contender, is ambitious. Both New Delhi and NRIs in Canada are wary at the thought of having Jagmeet as the future PM because of his alleged "pro-Khalistani" leanings. Besides, he has been a vocal critic of the Modi Government and the current situation in Kashmir, making him a pariah for India. Trudeau's reliance on the NDP's support could mean that he has to do a tougher tightrope walk with India. So far he seems to have slipped once too often. Already many members of his Liberal Party have been embarrassed by the outrageous posturing of Khalistani hawks. Now India, too, has stepped up its diplomatic offensive by linking Pakistan's support to Khalistan as part of its subversive endorsement of and exporting terrorism in the neighbourhood. With the world taking a stand against Pakistan on terror, Trudeau seems hemmed in. Indian High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria is, in fact, arguing that the perils of the association could ultimately impact economic relations as Canada, like many other nations in the West, is keen about moving businesses to India from China after the pandemic. Yes, self-preservation comes naturally to him but is it worth alienating world opinion? Can he justify agenda-driven campaigns as "freedom of expression?" Yet from the looks of it, Trudeau has to deal with a problem of his own making.

## Blue shock

Maybe not playing international cricket for half a year and the 'retro' outfits have made our cricket team a bit rusty



The excitement of winning the third and final One-Day International should not divert us from the fact that the Indian men's cricket team has been caught out by a well-drilled Australian squad. What is also telling is that the men in yellow are playing far better in their international colours than they did in franchise T20 cricket. The Indian team, on the other hand, with its uniforms harking back to the 1992 Cricket World Cup, seems to have been inspired by its predecessors. The sharpness and competitive attitude forged over the last years have been replaced by, as many have joked on social media, the Spirit

of 1992, which let us not forget was the nadir of competitive cricket for the modern Indian team in the post-1983 environment. No matter how classic the outfits might have been, our 1991-92 tour of Australia was an unmitigated disaster. However, one must realise that it is extremely difficult for athletes to stay at their peak performance levels after months of inactivity even if there were two months of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in between. Getting into shape takes weeks if not months and India was very fortunate to walk home with a win after two successive blowouts. One can only hope that the rest of the tour does not become a repeat of the 1991-92 tour of Australia and the Indian players can bring home not just a few wins but the Border-Gavaskar trophy as well. Hopefully now with a victory under their belt, our boys can go from success to success. After several months of no cricket, the Indian cricket fan has expectations. Of course, we should be proud of an individual milestone as captain Virat Kohli became the fastest cricketer to score 12,000 ODI runs, breaking a record held by legendary compatriot Sachin Tendulkar.

# opinion08

## Don't burn the bridges

The farmers' agitation requires sympathetic handling even if the Govt has facts on its side. A cavalier attitude is fraught with great political and security risk



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

It brought no fresh honour upon the Union Government that agitating farmers from Punjab were left to shiver on the streets of Delhi: the night gurdwaras had been illuminated for Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti. Even as the farmers' agitation had been raging in Punjab since September, the Government had been complacent about it till it knocked the doors of Delhi. At that time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not blinked twice before accepting the resignation of Harsimrat Kaur from the Cabinet. Her party, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), one of the oldest constituents of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), quit the ruling coalition a week later.

Whatever the parting of ways might mean for the SAD, it could have serious consequences for peace in the frontier State. The BJP's diminished clout in Punjab contrasts with its firm grip at the Centre. Also, expanding footprints across India might actually drive the Sikh-majority state into an isolationist mindset. The BJP-SAD partnership, according to the late Arun Jaitley, was as much a social alliance as it was political. Their coming together in the mid-1990s was an apt postscript to the end of the insurgency in Punjab. Moreover, the SAD's support base was among rural Jat Sikh agriculturists while the urban Hindu middle-class made up the BJP's constituency. So the breakup might trigger polarisation, with nefarious elements waiting in the wings to revive militancy in the state. This will be the last thing the BJP wants in a State where Hindus are in a minority.

The Modi Government has no Sikh face, barring Hardeep Singh Puri, who is a diplomat, rather than a politician by grooming, and he lost the Amritsar seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The council of ministers is lacking even the ornamental presence of S.S. Ahluwalia, BJP MP from West Bengal, though he never represented Sikh votes. The saffron party had earlier lost Navjyot Singh Sidhu to the Congress.

The Government might have the best interest of farmers in its heart while enacting the new agricultural laws but reforms in the agricultural marketing sector were long overdue to make farming remunerative. While there was no bar on selling agriculture produce



in the open market, outside the MSP regime, or on items not procured by the Government, even before the new laws were enacted, there was no commercial and legal architecture for it. Sadly, the Government felt that consensus-building was redundant. The laws, enacted during the Monsoon Session, had originally been rushed through the Ordinance route on June 5. It is unclear whether there were even minimal consultations with the State Governments (agriculture being a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution), farmers' associations and other stakeholders. Even the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), a uniparty organisation of the RSS, is unhappy with the way the Government dealt with the issue. Mohini Mohan Mishra, the BKS All India Secretary, recently stated that nearly 25,000 farmers had sent a proposal to the Prime Minister.

There's no doubt that the laws have been made for the traders and would eventually benefit them. This is akin to what Rabindranath Tagore, speaking of the British rule wedded to the idea of progress, observed: "They are not unwilling to do a favour but don't wish to come close. They would rather feel relieved if they can hastily beat retreat after doing the favour...they don't do mercy, they do a favour, they do not love but protect; do not respect but try to act fairly; they do not irritate the land, though never ungenerous in sowing abundant quantity of seeds" (*Raja-Praja*, P.4-5). His remarks appear telling today. The Government's cavalier attitude that "we know what's good for you" vis-à-vis the

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THE BJP-AKALI DAL ALLIANCE WAS ALSO A SOCIAL COMPACT. TRACES OF KHALISTANI ELEMENTS ARE STILL ACTIVE IN PUNJAB. THEY ARE LIKELY TO EXPLOIT FOR THEIR EVIL AGENDA ANY UNSYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE FARMERS, THE BULK OF WHOM ARE SIKHS

farmers has clearly run into problems. Even if the Vigyan Bhawan talks break the ice, the Government would have finally realised that to act in haste and repent in leisure is not a good policy.

The critics of the farmers' agitation, active on social media,

have been quick to dub the farmers as supporters of Khalistan. Fake photos were also circulated on the digital space. The question is what do they propose to do even if they are Khalistan sympathisers? Would they like to send the Army to quell them? Can the BJP Government afford to burn its bridges in Punjab? Do they have a strong constituency of their own or friends to rely upon if the agrarian crisis, god forbid, deepens into a social crisis?

The unsympathetic attitude of slandering democratic governments of the past for farmers' woes must stop. When a Government tries to de-legitimise the Opposition or vice versa, forces inimical to democracy and peace (like the Khalistanis, for instance) take over. Punjab has profited from the dam-building policies by Jawaharlal Nehru, Food Corporation of India (FCI) procurement by Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Green Revolution by Indira Gandhi. The right way the Modi Government can package its agriculture policy is by saying that it wants to take the story forward through measures long overdue.

Fortunately, the BJP did not have to fight the Khalistani insurgency in the State in the 1980s and early 1990s. It was fought mostly by the Congress Government, even though it was partly responsible for its rise and momentum. In the 1980s, Khalistanis gained by projecting the post-Green Revolution agrarian problems in Punjab along communal lines. At that time, the Congress, which was in as strong a position across India as the BJP is today, was

projected as a Hindu fascist party. The Hindus of Punjab became the first targets of Khalistani violence. This is something that all parties, including the BJP, have avoided recalling in public for fear of opening old wounds. Traces of Khalistani elements, there is no gainsaying, are still active in Punjab. They are likely to exploit for their evil agenda any unsympathetic attitude of the Government towards the farmers, the bulk of whom are Sikhs. The farmers of Punjab have so far rightly avoided communalising the current issue unlike they did so in the 80s. In fact, when their agitation took off in mid-September, it was both against the Centre as well as the State, where the Congress is currently in power. Apart from rolling back the farm bills, they also wanted loan waiver from the State Government. However, in the last two months, the Congress has been able to garner the farmers' sympathies.

In politics, sentiments matter as much as policy. Way back in March, 1783, a Sikh force led by Baba Baghel Singh and Jassa Singh Alhuwalia had attacked Mughal Delhi to hoist the triangular saffron flag at Red Fort. A troop of 30,000 Nihang Sikhs encamped at a place nearby, which later came to be known as Tis Hazari. The farmers of Punjab have beaten their swords in ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. Nothing must be done to wake up the sleeping demons of the 1780s or the 1980s.

(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. Views are personal.)

### SOUNDBITE

MHRA has formally authorised the Pfizer and BioNTech Group vaccine for COVID-19. The vaccine will begin to be made available across the UK from next week.

**UK Prime Minister**  
—Boris Johnson



What a wonderful story...T. Natarajan making his ODI (One Day International) debut for India today. Dreams do come true!

**Australian coach**  
—Tom Moody



I congratulate two Independent MLAs for listening to their conscience and voice of suffering farmers and withdrawing support from the Khattar Government.

**Congress leader**  
—Randeep Surjewala



We are not on this earth alone and if you can have a positive, meaningful impact on even one life, then you will become part of the solution and not the problem.

**Actor**  
—Priyanka Chopra



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Love thy neighbour

Sir — The recent trilateral meeting between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives led to a historical decision on expanding the scope of intelligence sharing to arrest terrorism and beef up cybersecurity. This could set a precedent of self-reliance, security, unity and trust in the world of South-Asian geopolitics. It will help India gain dominance in the sub-continent. With last week's agreements between India and Bahrain to enhance technology, security and IT, it can be assumed that India is stepping up efforts to draw neighbouring countries closer. This way, India can play an important role in ensuring Asian unity and world peace.

**Sunil Chilwal**  
Haldwani

#### Ayurveda code

Sir — Any attempt by any alternate science to come at par with Western medicine will always be suppressed and the Westerners will continue to ensure their dominance in this field. Yet their science is just 200 years old, much younger than our age-old Ayurveda. But ours is a more holistic system of

treatment with Sushruta performing surgeries well ahead of our times. So is there logic in not allowing post-graduate Ayurveda practitioners from performing general surgeries as advocated by the Centre?

Of course, it is well known that *Kshar-Sootra* has received support from eminent proctologists as the most effective treatment for haemorrhoids

and anal fistula. *Prasooti Tantra*, too, has helped in easing gynaecological problems. But that does not mean that we can open up general surgeries to *vaid*s. Given the quality of instruction and in the absence of a regulatory code guiding all traditional medicine institutions, its practitioners may not be equipped to conduct surgeries at this point. Even minor

procedures need to be cleared only after meeting modern standards of efficacy.

**Jai Prakash Gupta**  
Ambala Cantt

#### India in a tight spot

Sir — UK's approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine gives hope that we may soon be able to fight the pandemic but there are concerns.



when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. With his unkind characterisation of Rahul Gandhi as a person who "has a nervous, unformed quality about him", Obama seems to have an inflated sense of his IQ levels. Clearly, he is a vastly overrated leader of our times. Either he did not have it in him or missed the opportunity to go down in history as a great statesman.

**G.David Milton**  
Maruthancode

### Deconstructing Obama

That the first volume of former US President Barack Obama's autobiography, *A Promised Land*, is on way to becoming a bestseller need not hold us back from an objective assessment of a leader who has captured the world's imagination. He is larger than life and has a bag of tricks for self-promotion.

