

**OPINION 8**  
DON'T MESS  
WITH FARMERS**WORLD 11**  
QATAR RULES OUT NORMALISATION  
OF ISRAEL TIES FOR NOW**SPORT 14**  
INDIA BEAT AUS BY  
11 RUNS IN 1ST T20

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

# the pioneer

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ROLES SHOULD  
INTRIGUE ME:  
ADIL HUSSAIN  
12 VIVACITY

## Farmers call for Bharat Bandh on Dec 8 if talks fail

Kisans from western UP, U'khand stay put at Capital's Ghazipur border; traffic jam in Delhi, Noida

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The farmers on Friday called for "Bharat Bandh" on December 8 to mark their protest against the new farm laws if their talks with the Centre fail. Thousands of farmers remained at the national Capital's border points amid heavy police deployment.

"The Government has to revoke these laws in a meeting scheduled for December 5, otherwise we have decided to give 'Bharat bandh' call on December 8 and we will also occupy toll plaza and all vehicles will be passed through them without any payment. On December 7, awards will be returned back to Government by sportspersons and on December 5, effigies of the Narendra Modi Government and corporate houses will be burnt across the country," said Harinder Singh Lakhwal, Bharatiya Kisan Union general secretary.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Friday said the farmers are hoping that the Government will meet their demands during the fifth round of talks scheduled for December 5, failing which they will continue their protests against the new farm laws.

"We have also decided to close all roads connecting to Delhi if demands are not met

soon. In the meeting tomorrow our main agenda will be to know if the Government is rolling back laws or not. The protests are going on country-wide against the law, even in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and this protest is just not limited to northern States but across the country," said Ranjeet Singh Raju from Rajasthan.

Farmers from western Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand stayed put at Ghazipur border (UP Gate) to mark their protest. Following which the National Highway-9 remained closed from Ghaziabad to Delhi on the second consecutive day. Commuters taking alternate route faced long queues of traffic on their route. The farmers on Friday also tried to block the Bhupra and Apsara border but later the security forces persuaded the farmers and the traffic movement resumed.

However, traffic in the national Capital remained in chaos on Friday as Delhi Police and Noida Police issued advisory for route diversion.

The Singhu, Tikri, Ghazipur, Jharoda Lampur, Auchandi, Safiabadi, Piao Maniyari, and Saboli and Chilla border remained closed for traffic movement.

A meeting of farmers union took place on Friday and



Farmers shout slogans during their protest against the new farm laws at Delhi-Haryana Singhu border on Friday  
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

in a Press conference the farmers said in their meeting held on December 3, they clearly told the Government to roll back the farm laws and pointed out to nine flaws in them. "If Government does not agree to our demands, the further course of action will be decided tomorrow and we will intensify our protest," said Gurnam Singh Chaduni.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Centre hopeful of resolution, ready for amendments: Tomar; talks today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the fifth round meeting on Saturday, the Centre is hopeful of resolution of the standoff with agitating farmers and may be ready to "bring amendments," said Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

"The Government's inten-

tion towards Minimum Support Price (MSP) is very clear. I assure you that there will be no change in MSP. Discussions are going on and both sides have agreed on some points. We will meet again on Saturday. I am sure we will get a solution," Tomar told a news channel.

"Continuous discussions

are going on, both have agreed on some points. Government of India is in talks with kisan unions and the meetings are on positive note," Tomar said. He urged political parties not to politicise the whole movement.

Tomar said the Government has no ego and it has an open mind.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Covid vaccine in a few weeks, price affordable: Modi

1 crore health workers to get shots first, says Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre plans to give vaccine shots to nearly one crore health workers in the first phase of the vaccination drive whenever a Covid-19 vaccine is approved for use in India.

After this, nearly two crore frontline workers, including policemen, security personnel, municipal workers and other essential workers will receive the vaccination, the Health Ministry told an all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Friday.

About 27 crore senior citizens will receive the vaccine on priority basis in the third phase of the vaccination drive.

Addressing the floor leaders of Opposition parties while reviewing Covid-19 situation in the country, the Prime Minister quoted scientists saying that a vaccine for coronavirus would

be "available in the next few weeks."

Without giving away the price of the vaccine, Modi said it will be decided keeping in view the "public interest in mind", suggesting it may not be high-priced.

"Experts expect that the vaccine will be ready within the next few weeks. Once scientists approve it, the nationwide vaccination drive will be started in India. Our scientists are very confident of succeeding in their endeavour of making the Covid-19 vaccine. The world is keeping a watch on the cheapest and safe vaccine," the PM said during the meeting which was attended by about 12 leaders from prominent political parties.

Modi, who, last week visited India's top vaccine hubs to personally review the development of coronavirus vaccine and the manufacturing process also assured that the country has the necessary infrastructure to manufacture the vaccine at a large scale. Nearly eight vaccines are at different stages of trial with their manufacturing assured in India, he said.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Clean chit to Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech vaccine trials

Adverse events in volunteers have no link to clinical trials, says DCGI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's top drug regulator on Friday gave clean chit to Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech, which are facing allegations of serious adverse events (SAE) in the clinical trials.

Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) VG Somani hint-

ed that the trials are progressing as the SAEs reported have no causal link to the trials of these vaccines. He was replying to queries of reporters at a webinar.

"It has been found that things are going on as per processes," Somani told the media, referring to the two incidents of SAEs.

Compensation is given when the causality of serious adverse event is found to be related to the trial, he said.

An SAE is any untoward medical occurrence during the trial that may result in the volunteer getting hospitalised, suf-

fers disability, or death. But the causality on whether the SAE is related to the clinical trial has to be established by an expert committee of DCGI for the compensation.

Somani also said that compensation of ₹12 crore has been awarded for injuries, deaths caused during clinical trials in last 3 years.

The SII has brushed aside allegations of SAE by the Chennai volunteers claiming that its Covishield vaccine is safe and immunogenic and did not cause the neurological serious adverse effect in the 40-year-old participant.

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL
CASES: 96,06,810
DEATHS: 1,39,700
RECOVERED: 90,56,668
ACTIVE: 4,08,122



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,42,587	47,599	17,10,050
Karnataka	8,90,360	11,834	8,53,461
Andhra Pradesh	8,70,675	7,020	8,57,233
Tamil Nadu	7,87,554	11,762	7,64,854
Kerala	6,25,768	2,359	5,61,874
Delhi	5,86,125	9,497	5,48,376
Uttar Pradesh	5,51,179	7,877	5,20,637
West Bengal	4,96,522	8,628	4,63,849
Odisha	3,20,394	1,813	3,14,665
Rajasthan	2,76,420	2,389	2,49,713
Telangana	2,72,123	1,467	2,61,830
Chhattisgarh	2,43,997	2,956	2,21,690
Haryana	2,40,841	2,539	2,23,973
Bihar	2,37,968	1,287	2,31,108
Gujarat	2,15,819	4,049	1,97,092
Assam	2,13,505	987	2,08,964

## Hyderabad municipal polls: TMC bags 55, but BJP leaps to 49

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Voters of Hyderabad have thrown a "hung verdict" in the GHMC elections, the results of which were announced on Friday. None of the parties could secure the magic figure of 76 out of 150 seats.

However, the ruling TRS has emerged as the single largest party by winning 55 seats out of total 150 seats it had contested. TRS tally came down to 55 from 99 seats it won in 2016.

The BJP which has given a tough fight to TRS right from the beginning of the polls, stood second by winning 48 seats out of 149 seats it had contested. The BJP had just 4 seats in 2016.

The AIMIM, which stood third by securing 43 seats proved yet again that it remains unbeatable in its strong hold Old City. The Congress failed miserably, it won just 2

*Detailed report on P7*

## MVA romps home in MLC elections, BJP loses bastion

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within days of it completing its first year in office, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) consolidated its position in Maharashtra on Friday, as it handed out a humiliating drubbing to the Opposition BJP by winning four out of five Maharashtra Legislative Council seats in the biennial elections.

The BJP, which lost to power to the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government in November last year, found itself licking its wounds, as it lost its traditional bastion of Nagpur where the Congress' Abhijit Wanjari defeated the BJP's Sandeep Joshi in the Nagpur Division Graduates' constituency, by a comfortable margin of 18,910 votes.

*Detailed report on P7*

## IS IT OUR FAULT?

The only allegation against Sahara India Pariwar is that our repayments to the esteemed investors are getting delayed. Of course we are also paying the interest of delayed period.

Nobody is writing the reason.

The reason is -

Owing to the embargo imposed for the last 8 years by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, any money generated through selling or mortgaging our assets of the entire group (including Co-operatives) or from joint ventures will be deposited in the Sahara-SEBI account, as per the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Out of this, we cannot use even a single rupee for organizational work. Not even for repayment to the esteemed investors.

On the other hand, till date, approximately ₹22,500 crore including interest (which will surely come back to us as per Hon'ble Court's order) has been deposited in the Sahara-SEBI account. Whereas, despite giving four rounds of advertisements in 154 newspapers by SEBI in the last 8 years across the country, SEBI has repaid only ₹106.10 crore to the esteemed investors (means only 0.5% payment has been done) and there is no claimant anymore.

Now Sahara should not be required to deposit more money in the Sahara-SEBI account. The embargo on us should be lifted now and the order of verification should come. But all these decisions will be taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. On the other hand, due to COVID-19 for the last 10 months, we haven't been able to get a date from the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

We hope that we will soon get a date and everything will be good.

We are working on various sources of money. Everybody's money is totally safe. You are getting the interest of the delayed period.

Do have some patience. We shall all emerge victors by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.





# NEP to make India 'world guru': Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Stressing the importance of the new education policy in



## NOTICE

I have changed my name from Gule Yasmin to Gule Yasmeen. In all future purpose Gule Yasmeen W/o Abdul Islam Add. 131/261 Begum Purwa, T.P. Nagar, Kanpur

## NOTICE

I nilay sangal w/o Sanjeev Sangal R/O/229 Eldeco UDYan-1 Raibareilly Road, Lucknow have declared that I have lost my property number change unit letter 102 Eldeco Udyan-1, Raibareilly road Lucknow.

## NOTICE

I Ajay Kumar Seth S/o Sri Ramji Seth R/O CK. 57/11, Machchharahata Phatak, Nichi Bagh, Varanasi going to purchase Flat NO. 403 on fourth floor of H.No. CK. 14/12 having (Sup-build up area 1364 sqft. with proportionate land area 17.72 sqmt. situated at Mohalla-Nandan Sahu Lane, Chowk, Varanasi from its owners. Vinod Kumar Sarraf S/o Late Madan Lal Sarraf and Smt. Indu Sarraf W/o Vinod Kumar Sarraf and Amit Sarraf and Sumit Sarraf S/o Vinod Kumar Sarraf who purchased this property from 'Virchand, Dipchand and Seth Gokul Das, Moolchand Trust'. If same one have any objection in this transaction contact within 7 days' Harsh Chandra Rai (Adv.), Mob.: 9451525826, Chamber No. 110, Banaras Bar Building, Varanasi.

charting out a future for the youth, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the National Education Policy could help India become the 'world guru' as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"This education policy has come after 34 years and it not only focuses on theoretical aspect of knowledge but also takes care of practical knowledge," the chief minister said while presiding over a programme at the inauguration of the 88th Founder's Week ceremony of Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad in Gorakhpur on Friday.

Stating that the educational institutions of the country should have the right to decide the future of the country, Chief



## NOTICE

I JC-353693H Sub/Clk (SD) Kaliyan Singh Bhadouriya declare that name of my son has been changed from Abhishek to Abhishek Bhadouriya

## NOTICE

Be it known to all that by mistake the date of birth of my wife Sangeeta has been registered as 02.05.1977 in my service records. Her actual date of birth is 15.12.1980, and the spelling of my daughter Sakshi Tripathi has wrongly been registered as sakshye Tripathi. Correct spelling is Sakshi Tripathi for all purpose. Virendra Tripathi S/o S.D. Tripathi Vill-Tiwaripur, PO-Dubaval, Teh.- Phulpur, Prayagraj-221505.



Minister Yogi Adityanath said that "Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad was established by Mahant Digvijaynath with the aim of protecting the self-respect of the country in accordance with the ideal of Maharana Pratap that was extended by Brahmin Mahant Avaidyanath".

During the event, statues of Maharana Pratap, Mahant Digvijaynath and Mahant Avaidyanath were unveiled.

Talking about the construction of Ram Mandir, Yogi said that this year was important for all of us. He said while battling against the deadly coronavirus, our country has made many achievements.

"The construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya was the dream of Mahant Digvijaynath and Mahant Avaidyanath. With the launch of the construction of the Ram temple, their dreams too have come true," he said.

The chief minister said that COVID-19 presented a tough challenge but "we managed to bring out opportunities in the time of the pandemic".

"Students are doing virtual studies in sync with technology," he added.

Talking about COVID-19, the chief minister said that the Central and state governments were making all efforts to com-

bat the disease. "There are talks about the vaccine being available by next year but till it is available we need to be vigilant. People should understand their roles in defeating this virus," he said.

On this occasion, the chief minister also talked about encephalitis which caused havoc in eastern Uttar Pradesh from 1977 to 2017.

"Every year from July to September over 1,500 children had lost their lives to encephalitis. But since 2017, the fatality has come down because of the government's efforts and Swachh Bharat Mission. Inter-departmental coordination has resulted in a 95 per cent reduction in encephalitis deaths," he said.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, who was the chief guest, said the country was moving ahead on the path of development. Stating that students were the future of the country, Gen Rawat said, "If they fulfil their responsibility with zeal, dedication and honesty, the country will progress."

He also motivated the students to keep high thinking and have the guts to face obstacles coming in their way.

Referring to Swami Vivekananda, Gen Rawat said that if there was no problem in one's daily routine, one was on the wrong path.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In its commitment to provide employment and self-employment to the youth of Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government will be launching Mission Rojgar Abhiyan from Saturday.

The occasion will be marked by handing over appointment letters to 39,650 assistant teachers by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Aimed at providing employment to 50 lakh youths by the end of this financial year, this is the first of its kind and the biggest campaign in the history of UP and the youth will be provided employment through self-employment, skill development and training and apprenticeship, according to a government spokesman.

In this regard, Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari has issued guidelines to the Revenue Board, agricultural production commissioner and infrastructural and industrial development commissioner, all additional chief secretaries, principal secretary, secretaries, all departmental heads, divisional commissioners and district magistrates.

Tiwari said under the Mission Rojgar Abhiyan, various departments, organisations, voluntary organisations, corporations, councils, boards, local bodies, development

authorities and industrial development authority, will work in coordination to create opportunities of employment and self-employment through skill training and apprenticeship.

Besides providing employment and self-employment to youth, employment and self-employment opportunities would also be created by providing skill training, apprenticeship, allotment of land, giving various types of licenses and permissions, he added.

For making the campaign successful, all departments, organisations and authorities will set up help desks. At the help desks, proper details of programmes related to employment, self-employment, skills training and employment through self-employment will be made available.

A database of the employment created under this campaign will also be created and an app and portal will also be developed for this. In addition, all the directorates, corporations, boards, commissions, etc. will also nominate a nodal officer for their departments.

All the programmes of the campaign will be conducted by the industrial development commissioner and a high level committee headed by the chief secretary will monitor the campaign on a monthly basis.

In addition, there will be a

committee in every district under the chairmanship of the district magistrate that will prepare an action plan at the district level.

The Directorate of Training and Employment will also be organising employment fairs in collaboration with private industries. The cases of employment that have been halted for some reason will also be disposed of.

It may be mentioned here that the state government is training youth to assist them in getting employment at district as well as global levels and for this, the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission is pro-

**Aimed at providing employment to 50 lakh youths by the end of this financial year, this is the first of its kind and the biggest campaign in the history of UP**

viding international-level courses to 50,000 youth through the online learning platform Course.

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**

No. AD/RSC-1-21/66/2011/2885 Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec., 2020

### INTERVIEW

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for filling up **five General Duty Medical Officers on Contractual basis** in Paradip Port Trust.

For further details, refer to our website [www.paradipport.gov.in](http://www.paradipport.gov.in)

Last date is **18.12.2020**. **Sr. Asst. Secretary**  
PPT/PR/329/20-21 Dated: 4.12.2020

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, JAIPUR					
E-BID NOTICE					
निगम की नकारा वाहनो एवं स्टॉप का ई-ऑक्शन वेब-साइट <a href="http://Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc">Transport.Rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc</a> एवं <a href="http://rsrtc.procure247.com">rsrtc.procure247.com</a> के माध्यम से जहाँ है, जैसी है कि स्थिति में किया जाना है जिसका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है :-					
S. no.	Event's Name	EMD Deposit Start Date	EMD Deposit End Date	BID Start Date	BID End Date
1	SCRAP MATERIAL OF BUSESSES	18.11.20	10-12-20	10-12-20	11-12-20
2	SCRAP SPARE PARTS/ASSY/ ACCESSORIES OF BUSESSES	18.11.20	10-12-20	10-12-20	11-12-20
3	SCRAP MACHINERY/ EQUIPMENTS/EMPTY DRUM/ETC.	18.11.20	10-12-20	10-12-20	11-12-20
4	BURNTOIL(215LTR+1 BARREL)	18.11.20	10-12-20	10-12-20	11-12-20
5	SCRAP BATTERIES ITEMS	18.11.20	10-12-20	10-12-20	11-12-20
6	LEYLAND BLUE LINE WITHOUT DUMMY 100 BUSES	19.11.20	10-12-20	10-12-20	11-12-20
7	TATA ORD 96 BUSES	20.11.20	14-12-20	14-12-20	15-12-20
8	TATA ORD 15 BUSES	20.11.20	14-12-20	14-12-20	15-12-20
9	LEYLAND ORD 04 BUSES	20.11.20	14-12-20	14-12-20	15-12-20
10	TATA STAR LINE 02 BUSES	20.11.20	14-12-20	14-12-20	15-12-20
11	TATA ORD 01 BUSES	20.11.20	14-12-20	14-12-20	15-12-20

नोट- 1. ई-ऑक्शन में शामिल होने से पूर्व बोलीदाता द्वारा EMD राशि जमा कराना अनिवार्य है।  
2. ई-ऑक्शन का सम्पूर्ण विवरण, नियम एवं शर्त वेब-साइट पर उपलब्ध है।

राज.संवाद / सी / 20 / 7349 **सिडरॉ 136/2020-21** **Financial advisor**

**कार्यालय अधीक्षक राजकीय पशुधन प्रक्षेत्र चक गंजरिया स्थित निबलेट बाराबंकी**

पत्रांक-722/अधीगंजो/टुक नीलामी पत्रा/2020-21 दिनांक 28.11.2020

### सार्वजनिक नीलामी सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि राजकीय पशुधन प्रक्षेत्र चक गंजरिया, स्थित निबलेट, बाराबंकी, जहाँगीराबाद रोड पर टाटा ट्रक नम्बर यू.आर.यू. 4593 माडल नम्बर एल0पी0टी0 1210 ई0/42 वर्ष 1982 की नीलामी की जानी है। नीलामी खुली बोली व टेण्डर द्वारा प्रक्षेत्र कार्यालय पर मण्डलीय क्रय-विक्रय समिति के सम्मक्ष दिनांक 16.12.2020, दिन बुधवार को 12.30 बजे अपराह्न की जानी है, नीलामी से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत निविदा की शर्त पशुपालन विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.animalhusb.upsc.gov.in](http://www.animalhusb.upsc.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

उपरो 157463, दिनांक - 02.12.2020  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

(डा0एम0पी0सिंह) अधीक्षक राजकीय पशुधन प्रक्षेत्र चक गंजरिया स्थित निबलेट बाराबंकी।

**No. 26-16/2017-DD-III**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**  
**Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**  
Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,  
C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

### CIRCULAR

**Appointment of Chairperson, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.**

National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is a statutory body constituted under Section 3(1) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 (hereafter, "the Act"). The Trust has 22 Members and is chaired by the Chairperson.

2. Objectives of the Trust as given in Section 10 of the Act are:

- To enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong;
- To strengthen facilities to provide support to persons with disability to live within their own families.
- To extend support to registered organizations to provide need based services during period of crisis in the family of persons with disability;
- To deal with problems of person with disability, who do not have family support;
- To promote measures for the care and protection with persons with disability in the event of death of their parents or guardians;
- To evolve procedure for the appointment of guardians and trustees for persons with disability requiring such protections;
- To facilitate and realization of equal opportunities protection of rights and full participation of person with disability, and
- To do any other act, which is incidental to the aforesaid objectives.

3. Powers and duties of the Chairperson, National Trust: As per National Trust Rules as amended from time to time.

4. As per Section 32 of the Act, all members, Chief Executive Officer, other officers and employees of the Trust shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any provision of this Act to be public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

5. **Term of Appointment as per Section 4 of the Act:** Three years, from the date of appointment.

6. Salary and allowances of the Chairperson: Under Rule 4 and 5 of the National Trust Rules 2000, the salary of the Chairperson shall be equivalent to the basic pay of a Secretary to the Government of India. Dearness allowance and other allowance will be paid as per rules, applicable to a Secretary to the Government of India. Provided that where the Chairperson is a retired person from the Central Government or a State Government or Union Territory Administration or semi Government body or Public Sector Undertaking or a recognized research institution or other autonomous or statutory body, the salary payable together with the pension or pensionary value of the terminable benefits or both received by him/her shall not exceed the basic pay of a Secretary to the Government of India.

7. **Age limit:** The applicant shall not be older than 62 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

8. **Eligibility:**

8.1 As per Section 3 (4) (a) of the Act, the Chairperson to be appointed by Central Government, shall be from amongst persons having expertise and experience in the field of autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities.

