

**WORLD 9**  
TRUMP ORDERS MOST US  
TROOPS TO LEAVE SOMALIA**SPECIAL 11**  
WILD  
CLICKS**SPORT 12**  
INDIA FACE AUS IN  
2ND T20I TODAYPublished From  
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# sunday pioneer

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**USUAL SUSPECTS**

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## Trudeau barbs: Vote bank compulsions

It is unusual for a Prime Minister — except under exceptional circumstances — to proffer comments on the internal affairs of another country, especially one that is separated by a time difference of some 10 hours and a flying time of some 18 hours. By convention and good diplomatic practice, concerns are shared outside the gaze of cameras and even then, through diplomatic channels.

In many ways Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada likes to be different. His personal appeal stems from the fact that he departs from stodgy behaviour and presents himself as a model of convivial informality. True, this doesn't always work, as he discovered during his visit to India in 2018, when he combined poor political judgment with an overdose of what the politically correct call 'cultural appropriation.'

India is important to Trudeau and his Liberal Party for reasons we call vote bank politics. There is a huge body of people of Indian origin settled in Canada whose votes and support are important. In particular there is a big Sikh community in and around Vancouver and Toronto that likes to shape its political activism around issues that are more important in Punjab than they are to Canada. The vocal supporters of Khalistan are important in this context since they — very much like the Irish diaspora in the United States — couple their religious and personal identity with a yearning for political relevance in the old country. For a minority of Sikhs, happily settled in Canada and with no intentions of ever returning to India, Khalistan combines nostalgia, romance and a sense of purpose. This is understandable because diasporic communities are often frozen in time and unable to appreciate the bitter truth that the land they left behind has moved on.

This — along with the strange habit of North American liberals and radicals of embracing the most reactionary of religious movements — may explain why, under Trudeau, Indo-Canadian relations have been choppy. India did not

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appreciate the fact that the Canadian PM had a Khalistan activist — now a Minister in Canada — in the official delegation in 2018. It has taken a dim view of the fact that Canada continues to look indulgently at those of its citizens who try and ferment violence in India. And now, exasperated by Trudeau's over-activism on Indian matters, it has told the Canadian High Commissioner in Delhi that it takes a very dim view of its Prime Minister making gratuitous comments on how India should or should not handle the farmers' agitation in north India. Maybe India's Foreign Secretary should have simultaneously

expressed his satisfaction that Trudeau didn't also comment on the outcome of the Greater Hyderabad municipal polls.

That Trudeau crossed diplomatic bounds in commenting on alleged human rights abuses in India during the farmers' agitation isn't in doubt. What strikes me as more interesting is the mindset that allows many Western countries to presume they have an inalienable right to proffer gratuitous comments on the internal affairs of another country. I am not referring here to civil society groups and other non-official organisations taking an interest in matters ranging from agriculture reforms in India to the plight of Rohingyas in Myanmar. These are part of normal democratic life and also happens in India on matters as varied as Israel's attitude towards the Palestinians and the plight of minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The problems start surfacing when civil society concerns on matters involving other countries start affecting diplomatic relations.

The larger question that needs some attention is the mindset that believes Canada has a say in influencing either the course of agricultural reforms in India or the manner in which protests should be handled by the authorities. The belief in many Western countries that their democracy is inherently superior to the forms of Government in the so-called Third World is recurrent. This is the basis of the European Union's professed moral superiority and the reason why it feels it imperative to make patronising statements on Kashmir and the new citizenship laws. Along with this is the associated belief that Western Governments should use economic assistance as an instrument to twist the tail of Third World Governments and make them behave.

India no longer fits either the stereotype or the grim reality of Third World deprivation. It doesn't seek economic assistance and aid from the West (or from China) and cannot be bullied by economic diplomacy. More to the point, India has a robust democratic culture whereby the excesses of the Government can be put right using public opinion, the political process and, where necessary, the judiciary. This is a reality that is insufficiently appreciated by the political decision-makers in the West. They in turn are moved by pleadings of a section of Indian Canadians who have influence in the political system but, alas, whose perceptions of India are woefully out of date. Their imagined India is often the country of recurrent shortages, bureaucratic muddles and general sloth.

The New India that is bubbling with energy and is self-confident — sometimes to the point of being arrogant — is sometimes a stranger to those who emigrated in the 1970s or earlier. In my own experience, there is also a discernible difference between those earlier economic refugees from socialist misrule and those who have left India in the past decade, not to escape poverty, but to raise their living standards even more. Outward migration from India has in fact shifted from unskilled labour to qualified professionals. The latter category combine their new country with a pride in being Indian too. They, alas, are not a class of people who fit into Trudeau's target audience.

## No breakthrough, next talks on Dec 9

Farmers insist on repealing all 3 farm laws, want yes or no reply; Govt seeks time for a concrete proposal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The fifth round of talks between farmer unions and three Central Ministers failed to break the impasse after around five hours marathon meeting at Vigyan Bhawan on Saturday over the farm laws.

The Government has sought time from unions to present a concrete proposal and suggested another meeting on December 9, a day after "Bharat Bandh" called by the farmers' unions.

Farmer unions' leaders were adamant that the Government should repeal the farm laws. They also rejected the Government's offer to amend contentious provisions of the new farm laws.

During the meeting farmer leaders sought the Government to reply in "black and white" that whether it will repeal the laws or not. The farmer unions went on a silent protest (maun vrat), holding up placards and sought a reply in "yes" or "no" on their key demand of repealing the three new farm laws. They also threatened to walk out if the Government is not willing to scrap the laws.

According to farmers, the Government could not put up a satisfactory solution to the farmers demands and the delegation clearly communicated that the protest will continue if the Government doesn't repeal the three laws.

The Government has made it clear that it won't repeal the farm laws but is ready to amend the clauses as per their demands, while the farmers' leaders said they need a solution or commitment. After that the Ministers informed the farmers that they will come back with a concrete proposal after internal consultations.

December 9 is the next meeting date proposed at 11 am. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, however, said the Government wanted some firm suggestions from the 40 farmer leaders present in the meeting on their key concerns and hoped that a



Representatives of various farmer unions arrive at Vigyan Bhawan for a meeting with Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar over the new farm laws, in New Delhi on Saturday  
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

resolution would be reached with their cooperation.

"We discussed all aspects (of the Acts) in detail and we were eager to find a solution which that did not happen. We

wanted some firm suggestions from farmer leaders, but couldn't get those. We will meet again on December 9. It would have been easier if they had given those suggestions today itself.

We will wait for their suggestions. Agitating farmers should leave path of protest and engage in dialogue. The Government is ready to listen

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### Farmers have right to protest: UN spokesperson

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

People have a right to demonstrate peacefully and authorities should let them do so, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said on the farmers' protests in India.

"As to the question of India, what I would say to you is what I've said to others when raising these issues is that people have a right to demonstrate peacefully, and authorities need to let them do so," Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said on Friday.

Dujarric was responding to a question on the farmers' protest in India.

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### UK MPs ask Min to raise farmers' issues with India

PTI ■ LONDON

A group of 36 cross-party parliamentarians has written to UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab asking him to make representations with his Indian counterpart, S Jaishankar, about the impact on British Punjabis affected by the demonstrations by farmers against new agricultural reforms in India.

India has called the remarks by foreign leaders and politicians on protests by farmers as "ill-informed" and "unwarranted" as the matter pertained to the internal affairs of a sovereign democratic country.

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## It's govt duty to provide jobs without discrimination: CM

### Appointment letters given away to 36,590 teachers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The much awaited selection process of the 69,000 teachers of the Uttar Pradesh Basic Education department was completed on Saturday after appointment letters were handed over to 36,590 assistant teachers in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

In a programme held at the official residence of the chief minister, Yogi Adityanath



handed over the appointment letters to six newly-recruited teachers, while the others were given the letters in programmes organised in districts.

"It is our pledge to provide jobs without any discrimination and with transparency and today, another achieve-

ment has been added to the government's commitment. This (appointment of teachers) had been completed way back in January itself but some people kept creating hindrances for their personal interest and slanderous politics.

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## Anil Vij tests Covid +ve 14 days after Covaxin trial shot

It's 2-dose vaccine, its efficacy can be known 14 days after 2nd dose: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij tested positive for the Covid-19 despite taking a shot of Bharat Biotech's vaccine candidate around two weeks ago during its ongoing Phase-III trial, the Union Health Ministry clarified on Saturday that the efficacy of the vaccine can only be determined 14 days after the second dose.

It said that the Minister has so far received the first dose only. The Hyderabad-based pharma company too echoed similar justification.

"Covaxin is a two-dose anti-coronavirus vaccine and Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij, who had volunteered for its phase-three trial, was given only the first dose," said the Ministry.

Vij had offered to be the first volunteer in the phase three trials for Covaxin, an indigenous potential vaccine against Covid-19 being developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).



The Ministry said, "The antibodies against the infection build up in a human being only after a specific number of days pass after the second dose of the vaccine is taken. This is a two-dose vaccine. The minister in question has taken only one dose of the vaccine."

The Haryana Health Minister too said antibodies start to develop after administration of the second dose, which is given 28 days after the first shot, and there is no protection during this period. The 67-year-old Minister was given the first shot on November 20.

Asked about his condition, Vij said he has sore throat, fever and body ache. "But overall I am okay," he said.

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## 2 vaccines to get emergency use nod by Jan

India to allow Covishield, Covaxin use for limited time to overcome crisis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two coronavirus vaccine candidates — Serum Institute's Covishield and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin that are in the phase 3 trials — could be eligible for emergency use in India by January

2021, Dr Randeep Guleria, Director, All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has said.

Sources said that emergency approvals for inoculation of vaccine can be given to overcome the pandemic.

Guleria's statement comes

against the backdrop of the United Kingdom (UK) approval of the Pfizer Inc's coronavirus vaccine.

Guleria is also a member of the national task force on Covid-19 management. He also said that coronavirus vaccines which would be available for emergency use in India by next year will first be administered to the vulnerable and the frontline workers engaged in the battle against Covid-19 since the beginning of 2020.

Experts in the sector too have maintained that vaccines will be available only after the drug regulator, DCGI, is convinced of its efficacy against the Covid-19.

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### CAPSULE

#### 'UNNAO HIV SURGE DUE TO UNSAFE INJECTION'

New Delhi: "Unsafe injection exposure during treatment-seeking" and "receipt" of intramuscular injection in the past five years were reasons behind surge of HIV infections in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district in 2017-18, the ICMR said on Saturday.

#### FIRST BATCH OF VACCINE MAY REACH LUCKNOW IN JAN

Lucknow: The first batch of Covid-19 vaccine is likely to reach the district in January next year, according to additional CMO MK Singh. He said the prerequisites for Covid-19 vaccination were currently being taken care of. P4

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 96,30,893

DEATHS: 1,40,040

RECOVERED: 90,85,514

ACTIVE: 4,03,019

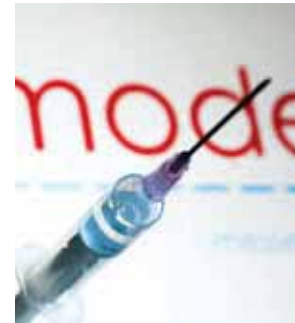


### Moderna vaccine antibodies effective for 3 months

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The Moderna Covid-19 vaccine, which the company says was recently demonstrated to have 94 per cent efficacy, causes the human immune system to produce potent antibodies that endure for at least three months, a study showed Thursday.

Writing in the New England Journal of Medicine, researchers at the National



Institute for Allergies and

Infectious Diseases (NIAID) — which co-developed the drug, studied the immune response of 34 adult participants, young and old, from the first stage of a clinical trial — said the antibodies, which stop the SARS-CoV-2 virus from invading human cells, "declined slightly over time, as expected, but they remained elevated in all participants 3 months after the booster vaccination."

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## PM Modi to virtually kick-off Agra Metro project tomorrow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to virtually inaugurate the construction of the first phase of Agra Metro Rail project (AMRP) on coming Monday.

The inauguration ceremony will also be attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

According to officials, the total cost of the Agra Metro Rail project is estimated at Rs 8,379.62 crore and in the first phase, Sikandra to Taj East Gate corridor will be constructed. Chief Minister Adityanath will be monitoring the project and the Metro traffic on this corridor is expected to begin in December 2022.

In the first phase, the 6-km-long primary section of 14-km Sikandra-Taj East Gate corridor will be constructed. It will have six Metro stations.

While Taj East Gate, Basai and Fatehabad Road Metro stations will be elevated, the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Jama Masjid stations will be underground.

The 15.4 km-long Agra Cantonment-Kalindi Vihar corridor will have 14 elevated metro stations at Agra Cantonment, Sadar Bazaar, Collectorate, Subhash Park, Agra College, Hariparvat crossing, Sanjay Place, MG Road, Sultanpuri crossing, Kamalanagar, Rambagh, Foundry Nagar and Kalindi Vihar.

The aim of this Metro project is to ease the movement of lakhs of locals and tourists coming to the city of Taj Mahal.

Besides benefiting the 26 lakh-odd locals of the Taj city, the Metro will also prove to be a better option for movement to over 60 lakh tourists who visit Agra every year by providing a state-of-the-art mass rapid transit system (MRTS).

All the stations of the AMRC have been planned in such a way that all the four major railway stations, bus depots, colleges, main markets and tourist destinations are well connected for the easy movement of the locals as well as the tourists. 'The Agra Metro will provide an environment-friendly, comfortable and hassle-free means of public transport and it will also make it easy to travel to world famous tourist destinations like Taj Mahal and Agra Fort', said Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) Managing Director Kumar Keshav.

He added, "Its biggest advantage will be in tourism development and it is a major challenge for our team to construct a Metro corridor in the heart of the city and make the Metro available within the stipulated time frame."

It may be mentioned here that the UPMRC has set a precedent by constructing the Lucknow Metro rail well ahead of the schedule. The construction work of the Kanpur Metro is also being carried out at a fast pace.

The foundation stone of the Agra Metro Rail project was laid by the prime minister through a virtual programme in May 2019.

## IAS officer AK Singh on Council poll duty dies of heart attack

**Lucknow (PNS):** Ajay Kumar Singh, an IAS officer of 1998 batch, died after suffering a heart attack in Varanasi. He was deputed by the Election Commission as election observer for the UP Legislative Council elections from the graduates and teachers constituencies in Varanasi. Singh suffered a heart attack at around 9:30 am on Friday while on his way to the counting centre and

was taken to a hospital where he died on Saturday, Varanasi's District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma said.

An officer of the 1998 batch, Singh was posted as secretary in the National Integration department and UP Human Rights Commission of Uttar Pradesh.

His wife, Neena Sharma, is a senior IAS officer posted as secretary in the

Infrastructure and Industrial Development department. She reached Varanasi on Friday. Singh was admitted to Shubham Hospital near the Circuit House, the district magistrate said. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with other officials observed a two-minute silence during a meeting here, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said.

### NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN

Original sale deed dt. 20-12-2002 executed by KULDEEP SINGH S/o of PRATAP SINGH, SURENDRA SINGH, GURVINDER SINGH both sons of KULDEEP SINGH in favour of AMAR SINGH, SUKHBINDER SINGH and HARPAL SINGH all sons of AJEET SINGH in respect of Araz No. 315, at Sarain Joga, Gorinda Parasadan, Hasanganj, Unnao, Area 6.6410 Hect. has lost, no mortgage on its basis, has ever been created, if any banks or financial institutions, has any charge over it, the same be informed to the undersigned within 5 days otherwise their claim will be extinguished.  
(SARVESH CHANDRA DUBEY)  
ADVOCATE

411-412 IVth FLOOR "KRISHNA TOWER" 15/63, CIVIL LINES, KANPUR  
Office Ph. 0512-2330917, Mob.-09839039320 E-mail: advocatesarveshdubey@gmail.com



# “न्याय, बंधुता, समता और स्वतंत्रता से युक्त समाज ही मेरा आदर्श समाज है”


– डॉ. भीमराव आंबेडकर



## भारतीय संविधान निर्माता, महान समाज सुधारक एवं भारत रत्न डॉ. भीमराव आंबेडकर के परिनिर्वाण दिवस (06 दिसम्बर) पर शत-शत नमन

– योगी आदित्यनाथ  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



## निष्काम सेवा की गौरवशाली परम्परा

# उत्तर प्रदेश होम गार्ड्स स्थापना दिवस

06 दिसम्बर, 2020  
के अवसर पर

## भव्य रैतिक परेड का मान-प्रणाम

मुख्य अतिथि


# योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक: 6 दिसम्बर, 2020 | समय: अपराह्न 4:00 बजे | स्थान: परेड ग्राउण्ड, होम गार्ड्स मुख्यालय, लखनऊ

मुख्य कार्यक्रम

- ✦ आश्रितजन को अनुग्रह राशि के चेक का वितरण।
- ✦ कानपुर के बिकरू काण्ड में घायल होम गार्ड और गाजियाबाद की महिला होम गार्ड को डीजी कमन्डेशन प्रदान करना।
- ✦ विभागीय वेबसाइट के माध्यम से होम गार्ड्स के मस्टररोल और परिचय-पत्र तैयार करने का शुमारंभ।
- ✦ नवीन कार्यालय भवनों का लोकार्पण।



होम गार्ड विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास



## समर्थन मूल्य प्राप्त करना सभी किसानों का अधिकार है

# धान खरीद

वर्ष 2020-21

अब तक कुल 4,89,028 किसानों से 26.88 लाख मीट्रिक टन धान की खरीद की जा चुकी है।

धान का समर्थन मूल्य धान कॉमन रु. 1868/- प्रति कुन्तल एवं ग्रेड 'ए' रु. 1888/- प्रति कुन्तल

- खाद्य विभाग के पोर्टल [fcs.up.gov.in](http://fcs.up.gov.in) पर ऑनलाइन पंजीयन कराने के पश्चात् धान खरीद की जायेगी।
- 72 घंटे के अंदर भुगतान सीधे किसानों के बैंक खाते में।
- खरीद हेतु टोकन की व्यवस्था।
- जनपद की खरीद के लक्ष्य का अधिकतम 35% हाइब्रिड धान जिलाधिकारी क्रय करा सकेंगे।
- क्रय केन्द्र पर ही धान को सुखाकर मानक के अनुरूप बेचने की सुविधा।



- समस्त मण्डी स्थलों पर किसान सहायता केन्द्र एवं कड़ी निगरानी हेतु नोडल अधिकारियों की तैनाती।
- बटाईदार एवं अनुबंध पर खेती करने वाले किसानों से भी होगी धान खरीद, सहमति पत्र/अनुबंध पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
- खरीद केन्द्र प्रातः 9:00 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक खुले रहेंगे (रविवार/अवकाश छोड़कर)। मंगलवार व शुक्रवार छोटे कृषकों से धान क्रय हेतु आरक्षित।

क्रम	एजेन्सी	केन्द्र
1.	खाद्य विभाग की विपणन शाखा (पंजीकृत सोसाइटी, मल्टी स्टेट को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी सहित)	1219
2.	उ०प्र०खाद्य एवं आवश्यक वस्तु निगम (एस०एफ०सी०)	91
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		<b>योग 4287</b>

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दो गज़ की दूरी, माक है ज़रूरी

चिकित्सकीय हेल्पलाइन: 1800-180-5145 | खाद्य एवं रसद विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

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# Maintain vigilance to avert coronavirus spread: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing satisfaction over two crore Covid tests being conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that there should be complete vigilance against the novel coronavirus infection.

He also said that in view of the present situation, the number of ICU beds should be increased as per requirement and public address systems should be used to spread awareness about COVID-19.

The chief minister, who was presiding over an unlock review meeting at his official residence here, also directed officials to motivate the people to wear masks and wash hands regularly, adding that social distancing should also be adhered to.

“There should not be any laxity in providing treatment to COVID-19 patients and it should also be ensured that the patients do not face any problems in getting admitted to the hospital,” he said.

The chief minister said there

should be vigilance at all levels to prevent the COVID-19 infection and the Integrated Command and Control Centres should be operated actively. He also directed officials to maintain contact tracing and surveillance systems.

It may be mentioned here that till date, about 14 crore people in UP have been contacted through surveillance and focus testing has been conducted on them. This has proved to be very helpful in controlling the spread of COVID-19.

During the meeting, the chief minister and other officials present there paid tributes to late IAS officer Ajay Singh and expressed their condolences to the bereaved family members. Singh, who was on duty as an observer during counting of votes for Council polls in Varanasi, died on Friday after suffering a heart attack.

Besides Adityanath, the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Alok Tandon, Agricultural Production

## Yogi launches Covid test centre locator app

**Lucknow (PNS):** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday launched the Mera Covid Kendra app that will facilitate people in finding a Covid testing centre.

The app, which can be downloaded in a smartphone from the Google Play Store, will give the location of a Covid testing centre within a periphery of 5 km besides giving information about all the testing centres in the district.