Obama has used the rhetoric of political slogans to project himself as a man of substance. In the process, he has generated an elusive sense of depth about his persona. His "Yes, we can" slogan paled into insignificance before Donald Trump's "Make America great again." Both Obama and Trump shared jingoism in equal measure in their own distinct ways. Obama's foreign policy was not materially different from that of those who preceded and succeeded him. As any other President would have done, Obama, too, ordered drone strikes resulting in thousands of civilian casualties. Not wanting to be seen as being "soft on terror", his decisions cost many lives in several Muslim countries. He was right in asking, "For what?,"

About 100 drug development teams worldwide are racing to develop vaccines to distribute them on a large scale. Amid this, Pfizer said that its trials showed more than 90 per cent efficacy. While this is a reason to cheer, there are also concerns because it needs to be stored at sub-zero temperatures — a logistical nightmare for India with few ultra-cold freezers and a huge population. The new two-shot vaccine from Pfizer has to be maintained at minus 80°C. Nowhere on the planet does the logistical capacity exist to distribute vaccines at this temperature. Although vaccines could prove to be a game-changer for the pandemic, wealthy nations have already bought up more than half the future supply. India has been scrambling to secure 500 million doses by July from manufacturers, in addition to developing its own Covaxin. India also plans to manufacture up to 200 million doses of candidate vaccines from AstraZeneca and Novavax next year.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

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



FIRST COLUMN

## Middle East set to lose its clout

As the climate emergency deepens, oil-guzzling motor vehicles are switching to electricity instead. That does not bode well for oil-rich nations



GWYNNE DYER

The only officials present were American and Saudi,” tweeted the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, but he was either mistaken or was not telling the whole story. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu really did fly into Saudi Arabia recently to spend a few hours with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. We owe this knowledge to that indispensable journalistic resource, the flight-tracking websites. They revealed that the private plane Netanyahu usually charters for secret visits abroad departed from Tel Aviv recently and flew to Neom in Saudi Arabia, taking off for the return flight three-and-a-half-hours later. So, did a meeting actually take place? Did something go awry? Or did a meeting take place, but each side took the public stance that best met its political needs?

No matter what the compulsion for the ambiguity, one thing is crystal clear: The meeting was meaningless. Once upon a time it would have been headline news around the world. ‘US super-power and oil-rich Saudi Arabia get together with embattled Israeli leader to carve up the Middle East’, or something along those lines. Whereas today this meeting barely got noticed. Netanyahu is indeed embattled but it is corruption charges he’s fighting, not a foreign enemy. Pompeo is a soon-to-be-unemployed politician polishing up his CV for a senatorial nomination in 2022 or the Republican presidential nomination in 2024. Prince Mohammed bin Salman is still effectively the dictator of Saudi Arabia, but that no longer cuts much ice in the rest of the world. Some of this collapse in relevance is temporary. Netanyahu will eventually go to jail or retire, but Israel will still be the dwarf superpower that bestrides the Middle East militarily. Pompeo and his employer US President Donald Trump will soon be out of office and the US will recover some of its former position as a world leader, at least for a while. But Saudi Arabia will never be back as a mover and shaker. The decline is permanent, because “oil-rich” is a phrase destined to become as obsolete as “carbon copy.” The oil revenue of the Arab producers has fallen by more than two-thirds, from \$1 trillion in 2012 to only \$300 billion this year, and it’s never coming back up. The decline so far has been driven mostly by a steep fall in oil prices — demand rose steadily but oil production persistently rose faster — but now an absolute collapse in demand looms as well.

As the climate emergency deepens, motor vehicles (which account for half of all oil use globally) are switching to electricity instead. That does not bode well for oil rich nations. Britain and France are now committed to end all sales of new cars with internal combustion engines by 2030, which means in practice that nobody there will buy a new petroleum-fuelled car after 2025. Many other countries have or are debating similar measures. So what happens to a country like Saudi Arabia, where four-fifths of the Government budget comes from oil revenues? Budget cuts are already happening, of course, but revenues will continue to fall. Moreover, the population in almost all the oil-producing Gulf states is still growing fast.

At some point these two lines on the graph will intersect in a politically destabilising way. If Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf oil-States go on spending vast amounts of money on weapons, ostensibly to protect themselves from Iran, the lines will intersect a little sooner, but in any case it’s just a matter of time. The extraordinary stability of these States — not a single change of regime in the six oil-rich monarchies of the Arabian peninsula in the past 50 years — has been based entirely on the ability of the traditional rulers to buy the acquiescence of their subjects. Once the wealth goes, so does the stability.

The Arabian peninsula has been briefly a major centre of power only twice in world history: Once in 632-661 CE, after which the capital of the early Islamic empire moved to Damascus, and once from 1973 to the present — but not for much longer. Even the unity of Saudi Arabia itself, which was imposed by force less than a century ago, may not survive the transition. The dominant power centres of the post-oil Middle East will be exactly where they were for most of the past thousand years: Turkey, Iran and Egypt. And at no time in the last thousand years have any two of those three powers been able to cooperate for long. They do have some things in common: Islam (although in two different and generally hostile versions), relatively modern, semi-industrialised economies (Turkey most, Egypt least), and around 100 million people each. But they are divided by language (Turkish, Arabic and Farsi have nothing in common except loan-words), distance (the capitals are more than 2,000 km apart), and by history and politics. Egypt occasionally got conquered by one of the other two but that doesn’t count as collaboration. So it might be argued that the Middle East itself is about to disappear as a meaningful concept. No great loss, really.

(Gwynne Dyer’s new book is ‘Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.’)

EVEN AS AAP WAS CLAIMING TO BE SUPPORTING THE FARMERS, THE DELHI GOVERNMENT EXECUTED THE BLACK LAWS THROUGH A GAZETTE NOTIFICATION.

—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER  
AMARINDER SINGH



FOOD AND ESSENTIALS ARE BEING GIVEN TO THE PROTESTING FARMERS IN DELHI BY AAP. PUNJAB IS BACKING KEJRIWAL, SO AMARINDER IS NERVOUS.  
—AAP MLA  
RAGHAV CHADHA

# Prevention better than cure

The importance of curbing air pollution activities over reduction measures cannot be stressed enough. It is the most effective and economically-feasible option for the long-term



SURESH IYER



S. KAMARAJU



M.A. EMMANUEL

It is an unfortunate fact that breathing clean air, the most basic of human needs for survival, has become a luxury for many around the globe, and particularly in India, which houses 22 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world. Looking at the severity of the problem of air pollution and its consequences on the health of millions of people, animals and plants worldwide, dirty air is now being seen as one of the most serious hazards.

Ever since the issue of deteriorating air quality has been highlighted and documented, there have been growing concerns over its economic aspects, in terms of investments, technology development and the cost benefits of handling air pollution. This relationship between environmental degradation and economic needs has been the object of constant debate among environmental economists. During the last two decades, this debate has raised several questions about attaining sustainability by normalising environmental management and economic growth with the participation of inhabitants on the same scale.

Peripheral effects or externalities are one of the most basic concepts evoked by economists while looking at problems of environmental pollution. In economics, an externality is an important cause for market failure that arises when the production or consumption activities of an individual or a firm influence the well-being of bystanders. For instance, smoking a cigarette in a public place, an open kitchen in a hotel, or using conventional wood/coal-fired cooking stoves in rural households are considered to create a negative impact on the people in the vicinity.

Air pollution is essentially a negative externality as it imposes costs on people who are external to the transaction of a polluting product. While sustainability focusses on integrating economic activity with environmental protection and social problems, it is obvious that economic development, which ignores environmental and social impacts, could generate undesirable consequences on sustainability trends.

There is a general agreement that we must prevent pollution of our natural resources like air, water and land. On the contrary, there are considerable disputes over how controls should be designed and how much control is needed. From the Indian perspective, the pollution control laws and mechanisms adopted four decades ago in 1981 got amended over time. They tended to lean towards detailed regulation of technology, leaving polluters little choice in methods to achieve environmental goals. However, a rapid economic and social change challenge policy design and implementation. The need of the hour is to look for innovative solutions to avoid pollution rather than focussing on its control only. Addressing the root cause is the most probable solution left to us. India needs to strengthen its capacity, both ideologically and practically, through governmental actions and citizen participation. This would support economic development, promote the industrial set-up and result in employment generation.

Thus, understanding the severity of air pollution and its associated impacts, the Government of India released its strategic action plan the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019. It clearly elucidates that the technological drawbacks and limitations in expertise are considered as a major hindrance in achieving our environmental obligations. Thus, swift



THE NEED OF THE HOUR IS TO LOOK FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO AVOID POLLUTION RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON ITS CONTROL ONLY. ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSE IS THE MOST PROBABLE SOLUTION LEFT TO US. INDIA NEEDS TO STRENGTHEN ITS CAPACITY, BOTH IDEOLOGICALLY AND PRACTICALLY, THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION



technology transfer mechanisms and effective capacity-building are the way forward for any collaboration in addressing persisting environmental issues. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” said Sir Benjamin Franklin. The importance of curbing air pollution activities over reduction measures cannot be stressed enough. It is the most effective and economically-feasible option for the long-term.

Along with environmental benefits, pollution prevention practices could directly improve the nation’s well-being by providing a cleaner environment, which in turn increases productivity and the effective use of resources. Hence, in order to meet both economic growth and environmental protection simultaneously, it is necessary to widen the gap between emissions and economic output with judicious resource utilisation.

As cost-effective emission control has been in focus for decades in international air pollution regulations, the balance between market-based policies for prevention of air quality deterioration and economics of contamination reduction is expected to play a significant role in India’s economic road map, which aims to achieve the \$5 trillion-mark by 2025. The experiences from developed nations have to be replicated in terms of India’s existing dismal air quality scenario, which includes technologies and mechanisms with short, medium and long-term effects and goals.

Emissions from the industrial and construction sectors are considered as major sources of particulate matter pollution in India, while the NOx (nitrogen oxide) emissions are majorly con-

tributed by the transport and power generation sector. Thus pollution prevention needs to be initiated from these sectors as the first step towards clean air. With thoughts of shifting from coal-based energy to natural gas, the transition could provide a long-term answer to climate change with a significant decrease in CO2 and other air quality benefits. But the cost of technological development along with the implementation and industrial acceptance scenario needs to be accounted for.

In India, natural gas formed about 5.6 per cent of the country’s total energy supply in 2018. The deployment of a large-scale fuel switch from coal to natural gas is influenced by various factors viz. switching demand and supply constraints, infrastructure, technology adaptability, high upfront costs and skill capacity. On the other hand, the recent introduction of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME-II) policy, along with Bharat Stage Emission Standards (BS-VI) on technology and fuels, emphasises the Government’s efforts in curbing pollutants associated with the transport sector.

Moreover, subsidies in the purchase cost of electric vehicles (EVs) would increase cost-effectiveness and acceptance among people, which would be a huge step for the transport sector.

On the same lines, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to provide 100 per cent Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) access to all households in India to alleviate the dire impacts of biomass/firewood use for cooking. The need of the hour is the effective management of the crop residue, burning of which by farmers

has been a nuisance for some time now. TERI suggests an effective crop residue business model, which emphasises the decentralised use of biomass at the village and industry level. It creates an effective strategy for creating jobs along with crop stubble management.

The emergence of novel technologies curbing emissions has proven to be an effective tool in stimulating investments in clean energy technology at the source. Economic models project that the introduction of such measures at source would result in job losses in some sectors (fossil fuel) and job creation in others (renewable energy and so on). In the long-run, such environmental policies will favour the economy as they will stimulate more efficient use of resources and result in health benefits.

Reducing emissions is a wise, long-term investment that contributes to several development goals and ultimately will yield substantial benefits. Increasing urbanisation and economic development activities along with a lack of effective implementation are fuelling air pollution problems. Addressing the issue of a deteriorating air quality requires multi-level partnerships, incorporating the Government, the private sector, the industry, academia, research institutes, the civil society and associations with more cohesive efforts. The allocation of ₹460 crore for pollution-control schemes under the Union Budget needs to be smartly invested with equal emphasis on increasing public awareness and technology infrastructure.

(Iyer is Fellow, Kamaraju is Associate Fellow and Emmanuel is Research Associate, TERI)

# Time to put security front and centre

It is commendable that the US could control further terrorist attacks after September 11. India can learn a lesson or two from this



SUDHIR HINDWAN

Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, the recent Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue between US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Secretary of Defence Mark Esper and their Indian counterparts, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has provided a much-needed impetus to a new roadmap in dealing with myriad security concerns and challenges posed by the overexpansionist Chinese mission. During the dialogue, India and the US signed five agreements, including the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) that will allow for real-time

sharing of geospatial data. Besides, issues of global cooperation in the economic arena and public health along with the border security apparatus and geospatial information sharing remain a vital part of the pact.