8.2 **Educational Qualifications and Experience:**  
Educational qualification and experience for Chairperson of Board: Any person for being appointed as the Chairperson of the Board shall possess the following educational and other qualifications and experiences, namely:

- Master's degree from a recognized university:**  
Provided that preference shall be given to a person having:
  - a postgraduate degree from a recognized University or Institute in one or more area of area of disability or community based disability rehabilitation, namely, autism, cerebral Palsy, mental retardation, multiple disability or any other equivalent qualification in these fields which is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India and registered as a personnel or professional with the Rehabilitation Council of India; or
  - a postgraduate degree from a recognized University or Institute in any subject with diploma or degree in one or more area of disability or community based disability rehabilitation, namely, autism, cerebral Palsy, mental retardation, multiple disability or any other equivalent qualification in these fields which is recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India and registered as a personnel or professional with the Rehabilitation Council of India; or
- His/ Her research papers published in any reputed professional journal; and
- minimum of ten years experience in the disability sector out of which not less than seven years shall be in autism or cerebral palsy or mental retardation or multiple disabilities; and
- administrative experience of not less than three years as Chief Executive Officer or Chairperson or President or General Secretary of any Non Governmental Organization which has been serving at least for ten years in the areas of autism cerebral palsy, mental retardation or multiple disabilities.

9. **Application procedure:**

- Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in Paras 7 and 8 above may apply in the prescribed pro-forma, together with supporting documents, to Shri Sitaram Yadav, Deputy Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Room No.523, 5th Floor, B-II, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003 within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in employment news. Application form may be downloaded from this website: [www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in) (publication - download form).

davp 38117 / 11 / 0033 / 2021

**राज्य सरकार की अभिनव पहल**  
**कोरोना जाँच केंद्र तक पहुँचना अब आसान**  
**नवविकसित मेरा कोविड केंद्र एप**

मेरा कोविड केंद्र

की **लॉन्चिंग**

**योगी आदित्यनाथ**  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गौरिमामयी उपस्थिति

**जयप्रताप सिंह**  
मंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण, मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार

दिनांक 5 दिसम्बर, 2020 | समय अपराह्न 4:30 बजे  
स्थान 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

**गूगल प्ले स्टोर से MERA COVID KENDRA एप डाउनलोड करें**

- 5 किमी के अन्दर स्थित कोविड जाँच केंद्र का पता आसानी से लगाये।
- जाँच केंद्र पहुँचने का रास्ता एवं निम्न जानकारी भी मिलेगी एप पर।
  - 1 जाँच केंद्र का जीपीएस लोकेशन
  - 2 भवन/जाँच केंद्र का नाम
  - 3 मोबाइल नम्बर
  - 4 लेण्डलाइन नम्बर
  - 5 पिन कोड
- अन्य जनपदों में स्थित कोविड जाँच केंद्र का पता घर बैठ मिलेगा।

कोविड जाँच रिपोर्ट प्राप्त करें <https://labreports.upcovid19tracks.in/>

समस्त जानकारीयों हेतु सम्पर्क करें **104**

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



# 45,000 health workers to be vaccinated in first phase

259 test +ve,  
5 succumb

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In the first phase of Covid-19 immunisation programme, 45,000 health workers in Lucknow will be vaccinated. According to a senior health official, the rooms for vaccinations and logistics will be ready by December 15 this year. "In the first phase, only the health workers will be vaccinated and we are still updating the list," the official said. There are no further instructions on who will be vaccinated after these health workers. The vaccine will not be available commercially because of the limited supply," he pointed out.

Regarding the ongoing containment exercise for coronavirus, the official said they had identified pockets in Indiranagar, Chinhath, Alambagh, Gominagar and Sarojinagar where targeted sampling began on Friday.

About the recently-concluded sampling at wedding venues, where the staffers of marriage halls, and band artists were tested, the reports of only seven persons out of the 6,000 tested came out positive. The official said that the guests were not tested because they did not want to

## UP govt to launch Covid test centre locator app

Lucknow (PNS); The day Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that Covid vaccine would be available soon, the Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday decided to launch a mobile application, Covid Test Centre Locator, to facilitate people in finding a Covid testing centre. The government spokesman said that the app could be used to find testing centres within a vicinity of 5 kms. The user can locate the testing centres on the app through the map and can also get details of the centre like timing and test type. The app will be district/city-level and the field level user can download the mobile app from the Director General Medical Health (DGMH) website <http://dgmhup.gov.in>

"After reaching the testing centre, the field level officer will record the details like

disrupt the function. "The guests have been asked to keep the mask on except when eating food, and they are also screened so any potential symptomatic visitor is not allowed," the official said.

On Friday, 259 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow while 305 patients

GPS location and building/test centre's name, mobile number, landline number and PIN code on his mobile app," the official said. Once the details of the testing centres are recorded on the mobile app, it will show on the web portal of the district administration and the dashboard can be accessed through the url [ctc.upcovid19tracks.in](http://ctc.upcovid19tracks.in). After the testing centre is approved, the district administration will also activate it and it will start showing on the app.

When the app is opened, all activated test centres within the area will be shown on the map and the user will also have the option of searching test centres through the search box of address or test centre name. The app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store and the DGMH website.

recovered. With five more deaths, the toll reached 1,020 while there are 3,478 active cases in the district. The fresh cases included 27 from Gominagar, 19 from Chowk, 21 from Indiranagar, 19 from Rae Bareilly road, 14 each from Hazratganj & Mahanagar, 12 from Jankipuram, and 10 each

from Alambagh and Aliganj. Across the state, 1,985 persons tested positive, including 48 in Kanpur, 117 in Ghaziabad, 75 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 224 in Meerut, 74 in Agra and 117 in Ghaziabad, taking the UP tally to 5,51,179. There were 29 deaths across the state, including three in Jaunpur, two each in Prayagraj, Varanasi, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Mainpuri & Kanpur Dehat, and one each in Kanpur, Ballia, Barabanki, Sitapur, Bulandshahr, Unnao, Sultanpur, Firozabad, Kannauj & Mirzapur, taking the toll to 7,877. Besides, 2,247 patients recovered, taking the recoveries to 5,20,637 while there are 22,665 active cases in the state.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Adarsh Vyapar Mandal, along with officials of district administration, carried out an awareness programme regarding prevention of coronavirus infection on Friday. Mandal's president Sanjay Gupta said keeping in mind the concern over the probable second wave, as seen in other countries, they decided to make people aware regarding the precautions which need to be taken by people. The traders and district administration officials visited every shop in Narhi and appealed to people to mask up and ensure other precautions.

Meanwhile, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) has closed its Covid-19 testing lab with effect from December 1 for want of funds.

Director Vandana Prasad said they have written to the state and central governments seeking funds for going on with the testing. "We had been given Rs 31 lakh from March to December and the funds were utilised. We have not received any additional funds since then," she said.

**J.K. Cement LTD.**  
CIN:L17229UP1994PLC017199  
Regd. & Corporate Office: Kamla Tower, Kanpur-208 001 (U.P.)  
**NOTICE**  
It is hereby notified that Share Certificate(s) No. 55572 bearing Distinctive Nos. 43216858 to 43216866 for 9 Equity Shares standing in the name(s) of Subhash Chandra of Prayagraj issued by the Company is reported lost. Any objection for issuance of duplicate share certificate(s) must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate will be issued without incurring any liability for the said issue.  
For J.K. Cement Ltd. (Shambhu Singh)  
Asst. Vice President (Legal)  
Place: Kanpur & Company Secretary  
Date : 04.12.2020 M.No:FCS 5836

**J.K. Cement LTD.**  
CIN:L17229UP1994PLC017199  
Regd. & Corporate Office: Kamla Tower, Kanpur-208 001 (U.P.)  
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It is hereby notified that Share Certificate(s) No. 2553 bearing Distinctive Nos. 42542545 to 42542590 for 46 Equity Shares standing in the name(s) of Jagdish Chandra of New Delhi issued by the Company is reported lost. Any objection for issuance of duplicate share certificate(s) must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate will be issued without incurring any liability for the said issue.  
For J.K. Cement Ltd. (Shambhu Singh)  
Asst. Vice-President (Legal)  
Place: Kanpur & Company Secretary  
Date : 04.12.2020 M.No:FCS 5836



**Samajik Adhikarita Shivar**  
Distribution of Aids and Assistive Devices free of cost to 642 Divyangjan under ADIP Scheme

**Chief Guest**  
**Thaawarchand Gehlot**  
Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

**Presided over by**  
**Lallu Singh**  
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Ayodhya

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 Time: 01:30 PM**  
**Through Video Conferencing from Rajkiya Kanya Inter College, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh**

**Join the event live at: <https://www.youtube.com/alimcohq>**

**Fresh Registration of eligible beneficiaries is available at the venue**

**Empowerment through Samajik Adhikarita Shivar**

**9331 Camps held covering all the States/UTs**

**Aids and assistive devices distributed to more than 16.86 lakh Divyangjan**

**2995 Cochlear Implant surgeries conducted**

**19042 Motorized tricycles distributed**



Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment  
Government of India

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# Man commits suicide over strained relations with wife

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 25-year-old man, identified as Roshan Lal Raidas of Maulili village under Gosainganj police station, hanged himself in his room on Friday morning. Strained relations with wife was said to be reason why he took the extreme step. Father Rajendra Kumar Raidas said Roshan was upset since Wednesday after his wife refused to return from her parents' house. His wife, along with their two children, had gone to her parents' house for Diwali and refused to come back. Roshan tried to persuade her to come back, but to no avail. He went to bring his wife back but she refused to go along with him.

He returned home on Wednesday and had dinner with his father. He was found hanging in his room the next morning. He was rushed to the community health centre where he was declared brought

dead.

In another incident, a 22-year-old woman, identified as Seema of Indiranagar (E-block) was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Friday evening. Police said her brothers alleged foul play. She had got married to Shrikant Verma, a businessman, only six months ago. Shrikant had gone to attend the funeral of a relative in the afternoon and when he came back, he found his wife lying unconscious in the bedroom. He rushed her to the hospital where doctors declared her brought dead. Police sent the body for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a 35-year-old man, identified as Salahuddin of Muslim Nagar on Sitapur road under Madaon police station, was fatally knocked down by an unidentified speeding vehicle near his house on Thursday night. Police said he was a vegetable vendor and was returning home. He met the mishap while crossing the road

even as the errant driver sped off. He was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where he succumbed to injuries. His elder brother lodged a complaint in this connection. Police said they were browsing through CCTV footage to identify the vehicle that knocked him down.

In another incident, three persons, including two women, were injured in a road mishap on Friday. They were identified as Alok Kumar, his mother Kamla Devi and sister Savita. They are residents of Hardoi Bazaar. Kumar, along with his mother and sister, was returning home after attending a function hosted by his uncle (mother's brother) at Kharga Bazaar. Police said an unidentified bike collided head-on with Kumar's motorcycle. The injured were rushed to the community health centre from where Kumar and his mother were referred to KGMU Trauma Centre.

# Excise department mulling to revolutionise liquor industry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Excise department is mulling to revive and revolutionise the liquor industry as the same revenue earning sector as it was before the pandemic. The revenue generated by alcohol funds nearly one-fifth of the budget of the state and the share goes up every year.

This was stated by Excise minister Ramnaresh Agnihotri in a webinar organised by UP Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHD-CCI) on 'Reviving the food and beverage industry of Uttar Pradesh' on Friday.

The objective of the webinar was to discuss and shed light on the economic rationale behind the food and beverage industry and the state government's role in it, to discuss the current



impact and forecast aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic on the food and beverage industry in the state. The virtual conference was also aimed at paving the way for better food and beverage industry in the state. The minister said that UP collected a monthly average amount of Rs 2,500 crore from liquor in the last financial year and the same is expected to rise to about Rs 3,000 crore in the current financial year.

"In the financial year 2018-2019, UP collected the highest revenue from excise duty on liquor in the country. The excise receipts in financial year 2018-19 up to March 2019 were Rs 23918.47 crore, which was 38.1% more than that of the financial year 2017-18, thus registering a growth of Rs 6598.37 crore or 38.1 percent," he said.

The minister said that the Indian alcohol market is expanding at a compound annual growth rate of 8.8% with wine and vodka showing a very high demand.

"India also happens to be the largest consumer of

whiskey in the world. The sale of alcoholic beverages has gone up by 38% between 2010 and 2017 and UP remains the major contributor," the minister said.

Additional Chief Secretary, Excise, Sanjay R Bhooresddy said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the department is working strongly towards bringing more transparency in policy making and encouraging ease of doing business in the state by which they have been trying to reduce the human interface by maximising the usage of IT platforms and services while ensuring full compliance to regulatory regime and also by reducing the number of interfaces at distillery level, as a result of which the department is able to increase the number of transactions up to 30% in comparison to last financial year. He complimented the salient features of the existing excise and molasses policy and said that the department is on the verge of making a second excise policy with modifications, as per the new industry standards.

"Despite lockdown, the department successfully issued 250 beer bar licenses along with 12 micro-braveries licences and more than a dozen composite hotel licenses," he added. The webinar was attended by more than 180 participants, including policy makers, hoteliers, distillers, brewers, millers, bottlers and other stakeholders.



**भारत निर्वाचन आयोग**  
विशेष संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण/मतदाता (वोटर) पंजीकरण कार्यक्रम  
दिनांक: 17 नवम्बर, 2020 से 15 दिसम्बर, 2020 तक  
लोकसभा/विधानसभा क्षेत्रों की मतदाता सूची में पंजीकरण कराने हेतु सूचना

**मतदाता बनने की पात्रता :-**

- भारतीय नागरिक हों एवं उत्तर प्रदेश के सम्बन्धित निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में सामान्यतः निवास कर रहे हों।
- 18 वर्ष की आयु पूरे कर चुके हों अथवा 01 जनवरी, 2021 को 18 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण कर रहे हों।

**आवेदन की व्यवस्था**

मतदाता सूची में नाम जुड़वाने एवं संशोधन इत्यादि करने हेतु भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा एक ऑनलाइन वेबपोर्टल [www.voterportal.eci.gov.in](http://www.voterportal.eci.gov.in) विकसित किया गया है, जिसके माध्यम से जन सामान्य निम्नलिखित सेवाएं प्राप्त कर सकते हैं:-

- निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम को सम्मिलित करने के लिए - **फार्म-6**
- किसी प्रवासी निर्वाचक द्वारा निर्वाचक नामावली में नाम सम्मिलित किए जाने के लिए - **फार्म-6ए**
- निर्वाचक नामावली से नाम विलोपित कराने के लिए - **फार्म-7**
- निर्वाचक नामावली में प्रविष्टियों की शुद्धि के लिए - **फार्म-8**
- एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में निवास स्थान को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर स्थानान्तरित कराने के लिए - **फार्म-8ए**

उपरोक्त सेवाएं जन सामान्य [www.voterportal.eci.gov.in](http://www.voterportal.eci.gov.in) पर अपने Mobile Number / E-mail ID / Voter ID Number अथवा अपने Facebook / G-mail / Twitter and Linkdin द्वारा Login करके प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

उक्त सेवाएं भारत निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा विकसित Voter Helpline app द्वारा भी प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

फार्म-6, 6ए, 7, 8 व 8ए में सम्बन्धित आवेदन ऑफलाइन भी यथानिर्दिष्ट स्थानों पर जमा कर सकते हैं।

**आवेदन की सामान्य व्यवस्था**

- संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण की अवधि में सभी फार्म अपने बूथ लेवल अधिकारी, पदाभिहीत अधिकारी, तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र, जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के कार्यालय से अथवा वेबसाइट [www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in](http://www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in) से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
- सम्बन्धित फार्मों पर अपना आवेदन (फोटो, पता, जन्मतिथि के प्रमाण सहित) निम्नलिखित स्थानों पर जमा कर सकते हैं:-
  - सम्बन्धित पोलिंग बूथ के बूथ लेवल अधिकारी के पास
  - तहसील स्थित मतदाता पंजीकरण केन्द्र पर
  - तहसील के उप जिलाधिकारी / निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
  - तहसील के तहसीलदार / सहायक निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
  - जिलाधिकारी / जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के कार्यालय में
- उपरोक्त सभी आवेदन चयनित CSC (कॉमन सर्विस सेंटर) के माध्यम से भी निर्धारित शुल्क का भुगतान कर किए जा सकते हैं।

**मतदान केन्द्रों पर पंजीकरण हेतु विशेष अभियान दिवस**  
**05 दिसम्बर 2020 शनिवार**  
**13 दिसम्बर 2020 रविवार**

**मतदाता सूची में नाम देखने की व्यवस्था :**

- मतदाता सुधियों का आलेख्य 17 नवम्बर, 2020 से 15 दिसम्बर, 2020 के मध्य सभी मतदान केन्द्रों पर देखने के लिए उपलब्ध होगा।
- वेबसाइट [www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in](http://www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in) पर Search your name Electoral Roll बटन पर क्लिक कर मतदाताओं द्वारा अपने से सम्बन्धित विवरण को देखा जा सकता है।
- आप <https://electoralsearch.in> पर भी अपना नाम देख सकते हैं।

**टोल फ्री नम्बर 1950**

**E-mail: [ceo\\_uttarpradesh@eci.gov.in](mailto:ceo_uttarpradesh@eci.gov.in)**  
**Website: [www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in](http://www.ceouttarpradesh.nic.in)**

**मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश**

**कोरोना से डरें नहीं, बचें**

दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी

**Public Notice**  
Notice is hereby given by the undersigned for and on behalf of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Area Office, Shahnaaz Road, Lucknow pursuant to Circular No. 422/Annexure-E of LIC HFL that the Original Hire Purchase agreement dated 05-05-2010 executed by Uttar Pradesh Awas Evam Vikas Parishad Lucknow in favour of Chandra Prakash Rajvanshi. The said Hire Purchase Agreement is registered in the Office of Sub Registrar 1st Lucknow in Book No. 1, Volume 11905 on pages 135/156 Serial No. 9250 dated 05-05-2010 in respect to House No. 16A/324 area 40.74 sq. mtr. Situated at Sec-16-A, Vrindavan Scheme, Distt. Lucknow and Original Allotment Letter issued by Uttar Pradesh Awas Evam Vikas Parishad Lucknow in favour of Chandra Prakash Rajvanshi. Present owners have been lost Original Allotment Letter and Last page of Original Hire Purchase agreement.  
Jasvinder Raj and Vrajesh Rai have applied for housing loan for which has proposed the said property to be mortgaged by depositing aforesaid Original Hire Purchase Agreement dated 05-05-2010 and Original Allotment Letter with LIC HFL and as such any person claiming to be the said property covered by the said document may file claim before me within 15 days from the date of publication of notice failing which it will be presumed that the property in question is free from any encumbrance and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 days of publication of the notice.  
**Mahendra Mohan Mishra (Advocate)**  
Chamber Shop No.4 & 5, Ground Floor,  
Krishna Tower, Near CMO Office,  
Kaiserbagh, Lucknow, Mob: 9415426914,  
955985554







# Lal Bihari Yadav declared elected from Varanasi Teachers' constituency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) got a major jolt in the parliamentary constituency of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi facing humiliating defeat in Varanasi Teacher constituency in MLC election. This defeat is an eye-opener for the ruling party which had its hold on it for the last two consecutive times.

Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Lal Bihari Yadav bagged a total of 7,766 votes and was declared winner in the seat of Varanasi block teacher quota in MLC election. He defeated his nearest rival of teacher leader of Om Prakash Sharma faction Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra by a margin of 936 votes. Dr Mishra secured 6,830 votes. The SP candidate maintained lead since the first round of counting. Till the end of 11th round of counting, Yadav had secured 7,248 votes and Dr Mishra had got 6,830 votes.

But in the last, as many as 518 votes have been added to the total 7,248 votes secured by the SP candidate till the end of the 11th round counting because of the removal and transfer of Dr Mishra in the counting of last and 12th round. With this, the total number of votes secured by Yadav reached to 7,766 and defeated Dr Mishra by a margin of 936 votes. His victory gave a reason to bring a smile on the faces of the SP leaders



Jubilant SP-supported Lal Bihari Yadav who has been elected from Varanasi Teachers constituency on Friday

Pioneer

as he succeeded in not only registering victory but also making a dent in a stronghold of the saffron brigade.

The sitting MLC and BJP-supported candidate Chet Narayan Singh had to satisfy with third position as he could manage to get just 4,858 votes. Singh was MLC from teacher quota for the last 10 years. His humiliating defeat is a major setback to the ruling party in the parliamentary constituency of the PM in which the saffron brigade had won all the assembly seats in 2017. In the

previous election in 2014, Singh had represented the constituency in 2008 and 2014 but faced defeat this time.

The other candidates Krishna Mohan Yadav, Dr Jitendra Singh Kumar Patel, Dharmendra Kumar, Dr Farid Ansari, Dr Brijesh, Rajani, Ramesh Singh, Rajendra Pratap Singh and Sanjay Kumar Singh got 1621, 783, 191, 169, 530, 527, 1973, 1444 and 100 votes respectively.

The election for the constituency was conducted on December 1. Out of total

33,511 votes, a total of 23,067 (68.83 per cent) votes were cast in the teacher constituency of Varanasi division. The counting began at Pahadia Mandi at 8 am on Thursday amid tight security arrangements but it took almost 24 hours in completing the counting of all votes.

The assistant returning officer Navneet Singh Chahal handed over the certificate to Lal Bihari Yadav on Friday morning after he was formally declared victorious by the Election Commission.

# SP candidate Sinha leading till fifth round of counting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Ashutosh Sinha is leading in Varanasi Block Graduate seat till the fifth round counting. The counting continued till night. If Sinha maintained lead till the end of counting, it would be another setback to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that had lost the Varanasi Block Teacher seat to the SP.

More than 30 hours have passed after the counting of votes polled to graduate constituency of Varanasi division began at 8 am on Thursday last and it continued till night. The SP candidate Sinha took a lead in the first round of counting and maintained it till the fifth round counting on his nearest

rival and BJP candidate Kedar Nath Singh.