“We will certainly win our ongoing battle with COVID-19 by remaining cautious and vigilant. I remember when the RT-PCR test was conducted for the first time in King George’s Medical University (KGMU) on March 23, then only 72 tests were done that day and today, with our team working in all kind of circumstances, we have completed two crore tests,” Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath said. “Now we are conducting 1.5-2 lakh tests on a daily basis out of which 40 percent are RT-PCR tests and today, UP is conducting the highest number of Covid tests in the country. In addition, everyone is admitting that UP’s COVID-19 management is inspirational,” he added. “From World Health Organisation to NITI Aayog, UP’s policies have been appreciated by all. We not only paid attention to testing and health infrastructure but also succeeded in protecting the livelihood of the people in the COVID-19 times; the chief minister said.

“The Mera Covid Kendra app has been prepared by the Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare. About two months ago, an app for getting the report of Covid test online was also

launched and till date, over 30 lakh people have received their reports online,” Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad, said.

All the Covid test centres have been geo-tagged and from time to time, the field workers of the Health department and the district administration will be adding new testing centres online, he added.

“At present, there are details of 1,260 free-of-cost Covid test centres on this app. Those who do not have a smartphone can visit the website of the Health department — [www.dgmhup.gov.in](http://www.dgmhup.gov.in) — and see the list of the testing centres,” Prasad said. Besides showing the location of the testing centre on the map, the app will also give details of the lab technician, contact numbers of the supervisor and the opening and closing timings of the lab, he added.

(Health) Amit Mohan Prasad. Meanwhile, 1,940 fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in

Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, taking the tally of confirmed cases in the state to 5,53,012. On Saturday, the state crossed the two crore Covid tests-mark, the highest in the country. With 1,67,938 Covid tests on Friday, a total of 2,01,28,312 have been conducted in UP, confirmed Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad on Saturday.

Prasad said that due to the ongoing marriage season, focus testing would be done on the employees of beauty parlours, tailors and other people involved in it.

He said there were 22,245 active cases in the state while 5,22,867 COVID-19 patients had recovered, including 2,230 in the past 24 hours. The state has witnessed 7900 COVID-19 deaths.

Out of the active patients 10,450 are in home isolation, 2,117 in private hospitals and the rest in government-run Covid hospitals. As many as 4.77 lakh surveillance teams have visited 2.99 crore houses and checked the health of over 14.63 crore people so far.



**विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल — तृतीय, केसको, कानपुर। शुद्धि-पत्र** एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ई-निविदा संख्या 27/EUDC - III/ 2020-21, जो दिनांक 22.12.2020 को खोली जानी है, में टंकण त्रुटिदश कार्य का विवरण विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल — तृतीय, केसको, कानपुर के कार्यालय तथा अधीनस्थ वितरण खण्डों/परीक्षण खण्ड तथा उपखण्डों में स्थापित कम्प्यूटर सम्बन्धी समस्त कार्यों हेतु 34 कम्प्यूटर आपरैटर्स एवं 01 कम्प्यूटर सुपरवाइजर उपलब्ध कराये जाने के कार्य हेतु अंकित हो गया है, जिसे अब विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल—तृतीय, केसको, कानपुर के कार्यालय तथा अधीनस्थ वितरण खण्डों / परीक्षण खण्ड तथा उपखण्डों में स्थापित कम्प्यूटर सम्बन्धी समस्त कार्यों हेतु 34 कम्प्यूटर आपरैटर्स उपलब्ध कराये जाने के कार्य पढ़ा जाये। शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत् रहेगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (वि०)** मण्डल — तृतीय, केसको, कानपुर 33 फेवोवी, एच-ब्लाक उपकेन्द्र, किदवई नगर, कानपुर। पत्रांक-1183 दिनांक-05.12.2020, “राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये”

# First batch of vaccine likely to reach city in Jan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The first batch of Covid-19 vaccine is likely to reach the district in January next year, according to additional CMO MK Singh. He said the prerequisites for Covid-19 vaccination were currently being taken care of. Singh pointed out that Covid vaccination is different from the routine immunisation drives.

“This vaccine cannot be stored where we keep the vaccines given to children and pregnant women,”

he said. He said they have the database of health workers — both in private and government facilities — who will be administered the vaccine. Doctors, staff nurses, paramedical staff and class IV employees (both permanent and contractual) will all be vaccinated,” Singh said. The additional CMO said the vaccine would be stored at the District Immunisation Centre at Aishbagh and renovation work there would be completed in the second week of this month.

“In case of the routine immu-

nisation, also there is a district vaccine store from where the vaccine is sent to specific units where ANMs give the same at the session sites. However, since a large number of people will be vaccinated against Covid, we will incorporate pharmacists, lab technicians and staff nurses from government as well as private sectors,” he said.

Singh said that as per the guidelines received from the government, health workers would be administered the vaccine in the first phase, police staff and LMC

workers in the second phase, people aged 50 years and above in the third, and those below 50 years with co-morbidities in the fourth.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the CMO office pointed out that Aliganj, which has a positivity rate of 4 percent, is the area from where maximum coronavirus cases are emerging. “One possible reason could be that the geographical area is vast and it also has a lot of offices, banks, markets and coaching centres. Also, more test are being conducted in Aliganj than in

other areas,” he said.

The official said rural areas have the least Covid positivity rate as compared to urban areas. He pointed out that in urban parts of the district, there are lesser number of cases in Aishbagh.

“Earlier, Aishbagh was among the places with maximum cases but not any longer. On some days, Aishbagh even sees cases in single digit,” he said. Talking about Sadar, which once saw a spurt in coronavirus cases, he said the area is only getting sporadic cases now.

**Office of the Executive Engineer Provincial Division, P.W.D. Etawah**

No. 2307/11A/2020-21 (Short Terms E-Tender Notice) Dated: 02-12-2010

E-tender are invited on behalf of hon'ble Governor of U.P. from the eligible contractor registered with U.P. P.W.D. for "Road Signage work" as below.

Sl. No.	DIST-RICT	Name of Works	Estimated cost (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (Lacs)	Cost of Bids Document	Time of Comp-ition
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Etawah	Thermoplastic paint work on Safai Karhal Bye pass road	26.21	2.63	(500-300)+ GST = 944	1 Month
2	Etawah	Thermoplastic paint work on Jaswantnagar Baidpura Basrehar Road	18.96	1.90	(500-300)+ GST = 944	1 Month
3	Etawah	Thermoplastic paint work on NH-2 Jamunabagh Fatehpura Geenaja Etawah Mainpuri Road	12.36	1.24	(500-300)+ GST = 944	1 Month

Bid Document Tender details is available on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 11-12-2020 to 19-12-2020 upto 12.00 Noon which can be downloaded from website filled Bid document must be submitted/ uploaded on line on the above website on dated 19-12-2020 (upto 12.00 Noon) Technical bid will be opened on 19-12-2020 at 03.30 p.m.

U.P.: 157525, Date : 04.12.2020

बिज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

(Sanjay Jayant) Executive Engineer

Provincial Division, P.W.D. Etawah

for & on behalf of Governor of U.P.

## 256 more test Covid positive, 344 patients recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 256 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Saturday while 344 patients recovered, taking the recoveries to 68,684. There are 3,393 active cases in the district. The fresh cases included 32 from Gontinagar, 27 from Indiranagar, 18 from Rae Bareilly road, 16 from Ashiyana, and 10 each from Mahanagar, Cantt, Alambagh &

Vikasnagar. Across the state, 1,940 persons tested positive, including 60 in Kanpur, 225 in Ghaziabad, 141 in Gautam Buddhagar, 114 in Varanasi and 132 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,53,012.

There were 23 deaths across the state, including four in Lucknow, two each in Kanpur, Varanasi & Sonbhadra, and one each in Prayagraj, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddhagar, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Moradabad,

Shahjahanpur, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Amethi, Auraiya, Mahoba & Shravasti, taking the toll to 7,900. Besides, 2,230 patients recovered, taking the recoveries in the state to 5,22,867 while there are 22,245 active cases.

Meanwhile, a 40,000-litre liquid oxygen tank was installed at the Covid hospital of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday. Testing of the tank will be carried out on Monday and it

will be functional by Tuesday, according to spokesperson Dr Shrikesh Singh. This tank will supply oxygen only to the Covid hospital because there is a separate oxygen tank in the non-Covid area.

Dr Singh said the expansion of beds is expected to be completed by December 15. “This 133-bed facility will be converted into a 200-bed centre with 150 ICU beds” Dr Singh said.

## Man held for duping job-seekers of ₹30L

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A joint team of Hazratganj police and cyber crime cell claimed to have nabbed a person who had duped several persons of over Rs 30 lakh on pretext of facilitating them jobs in different government departments. The accused was identified as Prashant Mishra of Dalipur Tower in the area and is a native of Lakhimpur Kheri. The police recovered a loaded country-made, its cartridges, fake appointment letters, seven ATM cards and Rs 4,000 in cash from his possession.

The arrest was made after a person, identified as Girija Shanker Mishra, lodged a case of fraud against Prashant on Friday. According to the complainant, the accused had taken money from Girija Shanker's wife and 10-12 others for getting them clerical jobs in Education department & UPCL, and also as block development officers.

The police said the accused would send fake appointment letters to gullible people and threaten them at the gun-point when they demanded their money back after coming to terms with his con job.

Sources said several gangs of fraudsters have mushroomed in the city under the patronage of low-rung cops. “In this case, the accused had been running the racket for a long time but police were clueless due to some inexplicable reasons. After a

## Two women deprived of mobile phones, cash

**Lucknow (PNS):** Two women were deprived of mobile phones, cash and other belongings in Ashiyana and Manaknagar areas in the last 24 hours. In the first incident on Saturday, a 28-year-old woman, identified as Ranjana of Kanuasi locality in Krishnanagar, was returning home from a beauty parlour in Manaknagar while her brother was waiting for her at some distance when she was struck by the miscreants. By the time Ranjana could raise an alarm, the miscreants had disappeared. “The miscreants snatched my purse which had Rs 2,500 in cash, an ATM card and a mobile phone,” she told police.

Earlier, in Ashiyana, bike-borne unidentified miscreants snatched the mobile phone of a woman when she was returning home on Friday night. The woman, identified as Anshu, was near NABARD office when three miscreants targeted her. “They snatched my phone and fled the scene. There were Rs 4,000 in my mobile cover,” she told the police. The police sought to hush up the case soon after the victim lodged a complaint. However, mediapersons came to know about the incident on Saturday. Interestingly, the media cell of Lucknow police had details only about the Manaknagar incident.

### DIED

A 51-year-old woman was found dead at her house on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Maina Sonkar of Nishatganj. Her daughter Komal Sonkar said she had gone to attend a function around 5 pm on Friday and her mother was all alone in the house. “I returned home around 10:30 pm and found my mother dead. Neighbours told me that she hanged herself from the ceiling,” Komal stated in the FIR.

case was lodged, the police swung into action probably fearing criticism for their laxity,” one source said.

Meanwhile, the Vibhuti Khand police arrested a youth on the charges of blackmailing a girl by threatening to make her morphed photos go viral on social media. The accused was identified as Sandeep of Bahraich. The police said the accused got some photos of the girl and WhatsApped her after morphing the same. He later threatened to make the photos go viral.

## Muslim youth thrashed over alleged ‘love jihad’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Panic gripped the court compound in Aligarh when a 21-year-old Muslim youth was beaten up when he came to apply for marriage with a woman of a different faith. A case was registered in this regard only on Saturday. The incident happened on Thursday in Aligarh but it came to light a day later after the video of the incident went viral on social media. The girl with whom the young man came was also of the same age.

In the videos which were circulated over social media, it was seen that the couple were taken away forcibly by the police. The girl was heard crying that she was not a minor and wanted to live with the young man whom she came with. She also continued to shout that they both love each other and she won't be able to live without him. Following this she was taken away by a group of police

personnel in an e-rickshaw. “A man and a woman arrived at the court to apply for marriage. Some people thrashed the man and its video went viral. We have come to know that a case regarding abduction of the woman was registered at Mohali,” revealed a senior police officer on Saturday.

Some witnesses claimed that the accused introduced himself as Sonu and the girl talked to him knowing he was Hindu and later she came to know that he was a Muslim.

According to a report, the young man works in Haryana's Ambala district where he is said to have met the girl. Moreover, According to various reports, the young man's name has been identified as Sonu Malik. The two reportedly met on Facebook. The two, however, came to Aligarh for marriage after mutual consent but the girl's family was against the marriage.

## Azam Khan's son asked to pay back ₹65.87 lakh

**Lucknow (PNS):** The woes of SP's former MLA Abdullah Azam seem to be mounting as the UP assembly secretariat has issued a notice asking him to pay back Rs 65.87 lakh paid to him as a member of the Vidhan Sabha from March 2017 to January 2020.

This amount includes the salary, allowances and other benefits paid to him as an MLA. The election of Abdullah Azam was quashed by the Allahabad High Court on the grounds of fraudulent age certificate and he was later disqualified from the membership of the assembly in January this year. Abdullah Azam, along with his father and SP MP from Rampur Azam Khan and mother Tazeen Fatma, SP MLA from Rampur, are in jail since February 26 this year.



**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Taranjeet Kaur to Taranjeet Saluja D/o Ravinder Kaur R/o 10/27, Nagar Mahapalika Colony, Dada Nagar, P.S. Govind Nagar, Kanpur-22. Now I would be know by this name only.

**NOTICE**

I Mohammad Moeedus Salam S/o Abdus Salam have change my name Mohammad Moeedus Salam to Mohd Moidus Salam for all purpose. R/o 105/138, Saeedabad, Chamanganj, Kanpur.

**NOTICE**

This to bring to the notice of all concerned that my ICSE Year 2006 Statement of Marks Certificate Index No. T/6867/101 of Dr. Virendra Swarup Memorial Public School, Kanpur has been lost somewhere. ANKITA GUPTA.

**NOTICE**

Be it known to all that my Original B.Com. Degree Year-2005 registration No. M0230745 from CMP PG College (Affiliated to AU) have actually been lost. SHOBIH TANDON S/o Sri GK Tandon, R/o 22/8, Ward No. 12 A, Katra Road, Carpenter School, Dist.-Prayagraj-211002

**Auction Notice**

दिनांक 22.12.2020, अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे खुशी कोआपरेटिव बुनियांन सि०, 14-विमानसमा मार्ग, लखनऊ के निम्नोच्य एवं अनुपयुक्त सामग्रियों तथा अमेनिटय का र : खुशी 32-बीओ-7625 (डीजल) जल है-जैसा है- आधार पर नीलामी, सिम्फोनी रौ 5,000/- नगद, प्रत्येक लाट हेतु निश्चित समय से पूर्व जमा करना एवं जीएचएचसी प्रजीवन अभियार्थी होना। आईपीसी सिंह एजन्ट सन्ड

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY				Timing and Stopages			
Important Notice for the Rail Passengers		It is notified for information of general public that following Additional Special train will run from 12.12.2020 till further advice as under-		03125 KOLKATA-GHAZIPUR CITY		03126 GHAZIPUR CITY-KOLKATA	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
00:04	00:06	00:06	00:08	00:08	00:10	00:10	00:12
00:56	00:58	00:58	01:00	01:00	01:02	01:02	01:04
01:31	01:36	01:36	01:38	01:38	01:40	01:40	01:42
02:50	02:55	02:55	03:00	03:00	03:05	03:05	03:10
05:55	06:00	06:00	06:05	06:05	06:10	06:10	06:15
08:50	09:00	09:00	09:05	09:05	09:10	09:10	09:15
10:05	10:30	10:30	10:35	10:35	10:40	10:40	10:45
12:25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Composition: Generator Cum Luggage Van -2, General Second Class-6, Sleeper Class-7, AC 3rd-3, AC 2nd-1 = 19 Coaches				03121 KOLKATA-GHAZIPUR CITY		03122 GHAZIPUR CITY-KOLKATA	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22:11	22:13	22:13	22:15	22:15	22:17	22:17	22:19
22:47	22:49	22:49	22:51	22:51	22:53	22:53	22:55
23:55	23:57	23:57	23:59	23:59	24:01	24:01	24:03
00:22	00:24	00:24	00:26	00:26	00:28	00:28	00:30
01:45	01:50	01:50	01:55	01:55	02:00	02:00	02:05
02:33	02:35	02:35	02:37	02:37	02:39	02:39	02:41
03:00	03:02	03:02	03:04	03:04	03:06	03:06	03:08
03:50	03:52	03:52	03:54	03:54	03:56	03:56	03:58
04:55	05:05	05:05	05:15	05:15	05:25	05:25	05:35
05:40	05:45	05:45	05:50	05:50	05:55	05:55	06:00
06:35	06:37	06:37	06:39	06:39	06:41	06:41	06:43
07:35	07:45	07:45	07:55	07:55	08:05	08:05	08:15
08:45	08:50	08:50	08:55	08:55	09:00	09:00	09:05
10:30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Composition: SLRD-2, General Second Class-6, Sleeper Class-9, AC 3rd-1, AC 2nd-1 = 19 Coaches				03125/03126 KOLKATA-GHAZIPUR CITY-KOLKATA WEEKLY SPECIAL TRAIN (VIA DHANBAD)			
Train No. 03125 Kolkata-Ghaziipur City (Every Thursday) from 17.12.2020 till further advice				Train No. 03126 Ghaziipur City-Kolkata (Every Friday) from 18.12.2020 till further advice			
Please Note: (1) Above trains will run with full reserved accommodation. (2) It is mandatory for the passengers to follow the guidelines issued for prevention and safety from Covid-19.				CPROT-64A Chief Pass Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955			
Never travel on roof and foot boards.							



# SP candidate Sinha bags Varanasi graduate seat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Making a dent in the stronghold of the saffron brigade, the Samajwadi Party bagged the Varanasi graduate seat as its candidate Ashutosh Sinha was declared victorious after the last round counting of votes. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) received another setback as its candidate and three times MLC Kedar Nath Singh stood second. It is pointed out that the SP Lal Bihari Yadav had defeated the BJP candidate and sitting MLC Chet Narayan Singh in Varanasi teachers seat which result had been declared on Friday last.

The neck-to-neck contest was seen between Sinha and Singh right from the counting of first round and the former maintained lead over the latter from the beginning to the last round of counting. Sinha bagged 25,351 votes after the counting of 21st round of votes, while Singh secured 22,685 votes. But in the counting of the 22nd and last round, Singh was eliminated and his valid 1,184 votes were transferred and added to the votes of Sinha. So, the total votes of Sinha increased to 26,535 votes and he won the election by a margin of 3,850 votes. The Assistant Returning Officer Navneet Singh Chahal handed over the certificate to Sinha.

As many as 22 candidates had tested their luck. Apart from Sinha and Singh, the other candidates Dr Lokesh Kumar Shukla, Anil Kumar Mishra, Arvind Kumar Dasha, Arvind Singh Patel, Karuna Kant Maurya, Ganesh Giri, Dr Gopal Singh, Chandra Prakash Gupta, Nageshwar Singh, Pankaj Kumar, Fauzdar Singh 'Akhilesh', Brahmedev Mishra 'Ilaka Guru', Rajesh Yadav, Ramji Gupta Dheeraj, Rahul Kumar Singh, Vinay Kumar Tripathi, Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Santosh Kumar Tiwari, Santosh Pandey and Dr Subedar Singh got 140, 633, 3,348, 7,740, 6,642, 966, 1,614,



Jubilant SP candidate Ashutosh Sinha who won Varanasi graduate seat on Saturday

Pioneer

3,242, 6,215, 210, 1,400, 162, 249, 64, 267, 68, 776, 34, 46 and 2,943 respectively. Total 38,044 votes were determined as a quota to win. The number of total valid votes was 76,086.

With the victory of Sinha, the SP captured both Varanasi teachers seat and Varanasi graduate seat by snatching from the ruling BJP. On the other hand, it was a double shock for the saffron brigade which has its stronghold in this belt since the last two decades. It is pointed out that the counting had begun at 8 am on December 3 and the final result was declared after the counting of almost 50 hours.

The reason behind this major setback to the ruling BJP particularly in the Varanasi graduate seat was said to be anti-incumbency factor against Kedar Nath Singh who had won the seat for three consecutive

times in 2002, 2008 and 2014. It was also said that the caste factor also played an important role in ensuring the victory of the SP candidate and defeat of the BJP candidate.

The political analysts analyse that electorates belonging to Kayasth community were annoyed with the leadership of the saffron brigade which neglected them and did not give ticket to the leader of this community in 2014 & 2019 parliamentary elections nor 2017 assembly election nor in this election of MLC. too despite they are in sizeable number and virtually influenced the poll equation in some constituencies including in Varanasi. So, they decided to teach a lesson to the ruling party by supporting the SP candidate of their own community in this election, the political analysts added.

Contrary to this, the voters of Singh community which the BJP candidate belongs to, voted in division as five other candidates belong to the same community.

**SINGH SUCCUMBS TO ILLNESS:** Observer in the counting of Varanasi teachers constituency Ajay Kumar Singh succumbed to his critical illness on Saturday morning during the treatment in a private hospital on Maqbool Alam Road.