This would certainly provide a huge platform for future Indo-US ties through diplomatic endeavours and be the beginning of a new era of defence deals. Although it is the third 2+2 Dialogue, it holds more importance as the BECA would enhance the chances of sharing information with regard to inner-satellite data, military and intelligence along with logistics facilities. This is vital as the rising tentacles of Chinese expansionism have raised serious concerns about the safety of the entire region. In fact, the Quad Group, comprising India, Australia, Japan and the US, recently held a joint naval exercise to counter the threat posed by China and to ensure security in the Indo-Pacific region.

The BECA would be helpful in developing international cooperation for fighting trans-national terrorism.

According to analysts, it is a welcome development as it would provide a platform for multi-layered security cooperation that would deal with various other issues related to terrorism. Right from funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation, dealing with cyber threats, secrecy through enhancing technological innovations and tightening the border to maritime security information-gathering exercise. Cooperation and coordination in aggrandisement of communication capabilities and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat are the main objectives of the pact. The catch here lies in how to generate prudence to anticipate a possible threat from religiously-motivated bands of distraught people.

There would also be chances of increased cooperation under the Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) between the security and defence establishments of the two largest democracies of the world. However, there has been a paradigm shift in the

foreign policy outlook of nations. Countries have become more pragmatic in dealing with others and have started building one-to-one relationships. Therefore, the apprehensions of having an adverse impact on ties with either Russia, Iran or China are not going to have a place in strategic policy formulation in the present scenario.

Another important area, which requires immediate attention and cooperation, is developing a mechanism to deal with the chemical weapons in possession of the new breed of terrorists. Chemical weapons are not easily detectable and hence are easily transportable, as compared to conventional arms. International cooperation in terms of forming strict laws and regulations that prevent the acquisition of such weapons can provide a strategic management in dealing with terror.

The cooperation between India and the US may also develop a fool-proof mechanism to put an end to the accessibility of RDX, Erythritol Tetranitrate (Penta) and sophisticat-

ed weapons like AK-56 and AK-47 assault rifles. Plus, cooperation in policing while dealing with the menace of drug trafficking will provide a strong mechanism to crack the nexus between terrorists and drug dealers in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Laos and so on.

However, the main challenge will be how to frame a strategy to deal with religiously-motivated terrorists. It is commendable that the US security and intelligence network could control further terrorist attacks after September 11. India can learn a lesson or two from this. Unless we develop a high-level intelligence network to anticipate such threats, the talk of combating strategies would only remain a chimera.

During the last two decades, the obnoxious nexus between drug smugglers and terrorists has posed a serious problem for internal security networks and compelled various nations to organise themselves and wage a relentless war against this. But mere implementation of vigorous drug laws cannot be effective unless the judicial procedure is modified to ensure speedy

trials. This agreement is an opportunity to nip Pakistan’s trouble-making tactics and the narco-terror it is spreading in the region, as well as curb China’s expansionist plans.

There is a major transnational transition on account of a rapidly changing value system across the globe as well as a shift in world-level power sharing. Slowly, the old order is giving way to the new. The recent developments and terror attacks in different parts of the globe offer a few lessons: First, no authority can afford to ignore the popular aspirations of the masses anymore. Change and unrest are inevitable if the demands of people are not met.

The process of a new threat transformation has just begun. Therefore, the present initiative by the Governments of the US and India would provide a new framework of security-related information sharing and more chances of confidence building for a better future.

(The writer is a Professor of Political Science)



FOREIGN EYE



## THE GREAT UNRAVELLING

Why does every development in the Corona crisis seem to take Boris Johnson by surprise? The Prime Minister sent two letters to Conservative MPs in the hope of dissuading them from voting against the post-lockdown restrictions. The COVID winter plan is due to take effect now. It is already unravelling into a messy muddle. (The Guardian editorial)



# Indian economy to see positive growth in Q4: Niti Aayog VC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy is coming out of the pandemic-induced degrowth and GDP growth will enter the positive territory in the fourth quarter of this fiscal, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Wednesday.

In an interview to PTI, Kumar also said the Centre's new agriculture reform laws are aimed at increasing the income of farmers and the present agitation was a result of misunderstanding and miscommunication which need to be removed.

"The second quarter GDP figure (contraction of 7.5 per cent) reflects that the economy is coming out of this pandemic-induced degrowth phase and my expectation is that in the third quarter, we will achieve the same level of economic activity as the year-ago period.

"And the fourth quarter will show a small but positive growth over the previous year because the government has... Ushered in many structural reforms and some more are in the pipeline," he said.

Stating that all those reforms will provide a very strong foundation for accelerating the economic growth in



the fiscal year 2021-22 and beyond, Kumar said,"we have now shrugged off the negative impact of the pandemic and are moving towards a sustained high growth trajectory in the coming years".

About India's growth figure in the current fiscal year, he said it will be better than negative 9 or 10 per cent, as has been forecast by many, including the RBI.

Kumar noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had an unprecedented negative impact on economic activities but this was completely in the nature of a natural disaster and not related to the regular economic cycle.

"Therefore, it is quite irrelevant to talk about the economy being in a technical recession," he emphasised.

On better than expected

manufacturing growth of 0.6 per cent in the second quarter of 2020-21, Kumar said this has come as a pleasant surprise.

"But there is a base effect but nonetheless, it is also endorsed by the higher collection of GST in the last three months," he said, adding that the manufacturing sector will continue to do well in the third quarter because of the festival demand and the pent-up demand.

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 and held out hopes for further improvement on better consumer demand.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had shrunk by a massive 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal as the COVID-19 lockdown pummelled economic activity.

The second straight quarter of contraction pushed India into a technical recession for the first time.

The Reserve Bank of India has projected the Indian economy to contract 9.5 per cent in the current fiscal while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank estimates contraction at 10.3 per cent and 9.6 per cent, respec-

tively. Replying to a question on protests by farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana, against the Centre's agriculture reform laws, Kumar said there is a need to recognise that the new farm laws have been well received all over the country.

"The three farm laws were clearly intended to improve farmers' ability to increase their income and they give greater freedom and liberty to sell, where they like and to whom they like. "... The present agitation is most likely a result of miscommunication and some misunderstanding which need to be removed," he opined.

Asked whether the government is still confident of doubling farm income by 2022, Kumar said, "all efforts of the government are in that direction and we will see how far we will be to achieve this target".

Talks between the Centre and agitating farmer unions remained inconclusive on Tuesday. The two sides will now meet again on Thursday while support from more quarters poured in for thousands of farmers camping at Delhi borders. The farmer unions rejected the government's offer to set up a committee to look into the issues raised by them and said they will intensify their stir until their demands are met.

## Sensex takes a breather; Nifty edges up to fresh high

Mumbai (PTI): The BSE Sensex slipped from record highs to end marginally lower on Wednesday while the Nifty edged up to a fresh closing record amid profit-booking in financial stocks and muted global cues. After touching a low of 44,169.97 during the session, the 30-share Sensex pared most losses to finish at 44,618.04, down 37.40 points or 0.08 per cent.

The broader NSE Nifty edged higher by 4.70 points or 0.04 per cent to end at its fresh closing record of 13,113.75.

Banking and finance stocks bore the brunt of profit selling ahead of the RBI policy announcement this week. Kotak Bank was the top loser among Sensex stocks, dropping by 3.28 per cent.

HDFC Bank declined by 1.86 per cent, HDFC by 1.28 per cent and ICICI Bank by 0.99 per cent. SBI fell 0.5 per cent while Bajaj Finance shed 0.72 per cent.

Larsen & Toubro dropped 0.16 per cent. On the other hand, ONGC rose the most by 4.11 per cent, followed by Asian Paints (3.74 per cent) and Titan (3.48 per cent). Auto stocks gained after the companies reported sales growth in the domestic market in November, aided by robust offtake amid the festival season.

## Exports dip 17.84% in Apr-Nov this fiscal: Comm Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's exports declined by 17.84 per cent during April-November this fiscal while imports contracted by 33.56 per cent in the same period, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said on Wednesday.

He said that the trade deficit has come down.

"In 2020-21, April to November, there has been a decline of 17.84 per cent in our exports...If we exclude gems and jewellery and petroleum, then the decline is lower...In the sectors where economic activi-

ty is more meaningful in terms of value addition, there the decline is much lower," he said at the Board of Trade meeting.

The secretary said that export sectors which did well during the eight months period include pharma, which grew by 15 per cent, rice (39 per cent), and iron ore (62 per cent).

Speaking at the occasion, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that going forward, there is every possibility to achieve export target of a trillion-dollar by 2025.

"The country is rebounding in a very rapid recovery

phase. Industry has become more resilient, international global supply chains are looking up to India to provide an anchor for transparent and more open economies to engage with," he said.

Different arms of the government have been working to identify and support specific sectors where India has advantages, he said. "We have identified 24 industry sectors, which we believe, can add Rs 20 lakh crore of annual production manufacturing in India...I would like to appeal to the states to supplement the efforts of the central government," he added.

## Honey sold by major brands in India adulterated with sugar syrup: CSE

New Delhi (PTI): Honey sold by several major brands in India has been found adulterated with sugar syrup, the environment watchdog CSE claimed Wednesday. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) food researchers selected 13 top as well as smaller brands of processed and raw honey being sold in India to check their purity. It was found that 77 per cent of the samples were adulterated with the addition of sugar syrup. Out of the 22 samples checked, only five passed all the tests.

"Honey samples from leading brands such as Dabur, Patanjali, Baidyanath, Zandu, Hitkari and Apis Himalaya, all failed the NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) test," the study said.

Responding to the claim, Emami (Zandu) spokesperson said, "Emami as a responsible organisation ensures that its Zandu pure honey conforms and adheres to all the protocols and quality norms/standards laid down by the Government of India and its authorised entities such as FSSAI."

Dabur too refuted the claim, saying the recent reports seem "motivated and aimed at maligning our brand". "We assure our consumers that Dabur honey is 100%. It is 100% indigenous, collected naturally from Indian sources and packed with no added sugar or other adulterants. We also assure our consumers that Dabur does not import any honey/syrup from China and our honey is sourced entirely from Indian beekeepers," it said.

### NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	13121.40	13128.50	12983.55	13113.75	4.70
GAIL	111.00	120.50	110.15	116.10	5.40
ONGC	81.50	85.05	80.95	84.65	3.10
ASIANPAINT	2241.00	2325.95	2236.00	2314.00	83.95
COALINDIA	127.00	131.15	126.40	130.80	4.40
TITAN	1347.95	1392.05	1343.50	1386.25	45.15
ADANI PORTS	424.90	442.00	420.35	437.50	13.70
SHILP	853.00	879.25	850.30	877.40	26.05
TATASTEEL	585.70	607.60	584.05	603.50	17.70
IOC	85.85	89.35	85.60	88.35	2.50
JSWSTEEL	357.00	370.75	356.05	367.45	9.30
BAJAJ-AUTO	3243.65	3348.00	3221.50	3326.80	83.15
M&M	734.00	758.00	730.55	752.20	17.65
TATAMOTORS	184.00	187.35	181.10	183.30	3.55
UPL	442.75	470.40	437.45	441.50	8.45
WIPRO	354.45	360.30	354.20	359.30	6.45
MARUTI	711.00	722.00	710.00	720.40	10.20
BPCL	381.30	390.00	377.85	384.45	5.15
HCLTECH	836.15	847.45	831.30	844.00	9.90
NTPC	94.65	95.20	93.80	94.85	1.10
POWERGRID	192.85	195.20	189.55	194.50	2.15
HINDALCO	229.35	236.90	228.55	231.20	2.50
BHARTIARTL	481.00	487.90	474.05	483.80	4.75
AXISBANK	607.00	613.50	601.25	608.85	5.20
SUNPHARMA	540.90	547.00	536.00	543.85	4.50
ITC	195.00	198.75	193.55	195.85	1.80
TCS	271.90	275.40	270.45	274.55	14.70
GRASIM	91.55	91.85	90.10	91.95	6.15
DIVISLAB	362.00	364.85	361.50	363.70	22.95
BAJAJFINSV	870.00	889.50	866.65	878.50	41.95
HEROMOTOCO	311.00	317.10	309.10	312.00	12.75
DRREDDY	4852.10	4889.00	4811.00	4848.35	17.95
INFY	1134.00	1147.45	1121.00	1142.00	4.15
UTELCAMCO	4910.50	4997.25	4872.80	4925.00	14.50
CIPLA	758.00	761.00	751.15	757.50	1.90
HINDUNILVR	2145.00	2149.00	2122.10	2138.00	4.95
RELIANCE	1958.50	1962.00	1935.00	1959.00	4.10
INDUSINDBK	902.00	905.75	881.30	894.55	0.00
EICHMOT	2528.00	2549.90	2507.00	2531.00	-1.70
TECHM	879.05	912.50	887.20	906.10	-1.20
IT	1120.05	1132.05	1104.10	1113.85	-2.10
SBIN	248.35	250.85	244.10	246.55	-1.50
BRITANNIA	643.00	648.00	635.00	639.00	-30.35
HDFCLIFE	367.00	646.90	630.25	635.85	-45.45
BAFINANCE	4864.00	4884.00	4785.00	4814.65	-46.45
NESTLEIND	17418.15	17449.80	17150.00	17242.25	-173.90
ICICIBANK	486.35	487.00	472.00	479.45	-5.65
SHRECEM	2400.00	2504.70	2420.00	2460.00	-308.40
HDFC	280.00	290.40	282.50	277.40	-32.95
HDFCBANK	1431.00	1431.80	1394.80	1405.35	-27.95
KOTAKBANK	188.00	188.65	180.90	181.00	-62.85

### NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	30849.55	31017.90	30671.25	30992.55	257.85
ADANITRANS	380.00	403.90	375.60	418.05	39.10
NMDC	225.00	227.50	210.35	225.50	9.50
INFRA	100.75	104.00	100.10	103.15	3.90
DILITIND	1554.95	1603.75	1552.00	1602.00	50.95
PDFL	194.75	202.30	194.00	201.40	6.30
ICICIGI	1484.80	1530.00	1479.60	1515.50	44.35
INDIGO	1574.25	1605.40	1549.40	1599.00	39.25
HINDZINC	230.00	235.00	228.45	232.40	4.80
ICICIPRULI	458.00	476.00	458.00	467.90	9.65
GODFREY	707.90	719.20	707.90	719.00	13.40
TATACONSUM	532.00	541.80	530.10	538.35	9.05
HDFCAMC	2515.00	2589.00	2511.55	2530.00	41.55
HINDPETRO	212.90	219.40	212.20	215.30	3.40
BERGEPAINT	658.00	668.00	657.00	665.00	9.50
TORNTPHARM	2659.00	2700.00	2644.60	2691.00	37.40
HAVELLS	828.70	837.90	823.05	834.85	11.40
DMART	2435.00	2473.00	2380.15	2458.00	31.35
MARICO	373.00	381.65	372.10	378.00	4.20
COFAL	1514.00	1524.85	1500.05	1518.80	14.80
ADANGREEN	1140.00	1155.00	1112.00	1145.00	10.80
ITI	3347.00	3401.00	3230.00	3382.05	28.60
BANKBARODA	53.95	55.25	53.05	54.20	0.45
BAJAJHLING	3094.30	3144.20	3070.00	3116.95	22.65
PFC	109.25	110.05	108.25	109.50	0.65
PEL	1424.80	1459.00	1404.05	1421.40	6.95
LUPIN	912.00	920.90	902.60	914.00	4.20
MCDOWELL-N	569.50	572.00	561.10	569.35	2.40
ALKEM	2805.05	2819.90	2778.00	2798.00	8.95
MUTHOOTFIN	1130.00	1160.65	1118.40	1154.00	0.35
OFSS	3024.10	3037.50	2998.00	3015.10	-2.90
AMBUJACEM	262.00	264.20	259.20	261.65	-0.35
GICRE	143.00	143.00	138.50	139.75	-0.25
CONCOR	413.00	413.00	405.00	408.70	-0.95
SBICARD	803.70	805.00	795.00	797.00	-2.95
BOSCHLTD	13379.15	13797.15	13100.00	13200.15	-55.80
NAUKRI	4247.00	4347.00	4135.00	4186.50	-20.30
SIEMENS	1516.20	1519.75	1490.90	1509.90	-7.65
PGHII	1065.95	1070.00	1051.00	1060.00	-59.95
PETRONET	255.00	257.00	250.60	252.70	-1.55
DABUR	507.50	509.50	497.25	502.90	-3.10
BIOCON	435.00	436.00	427.30	430.45	-2.85
IGL	482.40	484.65	470.10	479.00	-3.40
CADILAHC	453.00	455.85	445.10	450.35	-3.30
AUROPHARMA	895.00	905.85	880.50	888.80	-8.95
ACC	1745.00	1748.85	1701.30	1728.00	-19.30
PNB	34.55	35.05	33.50	34.05	-0.40
ABNINDIA	15450.00	15450.00	15133.05	15200.00	-198.60
BANDHANBNK	377.85	379.00	365.80	372.00	-5.20
UTBI	1083.50	1095.20	1061.00	1067.65	-20.75
MOTHERSUMI	155.60	156.65	152.30	153.60	-3.60

### BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	IDFCFIRSTB	37.1	37.75	36.4	36.8
INFRATEL	224	229.05	209.85	224.8	NESTLEIND	17538.8	17538.8	17150.05	17265.85
TATAMOTORS	184.1	187.3	181.15	183.55	MUTHOOTFIN	1150	1160.4	1120	1155.6
SBIN	248.65	250.8	244.1	246.8	CONCOR	411	412.7	405	409.55
TATASTEEL	585.55	607.5	584.35	604.25	CADILAHC	454.4	455.45	437.95	451
SRTRANSFIN	1027	1044.45	1020	1029.5	NBCC	28.6	29	28.15	28.8
BAFINANCE	4861.15	4883.6	4785.85	4822.15	NAUKRI	4212.6	4243.65	4136.55	4206.15
COFORGE	2478.95	2481.25	2407.2	2444.8	ACC	1747	1748.1	1701.8	1728.85
BHARTIARTL	483.9	487.85	474	484.9	CENTURYTEX	354.2	374.95	354.2	372.65
GAIL	111	120.35	110.2	116.65	IFIL	114.1	123.65	114.1	119.35
ITC	195	198.7	193.6	195.9	IPCALAB	2261.15	2279	2203.6	2264.45
TIINDIA	810	834	804.3	827.9	HEG	807	839.35	803.55	817.25
INDUSINDBK	901.1	906.35	881.55	896.7	GUJGAS	345.95	352.9	335	348.6
IDEA	10	10.18	9.85	9.91	PHOENIXLTD	704	787.2	704	768
RELIANCE	1962.95	1962.95	1935	1957.6	HINDUNILVR	2146	2149.75	2122.55	2139.2
ICICIBANK	487	487	472.2	480.45	DCBBANK	113.1	117.4	111.25	116.05
HDFCBANK	1432	1432	1395.45	1406.95	TATACONSUM	533	541.75	530.35	539.45
VEDL	122.45	126.8	122	124.1	PIILITIND	1536	1604.45	1536	1599.



# Won't immediately lift China tariffs: Biden

**Washington:** US President-elect Joe Biden has said that he won't immediately lift tariffs placed by President Donald Trump on many imports from China or break Trump's initial trade deal.

Biden says he wants to maximise his leverage in future talks with the United States' geopolitical rival.

Speaking to New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, Biden said, "I'm not going to make any immediate moves, and the same applies to the tariffs." Biden adds in Friedman's column published Wednesday: "I'm not going to prejudice my options."

Under Trump, the U.S. And China engaged in a year-long trade war that has been largely frozen since a Phase One deal was reached in January. While some industries have benefited from Trump's protectionist policies, the policies have been largely panned by the business community and most experts — and most of the cost of tariffs has been borne by American businesses and consumers.

Biden tells Friedman an early priority after his January swearing-in will be to restore relationships with allies to strengthen his negotiating position with China. **AP**



## Ron Klain preparing to serve as Joe Biden's chief of staff

**Washington:** Ron Klain has checked all the boxes of a classic Washington striver: Georgetown, Harvard Law, Supreme Court clerk and Capitol Hill staffer, White House adviser and, along the way, of course, lobbyist and lawyer.

Now he is preparing to serve as President-elect Joe Biden's chief of staff, a job often referred to as the nation's chief operating officer.

His gilded resume, deep knowledge of the gears and

levers of power in the capital and decadeslong association with Biden have also done something unusual in today's Washington: drawn praise from both sides of the ideological divide.

The 59-year-old father of three has a reputation among Democrats and, strikingly, even some Republicans for competence - a notable attribute after an administration that rewarded and dismissed people based on their loyalty to President Donald Trump. **AP**

## Around the Globe

**Montgomery (US):** Alabama on Tuesday set a February execution date for a man convicting of the 1991 killing of a woman abducted near an automatic teller machine and later found shot in a cemetery. The Alabama Supreme Court ordered that 51-year-old Willie B Smith III be put to death on February 11 for the shotgun slaying of Sharma Ruth Johnson.

**Rome:** Italy's health minister told lawmakers on Wednesday that Italy will distribute 202.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines during 2021 in "an unprecedented effort that will require a huge collective commitment." Robert Speranza said the vaccines will not be mandatory, but that the doses allotted Italy through an EU collective purchasing agreement would be "enough to potentially vaccinate the entire population."

**Nairobi:** The UN says it and Ethiopia have signed a deal to allow "unimpeded" humanitarian access to the embattled Tigray region, at least the parts under federal government control. This will allow the first aid to the region of 6 million people that has been cut off during fighting between the federal and Tigray regional governments. Each regards the other as illegal in a power struggle that has been months in the making.

## Disputing Trump, Barr says no widespread election fraud



**Washington:** Disputing President Donald Trump's persistent, baseless claims, Attorney General William Barr declared the US Justice Department has uncovered no evidence of widespread voter fraud that could change the outcome of the 2020 election. Barr's comments, in an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, contradict the concerted effort by Trump, his boss, to subvert the results of last

month's voting and block President-elect Joe Biden from taking his place in the White House.

Barr told the AP that US attorneys and FBI agents have been working to follow up specific complaints and information they've received, but "to date, we have not seen fraud on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election." **AP**

## Pak court declares Sharif proclaimed offender

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani court on Wednesday declared Nawaz Sharif a proclaimed offender after the former premier failed to appear before it despite repeated summons served in connection with two corruption cases. The two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case about Sharif's appeals against convictions in the Al-Azizia and Avenfield cases.

The court said that notices would also be issued to the sureties of Sharif to show the cause for their failure to produce him as per the orders of the court. **PTI**

# Hong Kong activists Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, Ivan Lam jailed

**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow and Ivan Lam were sentenced to jail on Wednesday on charges related to an unauthorised anti-government protest last year at the city's police headquarters.

Wong, who pleaded guilty to organizing and participating in the protest, received 13 1/2 months behind bars. Chow, who also pleaded guilty to participating in the protest and inciting others to take part, received 10 months, while Lam received 7 months after pleading guilty to incitement.

The protest took place on June 21 last year, and saw thousands surround the police headquarters as they demonstrated against excessive force by police against protesters, as well as a now-withdrawn extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be extradited to mainland China.



Hong Kong activists Joshua Wong, right, and Ivan Lam, left, are escorted by Correctional Services officers to prison in Hong Kong on Wednesday **AP**

The trio were members of the now-defunct political group Demosisto. It is the first time that Chow, 23, has been given a jail sentence. Wong, 24, and Lam, 26, had previously been jailed over charges related to their activism.

Their jailing comes as Beijing tightens control over the semi-autonomous city following months of anti-government protests last year, which occasionally saw violent clashes between protesters and police. **AP**

## Rouhani rejects Bill that would boost enrichment

**AP ■ TEHRAN**

**Iran's President Hassan Rouhani** on Wednesday rejected a bill approved by parliament that would have suspended UN inspections and boosted uranium enrichment, saying it was "harmful" to diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring the 2015 nuclear deal and easing US sanctions.