Till the end of the fifth round counting, Sinha had bagged a total of 18,679 votes and took a lead of 2,014 votes on the sitting MLC and BJP candidate Singh who secured 16,665 votes. The SP leaders were confident of the party candidate like its candidate Lal Bihari Yadav registered victory in teachers' constituency defeating the BJP supported independent candidate Chet Narayan Singh.

In the counting of the sixth round, the votes of second preference are to be counted. If Sinha succeeded in maintaining lead till the end of counting and registering victory, he will give a reason to the party leaders for smiling a second

time within a few hours and at same time, it would be another jolt to the saffron brigade.

It is pointed out that out of total 2,09,754 voters, a total of 82,498 (39.33) electorates had used their franchises. As many as 22 candidates contested the election.

**POLL OBSERVER HOSPITALISED:** The health condition of the observer in the counting of Varanasi Block Teacher and Graduate seat Ajay Kumar Singh deteriorated suddenly early morning on Friday and he was admitted at a private hospital on Magbool Alam Road. His condition was stated to be critical. It was said that he suffered a heart attack.

According to the information, his condition deteriorated suddenly in Circuit House

where he has stayed. The gunner for his security informed the administrative officer and he was rushed to a private hospital, situated in above mentioned area. The Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal also reached the hospital on being aware of this information. The wife of Singh, Neena Sharma was informed about this. She is also an observer in counting of Agra Block seats. He was kept on life-support system and his treatment was going on under the observation of a team of doctors of the hospital. The administration has also made preparations to take Singh to Delhi by air-ambulance if the doctors advise for the same. His condition was stated to be critical till the filing of this report.

# Protest in Nagepur in support of farmers' stir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The heat of ongoing agitation of farmers of Punjab near Delhi borders has reached the Adarsh Sansad Gram of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Nagepur here on Friday when a section of people staged a protest at Nandghar supporting the agitation of the farmers. Showing their anger, they also burnt the copies of three farm laws and raised the demand of repealing the laws. The place is not far away from Khazuri (Raja Talab) where recently while addressing a public meeting, the PM had defended the farm laws strongly.

They also warned the government that if their demands are not met and the laws are repealed, they would continue their agitation. They also said that if the government did not



take a positive stand on the demands of the farmers, then they would be forced to take to the streets to fight with full strength. They also appealed to the PM to take immediate action on the problem of farmers.

Convenor of the Lok Samiti Nandlal Master, who has

come in support of the farmers, has said that the activists of the organisation also oppose the three anti-farmer laws brought by the Central Government. The action taken by the Central Government on farmers going to Delhi is shocking and unfortunate as in democracy, everyone is given

the rights to speak, but it seems that the government does not believe in the Constitution, he added.

According to him, though the farmers are on the streets in these winter days, the Central Government continues maintaining silence. He alleged that a government which had promised to double the income of the farmers, is now making conspiracy to take away their land. He said that the government does not want farmers to get Minimum Support Price (MSP) of their crops and it is one of the main reasons why the farmers are forced to agitate on the roads.

The others who were also present were Shyamsunder, Amit, Panchmukhi, Soni, Sarita, Anita, Saroj, Shivkumar, Asha, Madhubala, Vidya, Shamabano, Seema and Sunil.

# 98 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 98 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district, increasing the total number of cases to 19,488 on Friday. The day saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 315. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 118 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 15,525. As none of the patient has been discharged from any of the hospital, the number remained at 2,873. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 18,398, leaving 775 active

cases. The recovery rate is 94.40 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, 67 positive patients were found out of 2,782 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,37,281 and the results of 1,243 are awaited. Out of them, 4,17,824 were negative, while 19,457 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,57,859. Earlier, two males aged 76 and 75 from Susuwahi and Ramghat respectively succumbed to Covid-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras

Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,522 including 214 red zones. There are 2,308 green zones with 11 new ones.

Meanwhile, senior physician of Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital, Kabirchaura Dr AK Singh said that the decreasing temperatures and increasing pollution with the arrival of winter may escalate the changes of corona infection and this may be aggravated further if a person is already suffering from chronic diseases like diabetes, respiratory infections or high blood

pressure.

'Actually, this change in temperature brings many changes on us as it greatly affects our routine and eating habits. In the winter, our morning walks and exercises become very irregular, along with the inclusion of strong food in our balanced diet, the rate of infection of flu and pneumonia increases in winter, as well as due to smoke and pollution, the presence of the coronavirus may increase its severity manifolds,' he said, adding that however, with some small changes and general efforts, the severity of the epidemic can be protected.



A man crossing a railway track with his bicycle amid dense fog in Prayagraj

Pioneer

# 60 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Within the last 24 hours, as many as 5,253 people were tested for COVID-19 in the Prayagraj district. Of them, 60 new cases of coronavirus infection were reported. At present, the decreasing number of positive patients every day is relieving to one and all. At the same time, two infected people died during treatment.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, CMO Unnao's report in the Covid testing on Thursday has also come positive for the second time. At the same time, a junior doctor of the

Department of Medicine of SRN Hospital has also been infected. On Wednesday, three doctors at L3 Hospital were infected.

A total of 60 people have been infected, including the manager of a dialysis unit in a private hospital, a lawyer, a teacher at a basic school. A total of 26,803 people have been infected with corona in the district so far.

According to the nodal officer, the percentage of people who get infection-free is more relieving than those infected. So far 6,458 people have been discharged from various Covid hospitals, while

19,233 people have completed home isolation. With the death of two people, the number of people who lost their lives due to Covid infection reached 347.

Dr Sahai said that 65 persons are admitted in SRN Hospital, 21 in Beli and 20 in United Medicity Hospital. The number of active patients reached 765 after about five months.

Nursing home, clinics, diagnostic centers, paramedical institute operators are not serious about the information related to information of the staff sought by the Health department. This negligence is

hampering the preparation of Covid vaccination. Now registration of medical institutions not providing information within a fixed period will not be renewed. About 225 institutions are included in such a list.

CMO Dr Prabhakar Rai issued instructions in this regard on Thursday. He informed that the list of employees has not been received from about 125 such nursing homes, clinics etc. This is hampering initial preparations for Covid vaccination. However, the registration of the recipients will not be renewed.

# Devotees should not come for Kalpavas if they are unwell: Mela admn

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A ny camp where corona positive cases will be found in Magh Mela will be seized. In such a situation, Kalpavasi and other devotees performing rituals in that camp will also be affected. Hence, the devotees should not come for Kalpavas for a month if they have a little physical illness.

Those who are fully healthy, would be allowed to Kalpavas. Kalpavasi will be given entry to Magh Mela only after their report being received three days ago. This was requested by the Mela administration in a meeting held with the pilgrims at the Prayagraj Mela Authority office on Thursday. Various aspects of

how to preserve Sanatan traditions in the corona period and how to protect Kalpavasi from infection for a month were discussed.

Officers associated with the Magh Mela administration informed the Tirthapurohit that Kalpavasi who are suffering from any serious disease should not be allowed to come to the Mela.

Only those people come for Kalpavas, who fulfill their resolve by staying healthy throughout the month. Kalpavasi will get admission only after bringing the corona report three days ago. In addition, corona test will be conducted throughout the week and fortnight. If anyone was found to be corona affected

during the Kalpavas at the mela due to any reason, its camp would be sealed.

It will also be quarantined under the guideline of COVID-19. On this occasion, the incharge Meladhikari Vivek Chaturvedi, Rajneesh Mishra, Tirthapurohit Subhash Pandey, Ajay Pandey, Rajendra Paliwal, Santosh Bhardwaj, Rajesh Tiwari, Amarnath Tiwari, Dinkar Pandey, Manoj Karahi, Gokul Pathak, Nitin Bhardwaj, Rajesh Pathak, Ashutosh Paliwal, Pradeep Pandey, Lal Shokha, Virendra Tiwari, Triveni Prasad Mishra, Uday Narayan Pandey, Surendra Pandey, Anuj Tiwari among others were present.

Meanwhile, On Friday, the pilgrims expressed their anger

at the increase in revenue without bringing the proposal to the advisory committee. They raised the voice to repeat that order and to allocate land to the Tirthapurohit first in the forthcoming Magh Mela and to stop the rigging of the land records of the Tirthapurohit. After reaching the Prayagraj Mela Authority office on these issues, Tirthapurohit also submitted a four-point memorandum.

Prominent among those who submitted the memorandum included Subhash Pandey, Virendra Tiwari, Narendra Pandey, Dilip Tiwari, Amit, Alok Pandey, Dilip Dubey, Krishna Kumar Pathak, Shailendra Pandey of the Tirthapurohit Mahasabha.

# Rly to start operation of Kalka Mail again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

After a long gap of eight months, the railway is going to start operation of Howrah-Delhi Kalka Mail once again. Like other trains, Kalka Mail will also operate as a special train. The special thing is that earlier this train used to take 19.25 hours to reach Kalka from Prayagraj but now this train will reach Kalka from the

junction in 15.50 hours.

The time of the Kalka Mail to Prayagraj Junction before the lockdown was 9-9.10 am, but now from December 8, this train will reach the junction at 11-11.10 am which will reach Kalka at 3 o'clock in the late night. Earlier this train reached Kalka at 4.35 am. The train will have 24 coaches as before. The train between Prayagraj to Kalka will no longer stop at

Hathras Junction, while the other remaining stops will remain as before. In return, this train will leave Kalka at 23.55 pm and reach Prayagraj Junction at 4.50-5 pm the next day. This train from Howrah will run from December 7 and from Kalka from December 10. In the same order, the Express from Manduadih to Rameswaram is also going to start from Sunday, December 6.

This train will now come to Prayagraj Junction every Sunday night at 10.20-10.40 instead of 12.05 at night. Which Rameswaram will arrive at 11 pm on Tuesday night instead of 12.45. Similarly, this train from Rameswaram will run every Wednesday night at 11.55 am and reach Prayagraj Junction at 10.10-10.35 on Friday night. Earlier it used to arrive here late at 1.05-1.30.

# Gupta new Addl Divisional Rly Manager

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD



Atul Gupta

Atul Gupta assumed the charge of Additional Divisional Railway Manager / Infra / Prayagraj Division here on Friday. This post was vacant after the transfer of Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj, Inamul Haq to North Central Railway Headquarters.

Atul Gupta is a 1998 batch Indian Railway Engineering Service (IRSE) officer, he has a postgraduate degree in Engineering from IIT, Roorkee. Gupta started his service from the East Coast Railway, in various important posts of Indian Railways, including Divisional Engineer, Senior Divisional Engineer.

He also worked on the posts of Deputy Chief Engineer / Bridge etc. He has also served in important posts like Deputy Chief Engineer / Bridge / Line,

significant contributions on the occasion of Kumbh-19.

At the farewell and reception held at Prayagraj division, Divisional Railway Manager Mohit Chandra congratulated Inamul Haq for his brilliant work as Additional Divisional Railway Manager / Prayagraj and welcomed the new Additional Divisional Railway Manager Atul Gupta.

**MINOR GIRL KIDNAPPED:** A case of kidnapping of a minor girl has been reported under the Karchana police station of Prayagraj. The class nine student had left home to go to school on her bicycle. When she did not return home, the family was upset.

At first, the family members of the girl launched a manhunt for her but when they failed to locate her, they lodged a missing report in the police station on Friday. The kin of

the girl alleged that she might have been kidnapped and expressed suspicion for the untoward incident. The police have also become active in the case of a suddenly missing girl.

A 13-year-old girl resident of village under the Karchana police station is a ninth standard student in an inter college located in Birapur.

On Tuesday, she left for school on a bicycle. On not returning home by evening, her relatives started searching for her but nothing was found. Information was also taken from her friends but no one could tell anything.

After being exhausted, the family gave the written complaint to the police in this connection. The family members have not doubted anyone, but they have definitely expressed their apprehension of something untoward.



# Admn prepared to handle any Covid situation: CMO

## Doubts second wave in Kanpur Nagar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra raised doubts over a second wave of COVID-19 in Kanpur Nagar and assured the people that all necessary preparations had already been made to handle any situation if it cropped up.

He said the sporadic cases being report in an around Kanpur Nagar was an indication that the second wave of novel coronavirus infection would not be surfacing as was being feared.

He said all the private hospitals and nursing homes had been asked to provide the list of doctors and paramedical staff within 72 hours failing which their licence would not be renewed after December 31, 2020.

Dr Mishra said in addition to the existing infrastructure, the government had added a dedicated new Covid hospital, Naraiya Medical College and

## 62 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 62 more coronavirus positive cases on Friday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 62 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Thursday evening and Friday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 30,949 cases. He said that 30 cases were discharged from hospital. He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Friday evening keeping the death toll to 788. The CMO said at present 1025 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4144 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Hospital, which now had 300 beds and would cater exclusively to COVID-19 needs. He said this hospital was ready to handle cases if the need arose and said if there was any such need then this hospital would be provided additional doctors and paramedics and made fully functional.

The CMO further said that the LLR Hospital had a bed capacity of 360 for OVID-19 cases out of which 160 were

ICU. He added that the Neuro Science Centre had ICU of 80 beds while 10 beds were in Children's Hospital and 20 in UISE Maternity Hospital. He said this hospital also had 189 ventilators.

The CMO said that in Kanshiram Hospital, there was a provision of 106 beds out of which 96 were isolation beds and 10 bed in the ICU.

He said keeping this in view, Kanpur division was well

prepared to tackle any eventuality if at all it occurred. He said all the private hospitals were warned that in case they had admitted any COVID-19 patients they need to inform the CMO office immediately about it. He said in case any coronavirus positive case approached a private nursing home or hospital, then information should be given then and there failing which FIR would be lodged against the private hospital.

Dr Mishra said the UP government has girded up its loins for COVID-19 vaccination, first to doctors and paramedical staff of the entire Uttar Pradesh. He said the process of Russian vaccine testing was continuing in the medical college and added that out of the total volunteers, five had been rejected on health grounds. He said in the second round it had been decided to take another set of 20 volunteers for vaccine trial.

## Lalimli workers stage protest after death of an employee

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of Lalimli workers staged a demonstration and blocked the Lalimli Chauraha with the body of their colleague on Friday. They alleged that due to non-payment of salary for the past 28 months, their colleague, Anoop Singh Yadav (48), a safety officer, died of heart attack on Thursday.

The kin of the deceased alleged that the condition of Anoop had deteriorated after his transfer two days ago and led to his death on Thursday.

The trade union leaders said during the past 15 days, two other employees of Lalimli had also died.

Anoop Singh's son Akhand Pratap said two days ago, his father was transferred to another department in Lalimli and given some additional responsibilities. On Thursday, his condition suddenly deteriorated and he was immediately taken to hospital where he died during treatment.

Trade union leaders Raju Thakur and Ajay Singh blamed the Lalimli management for Anoop Singh's death.

It may be recalled that over 400 workers of Lalimli have not been paid their salary for the past 28 months and the mill management has turned a blind eye on their problems.

## Youth preparing fake documents held in Chakeri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A youth preparing fake documents was arrested here on Friday. The police recovered fake voter ID cards, caste and domicile certificates, Aadhaar cards along with material used for preparing fake documents from the accused.

Addressing media persons, Superintendent of Police (East) Raj Kumar Agarwal said during past few months, he had been receiving information about use of fake documents and to work out the case, he had set up a special team which succeeded in arresting Shailendra Sahu from Chakeri police area on Friday.

Apart from fake documents, police have also recovered rubber stamps of many government departments from the accused.

The raid was conducted jointly by the Chakeri and Naubasta police.

Agarwal said the accused was involved in preparing fake Aadhaar cards and other documents were required as ID proof by the government departments and other services.

## DM, DIG inspect working women's hostel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari along with DIG Parminder Singh, ADM (City) and district probation officer made a surprise inspection of single working women's hostel at Surya Vihar, Nai Basti, Nawabganj and Rajkiya Sampreshan Greh, Naubasta.

He expressed concern over the failure of the authorities to follow the food menu in the right earnest. He directed the official there to ensure that the food served to the inmates was as per the decided menu and prepared hygienically and served on time.

The district magistrate said all the CCTV footages need to be preserved and produced as and when demanded failing which action would be taken against the officials. He said the CCTV cameras should remain functional 24 hours a day. He also asked the officials to ensure health check-up of the inmates from time to time.

The inmates at Naubasta had made a complaint that as per the menu for Sunday the officials were not serving non-veg dishes or paneer.

The district magistrate and the officials accompanying him also visited the kitchen to find out how the food was being prepared and found everything satisfactory.

## NER GM reviews construction works

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Shri Vinay Kumar Tripathi did an intensive review of various construction works being carried out on NER at GM's auditorium here on Thursday. Additional General Manager (AGM) Amit Kumar Agarwal, Principal Chief Operations Manager Anil Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Commercial Manager SC Prasad, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer AK Pandey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/ Construction RK Yadav, Principal Chief Engineer Satish Kumar Pandey, Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer Anil Kumar Mishra, Principal Financial Adviser Tanuja Pandey, Principal Chief Security Commissioner/ Railway Protection Force (RPF) Atul Kumar Srivastava, Chief Project Director/Station Development SK Mishra, Chief Personnel Officer/ Administration Nooruddin, secretary to General Manager DK Khare, Chief Public



Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh, Deputy General Manager/General Omkar Singh and via video conferencing Divisional Railway Manager/Lucknow, Dr Monika Agnihotri, Divisional Railway Manager/Izzatnagar Ashutosh Pant and DRM/ Varanasi VK Panjiyar participated. General Manager Tripathi while stating safe rail journey is a top priority of NER and said that the scheme of 'Man of the Month' award should be started for railway personnel doing outstanding work in the field of safety, under which the person doing exemplary work should be awarded and encouraged. By doing it other railwaymen will also be motivated to perform better, he said. Tripathi also underlined the importance of counselling and effective train-

ing of safety personnel. While reviewing the works going on in all the divisions of NER General Manager said that the remaining ones should be completed speedily. He said that during the execution of the work, along with its usefulness availability of funds and its judicious expenditure should be ensured. The General Manager said that all the works should be completed with quality within the stipulated time-frame. He asked the Divisional Railway Managers to review all the construction works from time to time and in the changing environment according to the utility also make necessary modifications in them so that the usefulness of the works remains. During the meeting, various aspects of the work of passenger and operational facilities such as yard remodelling, railway track, second entry door, non-interlocking and ongoing work related to rake handling facility, works related to level crossing, road over bridges and road under bridges the present situation and the set targets were discussed in detail.

## Timings of special trains revised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is revising the timings of special trains being run for the convenience of passengers. As a result, the following special trains will be run as per the revised time. All coaches in these trains will be reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the standards of Covid-19 prevention guidelines. Passengers are requested to obtain information about the timing of the train before starting their journey, CPRO PK Singh said.

**SAHARSA-NEW DELHI SPECIAL:** The 02553 Saharsa-New Delhi special will from December 7 until further notice depart from Saharsa at 06.46 hrs daily, from Mansi at 07.40 hrs, from Khagadia at 07.52 hrs, from Begusarai at 08.20 hrs, from Barauni at 09.00 hrs, from Dalsingh Sarai at 09:29 hrs, from Samastipur at 10.05 am, from Muzaffarpur at 11.00 hrs, from Hajipur at 11.55 hrs, from Sonepur at 12.07 hrs, Chhapra at 13.50 hrs, Siwan at 14.45 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 15.40 hrs, Gorakhpur at 17.00 hrs, Khalilabad at 17.40 hrs, Basti at 18.09 hrs, Gonda at 19.30 hrs, Barabanki to 20.58 hrs, Badshahnagar at 21.40 hrs, Aishbagh at 22.15 hrs, Kanpur Central at 23.50 hrs, on second day from Etawah at 01.16 hrs, from Tundla at 02.40 hrs, Aligarh at 03.52 hrs, Ghaziabad at 05.40 hrs and reach New Delhi at 06.25 hrs. During the return journey, the 02554 New Delhi-Saharsa special train will from December 8 until further notice depart daily from New Delhi at 20.40 hrs, from Ghaziabad at 21:25 hrs, from Aligarh at 22:35 hrs, from Tundla Jn at 23.40 hrs., Etawah

at 00.40 hrs on the second day, Kanpur Central at 02.30 hrs, Aishbagh at 04.15 hrs, Badshahnagar at 04.45 hrs, Barabanki at 05.23 hrs, Gonda at 06.37 hrs, Basti at 07.47 hrs, Khalilabad at 08.19 hrs, Gorakhpur at 09.35 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 10.31 hrs, Siwan at 11.35 hrs, Chhapra at 12.45 hrs, Sonpur at 13.45 hrs, Hajipur at 14.00 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 14.55 hrs, Samastipur at 16.00 hrs, Dalsingh Sarai at 16.20 hrs, Barauni at 17.25 hrs, Begusarai at 17.52 hrs, Khagaria at 18.48 hrs, Mansi at 19.20 hrs and reach Saharsa at 20.20 hrs.

**DARBHANGA-NEW DELHI SPECIAL:** The 02565 Darbhanga-New Delhi special from December 4 until further notice leave Darbhanga daily from 08.26 hrs, Samastipur at 09.35 hrs, Hajipur at 11:25 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 10.25 hrs, Sonpur at 11.28 hrs, Chhapra at 12.55 hrs, Siwan at 13.50 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 14.43 hrs, Gorakhpur at 16.00 hrs, Badshahnagar at 20.17 hrs, Aishbagh at 21.10 hrs, Kanpur Central at 22.58 hrs and reach New Delhi at 05.15 hrs. The 02566 New Delhi-Darbhang special from December 5 leave New Delhi daily at 13.00 hrs, Kanpur Central at 18.15 hrs, Aishbagh at 20.10 hrs, Badshahnagar at 20.38 hrs, Gorakhpur Jn at 01.05 hrs, on second day, Deoria Sadar at 02.01 hrs, Siwan at 03.03 hrs, Chhapra at 04.23 hrs, Sonpur at 05.26 hrs, Hajipur at 05.41 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 06.35 hrs, Samastipur at 08.18 hrs and reach Darbhanga at 09.30 hrs

**MUZAFFARPUR-ANAND VIHAR TERMINUS SPL:** The 02557 Muzaffarpur-Anand Vihar Terminus special from December 4 will till further notice leave Muzaffarpur at 11.35 hrs daily and after stopping at Motipur, Maheshi, Chakia, Bapudham Motihari, Sagauli Jn, Bettiah, Narkatiaganj, Harinagar, Bagaha, Siswa Bazar, Kaptanganj, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Moradabad on the second day reach Anand Vihar Terminus at 07.40 hrs. During the return journey 02558 Anand Vihar Terminus-Muzaffarpur special will December 5 till further notice leave Anand Vihar Terminus at 14.50 hrs daily, and after stopping at Moradabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Captanganj, Siswa Bazar, Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah, Sugauli, Bapudham Motihari, Chakia, Maheshi and Motipur and reach Muzaffarpur at 12.15 hrs.