It is pointed out that Singh had suffered heart attack in the morning on Friday last in Circuit House where he had stayed. He was rushed to a private hospital on Maqbool Alam Road in critical condition and had been kept on life support system. His family members including his wife Neena Sharma, who was made observer of Agra graduate seat, had reached the hospital on getting information.

He succumbed to his critical illness during the treatment on Saturday morning. The body was taken to Circuit House where the administrative officers including Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma and newly elected MLC Ashutosh Sinha paid their tributes. Later in late evening, his last rites were performed at Manikarnika Ghat amidst the presence of senior officers.

On the behalf of the state government, two senior IAS officers Amod Kumar Singh and Pandhari Yadav arrived here to pay homage to departed souls. On Sunday at 12 noon, a condolence meeting will be held at Commissioner's auditorium.

Sinha was presently posted as Secretary in Khadi & Village Industries Commission.

His wife Neena Sharma is also an administrative officer and currently posted as Secretary in Infrastructure and Industrial Development Department.

# AU students take out rally in protest against farm laws

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Students of Allahabad University also took out a rally on Saturday in protest against agricultural laws. In a procession taken out under the banner of NSUI, students said that injustice to farmers will not be tolerated at any cost. The Kisan Samparthan Yatra is not just for the farmers, but for every common citizen. Everyone has to come forward

to cooperate in it.

NSUI district president Krantivir, Satyam Kushwaha, Harikesh Harry, Rajneesh Tiwari etc said that when the farmer is not happy then the common citizen will not be happy. For a long time, the farmer has been going through all kinds of difficulties. Now the government has put it in more trouble by bringing new agricultural laws.

The movement will not be

stopped until this law is withdrawn. Demonstrations will continue from place to place. This warning is for the present Central and State Government. This situation will remain constant if the government does not come back from making anti-people policies.

In view of the students' movement, a large number of police forces were stationed in the university campus and surrounding areas. It was attempted

that the common people should not have any difficulty with this demonstration and procession. The protesters were also instructed to express their protest but no one should face any trouble. However, as per the Covid guidelines—like physical distance were not followed. All the people were not even using masks. The cops also stopped some persons who were found flouting Covid protocol.

# Cops to undergo RT-PCR test before joining mela duty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Policemen arriving from different parts of the state for the forthcoming Magh Mela duties will also have to undergo antigen and RT-PCR testing before joining mela duties.

Around 3,000 policemen from civil police and other wings of departments like ATS, STF, paramilitary forces, SDRF, NDRE, BDDS, fire, anti-mines, traffic etc. would be arriving to the mela campus to perform duties from different parts of the state including Gorakhpur and Varanasi.

Around 5,000 policemen from different wings would be

deployed on the mela campus to offer a foolproof security cover to pilgrims and devotees coming for a holy dip in the forthcoming Magh Mela. The mela is commencing from January 14 next year.

IG (Prayagraj zone) KP Singh said that 'We would be conducting antigen and RT-PCR test of police personnel arriving from different parts of the state for the Magh Mela duties.'

He further added, 'Police forces from different districts including Fatehpur, Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, Varanasi and Gorakhpur would

be arriving to perform duties at the forthcoming Magh Mela event.'

He, however, said that the antigen and RT-PCR testing of policemen coming from different parts of the state would help police authorities to check the spread of the disease and police officials would also be maintaining a strict watch on the testing and its outcome.'

Recently, the officials of the Health department asked devotees wanting to perform kalp was at the banks of river Ganga during the Magh Mela to bring along a negative RT-PCR test report with them to get an entry in the mela ground. The

devotees will have to undergo a test every week during their month-long stay.

IG, meanwhile, said, 'We would be taking all corrective measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 during the month long mela period and adequate health facilities would be offered to devotees, pilgrims and the staff on duty.'

He added, 'A network of 110 CCTV sets will be installed to maintain a close watch in every nook and corner of the mela campus.'

He also said that mobile police teams and pickets would be deployed at all entry and exit points.

# 67 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A total of 67 new infected people including one of NTPC's AGM and DGM were found. At the same time, 66 people have become infection-free. Of them, 14 people have been discharged from two different hospitals, while home isolation of 52 people has been completed. Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for Corona confirmed this.

Dr Sahai said that the total number of patients of corona in

the district has reached 26,870 after the findings of 67 new infected on Friday. Of them, as may as 25,757 have been infection-free. In this, home isolation of 19,285 people has been completed. The number of active cases is as constant as Thursday at 765. There are 64 infected persons admitted to SRN Hospital, 17 in private hospitals and 23 in Beli Hospital.

A total of 5,849 people were screened for Covid on Friday. Of them 3,011 patients

were conducted their test through antigen tests and 2,558 through RTPC tests. 115 people were tested in private labs and 165 with Truenat. Of them, Electronic Engineer of Construction Corporation, constable of CRPF, x-ray technician of Beli Hospital, two advocates of High Court, staff nurse of SRN Hospital, AGM of NTPC, DGM, teachers of Bahadurpur Primary School, and chief assistant of the Chief Conservator's office were found to be infected.

Meanwhile, an 82-year-old died on Friday from corona. He was undergoing treatment at Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. He was admitted here three days ago. On November 30, his COVID-19 report came positive. He was a resident of Beli Road.

After this, he was admitted to Beli Hospital but was referred to the SRN Hospital when his chest pain aggravated and his condition worsened. He died during treatment on Friday.

# 115 new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After several days, the number of COVID-19 cases has crossed the three figures mark when as many as 115 new positive patients have been detected in the district, increasing the total number of cases to 19,603 on Saturday. The day saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 318. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included

85 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 15,610. As none of the patients were discharged from any of the hospital, the number remained at 2,873. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 18,483, leaving 802 active cases. The recovery rate is 94.28 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.62 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 64 positive patients were found out of 2,727 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,41,054 and the results of 2,035 are awaited. Out of them, 4,21,502 were negative, while 19,552 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,61,039. Earlier, a female aged 63 and a

male (84) from Orderly Bazar and Bhelupur respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of eight new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,529 including 223 red zones. Six green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,306 green zones with four new ones.

# Mishra releases Laugh Down

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Dedicating his book titled 'Laugh Down' to all the corona warriors, former students union leader of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Kamalakar Tripathi said that the ideas of penning down the same came seeing many feeling dullness staying at home during the lockdown which was imposed to prevent spreading of global coronavirus pandemic. 'The book is mainly a compilation of some short stories in satiric form and the ideas of the same came when many Banarasis were feeling frustrated as they were not finding themselves free to live with fun,' said Tripathi.

The book was released by Mahant of Sankatmochan temple Prof Vishambhar Nath Mishra at a brief function held at Tulsighat here on Saturday. Praising the book, Prof Mishra



Sankatmochan Mahant Prof VN Mishra releasing a book at Tulsighat in Varanasi

said 'one can make someone laugh in difficult times only when one has a clear mind.'

Telling about his book, a senior Congress leader Tripathi said that he was inspired by going through two poems and

then decided to write some short stories. 'There are 14 stories like Balaji Ki Mahima, Nari-Shakti, Love Jihad, Work from Home and Banarasi Chakallas and all of them are satire helping the readers get

relax from the stress they are feeling from the unprecedented changes in their life caused by COVID-19 pandemic. 'During my attempt to write the book I always recalled the lines of Gopal Das Neeraj who had written that life does not die due to the death of some dreams,' he added.

During the function, state BJP spokesman Ashok Pandey hailed the efforts of Tripathi to revive tradition of such simple writing which is becoming extinct today in our literature. National general secretary of Madrasa Teachers' Association Waheed Ullah Khan Saeedi Sahab termed the style of life philosophy seen in Tripathi's writing as unique. Ram Prakash Ojha, Kunwar Suresh Singh and many others who were also present also hailed Tripathi for his constructive work despite remaining busy in his political life.

# Criminal shot at, injured in encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a police encounter, one criminal was shot at and injured, while two of his accomplices were arrested in early morning hours on Saturday by the SOG, Crime Branch and the Meja police. Three others, however, managed to escape from the scene under the cover of darkness.

The police recovered from their possession ₹ 10 lakh in cash, gold and silver ornaments besides two country-made pistols, cartridges, and vehicles used by them — a Swift car and a moped.

Incidents of loot and robbery were in rise in the Meja area, especially with the start of marriage season. The robbers used to intercept people returning from marriage functions in late night hours, and grab all their valuables on gun point.



Injured criminal undergoing treatment at a hospital in Prayagraj

Pioneer

On Saturday morning SP Crime Ashutosh Mishra formed a team after getting information that some criminals had gathered under the Meja Mandi Samiti overbridge. The police team surrounded the criminals and asked them to surrender. Just to

make an escape the criminals opened fire, and the police also retaliated in the same language hitting one of the robbers-Jai Prakash Sharma. Two more Niraj Mishra and Dilip Upadhyay were also arrested from the spot, while Ashu Tiwari, Ramesh Chandra Pasi,

and another managed to escape.

Raids are being conducted to trace out other robbers who had terrorised the local residents by committing one crime after another.

**NO RESPITE TO VIJAY MISHRA FROM HC:** The Allahabad High Court did not give any respite to the mafia-turned-politician Vijay Mishra who had moved a bail application. Vijay Mishra, Gyanpur MLA is languishing in Agra jail at present.

Vijay Mishra had moved a bail application in the case related to property grabbing of relatives.

Justice Sunit Kumar of the Allahabad High Court has asked for detailed report of all 71 cases registered against the MLA and has fixed January 7, 2021 for the next hearing of the case.

# Make efforts to revive past glory of AU: V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor of Allahabad University Prof Sangita Srivastava expressed concern over erosion and asked to make all out efforts to revive the past glory of the institution while addressing all the faculty members and the staff of the university. She was overwhelmed by the warm welcome accorded to her by the students, faculty members and the staff. After such a long time the historical Senate hall was abuzz with its maximum seating capacity. She said, 'I stand here as one among you who has been vested with the responsibility of steering the institution and face the challenges of reviving the old glory of this great institution.' She further stated 'The erosion has been slow, and we all have witnessed the institution going into slumber. Some of you are senior to me I would look at you for good advisory'. By

shedding light on NIRF ranking she mentioned the student teacher ratio is 1:80 and the teachers are continuously retiring a lot of departments have 4 to 5 or even less faculty members in the university. Whereas, 585 post of teachers are vacant and the vacancy in non-teaching staff is 584 out of 600 also, the university needs to build more places for students and for departments as well. The V-C further spoke about the education policy NEP 2020 and requested all Heads to first brain storm the policy in their own departments and then the Deans will discuss it with the Heads and make suggestions for its implementation in letter and spirit. She praised the teachers for their dedication towards their work and quoted Nelson Mandela 'Education is the only tool which can be used to transform the world into a better place'.

**ROAD MISHAP:** In a tragic incident, a 24-year-old

youth was killed after the former met with an accident on the highway in front of Kati village under the Ghurpur police station in Yamunapur in the district. Jai Shankar Sonkar (24), a resident of Kanti village under the Ghurpur police station, was crossing the road at around 11 am on Saturday. Just then, a tourist bus going from Prayagraj to Maharashtra knocked him down. The family admitted him to the hospital for treatment in an injured condition where he succumbed on Saturday during treatment. However, locals caught hold of the bus driver after the accident. The police also impounded the bus. Meanwhile, two real brothers Jai Prakash Kushwaha (35), Om Prakash Kushwaha (40), a resident of Ibrahimpur police station, Jhusi were injured due to a collision in a car and bike near Dharampur Ghurwa village under the Tharavai police station. Both of them were coming out of the house to do

plumbing and came towards Tharavai. In the meantime, a speeding car hit the bike from the front. Both brothers were seriously injured in the accident. Local people reported the accident to Tharavai police. The injured have been admitted to Swaroop Rani Hospital for treatment. The condition of one is critical, police added.

**BLACKLISTED:** Lalluji and Sons, the tent suppliers of Kumbh 2019 of Prayagraj, have been blacklisted for five years and an FIR has been lodged against them under the Daraganj police station for forging documents to get payments worth ₹ 109 crore on fake bills. This FIR has been lodged against Lalluji and Sons besides their 11 partners. It is alleged that the above firm had forged papers to make it a ground for the payment of ₹ 109 crore, and had also forged the signature of the Kumbh Mela Officer. Drugging scrutiny of papers these irregularities came to the fore.

# World Soil Day celebrated

VARANASI (PNS): The World Soil Day was celebrated on Saturday in the Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry on the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) theme 'Keep Soil Alive, Protect Soil Biodiversity'. Director of Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IAS-BHU) Prof Ramesh Chand was the chief guest and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof AP Singh

was the guest of honour of the function. The Head of the Department, Prof Nirmal De welcomed the guests and introduced the theme of the seminar.

In his address, Prof Ramesh Chand emphasised the importance of biodiversities and soil organic matter, calling upon students to introduce innovation in agriculture. Prof AP Singh laid out the legacy of soil research of the department

and emphasised the importance of soil organic matter to sustain soil and biodiversity.

A competitive presentation was organised among the students and was judged by a committee consisting of Prof SK Singh, Prof S Singh, Prof P Raha and Prof AK Ghosh. Prof PK Sharma moderated the programme and proposed the vote of thanks. Dr J Yadav, Dr YV Singh, Dr A Rakshit, Dr R Meena and Dr T Nath along

with many MSc(Ag) and PhD students participated in the programme.

**DHARNA:** A section of students staged a dharna near Holkar Bhawan in front of VC Lodge in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Saturday demanding reopening of hostels which remained closed since nationwide lockdown was imposed to prevent spread of worldwide coronavirus pandemic.



# Kanpur gets deep freezers for Covid vaccine storage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said special storing arrangements for the Russian vaccine Sputnik-V had been made to keep them effective. He said special deep freezers had reached the GSVM Medical College and they could maintain -70 degrees Celsius temperature.

The CMO said as per the Indian Council of Medical Research, the vaccine could be safely kept between 0 degrees Celsius and -20 degrees Celsius temperature to maintain its potency. He said the ICMR had been apprised of the preparedness. He added that the vaccine would be released by the Centre in ice packs.

Dr Mishra said all preparations had been made for the

## 69 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 69 more coronavirus positive cases on Saturday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 69 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Friday evening and Saturday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 31,018 cases. He said that 29 cases were discharged from hospital. He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city were reported till Saturday evening keeping the death toll to 791. The CMO said at present 974 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 3939 samples were sent for testing in the city.

trials of the Russian vaccine. He said volunteers had been screened and tentatively the vaccination process of the Russian vaccine would take off from Monday onwards.

The CMO said the volunteers had been asked to ensure

that once they were vaccinated they would stay back at the place for at least half an hour.

He said once the volunteers were vaccinated, they would be called once again after 28 days and their antibodies would be checked once again.

The CMO said out of the total volunteers who opted to get themselves vaccinated, only 22 had been given the no objection certificates (NOCs).

Dr Mishra said the groundwork for the phase three trial for the indigenous vaccine had been completed.

He said the officials of ICMR and Bharat Biotech were reviewing the arrangements made here. He said the indigenous vaccine would be kept in deep freezers at Prakhhar Hospital and 500 vials of the vaccine had arrived from Hyderabad.

The CMO said the third phase trials had to be completed in 90 days and on each day a fixed number of volunteers would be called for the vaccination.

## Jewellery shop burgled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A jewellery shop was burgled in Girja Nagar in Chakeri police station area on Friday night. The miscreants broke open the shutter and removed cash and jewellery from the shop.

Rajendra Yadav of Netaji Nagar in Chakeri, runs a jewellery shop near PAC hospital gate in Girja Nagar. He sits in the shop with his son, Gaurav.

On Saturday morning, when Yadav reached the shop to open it, he found both the locks of the shutter broken.

On getting information about the burglary, Shyam Nagar police outpost incharge Pawan Kumar reached the spot and carried out investigation.

Yadav said the burglars took away Rs 15,000 in cash and jewellery worth around Rs 1.50 lakh from the shop.

Station House Officer Ravi Srivastava said after registering the FIR, investigations would be made.

Meanwhile, the locked house of retired police inspector Ganesh Dutt Bajpai was also burgled in Harbansh Mohal police station area on Friday night. On Friday, when Bajpai along with family members had gone somewhere, the burglars broke into his house and stole jewellery worth lakhs of rupees. The footage of the CCTV camera installed at his neighbour's house showed some unidentified youths entering the house. Bajpai filed a complaint with the police.

## CITY COMEDIAN IN & TV SERIAL

Kanpur (PNS): Kanpur Nagar's comedian Annu Awasthi will soon be seen in &TV serial 'Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari'.

Annu Awasthi said he was thrilled to be a part of the serial Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari. "Being on the sets gives me a homely vibe due to the serial's Kanpuriya background and the cast is so humble and welcoming. My character is of a stuck-up person who is a penny-pincher and walks and talks in marketing," he said.

The show will be telecast from Monday to Friday at 9:30 pm.

## Pensioners' Forum for withdrawal of order of TA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Pensioners' Forum has condemned the orders for non-payment of transport allowance (TA) during nationwide lockdown to the government employees.

Forum's general secretary Anand Awasthi and vice-president Rajesh Shukla, in a press statement issued on Thursday, demanded roll back of the order.

They said in her Office Memorandum of December 1, Deputy Secretary Nirmala Dev of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, said that the Central government employees who could not attend office in a whole calendar month during lockdown period from March 23 to April 20 and further up to May 20 due to COVID-19 pandemic were not eligible to draw transport allowance for that month as they had not incurred any expenditure for commuting to office.

be responsible. KDA Additional Secretary Gudakesh Sharma, OSD Bhairpal Singh, incharge (enforcement) Unnao-Shuklaganj, Mati and Bithoor, Executive Engineer Atul Mishra, Incharge (Enforcement, Zone-1), Area assistant engineer, junior engineer and amin accompanied him during the inspection.

## GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL CAMP/MELA

As per the KDA Board's decision, a 3-day grievance redressal camp/mela will be organised from December 16 to 18.

Complaints/grievances relating to Zone 1/bulk sale would be heard and resolved

on December 16 from 10 am to 2 pm. The allottees of Zones 2 and 4 can visit the camp on December 17 while grievances relating to Zone 3/World Bank will be redressed on December 18.

During the camp, complaints relating to mutation of plots/houses/flats, freehold from the lease, registry, refund, illegal construction/development, unauthorised possession on KDA property, building layout etc. would be heard.

In view of the camp/mela, the weekly Janata Darshan programme will now be held on Thursday.

Secretary/additional secretary were directed to ensure speedy disposal of grievances during the camp/mela.

# DM inspects DIOS office

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Sushil Kumar Patel the inspected the DIOS office around 10 am on Friday. During the inspection he found five employees absent and directed the DIOS to issue the show-cause notices to them and apprise him without inordinate delay. He made it clear that

no laxity in work would be tolerated. On the absence of DIOS the DM was informed that the officer had gone to meet an MLA for official work. Seeing some employees without mask the DM took them to task and directed them to follow the Covid protocol positively and added if found without it again then action would be taken against them.

**SEVEN COUPLES TIE THE KNOT:** Seven couples tied the knot during a mass marriage organised at Daffodils Public School on Friday. IG police Piyush Srivastava while praising the organisers blessed the newly-married couples

## Timings of puja specials revised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is revising the timings of special trains being run for the convenience of public as per the new timetable. The passengers are requested to get information about the revised timetable of trains at the time of reservation or before travelling. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

**GANDHIDHAM-BHAGALPUR PUJA SPL:** The 09451 Gandhidham-Bhagalpur weekly puja special will on December 4, 11, 18 and 25 every Friday will leave Gandhidham at 17.40 hrs, Bhachau at 18.12 hrs, Samkhiali at 18.32 hrs, Dharangadhra at 20.12 hrs, Ahmedabad at 23.25 hrs, on the second day Nadiad at 00.13 hrs, Dahod at 04.07 hrs, Ratlam at 06.05 hrs, Bhawani Mandi at 08.35 hrs, Kota at 10.00 hrs, Sawai Madhopur at 11.15 hrs, Gangapur City at 12.20 hrs, Hindon City at 13.07 hrs, Bayana at 13.32 hrs, Bharatpur at 14.30 hrs, Achhnera at 15.20 hrs, Mathura Jn at 16.20 hrs, Kasganj at 18.20 hrs, Farrukhabad at 20.40 hrs, Kanpur Central at 23.35 hrs, the third day Lucknow at 01.30 hrs, Gonda at 03.35 hrs, Basti at 05.00 hrs, Gorakhpur at 06.55 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 10.30 hrs, Bettiah at 11.02 hrs, Sugaali at 11.32 hrs, Bapudham Motihari at 12.00 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 13.45 hrs, Samastipur at 14.40 hrs, Barauni at 15.50 hrs, Begusarai at 16.17 hrs, Munger at 17.10 hrs, Sultan ganj at at 19.17 hrs and reach Bhagalpur at 20.15 hrs. During the return journey the 09452 Bhagalpur-Gandhidham weekly puja special train will on December 7, 14, 21 and 28 every Monday leave Bhagalpur at 06.30 hrs, Sultan ganj at 06.54 hrs, Munger at 07.50 hrs, Begusarai at 08.32 hrs, Barauni at 09.10 hrs, Samastipur at 10.25 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 11.20 hrs, Bapudham Motihari at 12.32 hrs, Sugaali at 12.47 hrs, Bettiah at 13.07 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 13.57 hrs, Gorakhpur at 17.25 hrs, Basti at 18.32 hrs, Gonda at 20.00 hrs, on the second day Lucknow at 00.05 hrs, Kanpur Central at 01.50 hrs, Farrukhabad at 04.20 hrs, Kasganj at 06.25 hrs, Mathura Jn at 09.20 hrs, Achhnera at 10.30 hrs, Bharatpur at 11.02 hrs, Bayana at 11.27 hrs, Hindaun City at 11.54 hrs, Gangapur City at 12.45 hrs, Sawai Madhopur at 13.45 hrs, Kota at 15.20 hrs, Bhawani Mandi at 16.47 hrs, Ratlam at 19.55 hrs, Dahod at 21.40 hrs, third day Nadiad at 01.22 hrs,

and wished them a bright future. Chief organiser Amardeep said that their institution was doing the work under the Share and Care scheme and expressed gratitude to guardians of the couples who had accepted their request. The marriages were solemnised by the priest amidst the chanting of Vedic shlokas under the guidance of Dr Ramlal Tripathi. In view of Covid-19 the number of people was reduced. The organisers provided traditional ceremonial gifts to the couples. Besides Covid-19 protocol was followed on the occasion. School chairperson Dr T Bhatia, Amardeep, Aparajita and Share and Care committee members too blessed the couples.