The tug-of-war over the bill, which gained momentum after the killing of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist last month, reflects the rivalry between Rouhani, a relative moderate, and hard-line lawmakers who dominate parliament and favour a more confrontational approach to the West.

The bill would have sus-

pending UN inspections and required the government to resume enriching uranium to 20 per cent if European nations fail to provide relief from crippling U.S. Sanctions on the country's oil and banking sectors. That level falls short of the threshold needed for nuclear weapons but is higher than that required for civilian purposes.

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting, Rouhani said his administration, "does not agree with that and considers it harmful for the trend of diplomatic activities." He implied the lawmakers were positioning themselves ahead of elections planned for June.

He added that "today, we are more powerful in the nuclear field than at any other time."

## Granting provisional provincial status to Gilgit Baltistan will be priority: Imran

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said that his government would work on a priority basis to grant the provisional provincial status to Gilgit Baltistan, according to a media report.

His remarks came after he arrived in the disputed region to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the 14-member Gilgit Baltistan Cabinet.

"What will the new government do? First, we will work on granting the region provisional provincial status so that the prevailing sense of deprivation [among the people] can be eradicated," Dawn newspaper quoted Khan as saying. **PTI**

## South Korea passes law allowing BTS stars to postpone military service



**New York:** In a major move, the South Korean parliament has passed a bill allowing music sensation BTS and other musicians to postpone their mandatory military service until the age of 30.

As per the South Korean laws, all able-bodied South Korean men, aged between 18 and 28, are required to serve in the military for about two years, reported New York Times.

Two of the members of the group, Jin and Suga, will soon turn 28 and their with the group was under threat. **PTI**

# Rage and hope fuel women's revolt over abortion in Poland

**Warsaw (Poland):** Karolina Micula had used her bare chest in political protest once before.

When Poland's right-wing government first tried to restrict abortion rights, the actress and singer delivered an intense performance onstage in Wroclaw in 2017 that included her spreading paint in the national colors — white and red — onto her breasts and face, ending with a fist raised high.

When the authorities tried again to impose a near-total ban on abortion in October this year, Micula, along with a friend, again stripped to her waist and stood on top of a car at a busy Warsaw intersection during a protest, holding a flare high and giving the middle finger.

"A woman's body is a place of political battle," the 32-year-old said from her Warsaw apartment in an interview. "My gesture meant that I will do with



my body whatever I want to do with it. If I want to stand naked in front of people, I will do it, because it's my choice." **AP**

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### FARMERS FOR...

he farmers, who have come from the neighbouring States of Punjab and Haryana, start their day with a bath at petrol pumps, where they also wash their clothes. They return the favour by cleaning the petrol pumps. Then they cooked on the roadside. Anyone visiting the protest site is also offered a wholesome meal which includes dal, rice, paranthas and kheer on different days.

A continuous supply of tea helps the protesters brave the cold weather conditions. Before they retire for the day, they gather in groups, singing songs and playing drums to keep their spirits high.

A protester, Sonu Kumar, said, "We came here on Tuesday and will stay till our demands are accepted by the central government. We have enough ration to stay here for months."

"Everyone is making their own food and distributing to others. We are Punjabis and know how to stay happy even in difficult situations. We are also getting help from locals. They are providing us water and other necessities," he said.

The protesters start preparing 'langar' every morning and food is distributed throughout the day. "Different dishes are being made, including dal, paranthas, rice and kheer. Tea is also being served to people," another protester said.

Medical camps have also been set up at Singhu border

for protesters who are sleeping on roads under the open sky, in or under their tractors.

Dr Vimal Sharma said, "As they are walking a lot so they get wounds in their legs. Many have gastric issues. Joint pain is also very common. Those who are sleeping outside their tractors are complaining of fever or cold." Dr Sukhwinder Singh Brar from Chandigarh said, "The protesters have different issues. Most of them are suffering from pain in legs due to old age."

The blood pressure of the elderly people is also being monitored. Farmer unions said the three new laws will lead to the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system, leaving farmers at the mercy of corporate houses. But the Government said the MSP system will continue and the new laws will give farmers more options to sell their crop.

### UK PM LIKELY...

She said, "We are expecting UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab will be paying an in-person visit to India in the next few months. Beyond that, PM Boris Johnson is very keen to come to India. So we hope, over the next few months, we will visit, by both FS Raab and PM Johnson." In a tweet message after the talks, Modi had said, "Had an excellent discussion with my friend, UK PM @BorisJohnson on an ambitious roadmap for India-UK ties in the next decade. We

agreed to work towards a quantum leap in our cooperation in all areas -- trade & investment, defence & security, climate change, and fighting Covid-19." Asked about the proposed visit, the British High Commission said on Wednesday, "We cannot confirm one way or other, PM Boris Johnson is keen to visit as soon as possible."

Earlier, Johnson had extended greetings to his Indian counterpart "friend" Narendra Modi on his 70th birthday, expressing hope that the two leaders would meet soon. The two leaders are known to share a strong personal rapport.

The two Prime Ministers had last met on the sidelines of the multilateral G-7 summit in Biarritz, France, last year. Modi's last visit to the UK as Prime Minister was a year earlier for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in April 2018. He had held bilateral meetings with then Prime Minister Theresa May.

### UK 1ST COUNTRY...

"The vaccine will be made available across the UK from next week. The NHS [National Health Service] has decades of experience in delivering large scale vaccination programmes and will begin putting their extensive preparations into action to provide care and support to all those eligible for vaccination," said a spokesperson for the Department of

Health and Social Care (DHSC). "This follows months of rigorous clinical trials and a thorough analysis of the data by experts at the MHRA who have concluded that the vaccine has met its strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness," the spokesperson said. The UK's Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) has published its advice for the priority groups to receive the vaccine, including care home residents, health and care staff, the elderly and the clinically extremely vulnerable. Elderly people in care homes and care home staff are top of the priority list, followed by over-80s and health and care staff. Professor Wei Shen Lim of the JCVI told reporters at a Downing Street briefing that vaccine prioritisation has been based on the risk of death from Covid-19 and the hope is that "in phase one of the vaccination programme, 90 to 99 per cent of those who are most at risk of dying from Covid-19 will be covered."

### US COURT BLOCKS...

"However, the history of the US is in part made of the stories, talents, and lasting contributions of those who crossed oceans and deserts to come here. The national government has significant power to regulate immigration. With power comes responsibility, and the sound exercise of national power over immigration

depends on the nation's meeting its responsibility to base its laws on a political will informed by searching, thoughtful, rational civic discourse," he said.

The lawsuit in this case was filed by US Chambers of Commerce, Bay Area Council and several universities, including Stanford, and trade bodies representing top Silicon Valley companies, including Google, Facebook and Microsoft.

The lawsuit argued the new restrictions are not only illegal on their face but that the rushed process for implementing them was flawed.

### TRANSPORTERS BACK...

AIMTC core committee chairman Bal Malkit Singh said, "Starting December 8, we will halt the movement of supplies in entire North India including Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. We will then escalate it to entire country if the government fails to address their issues."

The AIMTC, in a statement, said the farmers are fighting for their legitimate rights and over 70 per cent of the rural households depend on agriculture.

Entire North India is affected and thousands of trucks carrying food, vegetables and other perishable items coming from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and

Kashmir are impacted, it said.

AIMTC supports the farmers as 65 per cent of the trucks are engaged in carrying farm produce, it added. "At present it is the season of apples, which are getting wasted. Apart from potatoes, onions and other fruits and vegetables as well as other essential commodities like medicines, milk etc too (are) stuck up as their movement is disrupted, which is leading to their shortage in Delhi and in other northern states," the statement said. The situation will worsen in the days to come, unless the Government takes prudent and pragmatic steps to resolve farmers' concerns, it said.

"The Government must treat the farmers with dignity and allay their apprehensions on the farm Acts. We wholeheartedly support the cause of the farmers and look forward to a peaceful and amicable resolution of their issues raised by the Government," it said.

### LMC BOND...

being suitably addressed," he said. The chief minister said: "The state has received unprecedented support from the industry at the Uttar Pradesh Investors' Summit and this effort will continue. Now a defence (manufacturing) corridor is being established in UP, which will be important in making the country a global hub in the field of defence production." The Lucknow Municipal bond was oversub-

scribed by 4.5 times. The LMC received bids for an issue size of Rs 200 crore within 60 seconds of the issue opening on November 13. The capital raised is proposed to partially fund the AMRUT (Atal Mission For Rejuvenation And Urban Transformation) projects and other infrastructure projects. On this occasion, Bombay Stock Exchange MD and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan said that the order book was filled more than double in a matter of few minutes which established Lucknow Municipal Corporation as a credible entity in the Indian bond market.

Lucknow Mayor Samyukta Bhatia, UP Industry Minister Satish Mahana; UP's MSME and Export Promotion Minister Sidharth Nath Singh; Urban Development Minister Ashutosh Tandon, Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal; Additional Chief Secretary (Home) and UPEIDA Chairman Awanish Kumar Awasthi and other senior UP officials were also present.

### CCTV CAMERAS...

The apex court, while dealing with a matter related to custodial torture, had in July this year taken note of a 2017 case in which it had ordered installation of CCTV cameras in all the police stations to check human rights abuses, videography of crime scene and setting up of a Central Oversight

Committee and such a panel in every states and Union Territory. In its 12-page order, the bench noted that till November 24, compliance affidavits and action taken reports were filed by 14 states and majority of them have failed to disclose the exact position of CCTV cameras in each police station and other details. It said that state level oversight committee (SLOC) must consist of -- secretary or additional secretary of home department, secretary or additional secretary of finance department; director general or inspector general of police and chairperson or member of the state women's commission. It said district level oversight committee (DLLOC) should comprise of -- divisional commissioner or regional commissioner or revenue commissioner division of district, district magistrate and superintendent of police and mayor of a municipality within the district or head of 'zilla panchayat' in rural areas. It also specified the duties of SLOC which included purchase, distribution and installation of CCTVs and equipment, obtain budgetary allocation for the same. It said DLLOC shall have the obligations including interact with station house officer (SHO) about its functioning and to review footage stored from CCTVs in various police stations to "check for any human rights violation that may have occurred but are not reported".



## Trend Slazer

### A Call To Spy to get digital release

A *Call To Spy*, the international production capturing the story of three WWII spies and starring **RADHIKA APTE**, has been confirmed for OTT release in India. Radhika plays British spy Noor Inayat-Khan, or Nora Baker, who served in the Special Operations Executive during World War II.

“I couldn’t be happier to be an integral part of this film, working alongside such an incredible cast from around the globe and I am extremely excited about the film’s release,” said Radhika. “Since the film has already premiered globally, I have been waiting for the moment where Indian audience get the chance to watch this thrilling spy drama. I am hoping that they too will shower the same love and appreciation,” she added.

**‘The makers of the film Hum Bhi Akele Tum Bhi Akele did not approach me to do the film. I approached them and they were skeptical because they considered me a glamorous diva due to my previous films. I really had to convince them to give me an opportunity because the story of is really beautiful and I wanted to be a part of it.’**  
—Zareen Khan

Actor **JOHN ABRAHAM** has been named the Person of the Year for 2020 by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).



John had sent a letter urging e-retailer Quikr to stop trading in live animals. Over the years, he has teamed up with PETA India to push for a ban on animal circuses.

He also adopted a community dog, Bailey, urged authorities to stop illegal pig slaughter in Goa and put a football jersey on the auction block to benefit the organisations work to help animals.

### Jennifer Aniston is ‘back to work’

Actor **JENNIFER ANISTON** is back on the sets to shoot for the second season of hit series, *The Morning Show*, and is taking extreme precautions amid the global COVID-19 pandemic.

She shared snapshots from the set on Instagram. In one image, she is in costume to face the camera but wearing a clear plastic face shield.

Aniston wore a grey plaid shirt and slacks as she got ready for the scene, along with oversized boxed specs underneath her plastic face shield that rested on her neck. It featured her name on a white label.

She captioned the picture: “Back to work.”