**G K P - B A N D R A TERMINUS SPECIAL:** The 05067 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus weekly special will from December 9 leave Gorakhpur every Wednesday at 05.30 hrs, and after stopping at Anandnagar, Siddharthnagar, Shohratgarh, Barhni, Tulsipur, Jharkhandi. Balrampur, Gonda, Barabanki, Lucknow, Kanpur Central, Orai, Jhansi, Vidisha Habibganj, Itarsi, Harda, Khandwa, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Nandurwar, Bhestan, Vapi, and Borivali to reach Bandra Terminus at 17.45 hrs. In the return journey the 05068 Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur weekly special will from December 11 leave Bandra Terminus at 00.20 hrs every Friday and after stopping at Vapi, Bhestan, Nandurwar, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Khandwa, Harda, Itarsi, Habibganj, Vidisha, Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda, Balrampur, Jharkhandi Tulsipur, Barhani, Shohratgarh Siddharthnagar, Anandnagar and reach Gorakhpur at 15.05 hours. The rake composition of this train will remain as notified earlier.

## Dr Rajendra Prasad's contribution recalled

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The birth anniversary of first president of India Dr Rajendra Prasad was celebrated as Advocates' Day under the aegis of District Bar Association (DBA). Expressing their views the speakers recalled Dr Rajendra Prasad's contribution to the nation and threw light on his life. District Judge Lal Chand Gupta was the chief guest on the occasion. The programme was chaired by the president of DBA. On the occasion veteran lawyers, Prem Kant Srivastava, Yashwant Singh and Adya Prasad Singh were honoured with ₹11,000, a shawl and a stick for their long and outstanding performance in the profession. The vote of thanks was proposed by the secretary of DBA.



Chief whip of BJP in Rajya Sabha Shiv Pratap Shukla inspected Akashvani station in Gorakhpur on Thursday and gave an assurance to make efforts to get new 100 or 200 kilowatt transmitters installed there. He was honoured by being presented a memento. Rakesh Kumar Shukla, SA Khan, Sudhir Jaiswal, Sarvesh Dubey, Brajendra Narayan and Ashtabhuja Shukla were present on the occasion.

## Safety audit inspection conducted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Keeping the winter weather and fog in mind the railway administration in order to ensure safe rail travel under a planned action plan on Thursday Chief Safety Officer, North Eastern Railway (NER) SN Shah and his



team conducted the safety audit inspection of Ankushpur and Ghazipur City rail section. Simultaneously, the training provided to trainees at the zonal training centre at Ghazipur was reviewed. On the occasion, Chief Transport Project Manager, Gorakhpur Anil Kumar, Chief Engineer/Works SP Yadav, Chief Rolling Stock Engineer/Freight RK Jatav, Chief Signal Engineer Gyan Prakash, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Infrastructure, Praveen Kumar, Senior Divisional Safety Officer Virendra Yadav, Senior Engineer-II MK Singh, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer Trimbak

Tiwari and senior supervisors were present. The safety audit team inspected the zonal training centre at Ghazipur, held a dialogue with trainees and tested their knowledge about safety. A safety seminar was organised in which various misconceptions of employees were removed. The safety audit team reached Ghazipur City station by road and thoroughly inspected berthing tracks, point machines, signals, height and approach of foot over bridge, platform length clearance, fire alarm, station working rule, relay room, point crossing etc reviewed safety and issued instructions to the officials concerned. Thereafter the safety audit team reached Ankushpur station through push trolley while testing the standard norms of traction over head line, power feeder, level crossing gates, curvature, bridge culverts in Ghazipur City- Ankushpur rail section, PRO, Varanasi, Ashok Kumar said.

# DC: Smart classes project approved for six schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar on Friday said that smart classes project was approved for six schools in Kanpur Nagar and it would be set up at a cost of around Rs 2.3 crore. He said the Smart City Corporation Limited and the government were jointly monitoring the progress of the work which would be completed in time.

The divisional commissioner said smart classes was one of the important project under the Smart City project which was on the priority list of the government and he had visited three prominent schools where the work for setting up smart classes was in progress.

Shekhar first visited the Primary Girls' School Pratham at Khalasi Lines, then the MG Nagar Nigam Mahila Inter College at Civil Lines and finally the Kailash Nath Balika Inter College also in the Civil Lines.

He was accompanied by Kanpur Municipal Commissioner Akshay Tripathi and Smart City Corporation officials

The divisional commissioner said under this project, instruments and equipment for smart classes like interactive smart board and projectors, renovation of classrooms, new furniture, LED lighting etc, were being taken up. He added that the smart classes would provide online educational contents of NCERT both in English and in Hindi for nursery to class 12 for all subjects.

He added that the contents would be updated from time to time.



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspecting government school on Friday where Smart Classes were being set up

Pioneer

Shekhar said the whole project would be maintained for five years by the firm Smart Classes beginning this year. He said the firm would also train the teachers and staff in the running the smart classes project successfully.

The divisional commissioner said out of the six works, three had been completed and were ready for use and the rest three would be completed in the next two

months. He added that this was one of the important projects and would give a good result in terms of effective learning and teaching.

Shekhar said the Smart City Corporation Limited had decided to take up another 10 government schools under this project at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore in the financial year 2021-22. He said the project would be

accomplished by July 2021.

He said this time schools would be selected on merit based competition from among the government schools.

The divisional commissioner asked the Smart City Corporation Limited officials to take a feedback from the students and teachers on a regular basis to improve the system and to make it more productive and effective.

# DM warns schools defaulting on admissions as per RTE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari has warned schools which have failed to take admissions under the Right to Education Act and has directed the officials concerned to prepare a list of the defaulters.

He said schools not taking admissions as per the provisions of the RTE Act would be given an opportunity to put their grounds during a special meeting to be held at the collectorate soon.

The Act makes education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 and specifies minimum norms in elementary schools. It requires all private schools to reserve 25 percent seats on basis of economic status or caste for children.

The district magistrate said under the RTE Act, all schools had to take admissions and schools not following the directive would face disciplinary action.

The district magistrate was chairing the Kaya Kalp Plan review meeting on Friday. He said under the plan all the schools should be revamped completely.

He said the pace of the plan was slow and advised officials to give it further momentum.

The district magistrate said all the leave applications would have to be routed online through the Human Resource Website. He was informed by the officials that all the leave applications were being forwarded through this website.

The district magistrate

said December was being observed as Nutrition Month by the state government and thus all the primary schools should establish nutrition garden and they should be named after the days both in English and Hindi and digital photography should be done to ensure transparency.

He said all the complete Anganwadi centres should be transferred to the Centre.

He said the state government had decided to focus on child nutrition and for this a detailed plan had been prepared.

He said a survey need to be carried to identify malnourished children and they should be given a milch cows from the cattle shelters.

The basic shiksha adhikari (BSA) informed the district magistrate that under the



# ED attaches Mallya's assets in France



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has seized fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya's asset in France worth 1.6 million Euros. "On the request of Directorate of Enforcement (ED), a property of Vijay Mallya located at 32 Avenue FOCH, France has been seized by the French Authority. The value of the seized asset in France is 1.6 Million Euros (approx. ₹14 crores)," the agency said in a statement. Investigation conducted under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) revealed that a large amount was remitted abroad from the

bank account of Kingfisher Airlines Ltd. (KAL). The ED had earlier initiated investigation under PMLA based on FIR registered by CBI against Kingfisher Airlines Ltd. (KAL), Vijay Mallya and others on January 25, 2016. Provisional Attachment Orders have been issued wherein properties worth ₹11,231.70 crore (Market value at time of attachment) have been attached which was also confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority. A Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) has been filed against Mallya, UBHL, KAL, bank officials and others. An application was also moved before the designated

## Declare family members of Iqbal Mirchi fugitive, ED requests court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The (Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday moved an application before the PMLA court in Mumbai to declare family members of Iqbal Mirchi as fugitive under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA). The agency has sought declaration of Junaid Iqbal Memon, Asif Iqbal (both sons of Iqbal Mirchi) and Hazra Memon (wife of Mirchi) as fugitive economic offenders. In its plea before the court, the ED has sought con-

fiscation of their assets as envisaged under FEOA. "In the first phase, prayer has been made for confiscation of 15 Indian properties including 3rd and 4th Floor of Ceejay House and having market value 96 crore (approx.) & 6 Bank accounts having balance Rs 1.9 Crore. Prayer has also been made for allowing ED to file supplementary applications under FEOA," the agency said in a statement. In this case, the ED has provisionally attached assets to the tune of ₹798 crore (approximately) in India and

abroad under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act. On the basis of Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) filed by ED before the Special PMLA Court, Open Ended Non Bailable Warrants have been issued against Asif Memon, Junaid Memon and Hajra Memon. Till now, these three accused have been evading their presence before the Special Court and the NBWs remain unexecuted, it said adding, further investigation is under progress.

court to declare accused Vijay Mallya as Fugitive Economic offender. The Special Court (FEO Act), Mumbai had declared Mallya as fugitive economic offender on January 5, 2019. Extradition request of

Mallya was sent to UK and the Westminster's Magistrates court has ruled for extradition of Mallya on charges of money laundering on December 10, 2018. In its order, the court has observed that a clear evidence

of dispersal and misapplication of the loan funds and prima facie, found that accused Vijay Mallya was involved in a conspiracy to launder money. Appeals of Mallya to UK High Court and later Supreme Court have been rejected.

## Plea in SC seeks removal of protesting farmers as commuters face hardship



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Friday seeking direction to the authorities to immediately remove farmers, who are protesting at several Delhi border points against the new farm laws, saying commuters are facing hardship due to the road blockades and the gatherings might lead to increase in COVID-19 cases. The plea has sought the apex court directions to the authorities to open the roads at Delhi borders, shift these protestors to allotted place and provide guidelines on social distancing and use of mask at the protest place to contain spread of COVID-19 cases. The petition, filed by law student Rishabh Sharma, has claimed that Delhi Police had on November 27 allowed these protesters to hold demonstration peacefully at Nirankari ground at Burari here but despite that they have blocked the borders of Delhi. "Because of the ongoing protest at the Delhi borders, the roads have been blocked by the protesters and closed border points, which have affected vehicular traffic and people

who are travelling to and from Delhi to get medical treatment in reputed government/private hospitals situated in Delhi are also affected," said the plea, filed through advocate Om Prakash Parihar. It referred to the October 7 verdict, delivered on a petition against blockade of a road in Shaheen Bagh area here by those protesting against Citizenship Amendment Act, in which the apex court had said that public spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely and demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone. Referring to COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Government, the plea has said that despite the advisories not to hold large gathering amid the pandemic, lakhs of farmers have gathered on Delhi borders and this might lead to increase in the number of coronavirus cases. It is pertinent to note that in view of the prevention of the community spread of the pandemic disease Coronavirus (COVID-19), it is very necessary to remove the gathering and this protest is further blocking.

## Beant Singh killing: SC asks Centre about delay in proposal to commute Rajoana's death sentence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Centre over delay in sending proposal to the President for commuting the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh. A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde asked the Centre to apprise it as to when the authority would send the proposal in this regard to the President under Article 72 of the Constitution. The article deals with power of President to grant pardon, suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases. The apex court noted that a letter was sent from the Ministry of Home Affairs to Punjab chief secretary on



September 7 last year intimating that a proposal would be sent to the President to commute the death sentence of Rajoana. The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, asked Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, as to why the proposal has not been sent till now.

The top court was hearing Rajoana's plea seeking direction for expeditious disposal of MHA's proposal to commute his death sentence. Rajoana, a former Punjab Police constable, was convicted for his involvement in an explosion outside the Punjab civil secretariat that killed Beant Singh and 16 others in 1995.

## SC stays HC order dismissing ED's plea to revoke approver status of Rajiv Saxena in chopper scam

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the verdict of the Delhi High Court which had dismissed the plea of Enforcement Directorate (ED) to revoke approver status of businessman Rajiv Saxena in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam. A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde issued notice to Saxena seeking his response on the appeal filed by ED against the high court's June 8 judgement. "Issue notice. In the meantime, there shall be stay of operation of the impugned order," said the bench, also comprising

Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian. Dubai-based businessman Saxena was extradited to India on January 31 last year in connection with the Rs 3,600-crore scam case relating to the purchase of 12 VVIP helicopters from AgustaWestland. During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing on Friday, Additional Solicitor General Aman Lekhi, appearing for the ED, told the bench that there was a "clear error on the part of high court as it had said that pardon can be revoked only after he deposes as witness. "There is a provision in the CrPC that pardon can be with-

drawn if he fails to give any evidence," the bench observed. The high court, in its verdict, had said that ED's plea before the trial court for revoking the approver status was not maintainable as his statement under section 306 (4) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) had not been recorded. Section 306 (4) of CrPC provides for recording of statement of an accomplice who has been granted pardon. The high court had further said that once his statement under section 306 (4) of CrPC is recorded, the ED can again move an application for revoking Saxena's approver status.

## No stubble burning, but Delhi's air still very poor: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stubble burning has stopped Snow but Delhi's air pollution situation remains serious, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Friday said adding that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued a notice to the State Government to take strict and swift action on the complaints forwarded to it about activities causing toxic air in Delhi and the National Capital Region.



In a message from his residence here, Javadekar said the CPCB has received several complaints that activities like biomass and garbage burning, improper waste disposal, violation of construction and demolition waste rules, unpaved roads and dust, which cause pollution, are still being carried out in the national capital and NCR. "The situation of air pollution in Delhi is still serious. Stubble burning has stopped but Delhi's air quality index still remains in 'very poor' category," Javadekar said. "CPCB's 50 teams inspect Delhi and NCR every day and submits the complaints and observations from those visits to the agencies concerned. Yet, some work is done, some not. Hence, the CPCB has issued a notice to the Delhi government," he said.

In its notice, the CPCB has directed the Delhi government to ensure immediate action on complaints and take strict action against industrial activities including tyre pyrolysis, burning of tyre and other wastes. As per the forecast on the Indian Meteorological Department, air quality is likely to remain in very poor category owing to unfavourable meteorological conditions for disposal of the pollutants for the next few days, the notice said. "Incidents of stubble burning (are) almost coming to an end, and air quality continuing to remain in very poor category, it is important that local sources are dealt with effectively. Based on feedback received from 50 teams deployed in the fields since October 15, sources are open

dumping of garbage, construction/demolition activity, unpaved roads/pits, and resuspension of road dust," said the notice. It said the main areas of concern are pollution hotspots — Narela, Anand Vihar, Mundka, Dwarka and Punjabi Bagh in Delhi and Faridabad, Hajar, Noida and Bhiwadi in the NCR. "As per the analysis and number of complaints received, south, south-west district, north, north-west, and north east districts of Delhi and Hajar, Bhiwadi, Gurugram north, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Noida in NCR are the areas that need to take actions to control air pollution due to construction/demolition activities, open dumping of garbage, road dust and industrial emissions," the notice said.

## NIA to probe Nagrota encounter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) will probe the recent encounter at Nagrota in the Jammu region in which four terrorists of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), a Pakistan-based outfit, were killed by police. The anti-terror probe agency took over the case following a notification issued by the Centre. The terrorists were killed on November 19 in Jammu and Kashmir's Nagrota area in a swift operation by the police. The NIA probe will try to ascertain the planning and final objective of the four JeM



terrorists and the people with whom they were in touch with in Jammu and Kashmir for execution of the failed terror plot. The agency's team had visited the encounter site at Ban Toll Plaza on November 19

after the incident. The NIA is already probing an encounter that took place on January 31 this year in which three JeM terrorists were killed by the security forces.

## CBI files case against Delhi-based private firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case on a complaint from State Bank of India (SBI) against a Delhi-based private company, Jay Polychem India Ltd. (borrower company) including its director, guarantor, unknown public servants and unknown private persons on the allegations of causing a loss of about ₹1,800.72 crore to the public sector bank and other

consortium banks. It was alleged in the complaint that the accused had cheated the State Bank of India-led consortium banks to the tune of ₹1,800.72 crore (approximately) by way of diversion / siphoning off bank funds, fictitious transactions, cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy among others. Searches were conducted on Friday at three locations in Delhi at the office and residential premises of the borrower



company and other accused, the CBI said adding investigation is continuing in the case.

# GHMC polls throw hung verdict

No party secures magic figure of 76 out of 150 seats; TRS emerges as single largest party with 55 seats; BJP stands second at 48, AIMIM third at 44, Cong fourth with 2

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Voters of Hyderabad have thrown a 'hung verdict' in the GHMC elections, the results of which were announced on Friday. None of the parties could secure the magic figure of 76 out of 150 seats. However, the ruling TRS has emerged as the single largest party by winning 55 seats out of total 150 seats it had contested. The BJP which has given a tough fight to TRS right from the beginning of the polls, stood second by winning 48 seats out of 149 seats it had contested. The TRS suffered huge losses in GHMC polls this time. TRS tally came down to 55 from 99 seats it won in 2016. Contrary to this, the BJP's tally witnessed steep rise to 48 seats against just 4 seats it won in 2016. The Congress failed miserably in GHMC polls yet again. It won just 2 seats out



TRS worker celebrate in Hyderabad on Friday



BJP State president Bandi Sanjay celebrates in Hyderabad on Friday

of 146 it had contested. Congress won just 2 seats even in 2016. The TDP which contested 106 seats suffered even more humiliating defeat by failing to retain even the deposit in any of the seats it had contested. As none of the parties could secure magic figure of 76 seats out of 150 in GHMC polls, it became imperative to bag Mayor post by striking a political deal. TRS suffered the jolt in two ways. It cannot bag Mayor post on its own either on its own strength of winning 55 seats or can bag Mayor seat with the

help of its 31 ex-officio members who comprises of party MLAs, MPs, MLCs, who have voting right to elect Mayor. A total of 45 ex-officio members from TRS, Congress, BJP have enrolled for GHMC Mayor voting this time. If these 45 ex-officio members are included in Mayor voting, the magic figure to bag Mayor seat will increase from 76 to 98. Out of 45 ex-officio members, TRS alone has 31 members. However, TRS strength will increase to only 86 seats, which is short of magic figure 98. It still requires 12 seats

to bridge this gap. Nizamabad MLC and CM KCR's daughter K Kavitha is yet to enroll as ex-officio member. If she enrolls, TRS requires 11 more seats. This makes TRS to depend essentially on other party to bag TRS post. TRS has no other option except to bank on AIMIM, its 'friendly party' for this purpose. AIMIM too has no other option except to tie up with TRS as it cannot join hands with BJP. AIMIM with 44 seats can easily ensure Mayor post for TRS. However, both the parties have to strike a 'deal' for this similar to Congress-AIMIM deal in 2009 GHMC polls when hung verdict was given. Congress and AIMIM shared Mayor post for two-and-a-half year each with Congress claiming the post first and AIMIM later. Both the parties will now have to work out similar formula. Since the tenure of present GHMC Council is until February 10, 2021, both TRS and AIMIM have ample time of two months to strike a deal on Mayor, Deputy Mayor Posts.

## MAHARASHTRA COUNCIL POLLS Big jolt for BJP, MVA bags 4 out 5 seats

### BJP loses its bastion Nagpur to Congress

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within days of it completing its first year in office, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) consolidated its position in Maharashtra on Friday, as it handed out a humiliating drubbing to the Opposition BJP by winning four out of five Maharashtra Legislative Council seats in the biennial elections. The BJP, which lost power to the Shiv Sena-led MVA Government in November last year, found itself licking its wounds, as it lost its traditional bastion of Nagpur where the Congress' Abhijit Wanjari defeated the BJP's Sandeep Joshi in the Nagpur Division Graduates' constituency, by a comfortable margin of 18,910 votes. The BJP's debacle in the Nagpur Division Graduates' constituency should be seen in the light of the fact that it was represented in the past by senior party Minister and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari



NCP leader Supriya Sule greeted by her party workers outside NCP office in Mumbai on Friday

and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's father Gangadharrao Fadnavis in the past. Gadkari, it may be recalled, had won this seat for four terms since 1989 before he contested successfully the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Nagpur. The three other seats that the MVA won were: Pune Division Graduates' seat, Aurangabad Division Graduates' seat and Pune Division Teachers' seat. While the NCP's Arun Lad defeated Sangram Deshmukh of the BJP in Pune Division

Graduates' seat, the NCP's Satish Chavan trounced the BJP's Shirish Boralkar to bag the Aurangabad Division Graduates constituency seat. In Pune Division Teachers' constituency, Jayant Aasankar of the Congress trounced sitting MLC and Independent Dattatraya Sawant. The BJP's debacle in Nagpur and Pune Division Graduates' seat came as an embarrassment for the BJP, as the poll results were personal setbacks for former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and State party president

Chandrakant Patil respectively. However, the Shiv Sena — which leads the MVA in the State — suffered a defeat in Amravati Division Teachers' constituency seat, its candidate Shrikant Deshpande was defeated by an Independent Kiran Sarnaik there. The State Council biennial elections had been necessitated by the end of the tenure of the five sitting members in July this year, but the polls were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the only consolation that the BJP derived on a day it fared badly in the biennial elections was that its nominee Amrith Patel won the by-election to Dhule Nandurbar Local Bodies seat. Patel had given up the seat, after he quit the Congress and joined the BJP, which necessitated the by-election. In the State Council, the BJP has a strength of 22 members, while the seat tallies of other parties are: Shiv Sena-14, NCP-nine, Congress — eight, RSP, PWP and Lok Bharati Party — one seat each and Independents: four.