**NABBED:** GRP nabbed a thief and recovered two stolen cell phones along with 110 gms of intoxicating powder. The GRP cops were patrolling on the direction of SHO Uday Shankar Kushwaha when the team led by S-I Pravinendra Kumar spotted a suspicious-looking person on platform No.1. The cops intercepted him and on frisking him recovered 110 gms of intoxicating powder and two cell phones worth about ₹20,000. The GRP registered a case and sent the accused Janu, son of Manoj Aghrahi, a resident of Station Road under Katra Kotwali police station to court.

# DC concern over increasing air pollution in Kanpur

## Orders setting up of four new CAAQMSs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has expressed concern over the increasing air pollution in Kanpur Nagar and has directed the regional pollution control officer to personally follow-up the issue and set up four new continuous ambience air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMSs) in the next three months.

He said with the ever increasing air pollution levels in Kanpur Nagar, it was essential to take immediate remedial measures on a war footing.

The divisional commissioner on Saturday carried out a surprise inspection of the CAAQMS monitoring station at Brahm Nagar. He later visited the office of the Kanpur municipal commissioner and the pollution control department.

Shekhar said the CAAQMS centre at Brahm Nagar picked up the air pollution levels from around 3 km radius area. He said the reason for the air quality deterioration was the increased suspended particulate matter in the air and this was mainly because of dusty construction activities around the area and the heavy traffic movement which spread more dust along the roadside uncovered footpath area.



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspecting the air pollution control centre at Brahm Nagar on Saturday.

The divisional commissioner then held a meeting with the officials of Kanpur Nagar Nigam, Kanpur Development Authority,

administration, Kanpur Metro, PCB and Jal Nigam to discuss appropriate measures to control air pollution levels.

He said for a city as big as Kanpur Nagar, one CAAQMS centre was not sufficient and thus more stations need to be set up soon.

# Mayor warns against garbage burning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar Mayor Pramila Pandey has expressed concern over the unabated burning of garbage in the city limits and warned that Kanpur Nagar Nigam would take punitive measures in those areas where the garbage was being burned audaciously despite the ban.

She said it was a matter of deep concern that despite knowing that COVID-19 was still affecting people and air pollution would trigger lung related diseases, people were

apathetic to garbage burning in their areas.

The mayor said FIRs had been lodged against people at Babupurwa who despite the ban, burnt garbage.

She said the responsibility of prevention of garbage burning did not rest on the Kanpur Nagar Nigam alone and it was the duty of the people also to check this menace. She appealed to the people that if they saw safai karamcharis burning garbage they need to inform the KNN about it and their identity would be kept safe.

The mayor said the KNN officials assigned the task of monitoring garbage burning in the city had failed to do their duty sincerely and action would be taken against them.

She appealed to the residents to ensure they did not allow the garbage to be burnt. It may be mentioned here that recently an air quality survey carried out under the supervision of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had expressed concern over the air quality of Kanpur Nagar.

With a heavy smog wit-

ness in the city in early morning in the past two days, the CPCB had directed that garbage burning should be stopped with an iron hand.

Garbage-burning produces various compounds toxic to the environment, including nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide, and particle pollution. Burning garbage in a pile produces more carbon monoxide (CO) than decomposition in a landfill as it is also a significant greenhouse gas.

# KDA VC inspects illegal plotting sites

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh carried out spot inspection of the illegal plotting being done from Ganga Barrage to Bithoor and from Ganga Barrage to Katri on Friday.

He inspected Ludhakheda, Chhota Mangalpur, Kaddupurwa on both sides of the road from Ganga Barrage to Bithoor, Nawabganj, Hindupur and Singhpur Kachhar areas and found illegal plotting at several places.

On the illegal plotting in Ludhakheda village, vice chairman directed the enforcement squad incharge, assistant



KDA Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh inspecting the illegal plotting with officials.

Pioneer.

engineer, junior engineer and area supervisor to carry out intensive inspection and initiate penal action against the guilty.

He asked them to submit a

report of their action within 10 days and warned that in case of laxity on their part, departmental inquiry would be set up against official concerned for which they would themselves



Chief whip of BJP in Rajya Sabha Shiv Pratap Shukla inspecting the AIMS, Gorakhpur on Friday Pioneer

## Raxaul-ANVT spl to run as per revised timing

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is revising the timing of special trains being run by the for the convenience of the passenger public from December 7 as per the new timetable, CPRO PK Singh said.

The 05273 Raxaul-Anand Vihar Terminus (ANVT) special train as the per revised time will leave Raxaul from December 7 daily until further notice at 08.30 hrs, from Ramgarhwa at 08.43 hrs, from Sugaali at 09.02 hrs, from Majhola at 09.19 hrs, from Bettiah at 09.30 hrs, from Narkatiaganj at 09.51 hrs, from Narkatiaganj at 10.20 hrs, from Harinagar at 10.42 hrs, from Bhaironganj at 10.54 hrs, from Bagaha at 11.09 hrs, from Paniahwa at 13.00 hrs, from Khadda at 13.14 hrs, from Siswa Bazar at 13.33 hrs, Ghughuli at 13.48 hrs, from Kaptanganj at 14.14 hrs, from Pipraich at 14.39 hrs, Gorakhpur at 15.42 hrs, Khalilabad at 16.22 hrs, Basti at 16.54 hrs, Bhabhanan 17.22 hrs, from Maskanwa at 17.44 hrs, from Mankapur at 18.00 hrs, from Gonda at 18.52 hrs, from Colonelganj at 19.18 hrs, from Jarwal Road at 19.36 hrs, from Burhwal at 20.05 hrs

from Tahsil Fatehpur at 20.28 AM, Mahmudabad Avadh at 20.56 hrs, from Biswan at 21.30 hrs, Sitapur Jn at 22.55 hrs, from Sitapur City at 23.20 hrs, from Roza at 00.55 hrs, from Shahjahanpur at 01.11 hrs, Bareilly (from Northern Railway) 02.23 hrs, Rampur at 03.21 hrs, Moradabad at 04.15 hrs, Amroha at 04.45 hrs, Gajraula at 05.10 hrs, Garhmukteshwar at 05.32 hrs, Hapur at 07.05 hrs, Pilkhua at 07.23 hrs, Ghaziabad at 08.16 hrs, Sahibabad at 08.33 hrs and reach Anand Vihar Terminus at 09.00 hours. During the return journey, 05274 Anand Vihar Terminus-Raxaul special train will depart from Anand Vihar Terminus at 17.30 hrs daily from December 8 till further notice and after stopping at Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Pilkhua, Hapur, Garhmukteshwar, Gajraula, Amroha, Moradabad Rampur, Bareilly (from Northern Railway), Shahjahanpur at 23.41 AM, Roza, Sitapur City, Sitapur Jn, Biswan, Mahmudabad Avadh Tahsil Fatehpur, Burhwal, Jarwal Road, Colonelganj, Gonda, Mankapur, Maskanwa, Bahnan, Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Pipraich, Kaptanganj, Ghughuli, Siswa Bazar, Khadda, Paniahwa

Bagha, Bhaironganj, Harinagar, Narkatiaganj, Chanpatia, Bettiah at 15.09 hrs, Majhawal, Sugaali, Ramgarhwa and reach Raxaul at 17.38 hrs. **MEMENTO PRESENTED:** A meeting of NER Promotee Officers' Association (NERPOA) was held under the chairmanship of its president, Krishna Singh, at its office here on Friday, CP Chauhan, Senior PRO, NER, and joint secretary/Publicity, NERPOA, said. On the occasion NERPOA president Krishna Singh presented a memento to a retired official, Atul Kumar Shukla, and wished him a healthy and happy life. While conducting the meeting, its general secretary Ramesh Pandey stressed on remaining alert in view of Covid-19 infection, sanitisation of hands for safety and protection, wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing. On the occasion Deputy Chief Personnel Officer and secretary, Indian Railway Promotee Officers' Federation (IRPOF) RP Chand, joint secretary, Digambar Jha, RN Mishra, DK Srivastava, Aniruddh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar Ram, Afzal Ahmed Umesh Kumar and others were present.



## Red alert sounded at all Raj sanctuaries

**Jaipur (PTI):** The Forest department of the Rajasthan Government on Saturday sounded a 'Red Alert' at all reserves, sanctuaries and parks in the State as incidents of hunting, poaching and animal traps have come to the fore. The order comes against the backdrop of a camera trap footage showing a Ranthambore tiger, T-108, with a wire snare around its neck.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
LCUKNOW CIRCLE, PWD, LUCKNOW**

पत्रांक : 7091/523(2)सी-ल०वृ० / 2020-21 दिनांक : 02-12-2020

**Notice Inviting  
Expression of Intrest (EOI)**

Superintending Engineer, Lucknow Circle, PWD, LUCKNOW on behalf of Uttar Pradesh invites Eligibility Criteria for Empanelment through Expression of Intrest (EOI). The detailed EOI documents are available on U.P. Government e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in>, UPPWD Website <http://www.uppwd.gov.in>.

S.No.	Name of Work
1	<b>Comprehensive Integrated Consultancy Services for Road Safety Audit of Roads in UP PWD.</b>

- Period for downloading of EOI documents from 12-12-2020 at 12:00 Noon to 05-01-2021 upto at 3:00 pm.
- Last date of submission of proposal 05-01-2021 at 3:00.
- Opening of proposal 05-01-2021 at 3:30 pm.

**Note :-**

- The applicants are requested to keep on checking website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and UPPWD Website <http://www.uppwd.gov.in> for regularly check any corrigendum which shall not be published in any newspapers.
- The formats and other details of the EOI are available website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and UPPWD Website <http://www.uppwd.gov.in>.
- On the e.tender portal by clicking "Tenders by Organisation", on the left side panel, under organization name "Chief Engineer, PWD, Central Zone, Lucknow" the EOI documents can be searched by date, number of tender notice, by name of the work etc.

(J.K. Banga) Superintending Engineer  
Lucknow Circle, PWD, Lucknow  
For on behalf of Governor of UP  
UP- 157520 Date 4.12.2020 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
PARIYOJANA BHANDAR KHAND, IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT, U.P. VINOBA NAGAR, JUHI, KANPUR- 208014**

Phone No.: 0512-2600332 Email- [eebpbkanpur@gmail.com](mailto:eebpbkanpur@gmail.com), [eebpbkdupkn-up@nic.in](mailto:eebpbkdupkn-up@nic.in)  
E-Procurement Short Notice Inviting Quotation No.-10/EE/2020-21

Online Quotations/rates (inclusive of all taxes/G.S.T. w.e.f. dt. 01.07.2017) of supply of O.P.C. (43 grade) Cement IS Code 8112/2015 at 28 destinations/stores of U.P. are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, only from original Cement manufacturers (having production capacity not less than one lakh bag per day).

The rates/quotations must be submitted online in website "<https://etender.up.nic.in>" under "Irrigation Department (Mechanical)" during dt. 10-12-2020 (10.00 A.M.) to till 17-12-2020 (12.00 P.M.). Received online quotations shall be opened on same date 17.12.2020 (12.30 P.M.). The all quotations may be downloaded and uploaded in requisite BQQ "Excel format" on e-procurement website "<https://etender.up.nic.in>" during above said period ONLY. Bidders digital signature issued by nominated agency must have to be registered for participation for e-tender process by registering in above said e-tender website.

● Remaining detail can be had from above said "e-tender website" during stipulated period.

S. No.	Supply of O.P.C. (43 Grade) Cement IS Code No. 1489/2015 as per (50 Kg. Pack) at following departmental stores including loading, transportation up to stores, unloading, stacking and all taxes (G.S.T. etc.)	Tentative Quantity of O.P.C. (43 Grade) Cement Supply (in 50 Kg. Pack)	Supply Period
1	Lot No.1-LUCKNOW	500	10 days
2	Lot No.2- HARDOI	500	10 days
3	Lot No.3- AYODHYA (OLD NAME FAIZABAD)	500	10 days
4	Lot No.4-GONDA	5000	10 days
5	Lot No.5- BALRAMPUR	500	10 days
6	Lot No.6- TULSIPIUR	20000	10 days
7	Lot No.7- PACHPEDWA	20000	10 days
8	Lot No.8- BAHRACH	20000	10 days
9	Lot No.9- FARRUKHABAD	500	10 days
10	Lot No.10- ETAWAH	500	10 days
11	Lot No.11- AURIAWA	500	10 days
12	Lot No.12- KANPUR	5000	10 days
13	Lot No.13- FATEHPUR	500	10 days
14	Lot No.14- PRAYAGRAJ (OLD NAME ALLAHABAD)	500	10 days
15	Lot No.15- GORAKHPUR	20000	10 days
16	Lot No.16- MAHARAJGANJ	500	10 days
17	Lot No.17- MIRZAPUR	500	10 days
18	Lot No.18- VARANASI	500	10 days
19	Lot No.19- GHAZIPUR	500	10 days
20	Lot No.20- ROBERTSGANJ	500	10 days
21	Lot No.21- PIPRI (DISTT.-SONBHADRA)	2000	10 days
22	Lot No.22- JHANSI	500	10 days
23	Lot No.23- ORAI	25000	10 days
24	Lot No.24- LAITPUR	500	10 days
25	Lot No.25- BANDA	2000	10 days
26	Lot No.26- HARPALPUR	2000	10 days
27	Lot No.27- MAHOBA	2000	10 days
28	Lot No.28- BASTI	500	10 days

**NOTE:-**

- In case of irregular/ untimely supply by lowest bidder next supply order could be given to other bidder in lowest rate.
- Above mentioned quantity of supply of Cement may be increased/ decreased as per requirement.
- The rates shall remain valid till date 18.01.2021
- All taxes should be included in rates.
- Conditional quotations are liable to be rejected.
- Demand of Supply order by Cement purchase.

UP- 157538 Date 4.12.2020  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

(Raj pati)  
Executive Engineer  
Priyojna Bhandar khand, Kanpur

**SBC EXPORTS LIMITED**  
CIN: U18100UP2011PLC043209  
Regd. Off.: HOUSE NO.-20, LOHIYA TALAB, CHOTI BASAHI P.O.: VINDHYACHAL, MIRZAPUR UP 231307 IN  
Tel: 0120-2895246, Email: [info@sbcexportslimited.com](mailto:info@sbcexportslimited.com), Website: [www.sbcexportslimited.com](http://www.sbcexportslimited.com)

**Notice of 9th Annual General Meeting**

- Shareholders may note that the 9th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Company will be held on Saturday the 26th day of December, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the registered office of the company at House no.-20, Lohiya talab, Choti basahi P.O.: Vindhyachal, Mirzapur - 231307, Uttar Pradesh to transact the business that will be set forth in the notice of the Meeting.
- Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for financial year 2019-20 will be sent to all the shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Company/ Depository Participant(s).
- Manner of registering/updating email addresses:  
Shareholders holding share(s) in dematerialized form, are requested to register their email address and mobile numbers with their relevant depositories through their depository participants.
- The notice of the 9th AGM and Annual Report for financial year 2019-20 will also be made available on the company's website at [www.sbcexportslimited.com](http://www.sbcexportslimited.com) websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).
- The 9th AGM Meeting will be sent to the shareholders in accordance with the applicable laws on their registered email addresses in due course.
- A Member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on a poll, instead of him/herself and the proxy need not be a member. A person can act as proxy on behalf of members' up to and not exceeding fifty and holding in the aggregate not more than ten percent of the total share capital of the company. Further, a member holding more than ten percent of the total share capital of the company carrying voting rights may appoint a single person as proxy and such person shall not act as proxy for any other person or member. The instrument appointing proxy must be deposited at the registered office of the company not less than 48 hours before the time of holding the meeting.
- Corporate members are requested to send a duly certified copy of the board resolution, pursuant to Section 113 of the Companies Act, 2013, authorising their representative to attend and vote on their behalf at the Meeting.
- During the period beginning 24 hours before the time fixed for the commencement of the meeting and ending with the conclusion of the meeting members would be entitled to inspect the proxies lodged, at any time during the business hours of the Company, provided not less than 3 days written notice is given to the Company.
- Members/Proxies/Authorised Representatives should bring the duly filled Attendance Slips enclosed to attend the meeting.
- The Register of Members & share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Friday, 18th December, 2020 to Saturday, 26th December, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 including notice of 9th AGM along with Attendance Slips and Proxy Forms are being sent on Email IDs of those members whose E-mail IDs are registered with the Depository Participant(s)/Company, unless a member has requested for a physical copy of the same. The Documents shall be sent through permitted mode to all members holding shares in physical mode.
- Documents referred to in the notice and the explanatory statement shall be kept open for inspection by the members at the registered office of the Company on all working days (Monday to Saturday) from 10.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. except holidays, upto the date of the meeting.

For and on behalf of the Board  
For SBC Exports Limited  
Sd/-  
Hariom Sharma  
Company Secretary

Date: 28.11.2020  
Place: Sahibabad

## Trade unions lend support to 'Bharat Bandh' on Dec 8

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A joint platform of 10 central trade unions has extended its support to a call of 'Bharat Bandh' by farmer organisations on December 8. The unions had called a nationwide strike on November 26 to protest against recently passed labour codes as well as farm laws, among other issues.

The joint forum is of ten central trade unions — Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), All India United Trade Union Centre (AIU-TUC), Trade Union Co-ordination Centre (TUCC), Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), Labour Progressive Federation (LPF) and United Trade Union Congress (UTUC).

The Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Independent Sectoral Federations/Associations reit-

erate their "wholehearted support to the ongoing united struggles of the farmers demanding scrapping of draconian agri laws", a joint statement said.

The joint platform takes note with satisfaction that from November 27, 2020 onwards, workers and employees and their unions have been fully active in holding numerous agitations in solidarity with the ongoing farmers' struggles, in all the States throughout the country braving arrests and intimidation from many of the state administration/police.

The joint platform welcomes the firm resolve and determination of the united platform of farmer organisations to intensify the struggles countrywide and extends all support to their call for 'Bharat Bandh' on December 8, 2020, it added.

The Joint Platform and Sectoral Federations/Associations call upon the workers, employees and their unions, irrespective of affiliations, to organise active solidarity to the farmer organisations' call for 'Bharat Bandh'.

## NIA chargesheets six under NDPS Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Saturday chargesheeted six persons under various Sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and relevant provisions of IPC besides Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a narco terror case.

The case relates to seizure of 21 Kg Narcotics (Heroin) and Rs 1,35,89,850 cash amount from the accused persons in Handwara district of Jammu and Kashmir. The chargesheeted accused are Abdul Momin Peer alias Peerzada Momen, 27, of Handwara, working as Assistant Lineman, Handwara, Syed Iftikhar Andrabi, 50 of Handwara, working as village level worker at Block Development office, Kupwara, Islam-ul-Haq Peer, 20, running a Sanitary shop, Afaq Ahmad Wani, 40, working as Branch Manager in Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank, Handwara, Saleem Andrabi, 31, working at Bal Ashram in

Handwara under Social Welfare Department (Absconding) and Muneer Ahmad Banday @ Ishfaq, r/o Banday, 30, running a cement shop in Handwara (Absconding).