**R**ight from all the dancing, drama, laughter, fun to madness and emotions, it is that time of the year again. The wedding season is officially here and the very first thing that comes to our mind is what to give to the newly married couple. Weddings are a once in a life event, hence, everyone wants to make it memorable and special in their own little ways. Gifting forms an integral part of any ceremony. However, while choosing the best for the couple, we also need to keep in mind that the product should be useful and classy at the same time. So to make things a bit simpler, here are a few wedding gift ideas to choose from.

Gift the convenience of nutritious and delicious meals at the touch of a button. Wonderchef Nutri-Pot is a tech-driven appliance, a combination of seven in one gadget. It prevents overcooking of food protecting all the precious vitamins and minerals. It is programmed with an embedded microprocessor that monitors pressure, temperature, time and adjusts the heating intensity. It’s hard-anodized inner pot ensures years of hassle-free use, faster cooking and even heat distribution.

The collection, by *Afsaneh*, by Tanvi Gauri weaves the tales of the most valiant women into stunning designer clothes. An array of carefully crafted ensembles with every thread strung together to narrate the story of beauty and courage, this collection can be the perfect gift to show one’s love and adoration. Ranging from wedding to festive wear, it celebrates femininity with whimsical details and a soft but vibrant colour palette embellished by hand.

Another great choice can be to opt for glam gowns with ornate metallic embroideries, rich festive hues and luxe fabrics by the brand W. Often chosen for its dramatic ultra-feminine appeal, the floor length gowns are the perfect escapes into a transcendental world of all things exotic.

Taneira presents Tasvi, a collection of sarees, inspired by the cultural and design elements of the three goddesses — Durga, Laxmi and Saraswati. Boasting of a diverse range of pure and hand-crafted silks from Chanderi, Maheshwari to Banaras and Kanchipuram, the collection brings alive the spirit of auspiciousness and festivity with vibrant tones, rich embroidery, intricately carved motifs and traditional craft techniques of the age-old weaves. It features ensembles highlighting unique characteristics inspired from each of the goddesses. A part of the collection is designed in darker hues with motifs like hibiscus, trident, moon, stars, *rudraksh*, bel leaves and lemon, symbolising the divine *shakti* and fierceness of goddess Durga. Representing wealth and prosperity, the range



**WHETHER IT’S YOUR BEST FRIEND’S WEDDING OR FAVOURITE COUSIN’S, PHOTO ALBUMS ARE THE BEST WAY TO COLLECT AND PRESERVE ALL THOSE FUN AND HAPPY MEMORIES BEYOND INSTAGRAM**



inspired by goddess Lakshmi is designed in bright colourful tones and carved in rich motifs like the pink lotus, pomegranate, parrot, *kalash*, banana tree, elephant, coins and kosa tree. Inspired by goddess Saraswati are the pastel

tones with motifs of white lotus, pearls, swan, peacock, *champa*, veena, scripts and kadamb tree, symbolising light, knowledge and truth.

From planning a wedding, arranging bachelor parties to

giving invitation cards a new look, why go helter-skelter searching for solutions when you can make everything happen right at your home. Get everything customised from Vistaprint as per your choice, along with a hassle-



free delivery at your doorstep, all without compromising on social distancing protocols. You can gift a photo album, a treasure for a lifetime. Whether it’s your best friend’s wedding or favourite cousin’s, it is the best way to collect and preserve all those fun and happy memories beyond Instagram. One can choose from different sizes, including small, medium and large; portrait or landscape orientations; get them personalised as per your needs.

Adding to the wedding fervor, Mia by Tanishq, presents an exclusive ethno-contemporary collection, *Lyana*, to celebrate the light within you. The offering is for the modern Indian woman, who is rooted in the traditional values and believes in celebrating the life her own way. The collection brings together traditional designs weaved with glamour of gold in ultra-modern silhouettes.

It has a range of 14 Karat lightweight pure gold and diamond jewellery designs in earrings, pendants, bracelets as well as rings. The collection is inspired by the rich heritage of Indian classics but is infused with the Japanese minimalism philosophy.

Gifting gold has always been a good idea. This time, try opting for delicately crafted solid gold watches. Nebula by Titan offers *Ashvi*, especially for the wedding season. The collection features three finely crafted timepieces with bracelets adorned with hemispherical pearls and princess cut diamonds. It showcases a trio of very intricate bracelet designs done on timepieces — a bracelet with free floating pearls wrapped in a gold composition, an elegant wired bracelet set with 30 princess cut diamonds and a graceful rose gold bracelet adorned with stones forming a splendid gradient from deep pink to white. These timepieces can be a perfect addition to the wedding ensemble, hence, making it a great gift.

SKINN, a range of fragrances from the house of Titan, presents *Escapade*, a refreshing new range of perfumes for men. The collection is crafted by the finest master perfumers from France and brings together various elements of nature in a bottle of perfume. As the name suggests, it is all about the joy of exploring the unknown and it represents the attitude of a carefree wanderer.

# A narrative of peace

Artist **HARSHDEEP KAUR** celebrates cultural nuances of Sikhism and natural landscapes in her solo exhibition, *Engaging With The Ultimate*



**H**er work speaks of the social and natural landscapes that surround our physical and imaginative selves while evoking an intrinsic emotive charm. Presented by Dhoomimal Gallery and curated by Dr Seema Bawa, artist Harshdeep Kaur’s solo exhibition titled *Engaging With The Ultimate* offers a varied mix of canvases showcasing landscapes and figurative works.

The series that sets her work apart is based on Sikh men and

women, embedded as it is in her own lived experience. She paints her observation of the lives of the Sikh people, their festivals and rituals. Her works reveal vignettes of Sikh heritage founded in its distinctive socio-cultural and visual identity, manifesting a lived faith pictorially.

“Sikh people and their rituals inspire me to create a new dimension in art. The *khalsas* wearing *kesari* turbans, engaged in meditation, working in the



**‘Sikh people and their rituals inspire me. The *khalsas* wearing *kesari* turbans, engaged in meditation, working in the fields or as horse riding soldiers, have left a lasting impression on my art’**

fields or as horse riding soldiers, skilled in warfare, have left a lasting impression on my art,” explains Harshdeep.

There are also two contemplative works, *Prasad* and *Prayer* that represent their communitarian and egalitarian world through ritual practice of service and meditative silence revealed through the word, *shabd* and *nama*; both leading towards realisation of the ultimate reality.

Another trait marker of the Sikhs is their appearance, especially the turban. The *dumala* or *domala* is a turban wound with lesser number of folds, worn by devout members of both genders. Her paintings, both big as well as the small format, depict these *dumala* wearers. A slightly whimsical work shows a woman wearing *dumala*, donning western wear and sporting dark glasses, a mark of the diaspora’s struggle to adapt to the changing milieu.

Her landscapes explore silent spaces marked by the absence of humans, where it is the trees, birds, lakes and waters that suggest a narrative of peace. Then there are the short poesies painted into a bunch of flowers in bloom or a pair of trees conversing in shadows of dusk, in reflections of forms in still waters.

The natural world has been magnified in her landscape paintings. The play and the experimentation with monochromatic tonalities of ink is seen in her forms, creating lots of depth both in figures and landscapes.

(The exhibition is on till December 8 at Arpana Art Gallery, 11 am to 7 pm.)



## Oscars 2021 not a virtual affair

**T**here were a lot of speculations around how the Oscars would be held amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is now confirmed the award gala will not go virtual.

“The Oscars in-person telecast will happen,” a representative from the Academy said. However, the Academy of Motion Arts and Sciences has decided to push the annual telecast to April 25, 2021, owing to the pandemic.

Several sources have shared that by pushing the awards ceremony back, the Academy hopes for cinema halls to regain normalcy, allowing for more film to compete in the annual celebration.

Now, the Academy is focussing on ensuring that the event is held in the traditional manner. However, it is to be seen how they put a plan in place to hold the ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, the Malayalam film, *Jallikattu*, has been selected as the official Indian entry in the Best International Feature Film category at the forthcoming 93rd Academy Awards.

The 2021 Oscars are scheduled to take place on April 25. The shortlist for next year’s Academy Awards will be unveiled on February 9, and nominations will be announced on March 15.

—IANS



# KEEP UP WITH TRADITIONS

Chhattisgarh CM BHUPESH BAGHEL plans to discover flavours of Gadh Kalewa by opening centres serving regional and local cuisine

Chhattisgarh, popularly known as the rice bowl of India, also exhibits a rich and unique amalgam of rituals, culture, traditions, festivities, folk art and food. The state's food has always been a source of keeping the rich traditions and flavours of the state alive. But with the changing times, it has got harder to prepare the traditional regional delicacies at home and save the local Chhattisgarhi cuisine from losing its identity and popularity. Hence, the state government has decided to start the 'Gadh Kalewa' in all the districts.

Well, Gadh Kalewa has the soul of Chhattisgarh. As a local open eatery in a tribal setting and ambience, where one can rediscover the long-forgotten delicacies and traditions of Chhattisgarh, it will be a restaurant with an artistic ambience with rural art form paintings on the wall, bamboo seaters to sit and clay birds on top of the tiled roofs. Here you get to sense the flavours of more than three dozen varieties of traditional cuisines, along with a range of Devbhog Products.

The traditional Chhattisgarhi dishes will be served to the people of the state and visitors in these centres



soon. Gadh Kalewa is being widely promoted under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to preserve the folk art and culture of the state.

To highlight the ambience of Gadh Kalewa, the Handicrafts

Development Board has launched an entirely new series of bamboo craft furniture to add life to the centres. Chhattisgarhi catering and cuisine sales centre is regulating in the state's capital Raipur within the

premises of Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum. The state also observes distinct and rare traditions of the local cuisine, which transforms according to ethnicities, weather and festivities.

The cuisine of the forest-based tribal society is based on natural forest produce, which has led to an interesting variety of local delicacies. There's a huge variety amid the simple and festive range of Chhattisgarhi cuisine. These dishes can be roasted, steamed, de-fried or can be prepared in the absence of all the three techniques too.

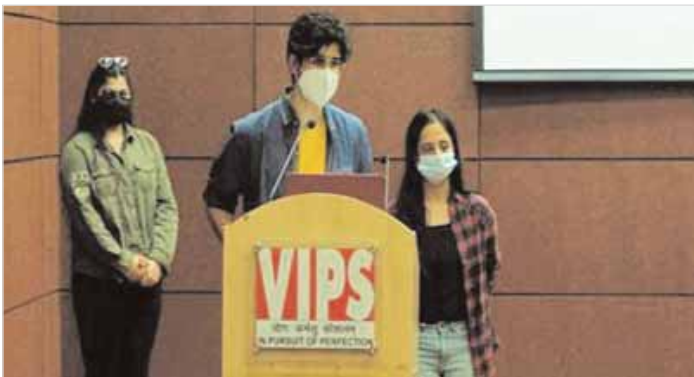
At Gadh Kalewa, mouthwatering dishes like *Chausela*, *Hathhfdwa*, *Farra*, *Peedhiya*, *Muthhiya*, *Deharuri*, *Papchi Puran Laddu*, *Kari Laddu*, *Angakar Roti*, *Chanur Roti*, *Patal Chutney*, *Bafari*, *Babra*, *Gulgula*, *Cheela*, *Airesa*, *Patar Roti*, *Khupri Roti*, *Buffauri* and many other appetising dishes will be served. The centre will be started by 2021. The local women self-help groups will also be trained and prepared for service and sheds will be provided for smooth regulation of these centres. The poor families can avail self-employment for their livelihood.

The Chhattisgarhi Cultural Programme and cuisine stall were installed in Ahmedabad, Gujarat from January 6 to 14, 2019 under the Government of India scheme, 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'

At the Board of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Renuka Gera, 57, has assumed charge as the Director (Industrial Systems & Products) of the Public Sector Engineering and Manufacturing Enterprise. Significantly, she is the first woman director at BHEL. Prior to this, Gera was heading BHEL's industry sector business segment as an Executive Director. An Electronics and Communication Engineering graduate from Delhi College of Engineering, Gera started her career with BHEL as an Engineer Trainee in the company's Transmission Business Group in 1984. She has earlier been sponsored by BHEL for an International Certification Programme in Business Management conducted under the aegis of the Department of Public Enterprises.