## No Hyderabad blues

The BJP gets a booster shot of a win in the city’s municipal polls and is looking to get Telangana in 2023



Whatever the numbers are and whatever be the criticism about its undue hyping up of the Hyderabad municipal elections as a national prestige fight, the fact is the BJP has proved its point. That it can grow roots and sprout green shoots in a hostile terrain with a mathematical formula regardless of its status as a Central party or its cultural divergence. And that it can do without its one-time federal supporter as a prop. Yes, the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) may be the largest party yet in the Corporation but crashing from 99 seats and losing over 40 per cent of them have a sharper sting than defeat. And by nudging the All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) off its comfortable perch despite the consolidated vote of a Muslim-dominated city, the BJP showed that its counter-polarisation can work anywhere in India, enough to separate strands of a blended culture in Nizami Hyderabad. Finally, by gobbling up the entire Opposition space, vacated by the lacklustre Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Congress, and winning almost over ten times the seats it had last time, it has undoubtedly emerged as the challenger to the TRS. And by 2023, it hopes to supplant the regional party, riding the anti-incumbency wave, and acquire a southern State beyond Karnataka. It can use Hyderabad as a toehold to pry the door open. Significantly, the city’s municipal limits include as many as 24 Assembly constituencies and touch upon parts of Lok Sabha seats, so no time would be better than now to lay the foundational bricks. And by treating the civic polls with as much seriousness as it would a general election, the top BJP leadership, which parked itself in the city intensely over a week or so, proved that it was committed to and valued each of its local units. That each State is important in its ultimate dream of “one party, one nation.” While every political pundit thought that Mission Bengal or defeating Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee would top its agenda in 2021, the BJP’s laboratory culture is at work to reap dividends whenever its matters. In 2016, the BJP could win just four wards, against the TRS’ 99 and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM’s 44. Even during the 2019 Lok Sabha election, it won four of the 17 seats. Perhaps the conversion rate between 2014 and 2019, from one to four seats, and its recent bypoll victory in the Dubbaka Assembly seat gave the BJP enough reason to hope and plan ahead. Dubbaka is adjacent to the seat that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) won from and the BJP wants to encash the symbolism of it closing in on him. But more than everything else, it is what Hyderabad represents that is up for grabs. First, as a cyber hub, Hyderabad is cosmopolitan and is next only to Bengaluru in the I-T sweepstakes. Seen largely as a north Indian, heartland party that is given to the template of the cowbelt politics of caste, the BJP now wants to be seen as a party of the classes and not just the masses. To that extent, it needs the endorsement of the knowledge economy, echo the “digital citizenry” as it were. Besides, Hyderabad’s largely Muslim character and the Nizami hangover have held out against the BJP’s kind of Hindutva, which is about reviving ancient glory before the “history of the invaders.” After the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya — whose impact is largely confined to North India — it needed an ideological conquest in the south. Hence the call to rename the city as Bhavyanagar, which, according to the BJP’s narrative, was its original name, derived as it was from the Bhagyalaxmi temple. The fact that it is located near the Charminar, a monument that defines Hyderabad, unmistakably harks back to the party’s core temple politics. Most importantly, the BJP wants to get rid of Owaisi, who crafted his political survival by undercutting secular forces, saying that they shortchanged Muslims on real issues, earning him the tag of being a vote-splitter and the BJP’s B-team. Now that his appeal is no longer confined to Hyderabad and is expanding to Maharashtra, Bihar and Bengal, the BJP doesn’t want a counter-polarisation to happen pan-India among Muslim voters, who may look up to him as their true representative and not want to be traded for votebank politics. The BJP now wants to cut Owaisi to size. This is apparent from its leader Tejasvi Surya’s statements calling Owaisi an avatar of Mohammad Ali Jinnah and attributing his Bihar win to his clout in Hyderabad.

Of course, civic issues have been drowned out with the floods that swamped the city this year. The BJP has diverted attention from the encroachment of catchment areas and buffer zones around water bodies that has made the city particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events. And its weathervane is all about changing directions of the political current. Will Chief Minister and TRS Chief KCR be able to reclaim his political stock, now that the BJP has become his worst foe, by taking up real issues? There was a time when he could claim advantages by tacitly supporting the BJP, helping it in the passage of crucial Bills in Parliament and staying neutral on controversial issues. But the mammoth Lok Sabha verdict of 2019 means the national party doesn’t really need him as an ally and would rather have its own man in the State. KCR is gradually losing his tradeable ware and now Hyderabad has shown that being a local leader is just not enough to dim brand Modi. So he needs to rebuild himself as a leader who birthed the State, remind people he is its original creator and has led a social rather than a religious movement, championed their rights that no outsider can ever understand. KCR must realise that the BJP still has trouble ousting Trinamool Congress in Bengal or couldn’t dislodge the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi because both have mobilised people’s movements and made it their own, the former on land rights in Singur and the latter on clean governance. So he must avoid falling into the Hindu-Muslim trap set by the BJP and revive the social causes he stood for, something which he has ignored recently. He must rebrand himself as a State leader and not a leader who uses his State to transact his importance at the Centre.

## Acting Presidential

Even if Trump fails at doing so, his predecessors remind Americans and the world what they are missing



Unfortunately, the US has a significant number of conspiracy theorists who are called “anti-vaxxers”, people who believe that vaccinations will harm rather than heal. This number includes several celebrities, once including Hollywood comedy star Jim Carrey, although he has recanted his views. These celebrities, who have an outsized influence, have convinced many Americans that the vaccine will not work and unsurprisingly many of them are leading the anti-mask campaign as well. Partially some of this comes back to the “Live Free or Die” motto that many Americans live by. The last few years have actually seen the re-emergence of some diseases such as measles, which have even led to some fatalities. Clinton, Bush and Obama, with different political views, have realised that America is suffering immensely from misinformation and a trust deficit with those in power. They realise that in the past four years America has drifted towards chaos and it needs an injection, literally, of trust. Taking the vaccine first and demonstrating to Americans that the vaccine is safe will help the US economy and healthcare system to return to normal. It should also be a huge vote of confidence for vaccinations in general.

# Don’t mess with farmers

They have come to Delhi not with a begging bowl but to present the pitfalls of an unplanned farm liberalisation agenda. Listen to them, build trust



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

The fate of India and our food system rests with a peaceful army of farmers besieging Delhi. They have blocked borders and are constantly sending envoys seeking justice. Medieval fears have gripped citizens as food and vegetables prices are already shooting up and hoarders (no longer illegal post farm Acts) are celebrating an early Christmas. Meanwhile, police in riot gear are anxious to lathicharge their own brethren. They have set up unnecessary road blocks all around the city, delaying and immobilising traffic.

Yet, in the freezing cold, our *annadattas* brace up for the water cannons and tear gas. And in distressed times, they have given up self-preservation and stand united as ever, demanding fair prices and resisting a “neo-Company Raj.” For this has indeed turned into a war between the big agricultural corporations, who are reassuring the public with their propaganda through the corporate media, and the farmers, who anyway are struggling with input costs higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and now see the rates being driven down by the inevitable competitive pricing in an open market. They have some legitimate and practical concerns that need transitional hand-holding that the Government is not quite doing.

While the farmers’ agitation trends on Twitter, the Government uses an old strategy of “divide and rule” to break the unions, whose representatives have so far even refused Government hospitality during the talks. The Government has so far called “32 Punjab-based unions,” leaving out others outside the negotiating room. Howard Zinn sniggers at us, as despite his work exposing the American “robber barons” and their modus operandi, the land of Gandhi is falling prey to them.

The Government may now play favourites, choosing one union leader over the other, and present a turbid discourse, buying itself time to incriminate dissenting leaders, and in the final stage may even bring in “strike-breakers” or pro-establishment farmers’ groups and corporate farmers to sign an accord and end the matter. But in case the matter gets out of hand, one shouldn’t be surprised to hear rumours of the resurgence of the “Khalistan movement” in Punjab and how farmer



unions are sympathetic to it. Attempts have already been made to classify the agitation as a sectarian uprising.

But back to the deadlock, the farmers want MSP for crops and the Government says it can’t do that. And one doesn’t expect the Government to promise something it is powerless to execute. If it introduces MSP as a legal right, it would automatically overturn the three farm Acts as farm majors won’t buy into a protectionist market. Additionally, how will the Government implement the MSP at the rural market or local level is a big question. If, since its inception (1960s), the MSP has only covered a small percentage of farmers, what is different in 2020? Hence the Government can never make MSP a legal right. It may try to trick the farmers with the “grading” jargon, stating that the MSP would only be given for graded produce, but by accepting this deal, Indian farmers would be destroyed the same way American farmers were. Corporatisation of agriculture in the US, where factory farming birthed an uninterrupted chain of “farm to fork,” has wiped out rural communities. It all began in the 1970s with the dream of becoming big enough to command the world’s food market with industrialised processes, merging of lands and shifting priorities to commodity crops. But in no time there was a glut due to over-production; farmers could never get the commensurate prices and were driven to debts. They had no option but to foreclose and sell out. Now farmers do not even make up a quarter of the total US agricultural production. Buying into the

“THIS HAS INDEED TURNED INTO A WAR BETWEEN THE BIG AGRICULTURAL CORPORATIONS, WHO ARE PEDDLING THEIR PROPAGANDA, AND THE FARMERS, WHO ANYWAY ARE STRUGGLING WITH INPUT COSTS HIGHER THAN THE MSP AND NOW SEE THE RATES OF THEIR CROPS BEING DRIVEN DOWN BY COMPETITIVE PRICING IN AN OPEN MARKET”

promise of “making it big,” they stretched their resources and were subsumed by food giants.

Barring Punjab and Haryana, MSP is already a distant dream for farmers. Even if some States make MSP the legal right, corporations have the choice of bulk buying from States that don’t do so. What happens to the farmers in that case?

Farm life is tough. Imagine waking up at the crack of dawn, running to the fields each morning or any odd hour when the irrigation and electricity supply are selectively guaranteed. The farmer’s day passes with weeding, ploughing, seeding and carefully guarding his crop for the season while debts and bills burden the family. When the harvest arrives, it brings more losses in the absence of remunerative prices. If it is the middleman now, it would be the corporations later. Effectively, he has no negotiatory power either way. When he can’t earn enough, he drinks pesticides or commits suicide. More than 300,000 debt-burdened farmers have committed suicide in over a decade. So farmers are not misled or ill-informed, they live the hard reality. As Pepsico sued them in Gujarat and they are still struggling to reclaim their dues for sugar, they know how corporatisation hasn’t changed their fortunes and required Government intervention in the end. And as their resilience is breaking, city people flippantly discount them as rustic, mock their intelligence and yet we dare not face their courage. The policy makers can’t answer their questions. Let’s go back to the ₹ 2.5 lakh crore *dal* scam of 2015 when consumers paid the price by buying *arhar dal* at ₹ 210/kg. It was reported that a cartel of agri-business companies was responsible by buying *dal* at low prices through the supply chain network, storing it overseas and then creating artificial scarcity. It profited immensely by selling it back to Indians at high prices. The Government used the power of the Essential Commodities Act

(ECA) to bust hoarders and recover 75,000 metric tonnes of *dal*. But ECA limits on hoarding and stocking have been done away with in the new Acts except for some emergency scenarios.

Let’s take the example of apples from Himachal Pradesh, which make for a huge cash crop for local farmers. In two decades, three big Indian agri-business giants have consolidated the markets. They store almost all the apples coming out of the State, dictate the prices and have established an oligopoly. Small traders outside their network exist but they are marginal.

Up against a techno-militaristic juggernaut, one feels that the farmers and their leaders know their vulnerabilities — talks are futile and their fate is sealed. They know that this movement will be their final sacrifice, a mass suicide to awaken the conscience of our nation. They have come to Delhi not with a begging bowl but to present the pitfalls of an unplanned farm liberalisation agenda. And one doesn’t doubt that they will be misjudged and hunted. But for them it’s their moral imperative to rebel, for the sake of their children, their ancestral lands and our civilisation. If the Indian civilisation has to survive we need our farmers to be treated fairly. For without them, we are sowing a new corporate disease that shall further destroy India. In the words of Gandhi, “Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will”. Our farmers are possessed by this will and we better listen to them.

(The author is Director, Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India)

### SOUNDBITE

On the first day I’m inaugurated, I’m going to ask the public for 100 days to mask. Just 100 days. Not forever.

**US President-elect**  
—Joe Biden



The Government is not paying bills of those who carried out developmental activities in villages during the TDP regime.

**TDP General Secretary**  
—Nara Lokesh



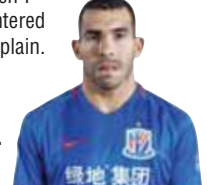
As citizens of this country, we must all do our bit to constantly bring debates about inclusivity and equality to the fore.

**Actor**  
—Rani Mukerji



The shirt is heavy...When I put it on, something entered my body that I can’t explain. I felt that a goal would come. Diego is unique.

**Argentina football star**  
—Carlos Tevez



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Money can’t buy all

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “Vaccine tourism”, published in *The Pioneer* on December 4. It is laughable that affluent people from India are actually thinking that they can go and get their COVID-19 vaccines from the UK. Do they not realise that the Government of the UK will obviously prioritise its own people, just as the Indian Government will, once we have the vaccine, too? Maybe this is the first time in their lives that the privileged will find out that others not as well-heeled can get priority over them, too.

The unscrupulous travel agents are leading these people down the garden path by designing “vaccine packages.” Getting a COVID shot is not something that is in people’s hands, no matter how many “deals” they offer to airlines and hotels and how many “pacts” they make with hospitals. This pandemic is a great equaliser and for once money can’t buy everything.

**Ashmit Aaron**  
Noida

#### Support for farmers

Sir — There is a strong support for the farmers protesting

#### An eagle eye on police through CCTVs

This refers to the editorial, “A probing eye”, published in *The Pioneer* on, December 4. When you have police officers who abuse citizens, you erode public confidence in law enforcement agencies. That makes the job of good police officers unsafe. The Supreme Court’s recent order directing the installation of CCTV cameras within six months with night vision cameras in each police station, besides the offices of Central probe agencies such as the CBI, the ED and the NIA, is a much-awaited reform which must be welcomed by all citizens.

Even in a world where there is so much awareness about human rights, custodial torture and death appear to be the norm. The data showing five custodial deaths everyday in the country is mainly due to the fact that the police are not trained enough in modern interrogation techniques and the use of forensic science to gather evidence to prove the guilt of the accused during trial. They often find it easier to use third-degree torture to extract a confession from the accused even though it may not withstand judicial scrutiny.

Now, the top court has said that the footage/data from the CCTV cameras should be preserved for at least six



months and the victim has the right to have the same secured in case of violation of his/her human rights. Once implemented, it would herald a paradigm shift in policing, pushing the police towards scientific investigation. Ideally, such a move should have come from the Government, which often cries foul about judicial overreach. Now, the Government must implement the ruling in letter and spirit as it concerns the right to life and liberty guaranteed under the Constitution.

**N Sadhasiva Reddy**  
Bengaluru

against new farm laws on the borders of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, from various States and countries, too. The talks between the Government and the growers are likely to fail as the farmers bodies are asking for a special session of Parliament for a discussion on the three farm Acts. The All-India Motor Transport Congress

(AIMTC), an umbrella body of goods’ vehicles operators, is supporting the growers and has threatened to stop the movement of goods across India. This will be disaster for the country, coming at a time when the economy of the nation is already in the doldrums. Each day, more and more farmers are gathering at five spots around

Delhi, with tractors, trucks and trailers packed with food, water, medicines and essential goods. They are being helped and aided by ordinary citizens who have come out with cooked food, blankets, water and so on, to lend the nation’s “*annadata*” a hand. Every Indian worth his/her salt is with the impoverished farmers. Given the sce-

nario, the Central Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, must do all it can to defuse the situation. The Centre must offer middle ground immediately and bridge the trust deficit.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

#### A meaningful gesture

Sir — It is to the credit of the representatives of the 32 farmers’ groups that they refused luxurious meals with Central Government Ministers and others during the meeting to discuss the three farm reforms and their problems with the Acts. This was their way of showing displeasure with the Government, keeping their self-respect intact and expressing solidarity with their peers. They also signalled that they cannot be bought or lured with hand-outs.

The best part about the ongoing farmers’ agitation is that they have kept it apolitical and taken a united stand.

**Raghu Singh**  
Delhi

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



FIRST COLUMN

## Time to use drones effectively

An application-based solution can spur a varied usage of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems and help in mapping land use



MANAVENDRA PRASAD

The Government of India recently announced the launch of the 'SVAMITVA' (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme to provide an integrated asset verification solution for rural India. Under this scheme, land will be demarcated with the help of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or in common parlance drones. Six States have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Survey of India for drone-mapping of rural areas and the implementation of 'SVAMITVA.' The States of Punjab and Rajasthan have signed another MoU for the establishment of the CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) network to assist in future drone-flying activities. This is just another example of the utility of drones and how their usage across a wide spectrum of activities, from education and training, law and order management, to disaster relief and geospatial mapping can be a force multiplier.

There is clearly immense awareness in the Government about the capability of drones, keeping in view their recent use during the anti-locust drives and also in the management of the ongoing COVID pandemic. Drones were used for tracking violators of restrictions, monitoring of the lockdown, decontamination of hotspots and so on. They have also been used by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for inspection of their vital property and for geographic information system (GIS) mapping like oil pipeline monitoring and transit system planning. The list could go on. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has been proactively facilitating drone usage by providing fast track approvals through the exemption route for these critical public projects. Numerous organisations have received this relief and the usage was facilitated by conditional exemptions under the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

**Rules and regulations:** It is, however, odd that the UAS industry still lacks robust rules and regulations that allow rapid growth of swift innovation and high efficiency, while keeping in mind potential safety and security issues. The first set of drone regulations was notified in 2018, which introduced a unique concept of "no-permission, no-takeoff" (NPNT) through the Digital Sky Platform. However, the latter is yet to see the light of the day. The continuous delay in its launch is affecting legal drone operations in the country.

In June 2020, the Ministry of Civil Aviation released the draft UAS rules 2020 for public feedback. It is apprehended that if the final version is not dramatically different from the draft version, we are likely to have onerous compliance requirements and a difficult regulatory environment.

**Getting it going:** A computer programme that works like a modern day app and has a quickly deployable software that helps in bringing in greater efficiency could solve many issues. As the Digital Sky Platform may still take time for full operationalisation, having an application-based solution for day-to-day drone permission could help the industry overcome the current flux. An application-based tool could be the solution that catalyses the UAS industry, spur usage and unshackle growth.

The app solution has multiple advantages as it will not require either additional hardware or software for the UAS. The application can be made available on the personal computer and can be used to generate regular approvals, based on the location, time, and date of operation. This will also help Indian manufacturers of UAS to export their ware to other countries. Additionally, this solution can be effortlessly integrated with the currently-available version of the Digital Sky Platform. Perhaps it is time to look at ways to simplify the system that has tremendous benefits in the future and put a stop to ad hocism in the industry.

**Global experience:** It is worth noting that the American Federal Aviation Administration's Low Altitude Authorisation and Notification Capability (LAANC) uses desktop applications and mobile apps to automate the application and approval process for airspace authorisations. Requests are checked against multiple airspace data sources such as UAS Facility Maps, Special Use Airspace data, Airports and Airspace Classes, as well as Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) and Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs). If approved, pilots can receive their authorisation in near-real time. This has aided commercial operators by introducing predictability around the approval process, which has led to more business opportunities for them. LAANC has also helped the regulators address the challenge of resource constraints, which was otherwise making it hard for them to keep track of operations, by reducing or replacing manual approvals. While there is a need to have solutions customised for India, given its diversity of governance standards, economic development and of geography, the country should not hesitate in benefitting from the experience of other nations.

(The writer is public policy consultant, Chase India)

GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SPOKEN ABOUT VACCINATING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET FACTUAL INFORMATION ON SUCH THINGS.  
—UNION HEALTH SECRETARY  
RAJESH BHUSHAN

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THE GOVERNMENT IS CLAIMING IT NEVER SAID EVERYONE WILL GET A VACCINE. EXACTLY WHAT DOES THE PRIME MINISTER STAND BY?  
—CONGRESS LEADER  
RAHUL GANDHI

# Empower the survivors

Unless those rescued are empowered to assert their entitlements and claim accountability from offices at the ground level, the best of laws will remain on paper and have no impact on trafficking



ROOP SEN

In 2018, when the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) attempted to introduce a new Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, or TOP Bill, in the Lok Sabha, it triggered a strong debate both within the House and outside. While some wanted it to be passed, others were strongly opposed to it. Those for the TOP Bill lauded it because it aimed to have a single legislation to address all forms of human trafficking and rectify the current scenario where each aspect of the crime — from kidnapping, rape, sexual exploitation, forced labour and bonded labour — is separately covered by different sections in the law. This results in fragmented application of laws, flawed investigation and failed prosecution as is evident by the NCRB data on prevalence, prosecution and convictions of traffickers each year. The common law, supporters of the TOP Bill argued, would take away the arbitrary distinctions between sex, labour and other forms of trafficking, which are a product of moral biases against prostitution and non-recognition of the exploitation and torture in labour trafficking. Further, the new Bill, however flawed, was an improvement on the existing legal framework on human trafficking in India, they argued.