The case arose out of Handwara Police Station case number 183/2020 of June 11 wherein during checking of vehicles at Kairo Bridge, Handwara, accused Abdul Momin Peer's Hyundai Creta vehicle was intercepted by the Police Naka Party. The vehicle was searched and cash amount of ₹20,01,000 and 2 Kg Heroin were seized. Abdul Momin Peer was arrested and following his disclosure, accused Syed Iftikhar Andrabi and Islam-ul-Haq Peer were arrested.

The case was re-registered by NIA as RC-03/2020/NIA/DLI on June 23 and investigation was taken up. Accused Afaq Ahmad Wani, who was on the run, was arrested by NIA on July 16 on the basis of technical analysis.

## People suffering from mental illness deserve special care: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

People suffering from mental illness deserve special care and love and are not to be exploited, the Supreme Court has said while upholding the conviction and sentence awarded to a man for raping a mentally disabled woman.

Observing that the convict had exploited the victim by taking undue advantage of her mental illness, the apex court dismissed his appeal against the September 2016 judgment of the Himachal Pradesh High Court which had convicted him in the case while setting aside the trial court order acquitting him.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan noted in its verdict that as per the DNA report, the convict was the biological father of the child delivered by the 19-year-old victim who was found to be 31-week pregnant when the matter came to light.

"A person suffering from mental disorder or mental sickness deserves special care, love and affection. They are not to be exploited. In the present case, the accused has exploited the victim by taking disadvantage of her mental sickness/illness. Therefore, no interference of this court against the impugned judgment and order passed by the high court convicting the accused is called for," said the bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah. "On evidence, it has been established and proved that the victim was mentally retarded and her IQ was 62 and she was not in a position to understand the good and bad aspect of sexual assault," the bench said in its 24-page judgement delivered on December 3. The top court said the high court was justified in re-appreciating the entire evidence on record and reverse the order of acquittal passed by the trial court.

The high court, while setting aside the trial court order acquitting the man, had convicted him for the offences of rape and criminal intimidation and sentenced him to seven years in jail.



## शिक्षा व्यवस्था में बढ़ते कदम

# वर्चुअल स्कूल

**कक्षा-10 एवं 12 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल और कक्षा-9 एवं 11 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए चैनल e vidya-9 एवं e vidya-11 पर शैक्षणिक वीडियो के माध्यम से**

**07.12.2020 से 11.12.2020 तक ई-लर्निंग प्रसारण का सोलहवां चरण**

दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल पर यू.पी. बोर्ड की कक्षा-10 एवं 12 हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी									
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-10				कक्षा-12				
	अपराह्न 1:30 से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 3:30 से अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:30 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक	सायं 6:00 से सायं 6:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 1:00 से अपराह्न 1:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 2:30 से अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:00 से अपराह्न 4:30 बजे तक	सायं 5:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे तक	
07-12-2020 सोमवार	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 लोकतंत्र के परिणाम भाग-5	हिन्दी अध्याय-संस्कृत खण्ड प्रथमःपाठ, वागणसी भाग-1	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-22 सामान्य रोग और उनकी रोकथाम, भाग-2	हिन्दी अध्याय-2, गद्य-मनता (जयशंकर प्रसाद) भाग-1	भूगोल, अध्याय-1 जनसंख्या : वितरण, घनत्व, वृद्धि और संघटन, भाग-2	जीव विज्ञान अध्याय-1, जैव प्रयोगशाला-शिक्षा व प्रक्रम, भाग-1	नागरिक शास्त्र अध्याय-1, जैव प्रयोगशाला-शिक्षा व प्रक्रम, भाग-1	भूगोल, अध्याय-1 जनसंख्या: वितरण, घनत्व, वृद्धि और संघटन, भाग-3	
08-12-2020 मंगलवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-व्याकरण वाक्य प्रयोग भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-2, गद्य-मनता (जयशंकर प्रसाद) भाग-2	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-1 English Grammar Comprehension, भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-2, तुलसीदास वसुंधरा भाग-1	भूगोल, अध्याय-1 जनसंख्या : वितरण, घनत्व, वृद्धि और संघटन, भाग-4	हिन्दी अध्याय-व्याकरण, हिन्दी वाक्यों का संस्कृत में अनुवाद, भाग-1	हिन्दी, अध्याय-व्याकरण, हिन्दी वाक्यों का संस्कृत में अनुवाद भाग-2	नागरिक शास्त्र अध्याय-1 राष्ट्र निर्माण की बुनियादी, भाग-2	
09-12-2020 बुधवार	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-7 लोकतंत्र के परिणाम भाग-6	हिन्दी अध्याय-2 तुलसीदास, धनुष भंग भाग-2	हिन्दी अध्याय-संस्कृत व्याकरण, धातु रूप भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-2 तुलसीदास, धनुष भंग भाग-3	संस्कृत, अध्याय-व्याकरण, वाक्यों का संस्कृत अनुवाद भाग-1	संस्कृत अध्याय-व्याकरण, वाक्यों का संस्कृत अनुवाद, भाग-2	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-14 अर्धचालक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, भाग-1	भूगोल अध्याय-1, जनसंख्या वृद्धि और संघटन, भाग-1	
10-12-2020 गुरुवार	वाणिज्य अध्याय-17 व्यापारिक बैंक भाग-1	हिन्दी अध्याय-2 वन पथ पर भाग-1	वाणिज्य अध्याय-14 बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण भाग-1	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-1 The Inventor Who Kept His Promise भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-7 समाकलन भाग-1	गणित अध्याय-7 समाकलन भाग-2	गणित अध्याय-7 समाकलन भाग-3	भूगोल अध्याय-1 मानव-भूगोल प्रकृति एवं विषय भाग-1	
11-12-2020 शुक्रवार	मिशन शक्ति, महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-1	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-1, The Inventor Who Kept His Promise भाग-2	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-1 English (Poetry) The Fountain, भाग-1	अंग्रेजी अध्याय-1 Types of Sentence भाग-1	भूगोल अध्याय-1 जनसंख्या : संघटन भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-7 पी-ब्लॉक के तत्व भाग-1	भूगोल अध्याय-3 जनसंख्या : संघटन भाग-2	गणित अध्याय-10 सदिश तथा त्रिविमीय ज्यामिति, भाग-1	

**नोट : DD-UP, अब आप इन चैनलों पर भी देख सकते हैं, डी डी फ्री डिश-45, डेन-137, नेटविजन-138, डिश टीवी-229, लखनऊ 9-237, डिश टीवी-250, एयरटेल-400, हाथवे-400, सिटी केबल-671, वीडियोकॉन डी 2 एच-889, टाटा स्काई-1195**

चैनल e vidya-9 पर कक्षा-9 एवं चैनल e vidya-11 पर कक्षा-11 यू.पी. बोर्ड हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी				
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-9		कक्षा-11	
	प्रातः 8:30 से प्रातः 9:00 बजे तक	प्रातः 9:00 से प्रातः 9:30 बजे तक	सायं 6:30 से सायं 7:00 बजे तक	सायं 7:00 से सायं 7:30 बजे तक
07-12-2020 सोमवार	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-15, संतुलित आहार इकाई-4 (भोजन तथा पोषण विज्ञान), भाग-1/3	विज्ञान अध्याय-3, परमाणु एवं अणु भाग-1/3	हिन्दी अध्याय-1-खण्ड-ख, काव्य सौन्दर्य के तत्व-रस, गद्य कथा सहित्य, काव्य, संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, भाग-3/3	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-11, द्रव्य के तापीय गुण (भौतिकी भाग-2), भाग-3/5
08-12-2020 मंगलवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-7 सूर्यकान्त त्रिपाठी-हान (हिन्दी काव्य) भाग-2/2	वाणिज्य अध्याय-15 (वस्तु विनिमय एवं मुद्रा उद्गम) मुद्रा इतिहास, भाग-1/2	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-इकाई-4-खण्ड-क शरीर क्रिया विज्ञान उत्सर्जन तंत्र, त्वचा, वृक्क तथा आँत, भाग-1/2	हिन्दी अध्याय-2-खण्ड-क-काव्य संत कबीर-पदावली (गद्य कथा सहित्य काव्य), संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, भाग-3/3
09-12-2020 बुधवार	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-15, संतुलित आहार इकाई-4 (भोजन तथा पोषण विज्ञान), भाग-2/3	विज्ञान अध्याय-3, परमाणु एवं अणु भाग-2/3	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-इकाई-4-खण्ड-क, शरीर क्रिया विज्ञान उत्सर्जन तंत्र, त्वचा, वृक्क तथा आँत, भाग-2/2	भौतिक विज्ञान अध्याय-11, द्रव्य के तापीय गुण (भौतिकी भाग-2), भाग-4/5
10-12-2020 गुरुवार	संस्कृत अध्याय-5-(संस्कृत पद्य-पीयूषम्-खण्ड-क) नारी-महिमा भाग-1/1	वाणिज्य अध्याय-15 (वस्तु विनिमय एवं मुद्रा उद्गम) मुद्रा इतिहास, भाग-2/2	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-व्याख्य रक्षा-इकाई-4 विकास तथा क्रियात्मक क्षमता पर व्यायाम का प्रभाव खण्ड-क, भाग-1/2	संस्कृत अध्याय-संस्कृत-व्याकरण-2 काव्य एवं विभक्ति भाग-1/1
11-12-2020 शुक्रवार	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-15, संतुलित आहार इकाई-4 (भोजन तथा पोषण विज्ञान), भाग-3/3	विज्ञान अध्याय-3, परमाणु एवं अणु भाग-3/3	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-व्याख्य रक्षा-इकाई-4, विकास तथा क्रियात्मक क्षमता पर व्यायाम का प्रभाव खण्ड-क, भाग-2/2	भूगोल अध्याय-इकाई-3, भू-आकृतियों प्रक्रियाएं (भौतिक भूगोल मूल सिद्धान्त), भाग-1/1

**नोट: e vidya-9, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी चैनल-950, वीडियोकॉन चैनल-447, एयरटेल चैनल-440, फ्री डिश-128 तथा टाटा स्काई चैनल-756 पर उपलब्ध है। e vidya-11, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी-952 तथा NCERT OFFICIAL YouTube पर उपलब्ध है।**

**माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश की एक पहल**



# ‘Bhumi puja’ of new Parl building on Thursday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform the 'bhumi puja' (foundation stone laying) ceremony of the new Parliament building on December 10 at 1pm.

Briefing the media on Saturday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said, "The existing temple of democracy is completing 100 years. It is a matter of pride for our countrymen that the new one will be built by our own people as a prime example of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The new building will showcase the cultural diversity of the country. Hopefully, in the 75th year of independence, Parliament session will be held in the new building."

"There will be approximately 888 seats for Lok Sabha members and more than 326 seats for Rajya Sabha members in the new building. The Lok Sabha hall will be able to accommodate 1,224 members simultaneously," Birla said adding that there will be no Central Hall in the new building.

The increase in the number of seats has been done keeping in mind the future

increase in the number of members for the two houses. At present, Lok Sabha has a sanctioned strength of 543 members and Rajya Sabha of 245.

The design of the new building was exhibited in the media briefing. The new Parliament building will be built in an area of 64,500 sq metre at an expense of ₹971 crore. The Tata Projects Limited has been given the contract for the project after Larsen and Toubro, which had submitted a bid of ₹865 crore, had lost the bid. The design has been prepared by HCP Design, Planning and Management Private Limited.

The Lok Sabha Speaker also said that the new building will be ver 17,000 sq metre bigger than the old Parliament building. The new triangular Parliament building will have separate offices for all MPs and will be equipped with the latest digital interfaces as a step towards creating 'paperless offices' as per the plan.

It will also be earthquake resistant and 2,000 people will be directly involved in construction while 9,000 persons indirectly, said Birla,

adding that the current Parliament building will be refurbished and will be part of the Parliament complex.

The new building will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space, said Birla.

He said invitation will be extended to all political parties. While some would attend physically, others would attend virtually, Birla said, adding that the ceremony would follow Covid-related guidelines. He has extended a formal invitation to Modi also.

The existing Parliament House building will be suitably retro-fitted to provide more functional spaces for parliamentary events, to ensure its usage along with the new building. The existing building is a massive circular edifice of 560 feet in diameter. The Parliament House Estate is enclosed by an ornamental red sandstone wall or iron grills with iron gates that can be closed when occasions demand. The building has 12 gates.

# Diabetics must get Covid shots on priority: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As countries prepare the list of people to be given priority in Covid-19 immunisation, researchers have sought the mandatory inclusion of diabetic patients saying that those infected are three times more likely to have a severe illness or require hospitalisation compared with people without diabetes.

While studies have suggested that those with type 2 diabetes are at higher risk for more serious complications and being hospitalised if they get Covid-19, little is known about the risk for individuals with type 1 diabetes.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center researchers identified electronic health records (EHRs) of more than 6,000 patients across 137 Vanderbilt Health clinical sites who had a Covid-19 diagnosis during the period from mid-March until the first week of August.

The team then closely reviewed the patients' medical records and contacted many individuals by telephone to identify additional risk factors and gather more information on how Covid-19 had impacted their health.

They compared the overall impact of Covid-19 for

three populations: individuals with type 1 diabetes, individuals with type 2 diabetes and those who did not have diabetes.

However, it was discovered that individuals, both with type 1 and type 2 diabetes infected with COVID-19 are severely affected.

"I think these data support prioritizing individuals with type 1 or individuals with type 2 diabetes for immunisation alongside other high-risk medical conditions that increase the risk of getting very sick with Covid-19, such as heart or lung disease," said Justin Gregory, MD, MSCI, lead investigator for the study published in Diabetes Care, the journal of the American Diabetes Association.

The study was a prospective cohort study, meaning researchers identified the study subjects soon after their infection with Covid-19 and followed these individuals as they progressed through the illness.

"People with type 1 diabetes don't need to live in fear and have undue anxiety, but they need to be really diligent in doing the things we all should be doing," Gregory said.

"All of us should be wash-

# Pharma firms reached out to doctors through digital tools during lockdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the absence of medical representatives during the Covid-19 lockdown, major pharma companies managed to reach out to doctors through digital tools to ensure medicines reached their patients, according to a survey by Docere, a global network of Physician-only platforms for programmatic marketing.

In fact, pharma marketers were able to get close to 2/3rd of the reach they were getting in the pre-Covid era, said Docere.

It also noted that specialists and super-specialists engaged more with pharmaceutical brand messaging than general physicians or consulting physicians.

The network had analysed over 20 million impressions served through its platform from July 2020 – Oct 2020

and found that real-time developments in the Physician digital marketing space that could reflect broader trends.

Of all the ads served to physicians, 68 per cent clicks were recorded from specialists/super-specialists, while 32 per cent came from generalists.

"Though generalists outscore specialists in terms of pure logins and impressions being served, specialists and super-specialists fare much better in engaging with the Pharma brand message by clicking on it or by completing that desired action, for instance fixing a remote detailing call, ordering a sample, or registering for a webinar, specialists and super-specialists fare much better," said Dr. Harshit Jain, CEO of Docere.

The data was gathered from the digital marketing

campaigns that pharmaceutical and healthcare brands run through the platform.

Nearly 1/3rd of all the clicks among specialists were recorded for pediatricians, while pulmonologists, cardiologists and endocrinologists/diabetologists made up for another 1/3rd.

Among super-specialists, nearly 30 per cent clicks came from nephrologists and gastroenterologists.

In terms of engagement of doctors, metros and mini metros scored better. At least, six top cities out of 10 were from North India with nearly 20 per cent of all the clicks coming from two cities — Gurgaon and Chandigarh. However, none of the cities from the East (except for Kolkata) and South (except for Hyderabad) featured in the top 10.

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## NO BREAKTHROUGH...

to all their concerns," Tomar said after the meeting.

The Agriculture Minister reiterated that the Government has assured the farmers that procurement at minimum support price will continue and mandis will be strengthened.

"We have said that the MSP will continue, there is no threat to it. It is baseless to doubt this. Still, if someone is suspicious then the Government is ready to resolve it," he said. Tomar also appealed to the union leaders to send back the elderly, women and children to their homes from the protest sites.

Sources said that the Government has agreed to give major concessions to farmers, including written assurance of continuation of minimum support price, registration of traders outside agriculture produce marketing committee (APMCs), and nod to legal recourse in higher courts. On the farmers' unions' call for a Bharat Bandh on December 8, the Minister said while he does "not like to comment on programme of unions", he would like to "urge farmers to leave path of agitation and come to path of discussion".

The meeting was also attended by Railway, Commerce and Food Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce Som Parkash and Secretary (agriculture) Sanjay Agrawal. On the request of farmer unions, the Government has given them the written minutes of the two previous meetings held on December 1 and 3.

According to farmer leaders, the Central Government has said that they will send them a proposal on December 9. "We will discuss it amongst ourselves after which a meeting with them will be held that day," farmers said. The farmers' leaders also made a 39-point presentation on the inadequacies of the contentious new farm laws. Kavitha Kuruganti of AIKSCC (All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee) said the Government was not responding to the pinpointed question of farmer leaders.

Farmer leaders said they don't want further discussion and want to know what the Government has decided on the farmers' demands. They asked the Centre to give a point-wise written reply of the last meeting, to which the Government agreed. Farm leaders have said that they will end their protests only after the Government promises a "complete rollback" of the controversial farm laws. "We want the withdrawal of the laws. We won't accept Government's offer to amend the laws," a farm leader said.

"If the Government wants us to stay on road, we've no problem. We won't take path of non-violence. Intelligence Bureau will inform you what we're doing at protest site," farmers told the Government.

All India Kisan Sabha, later said in a statement, it condemns the "deliberate prolonging of the talks" and alleged that the Government was working at the behest of corporates.

Ahead of the fifth round of meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a high-level meet at his residence with Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Narendra Singh Tomar and Piyush Goyal to discuss the farmers' movement and demands growing by the day and what could be offered as union of crop growers have threatened to intensify their protests and to observe Bharat Bandh on December 8. The meeting was lasted nearly two hours. Hours after this meeting, the talks between the Government and representatives of 40 farmers unions took place at Vigyan Bhawan.

Before the start of the meeting, an All India Kisan Sabha functionary said only repealing of the new farm laws will end the stalemate. "At this juncture, we have transport unions, retail businesses and other associated groups who have shown solidarity with us. Our movement is not just about farmers," AIKS finance secretary Krishna Prasad said.

## TRUDEAU AT IT...

Sources said New Delhi informed Ottawa that Jaishankar will not attend the meeting that is to take place on December 7 due to "scheduling issues". They said the Canadian Government was duly informed that the External Affairs Minister will not take part in the meeting organised by his Canadian counterpart.

In the last meeting held virtually, Jaishankar had tweeted, "Pleased to participate in the Group of Foreign Ministers Meeting to exchange experiences on COVID-related challenges. Thank FM @FP\_Changpaine of Canada for convening the meeting." No

Meanwhile, Trudeau struck his guns and said in Ottawa Canada will continue to "stand up for peaceful protests and human rights". He welcomed the ongoing talks between farmers and the Indian Government, and efforts at "de-escalation".

This reiteration came when asked about India's caution on Friday to his envoy that his remarks will impact the ties between the two countries. In its demarche to the Canadian High Commissioner here on Friday, India also said the comments by the Canadian Prime Minister, some Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament on issues relating to Indian farmers "constitute an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs".

This strong statement came after Trudeau some days back said, "We're all very worried about family and friends. We believe in the importance of dialogue and that's why

we've reached out through multiple means directly to the Indian authorities to highlight our concerns," he said during the virtual celebration with the Sikh community.

The External Affairs Ministry said these comments have encouraged gatherings of "extremist activities" in front of our High Commission and Consulates in Canada that raise issues of safety and security. "We expect the Canadian Government to ensure the fullest security of Indian diplomatic personnel and its political leaders to refrain from pronouncements that legitimise extremist activism," the statement added.

On Tuesday too, a day after Trudeau's statement, India had denounced the Canadian Prime Minister's remarks on the farmers' agitation as "ill-informed" and "unwarranted". "Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democratic country," the ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava had said.

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."

## UK MPs ASK...

The letter, issued on Friday, has been drafted by British Sikh Labour MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi and signed by other Indian-origin MPs including Labour's Virendra Sharma, Seema Malhotra and Valerie Vaz as well as former Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the department has not received the letter as yet. "The police handling of protests is a matter for the government of India," an FCDO spokesperson

said. The letter from the parliamentarians urges the minister to set up an urgent meeting with them to discuss the "deteriorating situation in Punjab" and seeks an update on any communication the FCDO has had with the Indian government on the issue.