The MGD Weekend Home Affordability Determination Lottery of the Rajasthan Housing Board is scheduled to be held on December 7. The lottery for the remaining residential schemes is also scheduled for the day. Residential schemes of Abu Road, Udaipur, Banswara, Bhilwara and Jodhpur lottery will be this month, too. Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora said that the MGD are located amid the lush green fields near Jaipur by Mandal Weekend Homes (Duplex Housing), priced at ₹14 lakh. Online applications had been invited for the scheme. Facilities like *chowpatty*, open air theatre, children's park and open gym are under works. The Jaipur Priority Lottery of the housing schemes in cities will be organised soon.



## The spirit is alive

The mass communication and journalism students of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies host their annual media festival — Spandan — digitally

Braving the ongoing blitz of Coronavirus pandemic across the globe, the mass communication and journalism students of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS), New Delhi have created a historical feat by organising the biggest annual media festival on the digital platform.

Themed at digital literacy, media and pandemic, the three-day event will be hosted from December 3 to December 5 with a total of 22 competitive and non competitive events. Over 300 students are organising and participating remotely, to create a much awaited, unprecedented and grand experience with Spandan 2020.

It will start with the flagship event of 'Media Panchayat' on the topic of 'Information to misinformation: 25 Years of Indian Television News Industry'. The event will witness the participation of industry veterans like Sidharth Mishra, Anant Vijay, Sumit Pande, Satish K Singh and Prof Charu Lata Singh. The second in the line is a workshop on 'Pathkatha: Plot Writing' by writer Anu Singh Choudhary.

The major highlights of the festival include the cultural events, *sanskriti* — A fusion of Indian culture, dance, fashion and music, and grand musical finale. All activities are curated for the online medium, produced

and recorded over a month following all COVID precautions and safety measures.

Other events include 'Out of Reach: A Mental Health Workshop, with the objective of raising awareness about mental illnesses and the importance of reaching out for help.

Among the international collaboration and events, the festival brings a live concert with Southern Time Band and NADIA HIGH from Canada for the event 'Talks and Tunes' on December 4, promoting AIDS awareness. An event management masterclass with Prof David Hind, President, Asia Pacific Institute of Event Management will be conducted on December 5, for the students making this year's festival a global event.

It also includes webinars with Filmmaker Jalal Jeelani, Cinematographer Aditi Sharma, Screenwriter Anu Singh Choudhary, RJ Errol Gonsalves, National Award winning artist Manisha Jha, and line up of Content Creators Aman Dhatarwal, Vipasha Malhotra, Yashvi Bagga, The Bajis and more. Numerous competitive events in the fields of radio, video editing, logo designing, photography and advertising have also been incorporated to instill the competitive and creative spirit. This year it's the XVth edition of the festival.

## Celebrate tribals

Arjun Munda, Minister of Tribal Affairs launched the first virtual Aadi Mahotsav — a celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, crafts and commerce to showcase the rich and diverse culture, crafts of Madhya Pradesh on Tribes India website. The first edition will be from December 1-10, 2020.

"I am really happy to be a part of the inauguration of the event projecting Madhya Pradesh. It is a national tribal festival and a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). The festival showcases traditional art, handicrafts and cultural heritage of the country. The ultimate objective of TRIFED is socio-economic development of tribal people by way of marketing development of the tribal products. Under the leadership of Pravir Krishna, MD, TRIFED has really been doing a good job towards the upliftment of the tribal community in the country."

The virtual launch took place in the presence of Meena Singh, Minister for Tribal Welfare, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Ramesh Chand Meena, Chairman, TRIFED, Navaljit Kapoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED. Nanu Bhasin, ADG, Press Information Bureau, senior officials of the ministry, TRIFED and members of the media fraternity also attended the event.

The event was moderated by TRIFED's goodwill ambassador, Abhinav Chaturvedi. The highlights included a virtual tour of the artisans' work place and glimpses of the tribal dance and music from Madhya Pradesh. It was also announced that the next focus state from December 11 would be Gujarat, following which the spotlight would shift to Bengal from the December 21 this year.

In his welcome address, Pravir Krishna spoke about the entire concept of the event and how it will help



in popularising tribal culture to national and international audiences. With the onboarding of more than 3500 tribal artisans on to the Tribes India Marketplace, this event offers the tribals a new avenue for popularising their culture and arts and will go a long way in helping their economic situation and make them self-reliant.

Ramesh Chand Meena, Chairman, TRIFED congratulated the team for providing a viable alternative to the artisans. Munda also expressed his happiness that despite such challenging circumstances, efforts are being carried out to mitigate the adverse conditions of tribal populations. Extolling the virtues of the simple, sustainable lifestyle of these people, Munda expressed his concern at the disadvantaged economic state of this section and was happy that with TRIFED's initiatives, the middlemen have been eliminated.

Tribes India e-market place is a noteworthy initiative that showcas-

es the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country and helps them market their produce/ products directly. It is a major leap towards the digitisation of tribal commerce. Five lakh tribal producers/ artisans from across the country are connected via this platform to national and global markets.

Tribes constitute over eight per cent of our population. But even then they are among the disadvantaged sections of the society. An attitude that pervades among the mainstream is the erroneous belief that they have to be taught and helped.

However, if we sit and ponder over it, the truth is otherwise — the tribals have a lot to teach urban India. Characterised by natural simplicity, their creations have a timeless appeal and authenticity. The wide range of handicrafts which include hand-woven cotton, silk fabrics, wool, metal craft, terracotta, bead-work, all need to be preserved and promoted.

Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman, SAIL and Chairman, CII PSE Council, chaired the recent PSE Summit 2020, which aimed at discussing, 'PSEs: Furthering Atmanirbhar Bharat'. In his address, he emphasised on the significant and irreplaceable role by the Indian Public Sector in strengthening country's self-reliance and for realising the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He said, "Increasing self-reliance is the cornerstone today for better economic performance and that is why Atmanirbhar Bharat has become so close to our thoughts and actions and today's summit is marked to celebrate its very spirit. 'Perform or perish' is the key that has gripped both the industry in general and PSEs in particular." Several industry doyens participated in the sessions where deliberation on various ingenious ways of contributing towards self-reliance took place.



RITES Ltd., a miniratna (Category - I) schedule 'A' public sector enterprise, has won the SKOCH Gold Award (Response to COVID-19) at the 68th SKOCH summit on November 28. It was also conferred the 'Beacons of Hope-Order of Merit' award for Bogibeel Bridge Project, India's longest rail-cum-road bridge, on the Brahmaputra river in Dibrugarh, Assam. The awards acknowledge the company's efforts in providing state-of-the-art technical and innovative solutions to infrastructure projects and ensuring the uninterrupted supply of essential services during the COVID-induced lockdown.



Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a NBFC, has won the Gold Award for Best Performing PSU for COVID activities at the SKOCH awards. The award was bestowed for consistent performance by PFC across verticals. It was presented virtually on November 28, 2020. It was also bestowed with the 'Beacons of Hope' — certificate of merit for its contribution on project for relief activities during COVID. The award is testimony to the corporation's efforts as it ensured usual business even during the testing times.



Satish Kumar Kashyap, General Manager, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) along with other senior officers visited the workshop on December 1 and 2. He inspected various shops such as loco testing & assembly shops and traction motor shops. He also visited steel foundry shop and shell, bogie and wheel shops in manufacturing group. He was accompanied by the departmental heads, officers, staff and supervisors of respective shops. During his inspection, he appreciated the efforts of officers, staff & supervisors of CLW in producing 40 electric locomotives per month for the last three consecutive months despite the COVID-19 situation. This is a step towards 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local' campaign of Prime Minister.

## LKA sets a milestone



Lalit Kala Akademi National Academy of Arts, an autonomous organisation of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India held its general council meeting at India International Centre on November 26. Meeting started by reading the Preamble to the Constitution of India on the occasion of 71st Constitution Day of India.

In the meeting the selection process of several governing members was undertaken. During the process the members were selected under the supervision of the election officer Dr Ram Samujh, IRS (Retd).

Dr Nand Lal Thakur, GC member from Himachal Pradesh, was unanimously elected as vice chairman of the Academy.

Dr Uttam Pacharne, Chairman,

Lalit Kala Akademi said, "I thank general council members for the smooth functioning of the meeting and passing resolutions unanimously. It is an ample proof of the cultural unity of the Indian artistic community as well as their faith in the policies of government to promote art and culture. The council meeting was held after a gap of nine long years. It was the first time that the members showed unanimity in almost all the decisions, including the formation of committee. The Akademi is grateful to Culture minister Prahlad Singh Patel for his leadership and his vision and dedication in the field of art and culture."

The following members were selected as members of the executive board. Suman Majumdar (Tripura), Dr. Richa Kamboj

(Uttarakhand), Kishore Kumar Das (Assam), Dr Sunil Kumar Viswarkarma (Uttar Pradesh), C.S. Krishna Setty (Karnataka), Ankush Kumar Dewangan (Chhattisgarh), Gita Hudson (Tamil Nadu), Nirupama Tank (Gujarat), Maruti Baburao Shilke (Maharashtra). The members elected as finance committee members are — Setty (from Executive Board), Majumdar (from General Council), Dr Sonali Sarnobat, Karnataka (from General Council).

In the meeting the members passed a resolution for enhancing the term of general council members and chairman from three to five years similar to other academies under Ministry of Culture.

Pacharne made several announcements to serve the artists community in the meeting. These include the proposals for opening of new regional centres at Pune (Maharashtra), Hubli (Karnataka), Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Agartala (Tripura). He also announced organisation of 75 major programmes to commemorate 75th independent anniversary of India next year and increasing the awards and scholarship amounts after the due administrative process. The chairman sought the cooperation of all members for organising XII Triennale-India that would be taken up shortly.

## NTPC launches Green Charcoal Hackathon



RK Singh, Minister (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the Green Charcoal Hackathon being organised by NVVN (NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam), a wholly-owned subsidiary company of NTPC.

Singh said, "The Hackathon displays the spirit of innovation, which pervades NTPC. Any organisation has to have this spirit of innovation to grow and prosper or otherwise, it would fade away. The NTPC management encourages all young engineers to present innovation and new ideas."

He added, "This (Hackathon) is also innovation in the pursuit of reducing our carbon footprint. From that point of view,

all competitors in the Hackathon should keep in mind that the process of converting this (agro residue) to charcoal should not lead to emissions. Another key thing is the commercial model, which will depend on the cost of both the machine and charcoal production. I am sure we will come out with a machine, which is economical. I am happy to see the orientation of NTPC towards reducing carbon foot print."

To fast-track the technology development, NVVN, in partnership with EESL organises technology, the challenge has been aptly named as 'Green Charcoal Hackathon'. The purpose of the event is to leverage the innovative Indian mind to bridge the technology gap with the prime objective to clean the air by eliminating farm fire, producing renewable energy out of the agro residue, to promote local entrepreneurship, and to increase the income of the farmers.

The hackathon was inaugurated in the presence of Ashish Upadhyay, Additional Secretary of Power; Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC Ltd and other senior officials from Power Ministry, NTPC Ltd and EESL Ltd.

To encourage the participants, there was a provision for cash prizes worth up to ₹24 lakh in three categories for production of torrefied biomass pellets — 100 kg per day; 1,000 kg per day; 10 tonnes per day.



# Hardik, Bumrah pull one back

Pandya, Jadeja & bowlers help India win final ODI by 13 runs

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Place spearhead Jasprit Bumrah found his mojo and the Indian team its winning ways in a morale-lifting 13-run triumph over Australia in the third and final ODI on Wednesday, salvaging some of the lost pride in a 1-2 series defeat.

An in-form Hardik Pandya blasted 92 not out off 76 balls and Ravindra Jadeja's useful 66 off 50 took India to a healthy 302 for 5 in 50 overs after an inept show in the first 30 overs.

It was at least 30 runs short of a par-score on a good batting track but a rejigged bowling attack managed to restrict the home team to 289 all out in 49.3 overs.