Those who were opposed to it countered that the Bill only strengthened the existing flaws in the laws and complicated them further. It pushed for a stronger criminalisation approach, rather than understanding that trafficking was an outcome of socio-economic problems, disparities in growth between regions that pushed for migration but did not provide a support framework. Activists feared that the already prevailing rescue-rehabilitation approach, which gave the police powers of arrests and incarceration of voluntary sex workers in shelter homes, was perpetuated in the new Bill and that it seemed to have learnt nothing from the failures of the past. A third group, also opposed to the Bill, pointed out that creating new laws confounds inefficient law enforcement and overburdens judicial systems even further. So they have no positive bearing on curbing human trafficking, on vulnerable communities, survivors or the implementers of that law and its policies. It cited several social legislations on juvenile justice and domestic, sexual and caste-based violence. Instead of creating new laws, the Government needs to allocate budgets and spend them, strengthen monitoring and implementation of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections that pertain to trafficking, the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (1986), the Juvenile Justice Act and the Bonded Labour Act.

The WCD Ministry has reiterated its intent to bring in a law on human trafficking and is engaged in revising the TOP Bill. Once the draft Bill is placed in public domain for comments and suggestions, will the stakeholders re-engage with a few fundamental questions that have always led to deadlocks between people of different political and moral ideologies? The central issues in this debate are likely to be around the matter of legalisation of sex work and discernment between sex trafficking and sex work, approaches in rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking, the prevention approach and its impact on migration rights.

Does India need a new law on trafficking? The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), that was formed in 1956 and last amended in 1986, has failed to combat sex trafficking. The ITPA's approach of combating sex trafficking is on criminalisation of organised prostitution and providing for institutionalisation of survivors and their rehabilitation in shelter homes. The law does not directly criminalise sex workers, except for solicitation in public places.

“SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN BE THE GREATEST RESOURCE IN ANY ANTI-TRAFFICKING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SYSTEM. THEIR INCLUSION IN NATIONAL, STATE AND DISTRICT-LEVEL ANTI-TRAFFICKING COMMITTEES WILL NEED TO BE ENDORSED BY LAW AND POLICY AND NOT LEFT TO THE GOODWILL OF BUREAUCRATS OR LEADERS. IT'S TIME THAT SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WERE RESPECTED AS EQUAL MEMBERS IN THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING ECOSYSTEM AND NOT SPOKEN FOR BY JUST NGOS



However, nowhere in India has any of the States reported a positive outcome of the law, either by way of reduction of sex trafficking of women and children, conviction of customers who demand children for sex or any consistent conviction of traffickers' networks to break source-destination flows of victims for sexual exploitation. On the other hand, survivors, who have been through the provisions of the law, have reported grave trauma because of forced institutionalisation in shelter homes. Shelters providing them with non-formal education did not result in better educational qualifications. The in-house vocational training courses on book-binding, sewing, tailoring or jewellery-making did not lead to sustainable employment generation and when they returned home, they were left to fend off stigma, poverty and their health distress on their own. A 2014 research on the health status of survivors of sex trafficking, who had been rescued from Maharashtra, Delhi, Telangana and Karnataka, found that 86 per cent of those tested for psychological health were found to be suffering from dysthymia, a state of chronic depression and anxiety disorder that, the clinicians found, were a result of untreated PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). This indicated the inadequacy of the psycho-social counselling services provided in shelters.

India does not have a law on labour trafficking. While Section 370 of the IPC was to have provided us with a comprehensive definition of trafficking, it falls short of mentioning forced labour in its definition of exploitation. Survivors of labour trafficking across India report that there is systemic resistance in recognising them as victims of labour trafficking or of bonded labour. While there is systemic exploitation of inter-state migrant labour being trapped in brick kilns, small factories and sweatshops, construction sites using debt bondage, threats, intim-

idation and violence, the district administration and police resist in recognising this as trafficking and would rather interpret it as "ill-treatment of labour".

One of the biggest lacunae in the system is the absence of any definition of "rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking" and what specifically a survivor may claim as entitlements for recovery and rehabilitation. The ITPA offers incarceration in shelter homes for up to three years and in-house service delivery without any accountability of the service provider towards recovery, employment or reintegration. The Bonded Labour Act provides for a Central sector scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour, which focusses on financial benefits, mentioning nothing about recovery, repatriation, reintegration or rights of legal representation of victims of labour trafficking. What this creates is a system that can escape responsibility towards the future of the survivors by claiming that it has provided rehabilitation services but survivors were not able to benefit from them.

The ITPA and the Bonded Labour Act as well as the IPC fail miserably in prosecution of traffickers. The *Global Trafficking in Persons Report, 2020*, observes, "The Government decreased investigations, prosecutions and case convictions of traffickers. The acquittal rate increased to 83 per cent."

A whopping 90 per cent of human trafficking in India is inter-state, and from villages and small towns to cities. The Ministry of Home Affairs had recognised the need to create an integrated and comprehensive investigation system in 2008 when it passed a directive to form Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) at the district-level, which could pursue investigations seamlessly between States. This would take the burden off from the general police stations. However, a recent report, *AHTU Watch*, found less than 10 per cent of the currently-existing 332

AHTUs to be notified and functional, with officers exclusively in charge of them. Non-notification of AHTUs means that they do not have the powers of investigation, rendering their roles largely notional. As a result, the bulk of the trafficking cases are investigated by officers from general police stations, who confine their probes to the areas in their jurisdiction. For example, the police team that rescues a survivor of trafficking from Pune would confine its investigation and prosecution to the local brothel but would not trace back to the traffickers in the source State where the victim was abducted. As a result, such prosecution based on poor probes can be easily challenged by the defence. AHTUs have yet to be recognised under any legislation and State Governments are under no obligation to implement their advisories.

Those who are worst affected by the inadequacies of the law are survivors of trafficking themselves. There is truth in the contention that unless trafficking survivors are empowered to assert their entitlements and claim accountability from offices at the ground level, the best of policies and laws will remain on paper and have no impact on the ground. NGOs have their own subjectivities, their ideological battles and limitations in challenging duty bearers.

Survivors of human trafficking can be the greatest resource in any anti-trafficking multi-stakeholder system. Their inclusion in national, State and district-level anti-trafficking committees will need to be endorsed by law and policy and not left to the goodwill of individual bureaucrats or leaders. It's time that survivors of human trafficking were respected as equal members in the anti-trafficking ecosystem and not spoken for by activist NGOs.

(The writer is a researcher and advisor to the Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking)

# Scientists, the real heroes of the Corona era

With the success of the vaccine in sight, it is important to understand that none of it would have been possible without years of expertise and funding support



NIKKHIL MASURKAR

One of the most difficult years in recent memory, 2020 has been nothing less than a global healthcare nightmare. However, as the year draws to an end, there is good news on the horizon. Even as an indigenously-developed vaccine by Bharat Biotech has entered Phase-3 of clinical trials, several other international vaccines have either shown promising results or are on their way to reach last-stage trials. In the UK, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has already given its nod to the Pfizer/BioNTech vac-

cine and the country is gearing up to start mass vaccination of its population. Meanwhile, the successful trials of the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines have raised tremendous hopes too. While Moderna and Pfizer have announced high efficacy in clinical trials for their respective vaccines, that is up to 95 per cent, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine can be stored in normal refrigerators. This makes it much easier and cheaper to store, transport and distribute in comparison to the other two candidates which would need to be stored at minus 20-80 °C.

Being cost-effective and easy to store, the Oxford vaccine is being touted as the most promising candidate for a country like India, which has cold chain issues. Russia's Sputnik V, another such vaccine that stays stable between 2 and 8 °C, is also being considered viable for India and other developing countries.

These vaccines not only mark a

defining moment for medical advances in the modern era, they are a manifestation of the commitment shown by scientists and researchers across the world in producing the shots in record time. They remind us how investing in medical research is critical to beating unforeseen health emergencies and vital to the survival of the human race.

**Race against time:** The stories behind the development of these vaccines and the speed at which they were done is truly inspiring. Let's take the case of the Oxford vaccine. British and Irish scientists Professor Adrian Hill, Professor Sarah Gilbert and Professor Terese Lambe started working on this vaccine in early January as soon as scientists in China published the first genetic sequence of the virus. Given the novel nature of the Coronavirus, it was an uphill task but Oxford University and later the Government gave the vaccinologists access to unprecedented funding and resources to find the much-coveted

COVID vaccine. The scientists based their work on an existing technology they pioneered and patented years ago in the Oxford labs. In fact, they designed this vaccine that very weekend itself in January, staying up all night. At that point it wasn't even clear how fast the virus would spread or how many people it would end up infecting, but these researchers saw it as an opportunity to demonstrate rapid vaccine development against a new viral threat. From here on, within weeks Oxford had useable vaccines for lab tests and clinical grade shots for human trials. The rest, as they say is history.

By the beginning of April, the COVID19 virus had spread to most parts of the world with the UN chief Antonio Guterres terming it the "worst crisis" since World War II. With deaths mounting and economies crashing one after the other, the development of this vaccine was much more than a healthcare need, it was an economic

urgency as well. The Oxford vaccine is a chimpanzee adenovirus-vectored shot. It uses a genetically-modified version of a virus strain that is usually found in chimpanzees. This modified virus carried with it an element of the COVID-19 viral strain that triggers an immune response in the human body.

**Not without controversies:** Given the urgency and the competition between pharma companies, vaccine development has understandably been hasty. The Oxford vaccine trial discovered up to 90 per cent efficacy when the volunteers were given a half dose before a full dose booster shot. Interestingly, when given two full doses, the vaccine showed only 62 per cent efficacy. While this serendipitous discovery gave an expected boost to the vaccine, questions remain over the cause of this surprising trial result. It also brought to the fore discrepancy in the narratives of the two partnering agencies on the project. While the AstraZeneca team insist-

ed that half dosage was given as an inadvertent error, Oxford scientists underlined that it was a calibrated move.

Even as the varying accounts raised concerns, the controversy also served to remind us how hasty trials can result in handling errors. It also underscores the need for Oxford-AstraZeneca's India partner, Serum Institute of India, to ensure a highly transparent trial for Covishield to dispel any doubt and distrust over its efficacy.

**Funding medical research must be top priority:** The adenovirus vector platform that has been used in the Oxford vaccine was first developed in the early 1990s and has since then been repeatedly tested and modified in continued research and development. The current vaccine design that could successfully use the existing platform is essentially based on almost three decades of research and testing. With the success of the vaccine in sight, it is important to understand that none of it would have been

possible without years of expertise developed by the scientists and the adequate funding and resource support given to medical research.

These researchers are our modern heroes, who have made tremendous sacrifices and given it their all, in order to make a difference to humankind and create history. In all of this, science will be the winner. Let this encourage and inspire our youngsters to be future scientists who can make the impossible possible.

Countries like India, where the shortage of medical research funding has been a perennial problem, can also learn vital lessons from this. Notably, the Department of Health Research in India was given barely three per cent of the total healthcare allocation in the Budget 2020-21. India needs to increase funding and spend more on biomedical research to be able to develop effective drugs and vaccine solutions for multiple diseases in the future.

(The writer is Executive Director of a pharmaceutical firm)







TRUMP ON ELECTION FRAUD

‘Votes started miraculously disappearing on poll night’

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump has alleged that his votes started “miraculously disappearing” on the election night, reiterating his unsubstantiated claims about widespread voter fraud in the presidential polls.

Trump on Thursday told reporters at the White House that his team has found a large number of such votes.

“We went through an election. At 10 o’clock, everybody said, ‘That was an easy victory for Trump’. All of a sudden, the votes started disappearing — miraculously disappearing. We found much of it, but we found far more votes than we need in almost all of these states. And I think I can say in all of these states, far more votes than we need to win every one of them,” he said in response to a question.

Democratic leader Joe Biden won the November 3



presidential election over Trump, who is continuing his legal efforts to upend his victory. Trump, a Republican, has allowed the official start of Biden’s transition to power but has not yet conceded defeat, alleging massive voter fraud and electoral malpractice.

However, state election officials and the media have denied such large-scale fraud. Election officials in key battleground states have declared Biden the winner, giving him an unofficial 306-232 edge in the

Electoral College that determines the outcome of US presidential contests.

The Trump campaign has filed multiple lawsuits in several states, most of whom have been dismissed so far.

“I want to just thank my team because my team is doing an unbelievable job. And more importantly, I want to thank the 74 million-plus people that voted, which is the largest amount of people that a sitting President has ever had — 74 million-plus...The level of loyalty, I’ve never seen anything like it. All over the country, they know it was a fixed election. It was a rigged election. They know it, and I appreciate their support,” Trump said.

When asked if he has confidence in Attorney General Bill Barr, Trump said: “Ask me that in a number of weeks from now. They should be looking at all of this fraud.” **PTI**

Gregory Meeks first African-American to chair House Foreign Affairs Committee



**Washington:** Congressman Gregory Meeks, who backs a strong US-India relationship, was on Thursday elected as the next chairman of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, becoming the first African-American to head the Congressional panel that plays an influential role in shaping the country’s foreign policy.

Meeks, 67, would replace fellow Democratic Congressman Eliott Engel from New York as the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in the 117th Congress next year.

Meeks, who had paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Plaza on October 2, is also a powerful member of the Black Caucus. **PTI**

Qatar rules out normalisation of Israel ties for now

**Rome:** Qatar’s foreign minister said Friday that his country remains committed to the creation of a Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem, and that progress on that front would need to be “at the core” of any agreement to normalize relations with Israel.

“Right now, I don’t see that the normalization of Qatar and Israel is going to add value to the Palestinian people,” Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said at Italy’s annual Mediterranean Dialogue.

There was speculation that Qatar — which already coop-

erates with Israel in providing aid to the Gaza Strip — might be the next Arab country to normalize relations after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan established diplomatic ties with Israel earlier this year.

But the foreign minister said Qatar remains committed to the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, in which Arab countries would recognize Israel in exchange for its withdrawal from territories occupied in the 1967 war and the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem. The foreign minister noted

that his country has a “working relationship” with Israel to provide aid to Gaza, where the Islamic militant group Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007.

“But for the full normalization, I believe that the (Palestinian issue) needs to be at the core of any agreement of normalization between Qatar and Israel,” he said.

The wealthy Gulf country’s aid to Gaza has provided a lifeline to the territory, which has been under a crippling Israeli and Egyptian blockade since Hamas seized power. It has also been a key element in a shaky,

informal truce that has prevented any major outbreaks of fighting in recent years.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars — the most recent in 2014 — as well as countless smaller skirmishes.

The normalization agreements with Israel, brokered by the United States, were widely seen as a breakthrough in Mideast diplomacy.

But the Palestinians condemned the agreements as a betrayal because they marked a major erosion in Arab support for their cause, a key source of leverage in any future peace talks. **AP**

China ‘greatest threat’ to democracy since WW-II: Trump’s intel chief

**Washington:** China is the “greatest threat” to democracy and freedom since World War II and Beijing was preparing for confrontation with the US and intended to dominate the world “economically, militarily and technologically”, according to America’s top intelligence official.

Writing in the Wall Street Journal, Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe said

China was growing its power by stealing US secrets and then replacing US firms in the market. The Trump administration has taken a hard line on China, imposing tariffs on Chinese goods and accusing Beijing of intellectual property theft.

“The intelligence is clear: Beijing intends to dominate the U.S. And the rest of the planet economically, militarily and technologically. Many of

China’s major public initiatives and prominent companies offer only a layer of camouflage to the activities of the Chinese Communist Party,” according to Ratcliffe.

The Trump administration’s most senior intelligence official’s stark warning was just the latest from senior administration officials about China’s intentions, with some warning of possible military action in

Asia and others pointing to unprecedented efforts to influence the incoming Biden administration.

The op-ed comes as the Trump administration has recently taken several punitive measures against Beijing, sharply limiting visas for members of the ruling Communist Party of China and unveiling new sanctions on Chinese companies. **PTI**

Fauci will be chief medical adviser: Biden

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President-elect Joe Biden says he is keeping Dr Anthony Fauci on as a chief medical adviser and a member of his Covid-19 advisory team.

Biden made the comments Thursday during an interview with CNN’s Jake Tapper. He said he spoke with Fauci earlier in the day about the need to instill confidence in any coronavirus vaccine and the fact that “you don’t have to close down the economy” to combat the virus.

Biden says he’d be “happy” to get a vaccine in public to prove its safety.

Jobs report will show how much pandemic is squeezing hiring

**Washington:** Friday’s monthly US jobs report will help answer a key question overhanging the economy: Just how much damage is being caused by the resurgent coronavirus, the resulting curbs on businesses and the reluctance of consumers to shop, travel and dine out?

Economists surveyed by the data provider FactSet have forecast that employers added 450,000 jobs in November.

In normal times, that would be a healthy increase.

But a gain that size would amount to the weakest monthly hiring since April.

The unemployment rate is projected to drop one-tenth of a percentage point to 6.8 per cent.

The Labor Department will issue the November jobs report at 8:30 am Eastern time.

A loss of momentum in hiring would weaken the economy at a particularly perilous time.

A multi-trillion-dollar aid package that Congress approved in the spring to ease the economic damage from the pandemic has largely run its course.

Two enhanced unemployment benefit programs are set to expire at the end of this month. **AP**

Denmark to stop pumping oil, gas in North Sea

**Copenhagen (Denmark):** Denmark has decided to end to all oil and gas offshore activities in the North Sea by 2050 and has cancelled its latest licensing round, saying the country is “now putting an end to the fossil era.”

The Danish Parliament voted late Thursday to end the offshore gas and oil extraction that started in 1972 and has made it the largest producer in the European Union. Non EU-members Norway and Britain are larger producers. Denmark is estimated to pump some 83,000 barrels of crude oil and another 21,000 barrels of oil equivalent this year, according to the government. **AP**



An Indonesian soldier examines the damage at a neighborhood affected by a flood in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia on Friday

AP

Greek FM: Turkey’s moves to ease tensions ‘unconvincing’

**Nicosia (Cyprus):** Turkey’s recent moves to de-escalate a clash with Greece and Cyprus over east Mediterranean energy reserves are “unconvincing” and European Union leaders need to take action that will prompt Ankara to heed international law, Greece’s foreign minister said on Friday. Nikos

Dendias said Turkey opted not to seize an opportunity that European Union leaders offered it in October to ease tensions in the region so that the 27-member bloc could start reshaping its fraught relations with Ankara.

Turkey last week ordered the research vessel Oruc Reis back to port after completing

what it said was seismic research in east Mediterranean waters. The warship-escorted vessel’s activities in waters where Greece asserts jurisdiction prompted a military build-up between the two neighbors and nominal NATO allies. Greece countered by also sending its warships, and both coun-

tries conducted military exercises to assert their claims. NATO stepped in to prevent a potential armed conflict. But Dendias said the ship’s return to port wasn’t enough.

“Turkey’s belated moves in recent days to supposedly de-escalate tensions are not convincing.” **AP**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

COVID VACCINE...

The Prime Minister said the center is talking with the States on the price of the vaccine. This is the second meet that the Prime Minister held with the Opposition parties on the Covid19 situation since the first that took place on April 20. Modi said trials on three vaccines are underway in the country and as soon as scientists “give green signal, vaccine will be given.” He hoped that a “safe and cost-effective Coronavirus vaccine will be ready in ‘next few weeks’.”

Allaying apprehensions on whether India will be able to vaccinate its large population, Modi said India “has a very good cold-storage chain in place”. Modi said a special task force has been set-up to implement vaccination in the country. A National Expert Group, comprising technical experts, officials from Central ministries, state representatives, would work with states. Prime Minister said to implement the vaccination at a large-scale “decisions will be taken collectively”. Modi said the first claim on the vaccine would be of front-line health workers, elderly, and children. The Prime Minister, however, did not tell whether the Centre will pay for the vaccination across the country. Floor leaders from all parties in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were invited to attend the virtual meeting and leaders from prominent political parties having five or more than five MPs, spoke in the meeting. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sudip Bandyopadhyay from the TMC, Sharad Pawar of the NCP, Nama Nageswara Rao from the TRS and Vinayak Raut from the Shiv Sena among others who attended the video conference.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan were present in

the meeting. Besides them, Parliamentary Affairs Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Ministers of State in the ministry Arjun Ram Meghwal and V Muraleedharan, who reached out to floor leaders for the meeting, were also part of the virtual meeting.

The meeting commenced with a Government presentation, giving the status of the Covid19 situation in the country and stating that India’s death rate was low with high recoveries. Modi had on Monday held a virtual meeting with three teams working on developing and manufacturing COVID-19 vaccine. Modi said from the time of fear and apprehensions in the months of February and March, when India reported its first COVID cases, to this atmosphere of “hope and confidence” in December, India has come a long way, he said.

FARMERS CALL...

Meanwhile, hundreds of farmers stayed put at the Noida-Delhi border for the fourth day on Friday leading to the shutdown of the roads for traffic movement.

The protesters, including some women, are camping at one carriageway of the Delhi-Noida Link Road at the Chilla border, while some are demonstrating at the nearby Dalit Prerna Sthal near the Mahamaya Flyover.

Rakesh Tikait, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader said if there is no conclusion in the meeting scheduled for December 5, they will continue their protests against the new farm laws.

Noida Traffic Police in its advisory on Thursday night suggested alternative routes instead of the Chilla road for hassle-free commutation. However, the alternative routes, Delhi-Noida Direct expressway and Kalindi Kunj, witnessed more than usual traffic that led

to snarls during peak morning hours on Friday.

“The Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border on NH-24 at Gazipur remains closed for traffic from Ghaziabad to Delhi on Friday, too,” Delhi Traffic Police said.

The Delhi Traffic Police tweeted, “People are advised to avoid NH-24 for coming to Delhi and use Apsara/Bhopra/DND instead.”

The Delhi Traffic Police suggested people to avoid the Noida Link road for coming to Delhi and use the DND flyway instead. As farmers remained unyielding on their demand for scrapping the new farm laws, the police kept the Delhi-Haryana border at Singhu, Tikri, Jharoda Lampur, Auchandi, Safiabadi, Piao Maniyari, and Saboli closed for traffic movement.