"This is a joint letter calling for representation to be made by yourself to your Indian counterpart about the impact on British Sikhs and Punjabis, with longstanding links to land and farming in India," reads the letter. "This is an issue of particular concern to Sikhs in the UK and those linked to Punjab, although it also heavily impacts on other Indian states. Many British Sikhs and Punjabis have taken this matter up with their MPs, as they are directly affected with family members and ancestral land in Punjab," it reads. Reacting to the comments by the foreign leaders, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Tuesday said, "We have seen some ill-informed comments relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democratic country." In a terse message, the ministry added that "it is also best that diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes." The latest intervention by British MPs follows Dhesi and other politicians taking to social media to express support for the farmers. Lord Indarjit Singh, a crossbench peer in the House of Lords, also raised the issue in the Upper House of Parliament earlier this week. The UK Cabinet Office minister responding in the House, Lord Nicholas True, refused to address a "broad denunciation" of any nation, adding: "Our values are democratic; they are very widely shared and practised across the world. We wish to sustain that." **PTI**

## IT'S GOVT DUTY...

The Supreme Court also accepted the policy of the government as correct and finally, the important selection process has been completed," the chief minister said.

It may be mentioned that earlier on October 16, appointment letters were given to 31,277 assistant teachers of the Basic Education department and later on October 23, posting and appointment letters were given to 3,317 assistant teachers of the Secondary Education department.

Congratulating the newly-appointed teachers, the chief minister said that the responsibility of primary teachers was very big as the education and value they imparted to students lasted for a lifetime.

"Now that the schools are closed due to COVID-19, the newly-appointed teachers must go to the schools and meet the children and their parents. Besides making them aware, they should keep teaching them something new and

innovative," he said.

The chief minister reminded the teachers that they remained a teacher life-long and their services could not be limited to hours.

"You should work on making the syllabus simple and interesting and also encourage innovations," he added.

The chief minister also directed the officials to provide a copy of the new national education policy to the newly-appointed teachers so that they could imbibe the educational mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Directing officials to improve the condition of the basic education offices, Yogi also said that these offices should be rejuvenated by the time the schools reopened after the COVID-19 period.

"These offices should have a clean and energetic atmosphere and there should be no misbehaviour with retired teachers and no one should be spared if any complaint of corruption is received," he added. "The government is committed to providing employment to the youth and the appointment on the vacant posts of the Education department is being done on merit basis using state-of-the-art technology and with full transparency," he said.

The chief minister said basic infrastructure facilities were being made available at the council schools under Kayakalp and continuous efforts were being made for inclusive education of out-of-school and differently-abled children. He said it was the government's resolve that no child should be deprived of education. The operation handed over appointment letters to Pooja Shukla, Virendra Kumar Maurya, Zafar Beigh, Sarita Singh, Neha Devi and Naveen Rana and also talked to some of the newly-appointed teachers in other districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Basic Education (Independent Charge) Dr. Satish Dwivedi said that the primary education had witnessed a complete transformation in the past three-and-a-half years.

"The entire process of the much-awaited appointment of these teachers was completed with full transparency and without any hassle and the main reason behind this was the personal interest of the chief minister. Be it the curriculum, the availability of resources, the mode of teaching and training, all areas have undergone a historic change through innovation," he said.

## MODERNA VACCINE...

The vaccine, called mRNA-1273, is administered in two injections given 28 days apart. Even though the number of antibodies in the study subjects faded over time, it is not necessarily a cause for concern. NIAID director Anthony Fauci and other experts have said it is very likely that the immune system will

remember the virus if re-exposed later on, and then produce new antibodies.

Encouragingly, the study showed that the vaccine activated a certain type of immune cell that should help out in the so-called memory response, but only longer term study will confirm if this will really be the case.

"Positives from the study include evidence that a relatively strong antibody response remains 90 days after the second dose of the vaccine," said virologist Benjamin Neuman, a virologist at Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

"The amount of vaccine-produced antibodies was higher in younger patients than in older patients, but reasonably strong immune responses were still seen even in patients up to 70 years of age."

The Moderna vaccine will be reviewed by an advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on December 17, and could be green lit for emergency approval soon after.

## ANIL VIJ TESTS...

The minister said that he had gone to Panipat a few days ago where he spent two to three hours with a BJP leader, who too has tested positive for Covid-19. "Covaxin efficacy can be determined only 14 days after second dose. Covaxin has been designed to be efficacious when subjects receive both the doses," Bharat Biotech said in a statement.

It added that the Phase-III trials are double-blinded and randomised, where 50 per cent of subjects will receive the vaccine and 50 per cent will receive placebo. However, Vij's claim that he received vaccine against Covid has pointed out gaps in the trial as volunteers are not told about the vaccine they are receiving.

"As per CDSCO-DCGI guidelines for reporting adverse events, patients are required to contact the site Principle Investigator (PI) during active follow up, or when the PI determines the severity of the adverse effect; then the reports are submitted to site Ethics Committees, CDSCO-DCGI, Data Safety Monitoring Board and the sponsor," the pharma giant said. On November 20, Vij was administered the first trial dose of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, a fully indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine candidate, in Haryana.

Bharat Biotech is conducting the largest Phase-III clinical trials in India. The goal is to evaluate the efficacy of Covaxin across India and determine its suitability to the diverse Indian population.

## 2 VACCINES TO...

Ram Vishwakarma of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) said that the emergency use authorisation (EUA) procedure in India is similar to that in the European Union, the United

Kingdom and the United States, as per a report.

"Were Pfizer to apply in India to the regulator here, it could, in theory, be approved within days or weeks here, depending on whether the Drug Controller is satisfied with the data. If the situation so demands, the regulator has the power to waive or recommend more tests, and doesn't necessarily require Indian data," he said.

If India gets emergency use approval, it would mean that the companies would get permission for a limited time to administer the coronavirus vaccine to overcome the crisis.

To get formal approval, the company will have to submit all data on the drug's efficacy, side-effects and adverse events to the regulator for the latter to decide if the drug should be approved.

Addressing an all-party meeting with the State representatives to discuss the coronavirus situation on Friday, PM Narendra Modi too had said the pricing of the coronavirus vaccine and its distribution are being discussed with the States. Modi also maintained that the priority would be given to the frontline workers who have been at the forefront of the fight against the infection. "Nearly eight vaccines are on other stages of trial with their manufacturing assured in India. Three coronavirus vaccines from India are at different stages. Experts think that the vaccine isn't too far away. In the next few weeks, a coronavirus vaccine could be ready for India," he had said.

## FARMERS HAVE RIGHT...

Reacting to the comments by the foreign leaders, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Tuesday said, "We have seen some ill-informed comments...relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democratic country."

In a terse message, the ministry further added that "it is also best that diplomatic conversations are not misrepresented for political purposes." On Friday, India summoned Canadian High Commissioner and told him that the comments made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and others in his Cabinet on the farmers' protest constituted an "unacceptable interference" in the country's internal affairs and these actions, if continued, will have a "seriously damaging" impact on the bilateral ties. Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and several other states have been protesting for the last nine days at the borders of Delhi against three farm laws. Dubbing these laws as "anti-farmer", these farmers claim that the newly enacted legislations would pave the way for dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

# Plea in SC seeks refund of excess fee of RT-PCR tests

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea was filed on Saturday in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to ensure refund of "exorbitant" amounts charged by private labs and hospitals for conducting RT-PCR tests to detect COVID-19.

The interim application has been filed by lawyer and BJP leader Ajay Agrawal in his pending PIL in which he had sought fixing of uniform rate of Rs 400 across India, as done by Odisha, for the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, on November 24, had issued notice to the Union Health Ministry on Agrawal's PIL and had sought its response within two weeks.

The fresh plea said that when hospitals and laboratories were charging ₹4,500 for the test, the actual cost, including that of the testing kit, was between ₹800 to ₹1,200, and even now, "exorbitant rates" are being charged in various states when the total cost incurred is about ₹200 only.

"This exorbitant over and above amount charged from poor and innocent people of this country needs to be refunded immediately as it is not only unrealistic and unreasonable but shocking.

"In a country like India where crores of people are living Below Poverty Line and the country's GDP has gone down to minus 23.9 per cent (-23.09 per cent) during the lockdown period, and therefore, this over charged amount be refunded to the affected people forthwith," it said.

The exorbitant money taken from the people is nothing but extortion and the responsible persons be punished and the excess amount be refunded at the earliest, it said.

The plea said that Odisha has fixed Rs 400 as the maximum rate for RT-PCR test after examining and analysing all aspects.

"For the last several months these private labs and hospitals were looting the poor people of this country. Like in Delhi the notification was issued on 18.6.2020 fixing the maximum rate Rs 2400 and the cost of the kit and other things used in the test has gone down in the month of April-May itself, at the rate which is available at present," it said.

Agrawal, in his PIL in which the interim plea has been filed, had sought direction for fixing the maximum rate as Rs 400 for RT-PCR test for COVID-19 uniformly all over India.

While issuing the notice, the top court had said that the PIL would be heard with another pending plea of Sachin Jain pertaining to the cost of treatment for COVID-19.



# Biden says his admin will be most diverse ever

**Washington:** US President-elect Joe Biden has said that his administration would be the most diverse than it has ever been both in the Cabinet and inside the White House.

Biden, 78, is due to take over as the 46th US President on January 20.

African-American groups have been asking Biden, a Democrat, to nominate one of them among the big four: Secretary of State, Treasury Secretary, Defence Secretary and Attorney General.

“It will be the most diverse Cabinet and the main spots in both White House as well as in cabinet positions,” Biden told reporters on Friday when asked about various groups asking him to give representations to their sections of the society.

“Look, it’s each one of these groups’ job to push, push their leaders to make sure there’s greater diversity. What I can promise you is when this is all said and done, you’ll see everyone that I’ve announced and there’s going to be in the next several weeks,” he said.

“We’ll have it all out there. You’re going to see significant diversity. I’m not going to tell



you now exactly what I’m going to do in any department, but I promise you it will be the single most diverse cabinet based on race, colour, based on gender that ever existed in the United States of America,” Biden said.

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.

Biden’s economic team

includes Janet Yellen as the Treasury Secretary, Indian-American Neera Tanden as the Director of Office of Management and Budget, Wally Adeyemo the as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Cecilia Rouse as the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Jared Bernstein and Heather Boushey as members of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Biden has nominated Antony Blinken as the Secretary of State.

He is yet to finalise candidates for the posts of Defence Secretary and Attorney General. **PTI**

## US court orders full reinstatement of DACA to protect undocumented immigrants, including Indians

**Washington:** Reversing the decision of the outgoing Trump administration, a federal court has ordered full reinstatement of an Obama-era programme that protects undocumented immigrants brought to the US as minors from deportation, a ruling that will help a large number of Indian migrants.

The Trump administration tried ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in 2017, but the US Supreme Court blocked its attempt in June. On Friday, US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in the Eastern District of New York directed the Department of Homeland Security to extend the two-year renewals to DACA recipients and start accepting applications from first-time applicants beginning Monday.

This means that the first time since September 2017, new applicants who were not previ-

ously eligible may now apply for the programme which shield undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children from deportation.

“The court believes that these additional remedies are reasonable. Indeed, the government has assured the court that a public notice along the lines described is forthcoming,” Judge Garaufis said in his order.

The DACA is an immigration policy that allows some individuals with unlawful presence in the US after being brought to the country as children to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and become eligible for a work permit in the US. DACA recipients are often referred to as Dreamers. To be eligible for the programme, recipients cannot have felonies or serious misdemeanours on their records. **PTI**

## Niece says ‘cruel and traitorous’ Trump belongs in prison

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**

President Donald Trump’s niece says her uncle is “criminal, cruel and traitorous” and belongs in prison after he leaves the White House.

Mary Trump, a psychologist, author and outspoken critic of her estranged relative, rejects the notion that putting a former president on trial would deepen the nation’s political divisions.

“It’s quite frankly insulting to be told time after time that the American people can handle it and that we just need to move on,” Mary Trump told The Associated Press in an interview this week. “If anybody deserves to be prosecuted and tried, it’s Donald,” she added. “(Otherwise) we just leave ourselves open to somebody who, believe it or not, is even worse than he is.”

# Trump orders most US troops to leave Somalia

**Washington:** The Pentagon said Friday it is pulling most US troops out of Somalia on President Donald Trump’s orders, continuing a post-election push by Trump to shrink US involvement in counterterrorism missions abroad.

Without providing details, the Pentagon said in a short statement that “a majority” of US troops and assets in Somalia will be withdrawn in early 2021. There are currently about 700 troops in that Horn of Africa nation, training and advising local forces in an extended fight against the extremist group al-Shabab, an affiliate of al-Qaida. Trump recently ordered

troop drawdowns in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he was expected to withdraw some or all troops from Somalia. The Pentagon said the drawdown in Somalia does not mark the end of U.S. Counterterrorism efforts there.

“As a result of this decision, some forces may be reassigned outside of East Africa,” it said.

“However, the remaining forces will be repositioned from Somalia into neighboring countries in order to allow cross-border operations by both US and partner forces to maintain pressure against violent extremist organizations operating in Somalia.” **AP**

# US urges countries to make law over access to Tibet

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**

Slamming China for its alleged repressive regime in Tibet, a top American diplomat has urged other countries to pass their own versions of a US law that calls for denying access to the US for Chinese officials known to be involved in restricting visits to the remote Himalayan region.

Robert A Destro, Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, on Friday said that together with partners around the world, the US has and will continue to call on China to provide unhindered access to foreigners travelling in Tibetan areas, including for diplomats? and? journalists, just as other countries give Chinese diplomats, journalists and citizens access to their respective countries.

“The US adopted the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act to press for greater access and transparency. Today, I call on our like minded friends? and partners? to pass their own versions of the Act,” he said in his remarks at a virtual event: “Religious Freedom in Tibet:

The Appointment of Buddhist Leaders and the Succession of the Dalai Lama.”

The Act, signed into law by President Donald Trump in December 2018 calls for denying access to the US for Chinese officials known to be involved in restricting visits to Tibet.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet’s exiled spiritual leader has been demanding meaningful autonomy for Tibetans.

The 85-year-old Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 following a crackdown on an uprising by the local population in Tibet. India granted him political asylum and the Tibetan government-in-exile is based on Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh since then.

China views the 14th Dalai Lama as a “separatist” working to split Tibet from China.

Destro said it is no accident that the Chinese Communist Party claims the right to direct the? selection? of the next Dalai Lama, and through that process to remake or in its words to? “Sinicize” Tibetan Buddhism in its own Communist image.

# 18 killed due to excessive level of poisonous gas in China’s coal mine

**Beijing:** Eighteen people have been killed due to an excessive level of the poisonous carbon monoxide gas in a coal mine in China, officials said on Saturday, the latest mining disaster in the world’s largest coal producing country.

One person was rescued from the closed Diaoshuidong colliery situated in Yongchuan district in Chongqing Municipality, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The accident took place on Friday evening when workers were dismantling equipment in the pit, trapping 24 workers underground, it said.

Eighteen miners were confirmed dead due to the excessive level of carbon monoxide, the report said.

The mine was suspended

and shut down two months ago.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. A rescue operation was underway.

The Diaoshuidong coal mine, which was established in 1975 and became privately-owned in 1998, has an annual production capacity of 120,000 tonnes of coal, according to the local emergency management department.

In March 2013, hydrogen sulfide poisoning in the mine left three dead and two injured.

Though safety improvements have reduced deaths at coal mines in recent years, mining accidents are common in China, which is the world’s largest coal producer. **PTI**

# UK-EU leaders to hold crunch talks on post-Brexit ties

**London:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the European Union’s top official are set to discuss the state of play of post-Brexit trade discussions later Saturday after negotiators paused talks in light of their inability to bridge an array of differences.

With the discussions stuck over the same issues for months, Johnson and Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the EU’s executive European Commission, will see if there is a route to a deal.

With the U.K.’s post-Brexit transition period due to conclude at the end of the year, the discussions are clearly facing a crunch point, not least because of the necessary approvals required from both sides. Without an agreement in place, tariffs will end up being imposed on traded goods at the start of 2021.

Months of negotiations



European Commission’s chief negotiator Michel Barnier wears a face mask as he leaves his hotel to head back to Brussels, in London on Saturday **AP**

have produced agreement on a swath of issues, but serious differences remain over the “level playing field” — the standards the U.K. Must meet to export into the bloc — and how future disputes are resolved. That’s key for the EU, which fears Britain will slash social and environmental stan-

dards and pump state money into U.K. Industries, becoming a low-regulation economic rival on the bloc’s doorstep.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier and his British counterpart, David Frost, agreed Friday to “pause” negotiations while they brief political leaders.

“We will keep calm as always and if there is a way, still a way, we will see,” Barnier said Saturday morning outside a hotel in London before heading off to Brussels.

Though the U.K. Left the EU on January 31, it remains within the bloc’s tariff-free single market and customs union until the end of this year. A trade deal by then would ensure there are no tariffs and quotas on trade in goods between the two sides, but there would still be technical costs, partly associated with customs checks and non-tariff barriers on services.

Though both sides would suffer economically from a failure to secure a trade deal, most economists think the British economy would take a greater hit, at least in the near-term, as it is relatively more reliant on trade with the EU than vice versa. **AP**

## GST SHORTFALL

# J’khand opts in, all States accept Centre’s borrowing plan

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Jharkhand has accepted the Centre’s borrowing proposal and will get Rs 1,689 crore through the special window to meet the GST revenue shortfall, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

With this, 3 union territories and all 28 states have accepted the Centre’s borrowing plan to meet the shortfall in tax collection.

“All the 28 states and 3 Union Territories with legislature have decided to go for Option-1 to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of the GST implementation. Jharkhand, the only remaining state, has now communicated its acceptance of Option-1,” the ministry said in a statement.

Union Territories of Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry have accepted Option 1.

The states & UTs who choose Option-1 are getting the amount of shortfall arising out of GST implementation through a special borrowing window put in place by the Centre.

The Centre has already



borrowed Rs 30,000 crore on behalf of the states in five installments and has passed it on to 26 states and 3 UTs on October 23, November 2, November 9, November 23 and December 1.

From the next round of borrowings, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh too would receive funds raised through this window. Earlier this week, Chhattisgarh communicated its acceptance for the borrowing plan.

The next installment of Rs 6,000 crore will be released to the states/UTs on December 7, 2020, the ministry added.

Under the terms of Option-1, besides getting the facility of a special window for borrowings to meet the revenue shortfall, states are also entitled to get unconditional permission to borrow the final installment of 0.50 per cent of Gross

State Domestic Product (GSDP) out of the 2 per cent additional borrowings permitted by the Centre.

This is over and above the special window of Rs 1.1 lakh crore. On receipt of the choice of Option-1 from Jharkhand, the Centre has granted additional borrowing permission of Rs 1,765 crore to Jharkhand government (0.5 per cent of Chhattisgarh’s GSDP), it added.

Separately, Jharkhand will get Rs 1,689 crore through special borrowing window to meet the GST revenue shortfall.

Under the borrowing plan (Option-1), the Centre would borrow from market Rs 1.10 lakh crore which is the revenue shortfall on account of GST implementation. The remaining Rs 73,000 crore shortfall is estimated to be the revenue impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The second option given by the Centre was that the states borrow the entire Rs 1.83 lakh crore collection shortfall. Opposition-ruled states were initially against the borrowing plan saying that the Centre should borrow the entire GST revenue shortfall and compensate the states.

# Expect real GDP to decline to just 1-2%: Report



**IANS ■ MUMBAI**

The contraction in India’s real GDP can narrow down to just 1-2 per cent, said a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Accordingly, the in-house Economic Activity Index (EAI) for India’s real GVA (EAI-GVA) grew by 4.8 per cent YoY in October 2020, marking the second consecutive month of growth.

“This is the first month in a year when non-farm activities (both industrial and services) grew faster than the farm sector,” Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in a report.

The GVA includes taxes, but excludes subsidies. Last month, the NSO data showed that on a YoY basis, Q2 GVA for 2020-21 from the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector inched lower to 3.4 per cent growth, against 3.5 per cent in the same quarter of 2019-20.

However, the EAI-GDP, continued to contract for the eighth consecutive month in October 2020 and that too faster than the previous month.

“While personal consumption expenditure (PCE) continued to contract in double-digits for the seventh consecutive month, total investments declined 5 per cent the slowest fall in eight months.”

“Excluding government spending, EAI-GDP contracted 7.6 per cent YoY in Oct’20 versus a fall of 5.1 per cent YoY in Sep’20.”

According to the report, overall EAI-GVA continues to show an improvement in economic activity, while demand measures continue to lag.

“Based on a few indicators available for Nov’20 - power generation, manufacturing PMI, e-way registrations, etc., growth seems to have cooled off last month.”

“If so, it suggests that the

growth peaked out in Oct’20 (as per our expectations) and is likely to moderate in coming months.

Real GDP could contract again in 3QFY21 before posting a growth in 4QFY21. The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, remains a valid risk.”

Recent data showed that even though India’s economic recovery accelerated in Q2FY21 from the lows of the pandemic-induced lockdown, the country, for the very first time since Independence, entered into a technical recession.

The recent data furnished

by National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that Q2FY21 GDP, on a year-on-year basis, contracted by (-) 7.5 per cent from (-) 23.9 per cent in the preceding quarter.

Though not comparable, the GDP had grown by 4.4 per cent in the corresponding quarter of FY2019-20.