Shardul Thakur (3/51) and debutant Thangarasu Natarajan (2/70 in 10 overs) did their bit but it was Bumrah's (2/43 in 9.3 overs) controlled effort with some swing upfront and the dismissal of a marauding Glenn Maxwell in the nick of time which ultimately turned the match in India's favour.

Bumrah did the most important thing by bowling one in the block-hole that had the dangerous Maxwell (59 off 38 balls) having his own little "brain fade" moment trying to free his arms exposing the stumps.

The 'Big Show' was in a mood to punish the bowlers and all he needed was to see off Bumrah and attack the others as he was doing.

The cushion provided by his "senior" helped Natarajan to start bowling his yorkers under pressure and Thakur also chipped in with necessary wickets.

The inconsequential match became something of consequence for Virat Kohli and his men as they gear up for the next white-ball series — three T20 Internationals in less than 48 hours.

## DIFFERENT ATTACK

India's bowling attack had a different look and it did perform way better compared to the first two games.

Natarajan was very steady in his first spell and got his maiden wicket when Marnus Labuschagne (7), in an unfamiliar role as opener, dragged a wide delivery back onto the stumps.



Hardik Pandya raises his bat after completing his fifty during third ODI on Wednesday @BCCI

Thakur, replacing a rested Mohammed Shami, was also lucky when Steve Smith (7) tried to tickle one down on the 'fifth leg stump' to be caught by KL Rahul behind the stumps.

Moises Henriques (22) and skipper Aaron Finch (75) looked good during their 51-run stand for the third wicket before the former failed

to keep a pull-shot down off Thakur's bowling.

However, what was more heartening was Kuldeep Yadav's (1/57 in 10 overs) restrained bowling in the middle overs with the last over punishment by Maxwell being more of an aberration.

The flight was back and so was the dip in the air that used to create

I think the pitch was much better for the bowlers. So the confidence levels go up. Playing international cricket for so long, that's the challenge you face. We were clinical with the ball and in the field.

## VIRAT KOHLI

ON INDIA'S BOWLING PERFORMANCE IN 3RD ODI

The way they (Hardik and Jadeja) were able to play, they put pressure on, they accelerated and took the game away from us with some really clean hitting

## GLENN MAXWELL

ON HARDIK-JADEJA 6TH WICKET STAND

The selection is not in my hands. It is important is that I try to win games for India whenever I play. That is my mindset. I play to win. Once you are on ground, all players just focus on winning matches

## SHARDUL THAKUR

ON HIS PLACE IN INDIAN WHITE BALL SETUP

confusion in the minds of batsmen.

Debutant Cameron Green (21) played an upish slog sweep off Kuldeep which was snapped inches off the ground by Jadeja.

Jadeja (1/62 in 10 overs), who had a field day, topped up a solid batting show with the prized wicket of the rival captain Finch as Shikhar Dhawan managed to make an easy catch look difficult at long-on.

Maxwell and the calm Alex Carey (38 off 42 balls) looked like doing an encore of their victorious effort against England at Old Trafford last September.

But just when they settled down, Carey went for non-existent single only to be sent back by Maxwell as Australia were reduced to 210 for 6.

## Kohli fastest to 12K ODI runs

FASTEST PLAYERS TO REACH 12K	
Player	No of innings
Virat Kohli	242
Sachin Tendulkar	300
Ricky Ponting	314
K Sangakkara	336
S Jayasuriya	379
M Jayawardene	399

IN ODIS FASTEST	
1000 runs	Fakhar Zaman
2000 to 7000 runs	Hashim Amla
8000 to 12000 runs	Virat Kohli

PTI ■ CANBERRA

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday became the fastest cricketer to score 12,000 ODI runs, breaking a record held by legendary compatriot Sachin Tendulkar.

Kohli reached the milestone during the third match against Australia.

Kohli, who needed 23 runs for

VIRAT KOHLI IN ODIS	
Runs	Innings
1000	24
2000	53
3000	75
4000	93
5000	114
6000	136
7000	161
8000	175
9000	194
10000	205
11000	222
12000	242

the landmark coming into the match, touched the figure in his 242nd innings when he took a single off Sean Abbott in the 13th over of India's essay.

In comparison, it took Tendulkar 300 innings to get there.

The 32-year-old Indian captain was playing in his 251st ODI and averages close to 60 in the format

with 43 hundreds and 60 half centuries. He made his debut in 2008. Tendulkar scored 18426 runs from 463 ODIs between 1989 and 2012 at an average of 44.83 with the help of 49 hundreds and 96 half centuries.



## Oz tops Super League table, India sixth



DUBAI : Australia on Wednesday jumped to the top of the ICC World Cup Super ODI League points table following their 2-1 series victory over India, who are placed sixth.

With the series win, Australia moved to 40 points, overtaking England who are now placed second.

On the other hand, India logged their first points of the tournament by winning the third and final ODI

and are placed sixth with nine points.

Australia had defeated England 2-1 in their previous series of the 13-team championship, which was introduced this year to bring context to ODI cricket and also to decide the seven direct qualifiers for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

India, though assured of a berth as hosts.

PTI

## ‘Switch-hit part of game’s evolution’



Glenn Maxwell plays switch hit during 3rd ODI AP PTI ■ CANBERRA

Former Australia captain Ian Chappell may call it "blatantly unfair" but Glenn Maxwell sees nothing wrong in employing the switch-hit, describing it as a "different part" of cricket's evolution over the years.

A switch hit involves a batsman

changing the order of his hands (from left-handed to right handed grip or vice-versa) after the bowler has already started on his run-up.

"...It is within the laws of the game. Batting has evolved in such a way, that it has got better and better over the years, which is why we see these massive scores are getting chased down and the scores are going up," Maxwell said when asked about Chappell's comments.

Maxwell urged the bowlers to come up with a plan to combat the switch hit.

"And I suppose it is up-to the bowlers to try and combat that," he said.

"I suppose the skills of bowlers have been tested everyday with bowlers having to come up with different change-ups, different ways to stop batters," Maxwell said at the post-match press conference.

He said as the batsmen have evolved, similarly bowlers should also try and innovate.

"...We see guys come up with knuckle-balls and wide yorker fields and different tactics. And the tactics of ODI cricket have definitely evolved, so I just see it (switch hit) as a different part of the evolution of the game...", he added.



## SCG to have capacity crowd for 3rd T20

SYDNEY: The third T20 International between India and Australia is set to be played in front of a capacity crowd with the New South Wales Government lifting restrictions on stadiums from December 7. In a world scarred by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ODI series between Australia and India saw the return of spectators with restrictions. However, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced that stadiums can move to 100 per cent capacity from December 7. "From Monday, life will be very different in NSW," Berejiklian was quoted as saying by *The Australian*. This development means the third and final T20, slated to be played on Tuesday at the Sydney Cricket Ground, which was limited to 50 per cent of total capacity earlier, can now have a full house.

PTI

## Malan, Buttler's record stand seal SA whitewash

AFP ■ CAPE TOWN

Dawid Malan and Jos Buttler launched a savage assault on South Africa's bowlers as England completed a series clean sweep with a nine-wicket win in the third and final T20I at Newlands in Cape Town on Tuesday.

Man of the series Malan finished on 99 not out, while Buttler was unbeaten on 67.

They shared a world record T20 international second wicket partnership of 167 off 90 balls to make South Africa's 191 for three look insignificant. England won with 14 balls to spare.

Rassie van der Dussen (74 not out) and Faf du Plessis (52 not out) set up South Africa's biggest total of the series in an unbeaten partnership of 127 off 66 balls for the fourth wicket.

But the left-handed Malan was quickly into his stride when he joined Buttler after the dis-



missal of Jason Roy. By the end, South Africa looked a demoralised team.

Malan hit 11 fours and five sixes in his 47-ball innings. Buttler faced one ball fewer and hit three fours and five sixes.

England were always well up with the required rate but put themselves in total command in the 10th and 11th overs when they hit 21 and 19 runs off Lutho

Sipamla and Tabraiz Shamsi respectively.

Playing his first match of any type since the last South African season, Sipamla was thrashed for 45 runs off 2.4 overs.

Left-arm wrist spinner Shamsi conceded 57 runs off four overs, two days after taking three for 19 in the second match in Paarl.

## Rabada to miss ODI series

IANS ■ CAPE TOWN

South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against England due to an injury.

Rabada has sustained a right adductor strain, one that also kept him out of the dead-rubber final T20I at Newlands.

In a statement, Cricket South Africa said that the 25-year-old will require three weeks to heal.

"The player will be released from the squad and bio-secure environment tomorrow to begin recovery, rehabilitation and preparation for the Betway Test series against Sri Lanka beginning on December 26," the CSA release stated.

## Aus Open to start from February 8

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

The Australian Open tennis Major will start three weeks late on February 8, reports said on Wednesday, with players cleared to train during quarantine following lengthy negotiations with state authorities.

According to Australian media, the start date of 2021's first Grand Slam event was announced to players by tournament director Craig Tiley. If confirmed, it will join the three other major tournaments in being disrupted by the coronavirus.

Tennis Australia has been in protracted talks with Victoria state authorities in Melbourne, which only emerged from a months-long lockdown in October following a second wave of cases.

"It's taken a while, but the great news is it looks like we are going to be able to hold the AO (Australian Open) on 8 February," Tiley was quoted as telling players in a leaked letter.

"Players will have to quarantine for two weeks from 15 January, but the Victorian Government has agreed to special conditions for AO participants — agreeing that they need to be able to prepare for a Grand Slam."

Under the plan, players who test negative for the virus will be able to train while in isolation, Tiley wrote.

Tennis Australia did not confirm the reports on Wednesday, and said plans were still awaiting approval from the state Government.

A February 8 start date would allow for a week of warm-up tournaments after quarantine, but would likely mean scrapping the flagship ATP Cup men's team event due to a lack of time.

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Curtis Jones sent a depleted Liverpool through to the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday, while Zinedine Zidane dismissed suggestions he might walk away from Real Madrid after another defeat by Shakhtar Donetsk left their European hopes in the balance.

Liverpool were without a host of key players for the visit of Ajax to Anfield in Group D, with 22-year-old Irishman Caoimhin Kelleher starting in goal in the absence of Alisson.

Teenager Jones scored the only goal just before the hour, tucking the ball in after Ajax 'keeper Andre Onana thought he could afford to let a Neco Williams cross sail over his head.

The result was vital for the Premier League champions after their home loss to Atalanta a week ago, and it allowed them to secure a spot in the knockout phase.

They will go through as group winners after Atalanta had to come from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Midtjylland.

Atalanta are a point clear in second from Ajax, with the sides meeting in Amsterdam in their last game next week.

Two-time former European champions Porto also sealed a last-16 spot after drawing 0-0 at

home to Manchester City, who were already through and are now guaranteed to top Group C.

Porto would have qualified regardless, because Olympiakos lost 2-1 to Marseille in France, with Dimitri Payet scoring two penalties in the second half to turn the game around after Mohamed Mady Camara fired the Greeks in front.

The result ends Marseille's Champions League record run of 13 straight defeats and means they could yet pip Olympiakos to third place and the consolation of a Europa League berth.

## LUKAKU DOUBLE

Real Madrid could yet be consigned to a similar fate after they went down 2-0 to Shakhtar in Kiev, their second defeat this season by the Ukrainians.

Substitutes Dentinho and Manor Solomon scored second-half goals in Kiev as Shakhtar stunned the 13-time European champions again, having won

3-2 in Madrid in October.

Shakhtar had lost their last two Group B matches against Borussia Moenchengladbach by an aggregate score of 10-0, but now move above Real into second place with one game remaining.

Gladbach are top by a point, while Shakhtar have the upper hand on Real thanks to their superior head-to-head record.

However, the damage was limited for Real after Inter Milan won 3-2 away to Gladbach to keep their own hopes alive.

Matteo Darmian put Inter ahead and Romelu Lukaku scored twice for Antonio Conte's side. Alassane Plea netted a brace for Gladbach but was denied a hat-trick, and a late equaliser, because of an offside.

It means Inter are bottom of the group but could



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