“Border points at Dhansa, Daurala, Kapashera, Rajokri, NH-8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera are open for travel between Delhi and Haryana. Badusarai border is open only for light motor vehicles like cars and two wheelers. Jhatikara border is open only for two wheeler traffic,” said the Delhi Traffic Police. The closure of borders led to diversion of traffic from Mukarba and GT-Karnal road that led to traffic jams on alternative routes. Traffic in Ghaziabad too was hit.

District Magistrate Dr Ajay Shankar Pandey and Senior Superintendent of Police, Kalanidhi Naithani, said route diversion has been done for those coming from Ghaziabad to Delhi. “Apart from this, CCTV cameras have also been installed around the venue of the movement to monitor the situation,” said the official.

TRUDEAU’S BARBS...

On Monday, speaking at an event to mark the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, Trudeau had spoken in support of farmers in India and

weighed in on the right to peaceful protest. “Canada will always be there to defend the rights of peaceful protest,” said the Canadian Prime Minister.

Trudeau’s remarks were echoed by other Canadian leaders, including Conservative party leader Erin O’Toole, who called the right to peacefully protest “fundamental” to democracy. Trudeau was the first world leader to comment on the farmers’ stir.

The Indian demarche on Friday was tougher as compared to Tuesday’s response. On that day, New Delhi refrained from naming the Canadian Prime Minister.

Taking exception to his remarks, Srivastava on Tuesday had said the comments were “ill-informed” and “unwarranted”. The spokesperson also said, “We have seen some ill-informed comments by Canadian leaders relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democratic country. It is also best that diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes.”

CENTRE HOPEFUL...

As per the tone and tenor of the Government, it is open to making some key changes to the farm Acts, and would consider ways to strengthen mandis, create a level-playing field with proposed private markets, and freedom to approach higher courts for dispute resolutions in a bid to address the concern raised by protesting farmers’ groups. The Government also assured that procurement at MSP will continue.

Farmers fear the reforms could pave the way for the Government to stop buying staples at federally fixed minimum support prices MSPs, erode their bargaining power and leave them at the mercy of private buyers.

Pakistan court sentences 3 more JuD leaders to 15 years in jail

**Lahore:** A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has sentenced three more leaders of Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed’s Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) to 15 years imprisonment each in two more terror financing cases.

Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar handed down the sentence to Abdul Salam bin Muhammad, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf on Thursday. JuD chief Saeed’s brother-in-law Prof Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki was sentenced to six months imprisonment in each case. The suspects were presented in the court amid high security and the media was not allowed to cover the proceedings. The sentencing comes a day after Saeed’s spokesperson Yahya Mujahid was handed down another 15 years in jail by the ATC in a terror financing case. **PTI**

Thousands killed in Ethiopia’s conflict, Tigray side asserts

AP ■ NAIROBI

Several thousand combatants have been killed in Ethiopia’s embattled Tigray region, an official with the fugitive regional government has asserted, although claims remain difficult to verify a month after the fighting erupted between Ethiopian and regional forces.

Getachew Reda, a senior adviser to the Tigray leader, in an interview with Tigray TV aired Thursday urged young people and others in the region to “rise and deploy to battle in tens of thousands” days after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed over the weekend declared victory.

London council clears Ambedkar House for operation as museum

PTI ■ LONDON

Local authorities in north London have formally cleared the operation of Ambedkar House as a museum in honour of the architect of the Indian Constitution after it was approved as a landmark associated with “one of the founding fathers of modern India” earlier in the year.

Camden Council gave the final go-ahead for the museum after UK Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick had intervened to grant retrospective planning permission for 10 King Henry’s Road in Camden, where Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar lived in 1921-22 during his student days at the London School of Economics (LSE). However, the minister’s March order, which came at the end of an inquiry following an appeal against Camden Council’s planning refusal, came with a set of conditions.

“The Camden Council has now given permission for the cycle stand and approved the Management Plan and therefore the conditions attached with the Secretary of the State [Jenrick] order dated 12th March 2020 stands complied with,” Janeevan John, of Singhania & Co Solicitors which dealt with the appeals process for the Indian High Commission in London, said in a statement on Friday.

“The long-awaited operation of the Ambedkar

Museum is all set to start,” he said. The UK Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government stepping in meant that the government was to decide on the matter based on recommendations from an independent Inspector appointed by the UK’s Planning Inspectorate. The Inspector oversaw an inquiry into the Indian government’s appeal last year and presented his findings to the minister.

“I was pleased to grant planning permission for a museum in London to Dr Ambedkar — one of the founding fathers of modern India and an important figure to many British Indians,” said Jenrick. Camden Council, the local authority which had opposed the application, said it accepted the decision based on additional evidence provided by the Indian authorities.

“Whilst we are disappointed that the Planning Inspectorate has ruled against the council’s original decision for 10 King Henry’s Road, we do accept and respect the decision that has been made given the additional evidence presented by the appellant at the Inquiry regarding Dr Ambedkar, who was a major figure in Indian and British history and his association with this property,” a Camden Council spokesperson said.

The home was bought by the Maharashtra government for around 3.1 million pounds and refurbished to transform

into a memorial-cum-museum, which now houses photographs and belongings of Ambedkar, with the walls adorned with his famous quotations.

It had been an important stop on Narendra Modi’s first visit to the UK as Prime Minister in November 2015, but ran into trouble after it emerged that the right clearances for the creation of a museum on the site had not been sought. The Indian High Commission in London refiled an appropriate planning application, which was rejected. During an appeal hearing in September 2019, the Indian side argued that the home holds special significance for a huge section of Indians in the UK and outside because it was where Babasaheb lived during a crucial formative period in his academic life.

The council, on the other hand, presented expert witness to try and establish that the Dalit rights activist’s association with the particular London house was very brief and any memorial can be moved elsewhere in order to not deprive the local area of crucial residential and housing space. With all the conditions now being met, the property can resume its operation as a memorial for visitors. This weekend will mark the 64th death anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, who died on December 6, 1956, at his home in Delhi at the age of 65.

Surgeon gets 15-year jail in pedophilia case

**Lyons:** A French retired surgeon accused of sexually abusing over 300 young children over decades — primarily his patients in their hospital rooms — has been sentenced Thursday to 15 years in prison in the first trial of what may be the largest-ever pedophilia case in the country. The trial this week in the

western city of Saintes concerned four people allegedly targeted by Joel Le Scouarnec, 70, including two of his nieces, a young female neighbor, and a child who was hospitalized at age 4 in the establishment where he practiced. Le Scouarnec has been found guilty of “rapes” and “sexual abuses,” Francesca Satta,

the lawyer for the neighbor’s family, told the AP. His name will also be added to the database of sex offenders, she said. During the trial, Le Scouarnec admitted he had raped his nieces. Other legal complaints against the doctor have piled up since the original investigation wrapped up. **AP**





**PREITY ZINTA**

I'm loving getting back to gardening and being one with nature. It's my way of staying positive, appreciating the simpler things in life and connecting with the earth because when life gives you lemons, it's time to make lemonade and lemon pickle. I'm sure my mum will be very proud of me when she watches me growing.



**KIRTI KULHARI**

Making the first move in life might seem like climbing a mountain, especially when we're younger and get to know ourself and the world. I know the thought of being the first one to express yourself can be daunting. As a teenager, I lacked self-confidence and self-esteem, and always wondered if I could make the first move.



**NAMIT DAS**

This song is an answer to the horrific incidents of crimes against women these days. Huge props to Slow Cheeta for writing and composing the song so beautifully. *Aankhon Ka Tara* is all heart and I dedicate it to all the women, who are trying their best to be heard. This song is a reminder of the power of music.



**RANI MUKERJI**

I learnt a lot about humanity by doing sensitive films like *Black* and *Hichki*. They contributed in making me a better human. I'm fortunate that I did them and became a part of beautiful cinematic visions of Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Siddharth P. Malhotra. I hope these films managed to spark the right conversations in society.

**CHRISSEY TEIGEN**

To me, the most embarrassing thing in the entire world, as in when I would want to melt into a puddle and down a drain into the ocean and then boiled into steam and blown into the atmosphere, is when I call someone by the wrong name.



**SHORT CIRCUITS**

**ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES**



# A MAN OF CHOICES



Actor ADIL HUSSAIN is unapologetic in his approach. His roles should resonate with his inner core. They should be intriguing. He tells CHAHAK MITTAL that his character in the psycho-horror drama, *Nirvana Inn*, is one such as it blurs the line between realism and mystery

So what made you say yes to the role?" I ask actor Adil Hussain. When he questions, "Which role?" from the other end of the phone, I confirm, "*Nirvana Inn*." I soon realise how the actor has been riding high on the success and proud win of his web series, *Delhi Crime*, at the Emmys that he almost forgets his other projects. He laughs and clarifies, "Actually, these days, I keep forgetting what's the call for as it could also be for *Delhi Crime*."

Well, the series has been a very "special" project for Hussain and he credits it all to its writer-director, Richie Mehta. He adds, "Richie is a dedicated art lover. I don't know anybody else who could have done such a great artistic job. He has done justice to the issue by portraying it the right way. It's amazing how the series doesn't show any abuse, violence or brutality and yet manages to shed light so beautifully on such a sensitive issue. It's difficult to do what he did. It took him four years to complete his research. I haven't seen any series in the country so far which has this level of beauty and reality at the same time, and also an artistic rigour to create something like this."

After a moment of pause, he returns to answer my previous question about his forthcoming psycho-horror drama, *Nirvana Inn*, which for him is another

"astounding project." He says, "It is an intelligent film and my character is crafted quite well. I have come across very few Indian films, which have treated the genre with so much suspense and aesthetics of arts. Usually, a violent and brutal side is lent to such films but I found this quite intriguing and real. It is not just horror, it's more of a character study in a slow narrative that blurs the line between realism and mystery."

Hussain believes that when it comes to horror, the genre has not been very well-experimented or explored in mainstream Indian cinema. Is there a specific reason why it lags behind? He says, "I'd say that it's very difficult to write good scripts. In the Indian filmmaking culture, we haven't been giving much space, time, energy, resources and money into writing. Very rarely, I come across a brilliantly-written script which is at par with the level of Hollywood or the films from the Eastern part of the country. I am not even comparing those scripts to the likes of Satyajit Ray. However, I was surprised how a horror genre script like *Nirvana Inn* would find me, which is really that good that it's acceptable to my kind of aesthetics."

The film, shot in Manali, Majuli (Assam) and Chennai, revolves around the life and personal encounters of Jogiraj

**'WHEN YOU SHOOT FOR A FILM, YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. A SCRIPT IS CONSTANTLY EVOLVING. WRITTEN WORDS MIGHT CREATE SOME VISUALS IN YOUR MIND BUT THEY WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN WHAT IS ACTUALLY CREATED. WHEN YOU EVENTUALLY SEE THE FILM, YOU REALISE HOW THE CINEMATOGRAPHY, THE BACKGROUND, THE SET AND EVEN THE CHARACTERS TURN OUT TO BE'**



(played by Hussain), a boatman who becomes the caretaker of a mysterious Himalayan resort after a suicide attempt. While the synopsis might be perplexing, the film's trailer is as intriguing and Hussain's description of the mystery behind it makes one even more curious to watch it. He tells us that "guilt" is the underlying theme of the film. "That feeling is not easy to play around with but the intensity of guilt in a person has been dealt with in a wonderful way in this film. The plot mixes nightmares with the reality and so, the audience really doesn't know what

is real and what is not. I have never played such an intense role," he adds.

Well, talking about roles, Indian cinema has certainly seen characters evolving. There's a surge of grey roles now as actors don't like to keep them in a box. Now, roles are more layered, etched and life-like. For Hussain, a role should speak of something he resonates with. "I look at a role fundamentally, what does it offer as a character — is it black-and-white, layered or more grey? Does it create empathy in me even while I'm portraying a dark-shaded character? Do I feel empathy for a dark person? How well is it written craftwise? Is the director good enough? Jogi, I'd say, is very unpredictable and grey," he says.

The actor earlier revealed that he himself was "terrified" at the end of it. But why? He points towards the difference between a script and the cinematography. "When you shoot for a film, you really don't know what's going to happen. A script is constantly evolving. Written words might create some visuals in your mind but they will be different than what is actually created. When you eventually see the film, you realise how the cinematography, the background, the set and even the characters turn out to be — totally different than you'd imagined. You feel, 'Oh, this is what was going on!' And hence,

I was blown after watching it." When I try to get deeper into the details, he laughs and keeps me from bringing the suspense out.

The film will have its digital world premiere on a new, pay-per-view OTT platform, Cinemapreneur, for 99 hours from December 11. Hussain talks about how it is different from the other OTTs and has the potential of giving a cinema-like experience post-COVID. "The lockdown shut cinema halls and the subscriptions for OTT platforms like Netflix, Amazon, Hotstar, etc, surged. However, there, one needs to subscribe and pay a monthly charge. Here, it's quite similar to going to a cinema hall and buying a ticket for the film you want to watch."

*Nirvana Inn*, which also stars Sandhya Mridul and Rajshree Deshpande in leading roles, became the only Indian film selected for the Asian Market Project (AMP) in Busan and was awarded the Asian Cinema Fund. It also had its world premiere at the 24th Busan International Film Festival 2019. Getting global recognition is huge for any actor. And Hussain believes that one should take it "with humility and work harder to keep doing better," he says as he signs off, preparing for his next morning flight to the UK to shoot for his another brilliant project, *Footprints On Water*.

**READING LIST**

It starts as an innocuous tale of three kids, Jai, Pari, and Faiz, reminding the reader of Harry, Hermione and Ron from that magical world of *Harry Potter*. Jai is adventurous, not exactly studious. Pari is the intelligent and ambitious one. Faiz is a bit flaky, neither here, nor there, but his friendships are important to him. The story isn't set in a middle class society or in a gated complex. The backdrop isn't an orphanage or a boarding school. It is set in the slums of Delhi, where adults hop from their abodes to the high rises next door to perform their duties as house-helpers and nannies, drivers and cleaners and kids roam around doing whatever they want to do.

And then, the story truly begins. Children disappear one by one from the slum. The initial hypothesis is that they have run off, for who will live in the slum and put fight for light, food and bathing water. Perhaps, they wanted to escape their drunken and abusive fathers. Oh, are more of them disappearing? Perhaps, the *Djinn* took them.

Our trio gets into the ring to investigate, mimicking detectives chasing clues. Their journey takes them many places within the slum,

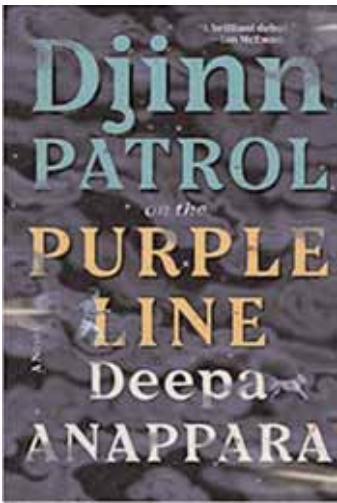
## A strange story

Author DEEPA ANAPPARA's *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line* is a quick read but haunts the readers for a long time, says KAVITHA MURALI



on the periphery of the highway, near the high rise, as far as the central railway station even. The reader roots for the kids, even though it

sounds childish. Perhaps, they invoke memories of the 3 *Investigators* and *Famous Five*, if we could only have some hot scones



and picnic baskets to go with it. But, a sharp rap on the proverbial knuckle brings one back to the real world, an unfair one that values slum children many notches lower than the other children because, aren't they children of the slums, one of many disposables?

Deepa has built a book that can be read quick enough but will haunt the readers for a long time to come.

**FILM TALKIES 15 MINUTES**

## Arjun gears up for next

Nominated at the International Emmy Awards this year, actor Arjun Mathur has earned himself a global stardom. His evolution as an actor has only been inspiring and hints on his talent. His webshow, *Made in Heaven* was a breakthrough and the actor received immense critical acclaim for his role of a gay man. He was last seen in *The Gone Game*, a suspense thriller series, which impressively was set, conceived, shot and released during the lockdown.

Currently, when Mathur is getting showered with love from fans all across the globe, we have some exciting news about the star. The actor is now gearing up for his next film titled *Silence* which is touted to be a murder mystery. What's exciting is that Arjun will begin shooting for it this month itself, December 12 onwards.

Written and directed by Aban Bharucha Deohans, the suspense thriller is produced by Kiran Deohans under the Candid Creations banner. Premiering on ZEE5, the film features Mathur alongside talented Manoj Bajpayee. We hear that Arjun is extremely thrilled to work with Manoj, which is why he was keen to be a part of this project.

The film also features Prachi Desai, Sahil Vaid, Vaqar Sheikh and Shishir Sharma in interesting roles.





JUKEBOX 45 MINUTES

# THE POWER OF LOVE

Singer NIKHITA GANDHI says that her new song, *Khud Ko Hi Paake*, is a poetic representation of self-discovery and embodies the message that the only truth in life is about who you are and letting yourself be. By TEAM VIVA



**T**ell us about your collaboration for MTV Beats Love Duet, a gender atypical album. How has the experience been?

Honestly, the experience has been phenomenal. I am so grateful that the new song, *Khud Ko Hi Paake*, is in sync with the vision of the album. *Love Duet* has been a path-breaking initiative in normalising conversations around love that goes beyond gender stereotypes. It has given a platform to some of the greatest artists from the LGBTQ+ community to showcase their talent and make their voices heard. I am glad that I got the chance to make a tiny contribution in this journey. It's a coincidence that

this song has the same underlining message that the album wants to convey and that's what I truly love about this collaboration! I am thrilled to play a supporting character in the music video, telling a touching story of two people who are in love but have been living a closeted life for a long time. I am sure it will be loved by the masses and also help influence perceptions in some way or other.

**What was the idea behind the song, *Khud Ko Hi Paake* and how do you think it stands out from other mainstream songs?**

It is a song I composed keeping in mind the internal struggles of someone facing an iden-

**'ART HAS ALWAYS BEEN A REFLECTION, AND IN A LOT OF CASES, A MIRROR TO THE SOCIETY. FOR ME, MUSIC IS A MEDIUM OF SELF-EXPRESSION RATHER THAN JUST BEING A GENRE'**

tity crisis. The idea is to convey that we all have our fair share of beauty and pain in different magnitudes and none of us can escape it. The song is an expression of self-acceptance and embodies the message that the only truth in life is about who you are and letting yourself be that person. It is a manifestation of loving oneself and accepting love in all its forms.

**You feature in the music video as well. What kind of preparations went behind the making of it?**

When I heard the vision MTV Beats had for the video, I fell in love with it instantly. It's the story of a couple in love where our protagonist, played by Ivanka Das, is dealing with issues related to his sexuality. It progresses around how the protagonist's wife supports him through the transition and instills the confidence to love "yourself" first irrespective of how you identify "yourself", all this while dealing with a pregnancy and the traditional shift of her family life because of her husband's transition. It's a touching story of a couple who redefine love and acceptance.

Since Ivanka is a LGBTQ+ activist and a voice from the community, I was so happy to see her involvement and the positive reception of her feedback. The entire process has been extraordinary and it's one project i'll always be extremely proud to be associated with.

**How do you think music as a medium helps in addressing some of the important social issues in the country?**

I feel that art has always been a reflection, and in a lot of cases, a mirror to the society and the lives of people around you. For me, music is a medium of self-expression rather than just being a genre. Music has the magic to create a sense of community, it has the power to bring people closer and will always be the universal language of love, unity and peace.

**It has been two years to the verdict on Section 377, how do you think our society has progressed? Is there still a long way to go?**

Even though that was one of the most historic days I have had the pleasure to witness, I feel there is still a long road we have to cover. Our society has progressed and we are more vocal about equality for everyone but there is a dark shadow lingering behind the rainbow. I have so many friends and acquaintances who are still afraid of the social stigma attached to it and are living their lives in fear of being outed. It's the most suffocating thing to happen to anyone. It will take time but taking that first step is important in a journey. Since we have already hit a milestone, the destination won't be that far.

**What are your forthcoming projects?**

My debut song as a composer came out last week so the last couple of days have been really interesting. I composed a song for Netflix's *Mismatched* and even had the pleasure of singing a song in the album. My first international collaboration with the US-based artist, Rajiv Dhall, came out just a week before we released *Khud Ko Hi Paake*. I am also working on a couple of singles and collaborations with some amazing artists and can't wait to make more music.

CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES



## Parenthood changed me: Vyas

Actor Sumet Vyas feels that in our patriarchal society, we do not talk about the emotional and vulnerable side of a man. He says fatherhood has changed him emotionally. Vyas, who says he is emotionally a different person after the birth of his son Ved, also quipped how International Men's Day is quite a forgotten affair as opposed to International Women's Day.



"I think when it comes to men, living in a patriarchal society, we do not show and extensively talk about our emotional side. Being modern men of progressive society who support gender equality, we tend to overthink and complicate certain things. But I think our next generation will not go through this," the actor said.

He opened up about his son, who was born on June 3, to establish his context. "He is just six months old but I feel an emotional shift happened within me because of parenthood. There is no doubt that no one in the world can compare the physical and emotional effort that a mother offers to a child, she is the birth-giver and that is incomparable. We always talk about how motherhood changes a woman, which it surely does. But I am saying, fatherhood also changes a man!"

"Everything that I do, my child comes first now. I was thinking of investing in an expensive cycle before my child was born, now I am so obsessed with my son that I am checking out toys and thinking which toy cycle is more cool!" shared the actor.

He notes that we constantly talk of gender equality but days dedicated to women and men are not celebrated in the same manner.

"It is funny, we do not even remember when the International Men's Day is — which was on November 19! It is almost ignorable! However, I just want to mention how at times I overthink or become over-conscious, being a man in a patriarchal society. See, when my partner comes home after a long day and asks for a coffee, I happily prepare it for her because that is natural, but when I ask for the same, the thought crosses my mind, 'am I doing it out of the habit that woman should serve the coffee, like the way my grandfathers' generation used to think?'" Vyas said.