# Trade deficit might widen as Covid dents exports: Experts

**IANS ■ NEW DELHI**

The overall trade deficit is likely to widen as rising coronavirus cases and subsequent lockdowns in key export markets dent India’s merchandise exports, experts said.

The recently released provisional data showed that India’s merchandise exports dropped by 9.07 per cent in November to \$23.43 billion from \$25.77 billion in November 2019.

“The slippage in exports growth signifies the near term impact of fresh restrictions in trading partners. The average merchandise trade deficit is likely to reach substantially higher levels in H2FY21 as compared to Q2FY21,” said Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA.

Among commodities and products, iron ore, rice and pharmaceuticals continued to display healthy uptick in YoY shipments, whereas leather, textiles and engineering goods continued to show contraction. EEPIC India Chairman Mahesh Desai said that exporters continue to battle the Covid-19 impact on global trade, pinning hopes on start of the vaccination and abating of the pandemic.

He said several critical export sectors, including engineering, are reeling under a host of issues, including disruptions in production, transportation and increasing country-specific restrictions.

Under these circumstances, Desai pointed out that some of the doable measures like easy refund of GST and ensuring availability of

raw materials at reasonable prices could provide relief to the exporters.

According to the data, India’s merchandise imports declined by 13.33 per cent in November to \$33.39 billion from \$38.52 billion in the corresponding month of the previous year.

Segment wise, oil imports were down 43.36 per cent to \$6.27 billion from \$11.07 billion in November 2019.

“The primary factor in the export performance continues to be the sharp decline in petro product shipments, but non-petro exports have also declined by 3 per cent presumably due to the impact of a resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic in Europe,” said Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuite Ratings & Research.

## 2020: A year of Covid, M&A & claims for non-life insurers

**Chennai:** The year 2020 will go down for the Indian non-life insurance sector as a year of coronavirus that resulted in large-scale digital embracement and increased health insurance spread, reduced overall business, industry consolidation, large losses, said senior industry officials. At a time when the private sector is witnessing mergers and acquisitions, the Central government scrapped its earlier plan to merge National Insurance Company Ltd, Oriental Insurance Company Ltd and United India Insurance Company Ltd into one.

“Some things that were building up at the start of the year have been blunted by the pandemic; the growth in the 5th largest economy in the world; the \$5 trillion GDP by 2025 forecast; a 14-15% growth forecast for the general insurance sector as a consequence and as a subset of the economy; an important position for India in the Asia-Pacific as the main,” said Sharad Mathur, Managing Director & CEO, Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Ltd. **IANS**

# November rally: Mid-caps outperform large-caps by 4%

**IANS ■ MUMBAI**

Mid-caps stocks have outperformed large-caps by 4 per cent in November, said Motilal Oswal Financial Services in a report.

According to the report, over the last 12 months, mid-caps are up 14 per cent versus the Nifty’s rise of 8 per cent.

“Over the last five years, mid-caps have underperformed by 14 per cent,”

the report said.

“In terms of P/E ratio, the Nifty Mid-cap 100 now trades at a 13 per cent premium to large-caps at 23.6x.”

As per the report, Nifty surpassed the 13,000 mark in Nov’20 to hit a record high after a 3.5 per cent rise in Oct’20. It ended 11.4 per cent higher MoM in November 2020 to close at 12,969.

“The rally was propelled by strong

FII inflows, good corporate earnings season, and trends from the festive season, which suggests that the demand recovery continues.”

“FII and DII inflows showed record inflows and outflows, respectively. While FIIs continued their buying streak in Nov’20, DII inflows remained negative.”

“The FIIs inflows increased to \$9.6 billion in November 2020 from \$2.5.

Besides, the report cited that in recently concluded 2QFY21 results, one of the key and defining features of this performance was the better-than-expected focus on cost mitigation measures, apart from demand recovery and a healthy tailwind from gross margin expansion.

“2QFY21 was an optimum combination of gross margin expansion and operating cost reduction.”



**HOME THEATRE**

# Stunning locales make it watchable



**MULAN**  
**Disney+Hotstar**  
**\*ing: Jet Li, Yifei Liu, Donnie Yen, Tzi Ma, Jason Scott Lee, Yoson An, Ron Yuan, Gong Li**  
**Rated: 6.5/10**

The problem with this live-action drama is that it had to compete with its animated counterpart that was released back in 1998. And that makes this one, for those who have seen the animated version, tough to take in since there is little that this Mulan can offer. Who can not love the whole animals talking and the whole magic that surrounded the original?

Sadly, from the word go, this was slated to not work even though it was the most anticipated movie from Disney; they made the animation as well. Given that they were the ones who made the animation, for them to not recreate some of the magic from that film is a bit of a letdown. The movie wants to send a message — about patriarchy and the whole idea

about what place women have in the society. Strangely, even though Mulan does rebel against the whole set-up, she ends up doing exactly what others want her to do. The whole idea for woman empowerment somewhat falls flat.

Then there are the actors themselves. One wondered what make Jet Li take up this project. It is strange for the viewer to see him in three-four scenes and then also no action that he is known for unless one considers catching an arrow meant to kill. Yifei Liu as Mulan does her bit as a warrior who finally brings honour to her family.

But those who have not seen the animated version, this one is a treat to watch given the exotic and beautiful locales. In fact, one can watch the entire movie just to see these beautiful places that have also been shot so brilliantly that one can enjoy them. Unfortunately that one has to watch it on the smaller screen instead of the 70 mm where the effect would have been awesome.

— Shalini Sakseena

# Honest take on reality



**SONS OF THE SOIL: JAIPUR PINK PANTHERS**  
**Amazon Prime Video**  
**\*ing: Abhishek Bachchan and the JPP team**  
**Rated: 6/10**

Usually sports documentaries show the journey of a player or a team that has been successful all through and mostly centred around the game of cricket. It is good to see a real take on a sport that is not cricket and instead talks about a game that finds its origins from the Vedic period of ancient India.

This four-part 35-minute series follows the team and is narrated by junior Bachchan. It is rather insightful to know how passionate he is about the game, the team and the players that he bought back in 2014 and that once a player is a Panther he remains a panther. But he also says that this is about business and he may have to take some tough decisions regarding the team that one the first Pro Kabaddi League only to have gone down since then.

It is interesting to see the lives of the players and their humble background and the struggles they had to face to reach where they are today. It is also interesting to note that all the players in PKL are from Haryana — it is the land of *doodh* and *ghee* and the youth spend their time bodybuilding and playing the game is taken seriously. Little insight into the lives of the players' families gives you the whole picture and next time we watch the team play it would definitely be with a different perspective.

The team definitely needs to regroup and work hard in order to even reach the play-off for the next season. We may even see some new faces given that some of the players have not done well or should one say not been team players.

## Plan Your Day

### BURJ KHALIFA OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS

Are you a designer or artist that would love to see your own work on the largest display screen in the world? Well, Burj Khalifa — Emaar has just announced an exciting initiative which will allow designers and artists around the world to submit their works of art for projection onto the Burj Khalifa! The Burj Khalifa Open Call will enable both the inspired and aspiring artists to take part in a competition which will give them an opportunity to submit their artworks to take part in the Burj Khalifa's record-breaking LED light show.

Starting from December 1, for

one month, weekly winner's design will be chosen and then will be splashed across 109,252 square meters of the Burj Khalifa (the Light Up show previously beat Hong Kong's Guinness World Record for the largest light and sound show on a single structure). The Burj Khalifa Open Call's mechanics are simple. Individuals or groups, both in the UAE or internationally, are invited to submit their designs — light or 3D mapping.

Register your details and upload your design here: <https://www.burjkhalifa.ae/en/open-call/>.

Designers are able to download the manual and specs on the official website.

Additionally, don't forget to share your design online and tag @BurjKhalifa for a chance to be reposted! Then, one winner per week will be chosen to have his/her incredible artwork immortalised forever on Dubai's most iconic structure.

The World's Tallest Building becomes a digital canvas for talent as the Burj Khalifa Open Call aims to inspire designers, artists and 3D mapping artists to submit their work for a once in a lifetime opportunity to captivate the world.

### BERCO'S SIZZLER FESTIVAL

Berco's is one of the most distinguished names in the culinary world as far as Chinese and Thai food is concerned. Since its inception in the year 1982, it has become a name to reckon with. They have been doing many international food festivals with Chinese and Thai cuisine.

This multi-award-winning brand operates more than 40 outlets across India and it is one of the most loved brands in the Pan Asian Cuisine Sector. They believe in serving hearty meals with a friendly ambience at an affordable price. Berco's is one of the few Pan-Asian chains with the largest delivery radius in Delhi-NCR.

The Friendly Neighborhood is back with yet another festival from December 5, 2020 onwards which brings Sizzlers with the cold winter wind blazing over Delhi-NCR. Berco's is one of the oldest and most loved Asian cuisine restaurants in the city. With a promise to have their sizzlers sizzling till the last morsel of the dish is wiped off the plate.

This festival is all about enjoying this steaming hot and delicious offering with your loved ones. Sizzlers are hot meals on a Platter that delight everyone. Exotic Asian sauces have been used to uplift these sizzlers. These sizzlers are surely going to leave your taste buds blazing. The highlight of the festival includes Bercos chilli chicken sizzler, Golden fried fish sizzler, Emperor favourite spicy chicken steak sizzler and Veggie delight sizzler.

So this weekend treat your taste buds.

### UNCLE JACK'S IS HERE

After roaring success in Punjab, the popular American eatery, Uncle Jack's, has launched its first outlet in the capital city of Delhi on November 30, 2020. Well known for hearty American fare and with 8+ outlets currently operational across Punjab, Uncle Jack's is now all set to advance further the brand's success story with its entry to Delhi. The first outlet in the capital is now open at M Block, Greater Kailash in South Delhi.

Commenting on the expansion, Ankush Arora, Founder — Uncle Jack's India said: "Uncle Jack's was conceived as a simple dream of bringing the best of American food to India. We are overwhelmed with the love we have received in North India over the last four years, and are now excited to make a mark in the capital city of India."

The menu offers the best of American food with a fresh take on flavours, style of preparation and quirky presentations. One can sample hot dogs straight from the streets of New York, the waffles from diners, and the oh-so-scrumptious and comforting burgers and pasta, apart from other delectables. They undoubtedly are serving the best fries in the country as their most famous and loved product. The food is interestingly named after historic American personalities. The beverage presentations are an added attraction at Uncle Jack's.

With the Delhi outlet now open and fully functional, Uncle Jack's is all geared to entice the taste buds of Delhiites.

## TELLY TALE

### MEET TIWARIJI'S LUCKY KABOOTAR

In yet another attempt to trick Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour) in & TV's *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai*, Vibhuti Mishra (Asif Sheikh) will disguise himself as a Lucky Kabootar Baba. But will Vibhuti's luck favour him this time or will Tiwari quick-wittedness put Vibhuti in a spot? After an argument between Vibhuti and Anita Bhabhi (Saumya Tandon), she stops all the spends and even blocks his cards. Vibhuti seeks his neighbours, The Tiwaris' help but Tiwari turns him down.

Vibhuti chances upon a piece of information on Tiwari's eagerness in opening a garment store and wanting an auspicious date to commence operations, but Baba Rampal is sick. Taking advantage of the situation, Vibhuti disguises as Lucky Kabootar Baba to fool Tiwari into believing that only the lucky *kabootar* can help him with all his work.

Tiwari lays *channas* (chickpeas) in the courtyard, and Vibhuti smartly ends up



turning into Tiwari's lucky *kabootar*.

Says Asif Sheikh: "In yet another attempt to take Tiwari for a ride, Vibhuti lands himself into an unexpected situation. I always have loads of fun shooting with Rohitashv ji. Our on-screen and off-screen chemistry and bond is what makes the entire episode enjoyable. It is out and out a fun episode with an entertaining banter between Vibhuti and Tiwari."

Will Vibhuti be successful this time around in outdoing Tiwari? To know that, one got to watch the episode to know who wins in the end!"

### DIPANNITA RETURNS TO TV

After impressing the audience with her power-packed performances in films and TV shows, versatile actress Dipannita Sharma is now all set to make a television comeback with her all-time favorite genre 'thriller'. Dipannita will be seen essaying the role of Gayatri Chittoda, the wife of a DCP officer in Star Plus' upcoming finite series *Rudraksha*.

On that note, popular actress Dipannita Sharma shares her excitement on working on a Crime Investigative Thriller Drama series once again, she says: "Crime Investigative Thriller Drama is my all-time favourite genre and it is one of the main factors as to why I was so excited to be a part of *Rudraksha*. Over the years, I have done many films pertaining to the same genre, they have somehow become my forte and strength today. It is simply something that makes me happy and excited to be working on."

She further added: "*Rudraksha* happens to be the first finite TV series that I have worked for in my career. I also consider myself blessed to be working post lockdown on a project that completely excites me, its unique concept, the role and the genre itself."

Produced by Dashami Productions, *Rudraksha* is based on the story of an honest IPS officer, DCP Ranjan Chittoda who is brought in to investigate the murder of his former mentor who then later stumbles upon a conspiracy with the chaos that entails. The show also features Bhanu Uday Goswami as DCP Ranjan Chittoda & Rudraksh Jaiswal as Anshuman Chittoda (Ranjan & Gayatri's son) alongside Dipannita Sharma in lead roles.

### SALMAN & SUNNY ARE HERE AGAIN

This weekend will be an evening to remember for the fans as they will witness the winners of the last two seasons, Salman Ali and Sunny Hindustani, on the sets of one of India's biggest singing reality show *Indian Idol 2020* — season 12. They will come to boost the confidence of the budding talents and to tutor them from their own experiences of performing on Indian Idol. They performed on the song *Damadam Mast Kalandar* and their performance made everyone awestruck as usual.

*Indian Idol* season 11 winner, Sunny Hindustani says: "This year's talent is amazing and natural when it comes to singing, as they belong to different parts of the country, with different cultures bringing them together to perform on this stage which is known to be the *Sapno Kaa Manch* for every budding singer. Indian Idol is sure to fulfil their dreams just as it did for me.

Salman Ali, winner of *Indian Idol Season 10*, adds: "This season will host exceptional talents and one of the reasons could be the digital auditions which helped all aspiring singers spread across the nation to share their videos and try their luck to shortlist for the Season 2020. It will surely be the most anticipated year in the history of the Indian Idol. The most important thing for every singer is that they should have the immense talent in them with the confidence which will boost their performances. I am very excited to be performing with Sunny Hindustani on songs such as *Dama Dam Mast Qalandar* and many more".

### KARAN'S EXPERIMENTAL LOOK

Actor Karan Pahwa was last seen in star plus show *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* as Anmol. Anmol (Karan) had a very cute and chocolatey look and before that we had seen him in *Balika Vadhu* in Bald look as Kundan.

While everyone has utilised this lockdown time by maintaining a healthy life style and working out, on the other hand



Karan has done something different; he has given these six months for transforming and also putting on 15 kg for an experimental look.

Karan says: "In the TV industry I am always known for my variation most of the casting directors and producer known me so I want to show them I am capable to play such characters too. Honestly as all the salons were shut I slowly noticed that my beard and moustache have grown which was giving me a Punjabi look and Islamic boy. I decided to take things forward, I started working on my weight I have put on 15 kgs. I also stopped posting on social media so that my look doesn't reveal."

He adds that people have really appreciated his efforts. "This journey was not easy as growing the right amount of beard and moustache and gaining weight for this look. Choosing the right location and costume for the shoot was also a big task. The most important thing is that I have taken all this effort for self-experiment. I wasn't offered a role. Certainly, if in future, I am offered such a role, I will make sure I do complete justice to the character," he says.

### NEW CAST FOR THE LORD OF THE RINGS

Amazon Studios on December 3, 2020 announced twenty additional cast members joining the ensemble cast of the Amazon Original series based on the iconic *The Lord of the Rings* novels by JRR Tolkien. The newly revealed cast members will join the previously announced global cast and crew, currently filming in New Zealand.

The new cast members include Cynthia Addai-Robinson, Maxim Baldry, Ian Blackburn, Kip Chapman, Anthony Crum, Maxine Cunliffe, Trystan Gravelle, Sir Lenny Henry, Thusitha Jayasundera, Fabian McCallum, Simon Merrells, Geoff Morrell, Peter Mullan, Lloyd Owen, Augustus Prew, Peter Tait, Alex Tarrant, Leon Wadham, Benjamin Walker and Sara Zwangobani.

Showrunners and executive producers JD Payne and Patrick McKay said: "The world that JRR Tolkien created is epic, diverse, and filled with heart. These extraordinarily talented performers, hailing from across the globe, represent the culmination of a multi-year search to find brilliant and unique artists to bring that world to life anew. The international cast of this Amazon series is more than just an ensemble. It is a family. We are thrilled to welcome each of them to Middle-earth."

# ‘One can’t be taught how to be an actor’

MANISH VERMA is all set to play a villain in *Teri Meri Ek Jindri* on Zee TV. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with him about how he got the role, the attraction of playing a negative character and how acting happened

### ■ How did you come on board for the show?

The casting directors work all the time and are constantly in touch with production houses and actors. I had previously worked with the team for *Beyhadh 2*. As actors, we do come to know of new projects to go on the floor much in advance. They had called me for an audition. I had auditioned for a positive role but I ended up getting a negative character to play.

### ■ Were you disappointed you got this role?

Not at all. Most of us have a positive outlook to look and live that life. But in acting, one can experiment and the whole idea is that since I am in real-life a positive person, I wanted to try play a negative role for once.

### ■ What made you say yes to this role?

Definitely it is about the character that I am playing here. Also, I have old ties with the production house. It makes it easy to work with known faces. One knows what to expect and this makes working so much more comfortable.

### ■ You have done shows like Kundali Bhagya, Kavach, Jamai 2.0 and Beyhadh 2. Which one is your favourite?

I would say it has to be *Beyhadh 2*. This is because in the other shows I had done cameos where I was there for a few days like playing a cousin of the lead character or was there where I ended up harassing the heroine. In *Beyhadh 2*, I got to showcase my talent. I said yes to this project because after I landed in Mumbai, I got my first break in *Kundali Bhagya* after a year-and-a-half. At that time, things would happen but get cancelled at the last minute. Things came my way and I said yes.

### ■ From model to actor. How has the journey been thus far?

I had always wanted to be an actor. I thought modelling was like acting since there was no one to guide me. In Delhi, there was not much scope for acting. I thought I would start with modelling and make some contacts and then shift to Mumbai. But modelling is so different and I realised this soon enough and came to Mumbai.

### ■ Viewers have a mindset when it comes to actors



playing negative roles. Is the same for an actor?

An actor wants to just act. The aim is to do as many different roles as possible. I just act, there is no whether I am playing a positive or a negative character. As long as I get to do out-of-the-box roles I will continue to say yes irrespective of what and how the character is. Each character has layers to it and one has to follow the script. There is more scope to experiment and bring in your own element when you play a

negative role.

### ■ Does this mean there is more creativity while playing a negative role?

Like I said, I am a positive person in real-life. When I am playing a negative role, the script is always running at the back of my mind. I am thinking of how I can work better on this character. But the good part is once the shot is over, the character is no more and I am back being Manish Verma. We hardly get time to really get into the shoes of the character, the

**I am a positive person in real life. When I am playing a negative role, the script is always running at the back of my mind. I am thinking of how I can work better on this character. But the good part is once the shot is over, the character is no more for me**

shots are for only five-10 minutes.

■ How difficult is it to not be paranoid and shoot with all the precautions that one has to take?

Right now, we have not started shooting but I am sure once we do, the usual things will be in place — wear a mask, use sanitiser and maintain social distancing. The only time when we won't be wearing a mask would be while giving a shot. It is all about taking precautions and work safety.

### ■ How did you get into acting?

I have not taken any acting course. In Delhi, I had joined a theatre workshop but never understood what was happening. I went for three-four days and then dropped the classes. Even in Mumbai, I learnt everything I know by giving auditions. One can't be taught how to be an actor. It is inborn. The only thing one can learn is the technical aspect — how to give a shot, where to pause and diction.

### ■ What about Bollywood?

It is on the cards. But for now, I am not looking at it and concentrating on TV. There are a few other projects on TV but the dates for *Teri Meri...* have not been finalised. Once that is done, I will look at the time I have on my hands and take up other projects.





Photo: Sachin Rai



Photo: Shivang Mehta

Ace wildlife photographers SHIVANG MEHTA and SACHIN RAI, authorities on anything that moves in a forest bring you their stories of the wild to mark the World Wildlife Conservation Day. Their closest companions? Their Canon EOS cameras. MUSBA HASHMI brings you their tales

## Human encyclopaedia

**H**ow many of us know the difference between a crow and a sparrow, apart from their shape, size and colour? May be, only a handful. Here are our some insights. A sparrow can only hop while a crow can walk. Surprised?

Fasten your seat belts, here is some more. The green birds with a red ring round their necks are often mistaken for parrots. In fact, they are actually parakeets.

Meet the 44-year-old Bengaluru-based wildlife photographer Sachin Rai, an encyclopaedia on everything wildlife. He has dozens of facts to share with you.