"I do not want to come under that category but, you see, the same action can be progressive for one person and regressive for the other one. Maybe I am overthinking but it is a real thing. This bell rings in our head at times, and that is when you think, coffee machine *zindabad!*" he signed off with a laugh.

—IANS

ART AND CULTURE 30 MINUTES

# For the love of history

Presenting masterpieces of sculpture, painting, prints and ritual objects from India, Tibet and around the world, an exhibition on *Tantra* offers new insights into an age-old philosophical theory, says UMA NAIR

A tantalising exhibition on *Tantra*, a greatly misunderstood word that has been tossed into the realms of sexual ardour by the West, but the British Museum creates an epic sojourn in art history by bringing together sculptures, prints and paintings as well as a stunning recreation of the famous Chausathi Jogini Mandir in Hirapur just outside Bhubaneswar.

**HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM**

According to the curator Immos Ramos, from its inception to the present day, *Tantra* has challenged religious, cultural and political norms around the world. A philosophy that emerged in India around the sixth century, *Tantra* has been linked to successive waves of revolutionary thought from its early transformation of Hinduism and Buddhism to the Indian fight for independence and the rise of 1960s counterculture.

Centering on the power of divine feminine energy, *Tantra* inspired the dramatic rise of goddess worship in medieval India and continues to influence contemporary feminist thought and artistic practice. Presenting masterpieces of sculpture, painting, prints and ritual objects from India, Tibet and around the world, this exhibition offers new insights into a philosophy that has captured our imagination for more than a millennium.

**MANUSCRIPTS AND MEMENTOES**

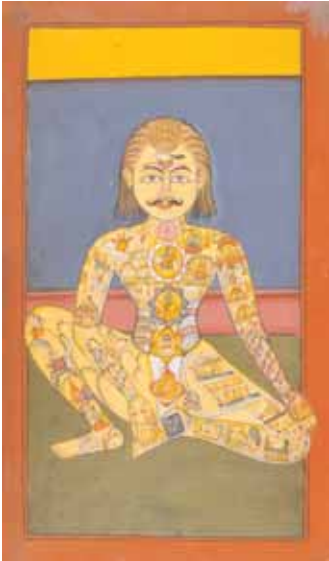
History and the love for collectibles combine when you run your eyes through the objects on display — four of the earliest *Tantra* manuscripts, made in Nepal around the 12th century and loaned by Cambridge University Library are stunning. The curator highlights the importance of divine feminine power and challenges the perception of womanhood as passive and docile. But there is

more to showing fearsome goddesses trampling over fragile men. Intoxicating perhaps is the 9th-century sandstone temple relief from Madhya Pradesh depicting the ferocious goddess Chamunda dancing on a corpse. Historians have noted that in the 19th century, *Tantra* became a tool for Indian revolutionaries fighting the British colonial rule with goddesses such as Kali, becoming the symbol of independence.

Among over 100 objects, including the masterpieces of sculptures, paintings, prints and ritual objects, depicting the history and evolution of *tantric* philosophy since AD 500 — the works of Indian artists are important.

**GHULAM RASOOL, MAHIRWAN AND BIREN DE**

Among Indian practitioners of *Tantra* moving into contemporary fields of Neo *Tantra* were Ghulam Rasool Santosh. He worked within the *Purusha Prakriti* principle. His painting has an equivocal tenor because it combines yogic powers of transcendental meditation with the form. The philosophy is what ignites our awareness and awakens us. *Purusha* is the soul, the self, pure consciousness, and the only source of consciousness. The word literally means "man." *Prakriti* is that which is created. It is nature in all her aspects. *Prakriti* literally means "creatix," the female creative energy. Santosh uses this in his human



form to bring alive the energy principle, which holds that *purusha* is infinite, eternal, omniscient, unchanging, and unchangeable. But *Prakriti* is what holds materiality and dynamism, constantly changing and evolving.

Biren De's luminous penumbra hails the concentration of the *chakra*, it is his exploration into higher realms that evokes many a moment of deeper intensities. Mahirwan Mamtani, another master in the field of *Tantra*, known for his magnificent human faces, is not about the lower *chakra*, it is the union of a higher self. Mamtani's work in the collection of the



**'Curator Immos Ramos highlights the importance of divine feminine power and challenges the perception of womanhood as passive and docile'**



British Museum is a hybrid creation with an inner rootedness.

History states the development of *Tantra* in medieval India coincided with the rise of many new kingdoms across the subcontinent after the breakdown of two major dynasties, the Guptas in the North and the Vakatakas in the Southeast. Along with political precariousness, there was a great flourishing of the arts. Rulers were drawn to *Tantra*'s promise of power and public temples often incorporated *Tantric* deities as guardians.

**BHARTI KHER'S HEADLESS SCULPTURE**

Tops among contemporary practitioners is Bharti Kher's headless sitting on her haunches figure with a tea and saucer in one hand and a skull in the other. While the benevolent slept, 2008 stirs you out of your skin. The power and the paths both intermingle to ask you uncomfortable questions. This is not a pretty woman, this is a woman of strength. Her hands holding two objects, that suggest a slow genes, is a cultural interpretation that weaves Hindu mythology, *tantric* painting and found objects together in a sweeping ode to selfhood. This sculpture with those straw-like long projections slice through your senses with fine-tuned resonance. Kher is telling us that there is a collective need for answers following further questions. Kher also points to angular junctures of mismatched belief systems as she pairs multiple compositions with more materially complex, confrontational sculptures. This sculpture fits into the modern mould of women artists, who create after deep rumination.

Ramos says *Tantra* has a continuing relevance. "Gender, female power, gender fluidity, religious pluralism, mindfulness, well-being... These are all topics that are very much part of contemporary discourse."

**SUTAPA BISWAS**

She excels and extols with her mesmeric work. Housewives with Steak-knives 1985. This image has a stark but poetic resonance, concerned with the relationship between art and politics, and questions of subjectivity in relation to identity, gender and race. She draws on temporal relationships between myth and reality, as spatial opposites, she questions the concept of time itself, and what this constitutes in relation to histories and to the everyday idiom of a woman in society.



# Jadeja, Chahal checkmate Oz



Yuzvendra Chahal celebrates with Indian skipper Virat Kohli after he dismiss Aaron Finch during run-chase BCCI/Twitter

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Yuzvendra Chahal turned out to be the perfect concussion substitute after an injured Ravindra Jadeja did his part with the bat as the duo played their roles to perfection in India's impressive 11-run victory over Australia in the first T20 International here at Manuka Oval on Friday.

While Jadeja smashed an unbeaten 44 off 23 balls to propel India to 161 for 7, his head injury turned out to be a blessing in disguise with India unleashing Chahal (3/25 in 4 overs) on an Australian side caught completely off-guard. The hosts could manage only 150 for 7 in 20 overs.

Credit was also due to the lion-hearted effort from debutant Thangarasu Natarajan (3/30) and off-spinner Washington Sundar (0/16 in 4 overs), who bowled well in Powerplay.

ICC match referee David Boon allowed the visitors a "like for like" replacement, as mandated by the rules, for Jadeja in Chahal even though home team coach Justin Langer looked visibly angry.

And to make matters worse, Chahal dismissed two form men — Aaron Finch (35) and Steve Smith (12) — in his first two overs to turn the game on its head. At the end of it all, he also scooped the man of the match honours for his superb effort.

The Australians were not prepared for Chahal, who bowled way better in his most preferred format, varying the pace of his deliveries and using the flight to good effect.

Natarajan, whose nerves had eased after a decent ODI debut, was right on the money and got one to straighten catching Glenn Maxwell plumb in-front.

If that wasn't enough, Natarajan snuffed out a frustrated D'arcy Short (34 off 38 balls) to make it 113 for 4 and India didn't have to look back from then on.

Earlier, vice-captain KL Rahul continued his impressive run in the shortest format with yet another fifty but it took Jadeja's brilliant back-end

Jaddu got a knock on the side of the head. He was feeling dizzy, he still is. Sometimes concussion subs work, sometimes they don't. We were lucky to have a like-for-like.

VIRAT KOHLI

ON RAVINDRA JADEJA'S SITUATION

Their doctor had ruled Jadeja out due to concussion. You can't be challenging a medical expert's opinion.

AARON FINCH

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CONCUSSION SUBSTITUTE

A decision was taken that there was a concussion and we are fine with that. But was there a like for like replacement? Jadeja was more of an all-rounder, and he had done his batting. Chahal is a bowler.

MOISES HENRIQUES

ON INDIA'S CHOICE OF OPTING CHahal AS JADEJA'S CONCUSSION SUBSTITUTE

## Jadeja was feeling dizzy: Samson

PTI ■ CANBERRA

Ravindra Jadeja "felt dizzy" after the completion of the Indian innings which resulted in Yuzvendra Chahal showing everyone how to be ready for opportunities that can come at any hour, India batsman Sanju Samson said on Friday.

"He got hit on the helmet in the last over (off Mitchell Starc) and when he came back to the dressing room, he was asked by the physio (Nitin Patel) how he felt. He (Jadeja) said that he was feeling a little dizzy," Samson told mediapersons during the post-match virtual media conference.

"He is under observation as per team doctor's (Dr Abhijit Salvi) advice."

Samson, however, couldn't provide any update on how Jadeja's hamstring is after he suffered a nigggle and need

ed heavy strapping during the 19th over bowled by Josh Hazlewood.

"I don't know how Jaddu bhai is feeling as the physio is taking care of that."

Samson quite rightly didn't want to comment on whether Jadeja is out of the T20 series even though concussion protocols demand a week's rest which could mean that he would no longer be available in the next two games.

However, he was all praise for Chahal, who till the break didn't know that he was going to play such a big role in India's win.

"That is the standard that has been set by this team. The quality of players is so high that anytime you ask, they are ready. Chahal grabbed his chance and it was a great lesson for everyone that they need to be ready all the time."

## Was Chahal a 'like-for-like' sub, questions Henriques



PTI ■ CANBERRA

Australia all-rounder Moises Henriques on Friday questioned whether Yuzvendra Chahal can be called a "like for like" concussion substitute for Ravindra Jadeja after the leg-spinner spun his web to take India to a 11-run victory.

"There was no doubt that Jadeja was hit on the helmet and there could have been a concussion. A decision was taken that there was a concussion and a replacement was made. We are not doubting that," Henriques said at the post-match conference.

"But was it a like-for-like replacement? That is the ques-

tion. Jadeja was more of an all-rounder and he had done his batting. Chahal is a (pure) bowler," said the 33-year old who scored 30 and took three wickets for 22.

He, however, made it clear that he was neither questioning ICC's concussion replacement rule nor India's right to seek a replacement.

"ICC's rule is fine, sure there should be (concussion) replacement. We are not talking about the decision to make the replacement.

"Only thing we are saying is there should be a like-for-like replacement. That is the way to do going ahead, I think."

## We had no plans to play Yuzi: Kohli

PTI ■ CANBERRA

India captain Virat Kohli was quite pleased that the concussion substitute rule worked out well for his side even though there were no plans to play Yuzvendra Chahal, who proved to be a match-winner after replacing Ravindra Jadeja in the first T20I.

"There were no plans of having Yuzi (Chahal) in the game. Jaddu (Jadeja) got a knock on the side of the head and was a bit dizzy and still is," Kohli said in the post-match presentation.

"Concussion replacements are a strange thing, today it worked for us maybe another time he wouldn't have found a like-for-like," he



Hardik Pandya posts selfie with Indian teammates Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja and T Natarajan after India's win in 1st T20 on Friday

added.

Kohli was full of praise for all his players but singled out Jadeja and Chahal for their

efforts.

"He (Chahal) came in and bowled really well. The pitch offered him enough. Yuzi

showed character to squeeze the opponents," he said.

"In Australia, you need to play hard and show intensity till the end. He (Jadeja) batted beautifully in the last game. Natarajan looks like he can improve a lot. (Deepak) Chahal bowled well as well. Chahal got us back in the game. Hardik's catch was a game-changer as well."

Man-of-the-moment Chahal said having not made the original playing eleven, there was no pressure on him when he came on as a concussion substitute.

"There was no pressure for me when we were batting and then suddenly I got to know I was going to play. I have played so many games so I was mentally fit," he said.

## Pucovski can't wait to take on Indian bowlers

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The hype around his potential Test debut against India has Will Pucovski more excited than intimidated and the rising Australian batsman cannot wait to take on the visiting bowlers after having watched them on TV "dominating around the world."

Led by pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, India's much-vaunted bowling attack features Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Navdeep Saini. Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav are the three spin options.

"...It is pretty exciting. Obviously, just challenging yourself at the next level is pretty exciting in itself," Pucovski said in an online media interaction.

"You watch these boys on TV dominating around the world and sort of never think, that could be me facing them



one day. But it could potentially become a reality," the right-handed batsman added.

The 22-year-old might just make the playing XI for the Tests starting December 17 as swash-buckling opener David Warner is recovering from a groin injury, which he sustained during the recently-concluded ODI series.

"I am probably as mentally prepared as I can be, it will just be if I do get the opportunity, just go out there, and as I said

before just apply my processes, and the rest will take care of itself," Pucovski said.

Asked whether there is less pressure heading into Australia A's tour game against India A given the injury situation in the senior team, Pucovski said he still has to perform to earn his place.

"...You always got an expectation or a will to perform, so that doesn't really change to me too much regardless of what is going on outside," he said.

He also believes that the upcoming four-Test series would be even more intense than the last series, which India won.

"I remember it being a very tense series, there seems to be a lot of momentum shifts, and obviously when two very good teams come up against each other, that seems to be the case," he said.

"So, I wouldn't expect anything different this summer, if anything, it will be even more intense."

## Proteas-Eng 1st ODI postponed

AFF ■ CAPE TOWN

The first one-day international between South Africa and England, scheduled to be played at Newlands in Cape Town on Friday, was postponed after a South African player tested positive for Covid-19.

Cricketer South Africa made the announcement just over an hour before the day-night match was due to start.

According to a statement from Cricket South Africa and the England and Wales Cricket Board, the unidentified South African player's positive status emerged from tests conducted after his team's final scheduled practice on Thursday.

The first match will now be a day-game in Paarl on Sunday, when the second match was scheduled.

The second match will be a day-night game at Newlands on Monday, with the series concluding as scheduled with another day-night match at Newlands on Wednesday.

## Kane's career-best 251 corners WI early

AFF ■ HAMILTON

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson hit the highest Test score of his career on Friday with a majestic 251 as the hosts posted an imposing 519 for seven declared on day two of the first Test against the West Indies in Hamilton.

West Indies bowler Kumar Roach said Williamson's innings was one of the best he'd seen as the 30-year-old surpassed his previous record of 242 against Sri Lanka nearly six years ago.

In reply, the injury-hit West Indies were 49 without loss with John Campbell on 22 and Kraigg Brathwaite on 20 after cautiously negotiating the 26 overs to stumps.

After two months playing in the same Indian Premier League team as West Indies skipper Jason Holder, Williamson slipped seamlessly back into the strict demands of the red-ball game at Seddon Park, his home ground.

Thrust into the Test after

just five overs, over the next 10 hours and 24 minutes he faced 412 deliveries, caressing the ball to all points as he picked the balls that needed to be played and rarely touched anything else.

Williamson's third double century, which included 34 fours and two sixes, extended his New Zealand record to 22 Test centuries, three more than teammate Ross Taylor.

"It wasn't really at the forefront of my mind," the master batsman said, when asked about achieving his highest Test score.

"You just want to keep going and try to get yourself and the team in a position of strength, and getting to 240 the job wasn't

done." Roach praised Williamson's "fantastic" innings but said the West Indies remained confident.

"Kane's obviously the main person for them, and kudos to him, it was a fantastic innings, one of the best I've seen," Roach said.

"But, take away Kane's innings and we were in at the other batsmen and didn't let the other batsmen settle as long."

"To survive this evening definitely shows a lot of confidence in the team and we will take more confidence into day three."

The first signs that

Williamson was thinking of declaring came when he sharply lifted the scoring rate after passing 200.

His next 51 came off 42 deliveries. In one Roach over he smacked two fours and a six before being given out on 222, caught behind, only to be recalled when replays showed the delivery was a no-ball.

It was Alzarri Joseph who finally removed Williamson when he mistimed a short delivery and was caught at mid-wicket by Roston Chase.

He walked off to a standing ovation and with the West Indies players rushing over to congratulate him.

Three overs later, once Kyle Jamieson reached his half-century, Williamson declared.

The tall Jamieson, with his unbeaten 51, is proving a solid performer in his third Test outing and was the only other batsman to add significantly to the New Zealand total on day two.

## Pak team denied exemption to train while in isolation

AP ■ WELLINGTON

The Pakistan cricket team has been denied the right to train while in managed isolation in New Zealand after eight members of the touring squad tested positive for Covid-19.

Under exemptions granted to visiting sports teams, members of the 53-strong Pakistan team could have been allowed to leave their Christchurch hotel to train in small groups after the third day of their 14-day isolation period.

But the positive tests and a breach of isolation protocols by team members on their first day in isolation has led New Zealand authorities to withhold the training exemption.

Dr Ashley Bloomfield, New Zealand's director-general of health, confirmed on Friday the exemption would not be granted.

"I have very carefully considered this situation," Bloomfield said.

"At this time, I continue to have ongoing concerns about

the risk of cross-infection within the squad. There have been a number of active cases identified among the team. Public health considerations will continue to be foremost in our response to COVID-19, whether this involves individuals or teams.

"We appreciate the challenges that this decision will have for the touring team."

The decision is a major setback for the Pakistan team which will begin a three-match T20 series against New Zealand on December 18 and a two-match Test series on December 26.

The team was issued a "final warning" after the breaches of isolation protocol occurred shortly after the team's arrival in New Zealand last week. Close circuit television coverage from their hotel showed players breaking rules by mingling in corridors and sharing food.

Further breaches might have led to the team being expelled from New Zealand.

AFF ■ LONDON

Premier League leaders Tottenham struggled to gain the draw they needed in Linz, finishing 3-3 on Thursday thanks to two penalties, to secure a place in the knockout rounds of the Europa League.

The result in Austria ensured that Antwerp will also advance from Group J.

Elsewhere, Braga, AC Milan, Lille, Villarreal, Dinamo Zagreb, Red Star Belgrade, Slavia Prague, Bayer Leverkusen, Rangers, Benfica, Granada and Eindhoven ensured their places in the last 32 with one round of group games still to play.

They join Leicester, Arsenal, Hoffenheim and Roma who had already qualified.

For the first time in 270 days, fans were back inside a Premier League ground as Arsenal welcomed 2,000 supporters into the Emirates for Thursday's routine 4-1 Europa League win over Rapid Vienna.

The sparse crowd in a 60,000 capacity stadium were well distanced between two stands and in high spirits despite the Gunners' poor form of late in the English top-flight.

## Arsenal welcome fans with win



Arsenal players celebrate in front of fans after win in Europa League

AP

The result, extending Arsenal's perfect record in the tournament this season, ensured the Gunners will finish top of their group with second spot still up for grabs.

In Linz, the hosts dominated the first half but only scored once, through Peter Michorl. Spurs, who had not managed a shot on target, won a penalty for handball in added time. Gareth Bale converted for his 200th career goal.

Son Heung-min put Spurs ahead on the counter attack in the 56th minute.

With Linz still threatening, coach Jose Mourinho made a series of defensive substitutions.

Tottenham had three centre backs, three full backs and two defensive midfielders on the field by the 84th minute when Johannes Eggestein still found a huge hole and lashed in a shot that Joe Hart reached but could

not keep out.

Three minutes later, Spurs regained the lead. One of the two attacking players, Steven Bergwijn was tripped to earn a penalty and the other, Dele Alli, swept it home.

Spurs could not keep the lead. Young Frenchman Mamoudou Karamoko smashed in an equaliser from outside the box in added time.

The draw was enough to put Tottenham through and next week they will host Antwerp, who beat Ludogorets 3-1, with first place at stake.

In Group H, AC Milan fell two goals behind at home to eliminated Celtic but rallied to win 4-2 and advance.

Tom Rogic and Odsonne Edouard scored for the visitors in the first 14 minutes, but Hakan Calhanoglu and Samuel Castillejo responded with two quick goals midway through the half.

Jens Petter Hauger and Ibrahim Diaz, with a clever chip, struck in the second half.

Milan are second in the group, one point behind Lille who also came from behind to win at home. Burak Yilmaz came off the bench in the 77th minute with Lille losing to 10-man. The Turkey striker poked home the equaliser three minutes later and smashed in the winner four minutes after that.

Celtic's neighbours city Rangers, advanced with 3-2 home victory over Standard Liege. The Belgians, who need to win, took the lead twice in the first half, but James Tavernier hit a penalty just before half time. Scott Arfield won the game in

the 65th minute, running onto a pull back to end a crisp move with a precise low drive.

The tightest group is F where Alkmaar fought back to draw 1-1 with Napoli and La Liga leaders Real Sociedad came from behind twice to draw at home with Rijeka, who picked up their first point. The Italians lead by two points from Sociedad and Alkmaar and host the Basques next week.

## Mujeeb in hospital after +ve virus test

AP ■ GOLD COAST

Afghanistan cricketer and Brisbane Heat import Mujeeb Ur Rahman has been taken to a Queensland hospital after testing positive for Covid-19.

The 19-year-old spinner, the world's No 2 ranked T20I bowler, was in hotel quarantine on the Gold Coast south of Brisbane after arriving in Australia last week.

Mujeeb reported symptoms of the illness and has since been placed in the care of Queensland Health to complete his recovery.

The news comes a week out from the Heat's season opener against the Melbourne Stars in Canberra and means Mujeeb will almost certainly miss Brisbane's two matches in Australia's capital.

Queensland Cricket chief executive Terry Svenson said Mujeeb's welfare was the primary concern.

"He is a young man far from home and we will ensure he is looked after," Svenson said.