Just like any of us, these facts fascinated him so much that he took to wildlife photography.

“Until 2007, I worked with the IT sector as a website designer, but I was always more interested in wildlife. I loved my job a lot, but I loved wildlife even more. So, I started taking trips to explore the wilds,” he tells you.

Rai’s love for birds expanded to mammals and reptiles. The more he travelled, the more he learnt and the more he started loving Nature.

“In 2005, the photography industry underwent a sea change with everything turning digital. It became easy for me to embrace this change and shoot on DSLR cameras. However, till then it was more about learning than clicking pictures. By 2007, I had won a couple of awards. It was a validation that forest and photography were my calling. That’s when I left my job,” Rai, who first started off with Canon EOS 66 camera, tells you.

In India, he says, wildlife photography can’t be a full-time profession. “There are hardly any buyers for your pictures, making this profession infeasible. The only option that I had back then was to take people on photography tours and conduct workshops. I realised that there was potential in this field. That is how I started my career. Now I conduct photography tours across the world,” he tells you.

A quick fact again. “India is home to 300 species of frogs and butterflies,” Rai tells you.

Most of us might have been to a wildlife safari. All we are excited about is spotting a big cat. But how many of us know what species of spiders are there and what birds did we come across? Rai asks pertinently.

“The reason is, tourists come with a mindset that they have to see a tiger or a leopard, otherwise their safari is a waste of money. Only a handful of people actually bothers to try and learn about the other animals they see. Nature is full of curiosity, only if one has the eye for it. If they try and see it, they will definitely go back with a wholesome experience despite of not being able to see a tiger,” Rai says.

One such learning that can be found in the



SACHIN RAI, CANON EOS MAESTRO

**I HAVE SEEN TIGERS, ELEPHANTS AND BEARS ON FOOT AND MOST OF THE TIME THEY WALK OFF. HAVING SAID THAT, THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF SITUATIONS WHEN A TIGER CHARGED AT US. WE ALSO WERE CHARGED BY AN ELEPHANT WHICH WAS SCARY**

forest, if one tend to examine closely is about the whiskers of the cats.

“We all know that cats have whiskers, but might have rarely noticed that they move when the cats are attracted towards something. Also, in leopard, one or two whiskers are from the chin as well. The use of these whiskers is apparently whenever a leopard wants to get through a closed space, the whisker is the first to enter. If it goes in without folding, it signifies the space is good enough for it to pass. If not, then the leopard can’t go through it,” Rai shares.

While many find forest synonymous to risks and danger, Rai says there are no risky situations as such. “It is riskier for me to cross the road than to roam happily in a forest. Animals keep their distance. I have seen tigers, elephants and bears on foot and most of the time they will walk off the moment they see you. With that being said, there were a couple of situations when a tiger charged at us.

We have also been charged by an elephant which was scary. It was a forest department’s elephant with a mahout sitting on him, not the wild ones. But in about two decades of my career, there are only a couple of such instances,” Rai tells you.

He recalls an incident from his Kenya tour with his photography group when he and his group were left waiting for about eight hours just to capture hundreds of Wildebeest crossing the river together, but to no avail.

“They are very unpredictable herd animals. I wonder if they even have a leader. They always come to the river banks and stand there until one random animal decides to jump into the river and cross it. At times, they come and jump in about a second and there are times they won’t for straight 12 hours. Similar thing happened with us. We were waiting for eight hours for around 1000 Wildebeest to cross the river, but they just didn’t. It was very annoying,” Rai, who wants to see a Himalayan Newt in his career, tells you.

For all the photography lovers, he says, Canon EOS R5 and R6 are one of the best cameras to use for wildlife photography.

“The EOS R5 is enabled with 8K resolution video recording, included for the first time ever in a Canon camera. The EOS R6 is a full-frame mirror less camera based on the revolutionary RF mount comes with powerful In-Body Image Stabilisation up to eight stops, ISO range up to 102 400 and low luminance AF sensitivity of up to EV -6.5 — all designed to give you optimum performance for low-light photography,” Rai, who has been given the title of Canon Maestro, tells you.



SHIVANG MEHTA, CANON EOS AMBASSADOR

**F**rom a journalist to a PR professional, to now a wildlife photographer, 40-year-old Delhi-based Shivang Mehta is living a life one only dreams of. He calls the forest and it’s wildlife his best friends.

The journey which began back in 2005 has earned Mehta a blue tick on his social media handles, the most sought-after ornament for youngsters.

“I am into this field for 15 years now. I always had the inclination and love towards Nature and wanted to explore it. When I was in the corporate field, too, my job took me to the forests frequently. I was into adventure sports as well, especially hiking and river rafting. I was fascinated by the life of wildlife legend Jim Corbett. I read a lot of books on him. In 2003-04, I finally visited the Jim Corbett National Park. It was then that all the visuals of the books I had read came alive. I sighted my first tiger back then and since then I have been hooked to safaris,” Mehta tells you.

The catch is that Mehta’s career didn’t start as a wildlife photographer, initially, he trained as a Naturalist.

“I worked as a Naturalist for five years. In this job, everything in the forest interests you. In fact, one needs to be a sound wildlife professional first to become a wildlife photographer. It should

**Every specie on the planet is important, be it a tiger or a bee. As a photographer, my appeal to all fellow photographers is that apart from hunting for good images, keep on hunting for good stories. That is what keeps the wildlife alive and conserved**

be in this hierarchy for everyone,” he says, pointing out that those foundation years were a crucial part of his career.

However, such a life doesn’t come easy. There are a few sacrifices that one has to make, for Mehta it includes leaving a well-paid corporate job, not to mention the 300 days travelling that he does in a year.

“There were a lot of apprehensions since my job was not only a stable one, but also a highly paid one. Back in 2005, there were hardly any opportunities to make a career in wildlife. Not many people were doing it and

for those who did it was more like a hobby. But, I realised that wildlife made me happy, not as if my corporate job didn’t, but it wasn’t something that I would engage in for the rest of my life. With that being said, it was indeed a tough choice but definitely worth making,” he says.

Like everyone’s family, his family too wasn’t sure of his decision. There were conflicting opinions. Many people didn’t even know what he was trying to do. “Whenever I told them about my job, they thought I was a guide. It was hard for them to differentiate between a Naturalist and a guide. In fact my mother’s reaction was both strange and funny. Since most of my family members were into good corporate jobs, whenever anyone asked her about my job, she said that I am the Director of Jim Corbett National Park. It was very misleading, but she just wanted to convey that my job was a crucial one. Now over the years, they have understood it,” Mehta shares with a laugh.

For what is just a picture for most of us, for Mehta it is a story and lot of hard work. And to get that perfect shot, he follow the rule of five Ps — Perfect, Planning, Prevents, Poor and Performance. “In today’s time photography isn’t just about spending time in the field and running after subjects (animals, birds etc). It is more about looking for a story. Since I come from a journalistic background, the nature of my work is more about telling stories. It is never about taking one picture but a series of them over months or may be years. So that we can connect with them. For this, one requires a lot of planning and research on the subject,” he tells you.

Tiger is one of the most photographed species in the world, but as a photographer, he says, your work shouldn’t be focused on getting just another random click or story. “Make use of technology here. May be opt for a wide angle lens, wait for the subject to appear and click it with the environment. Tell a unique story with your picture,” Mehta, who is the author of *A Decade with Tigers*, a book which showcases the life history of some of the prominent tigers of India, advises.

Mehta agrees with Rai and says that danger is always in your hand. It is the human who needs to realised his boundaries and keep away from it. “As a

wildlife photographer it is your responsibility to be aware of the behaviour of the subject and not to cross your boundaries if the animal has a circular fear. Take for example if you are shooting tigers on vehicle or on foot, it is your responsibility to give him respect and not try to cross the boundaries. Here the danger is in your hands,” Mehta says.

The difference between a good and great photographer, he says, is how quickly can one curb his excitement if he come across a rare animal like a clouded leopard.

“One has to put on his photography hat and has to be on his toes to get that perfect click of such a rare animal. Most people are not able to do it right and they end up missing such big opportunities,” he tells you.

He tells you that India is rich in natural wealth, but it goes unnoticed. “Most photographers run after big cats and animals, but only a handful of people know that there are 39 odd species of wild cats in the world and 16 of them are found in India. It is the same for birds and reptiles,” Mehta, who also grooms young amateur photographers, says.

Mehta started his journey with a film camera and then transitioned to DSLRs with Canon 400D in the initial days of his career.

“I have never been a person who runs after cameras, instead I decide them on the basis of my work. A lot of youngsters need to understand it. Remember photography is an art,” he says.

Adding to the many feathers in Mehta’s hat is the title of Canon EOS Ambassador which was given to him last year.

“My association with Canon is more than a decade old now. I have been a Canon user throughout my career. I have done a lot of projects with them in various capacities and I am grateful to have received this title,” he tells you.

Since the World Wildlife Conservation Day was just here, Mehta has a message to share. “Each and every specie on the planet is important, be it a tiger or a bee. As a photographer, my appeal to all fellow photographers is that apart from hunting for good images, keep on hunting for good stories. That is what keeps the wildlife alive and conserved,” Mehta, who don’t have a count of images he has clicked till date, but has around 10 TB of data, tells you.



C Sukumaran

**O**n the occasion, **C SUKUMARAN**, Director, Consumer System Products and Imaging Communication Products, Canon India, says that the brand is proud to have mentors who are nurturing the young photographers and supporting the culture of photography.

“We, at Canon, are incredibly proud to have on board a family of mentors that help guide aspiring photographers, nurture young talent and support us in strengthening the culture of photography in our country. Our award-winning and exceptionally talented Canon Ambassador, Shivang Mehta and

Canon Maestro, Sachin Rai bring to the table years of experience and expertise that have helped them master the technique and skills needed to capture breath-taking wildlife photography,” Sukumaran tells you.

Their work, he says, has indeed helped audience to connect, both

visually and emotionally, with the incredible diverse wildlife that India is home to.

“This World Wildlife Conservation Day, we are happy to have such talented wildlife photographers who, through their lens, capture the beauty and sheer joy of seeing the lesser known marvellous

species and end up making them forever memories for everyone to conserve and cherish,” he says.

He adds that at Canon, it is their constant endeavour to provide an impetus to everyone who wishes to cultivate the art of photography. “Year on year, we set up a panel that chooses

some of the best talent in the country and add them to our family of mentors. Our mentors then become our voice on ground, and we help them by proving them with our best technological innovations in the camera segment suited to their genre of photography,” Sukumaran tells you.

### CANONISING PHOTOGRAPHY



# India favourites to wrap up T20 series

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The chatter around the concussion substitute will remain as a resurgent India, unlikely to be alarmed by all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's absence, seek a series win in the second T20 International against Australia here at Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

A series win will be an ideal confidence booster for India before the visitors hit Test match mode.

Some of the Indian team players are treating the white-ball leg as a six-match composite series instead of two separate formats.

Having won two white-ball games in Canberra, the Indians under Virat Kohli will hope that the next two matches at the Sydney pan out better for them.

Following their victory on the back of India's first concussion substitute Yuzvendra Chahal's terrific bowling display, India will enter the second game with a lot more confidence even though Jadeja's batting lower down the order will be missed.

It can't be denied that his unbeaten 44 off 23 balls made the difference between a winning score and a sub-par one.

However for Kohli, he would expect that he wouldn't need contributions from lower-middle order and the top five batsmen would be good enough to put up a good total on board or may be chase down a tricky target.

It will only help India that rival captain Aaron Finch, who has been in fantastic form, may not be fully fit. And with David Warner already absent due to a groin tear, the momentum that Australia had during the ODI series may not be there.

D'Arcy Short looked out of place during the first T20I and Chahal rightly exposed his chinks, bowling wide of off-stump because he had a limited range of strokes on the off-side.

Steve Smith, for all his greatness, isn't exactly the best T20 player around and is more at ease playing the second fiddle to an enforcer.

Glenn Maxwell has limita-



Indian pacer T Natarajan celebrates with teammates Washington Sundar, KL Rahul and Yuzvendra Chahal after he bowled out Mitchell Starc for 1 during 1st T20I game at Manuka Oval in Canberra on Friday [cricket.com.au/tw/twitter](https://cricket.com.au/tw/twitter)

**Aus vs India (2nd T20)**  
**Live from 1:40pm IST**  
**SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX**

tions which both Jasprit Bumrah and Thangarasu Natarajan had exposed in the last ODI and first T20 respectively.

What India would aspire is a better effort from the top-order, especially senior opener Shikhar Dhawan, who has gone off the boil after the half century in the first ODI.

Skipper Kohli has been decent without being extraordinary and that has affected the team. A solid knock from Kohli can go a long way in solving half

MOST RUNS FOR INDIA IN T20 INTERNATIONALS							
Batsman	M	I	Runs	Avg	HS	S/R	100/50
Virat Kohli	83	77	2803	50.05	94*	138.07	-/24
Rohit Sharma	108	100	2773	32.62	118	138.78	4/21
MSD Dhoni	98	85	1617	37.60	56	126.13	-/2
Suresh Raina	78	66	1605	29.18	101	134.87	1/5
Shikhar Dhawan	62	60	1589	27.87	92	127.73	-/10
Lokesh Rahul	43	39	1512	45.81	110*	145.38	2/12
Faisel Features							

of India's worries.

It will be interesting to see if Manish Pandey gets a second game. Ideally, he should get one more game but his discomfort against Adam Zampa was quite visible and the Indian innings lost the moment when

he started wasting deliveries.

Between Pandey and Shreyas Iyer, there isn't much of a difference as they are same type of players, who need some time before they counter-attack.

For Sanju Samson and the in-form Hardik Pandya, the job

## Lyon replaces Chris Green in T20 squad

**NEW DELHI:** The Australian national selectors have brought in off-spinner Nathan Lyon to their T20I squad for the last two matches against India as they released pace bowling all-rounder Cameron Green for Australia A's warm-up against India A that begins on Sunday.

Lyon's inclusion has been a surprise as he is not considered a T20 specialist and has played only two international matches in the format, the last of which came in 2018. **PNS**

will be to utilise the last six overs even though Samson's temperament in the few international matches that he has played hasn't been impressive.

For Australia, one interesting aspect is veteran Test specialist Nathan Lyon being drafted into the T20 squad and it remains to be seen if he replaces Mitchell Swepson in the playing XI.

Although he got lucky with Kohli's wicket, Swepson mostly bowled short in his two overs and on a flat Sydney deck, he could increase Australia's worries.

Lyon, on the other hand, could be used in Powerplay just like India successfully used young off-spinner Washington Sundar in the first six overs.

## SQUADS

**India:** Virat Kohli (C), Shikhar Dhawan, Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson (wk), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd Shami, Navdeep Saini, Deepak Chahar, T Natarajan, Shardul Thakur.

**Australia:** Aaron Finch (C), Sean Abbott, Mitchell Swepson, Alex Carey (wk), Nathan Lyon, Josh Hazlewood, Moises Henriques, Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade (wk), D'Arcy Short, Adam Zampa.



Indian Test specialists Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane and Umesh Yadav chat during team's training session [@\\_ay\\_umesh](https://twitter.com/_ay_umesh)

# India hit Test mode with first warm-up game

PTI ■ SYDNEY

**Australia A vs India A**  
**Live from 5:00am IST**  
**SONY SIX NETWORK**

will be Wriddhiman Saha versus Rishabh Pant.

For Saha, who had injured both his hamstrings during the IPL, it will be a test to show his fitness after getting back at the nets recently.

Pant has been India's number one choice in overseas Tests but he was dropped from the limited over series and will have to deliver the goods to seal the keeper's slot.

With skipper Virat Kohli going on paternity leave after the opening Test and the injured Rohit Sharma too uncertain, the onus will be on Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari to show the way.

Rahane, the man likely to lead India in the absence of Kohli, will look for a good outing. Pujara and Vihari too will be itching to go out in the middle having last played a competitive game in the pre-Covid-19 days.

In the bowling department, Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for the opening T20I, is expected to play the practice match as he looks to get into Test mode.

While Bumrah and Mohammed Shami will share the new ball in the Tests, the third pacer's spot will be up for grabs and Mohammed Siraj,

who looked good in the IPL, will be keen to seal it.

Umesh Yadav, with an experience of 46 Tests, is also an option but he was erratic in the two games that he had played in the IPL.

Ravindra Jadeja has been ruled out of the next two T20I matches after suffering concussion and it remains to be seen if he is fit for the Tests.

Ravichandran Ashwin's form will be key if Jadeja is unavailable and it will also open the door for Kuldeep Yadav, who was once proclaimed as India's number one overseas spinner by coach Ravi Shastri, following his exploits in Sydney last year.

For Australia, the spotlight will be on young William Pucovski as he looks to grab the opener's slot following an injury to David Warner, who has been ruled of at least the opening Test.

Pucovski's form in Sheffield Shield triggered a debate with many preferring him over Joe Burns but with Warner's injury, coach Justin Langer has made it clear the slot will go to one who performs well in the four games.

While the first three-day game will be a red-ball affair, the second tour match, scheduled to begin from December 11, will be played with a pink ball.

And in an important development, both games will carry official first-class status, according to [cricket.com.au](https://cricket.com.au).



## Blackwood, Joseph delay the inevitable

AFF ■ HAMILTON

**NZ vs Windies (1st Test)**  
**Live from 3:30am IST**  
**FANCODE APP**

A relentless swing attack spearheaded by Tim Southee left the West Indies struggling for survival with only four wickets left and a 185-run deficit after the third day of the first Test against New Zealand in Hamilton on Saturday.

Only a stubborn century partnership by Jermaine Blackwood and Alzarri Joseph stalled New Zealand's hopes of dismissing the West Indies twice in one day.

Grey clouds and occasional showers over Seddon Park created the perfect platform for New Zealand's swing attack as the West Indies started the day at 49 without loss and lost 15 wickets for 285 runs.

They were crushed in their first innings for 138 for nine, with Shane Dowrich — who suffered a hand injury on the first day — not batting.

At stumps, they were 196 for six in their second innings in reply to New Zealand's formidable 519 for seven.

Blackwood was 80 not out, his 13th Test half century, with Joseph on 59, his highest score and their partnership worth 107 runs.

Southee relished the conditions with five wickets in the day, four in the first innings where the West Indies managed 138, and one in the second.

When the West Indies resumed the day at 49 without loss, Southee removed John Campbell in the opening over to set the bowling blueprint.

He troubled Campbell with three inswingers before tempting the batsman with a wider delivery that was spooned to Williamson at mid-off.

A Southee ball that swung late nicked Brooks's bat and he

was caught at first slip for one.

A Trent Boult delivery that pitched on leg stump and jagged back accounted for Kraigg Brathwaite for 21 while classy inswingers from Jamieson and Wagner removed Darren Bravo (nine) and Roston Chase (11).

Southee was back in action with the wickets of Jermaine Blackwood (23) and Alzarri Joseph (nought) immediately after lunch, leaving Jamieson and Wagner to clean up the remaining wickets of Roach (two) and Gabriel (one). Jason Holder was unbeaten on 25.

The West Indies second innings followed the same recipe as the New Zealand bowlers set up the batsmen with a consistent line of delivery for a few balls, then adjusted the angle and wickets followed.

Campbell, who faced five balls in the morning, lasted only three in the second innings when he nicked a Boult delivery that Latham just managed to get his fingers under at ground level.

Bravo attempted to dominate the bowling with three boundaries before short-ball specialist Neil Wagner pitched one on a length that was edged to Southee in the slips.

Wagner ended that over with the wicket of Brooks (two) and the carnage continued at the start of the next over when Southee had Brathwaite (10) caught behind.

Holder, who had multiple lives including being dropped on successive balls, saw his luck run out on eight to give all-rounder Daryl Mitchell his first Test wicket.

## Chahal playing was within rules: Gavaskar

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Indian batting great Sunil Gavaskar finds nothing wrong in Yuzvendra Chahal coming on as a "concussion substitute" for Ravindra Jadeja but doesn't like the concept of teams being provided cushion for a batsman's inability to face bouncers.

Chahal replaced Jadeja, who got hit on the head, in the first T20I and did a star turn with figures of 3 for 25 in the team's 11-run victory.

"First and foremost let me say that match referee is a former Australian cricketer David Boon. He was okay with Chahal substituting for Jadeja. They normally say like-for-like and Chahal is not an all-rounder but if he goes out with the bat whether it's one run or 100 run, he is an all-rounder," Gavaskar told *India Today*.

"An Australian match referee had no objection to that. So I don't see why there is so much of noise about it."

One of the greatest batsmen to have played the game,



Indian physio attends injured Ravindra Jadeja during 1st T20 on Friday **AP**

Gavaskar however doesn't endorse the concept as he feels it is a leverage given to batters for a technical deficiency.

"On the business of concussion substitute itself, I don't

## Taylor warns against abuse of concussion substitute rule

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former Australia captain Mark Taylor has cautioned against abusing the concussion substitute rule, saying it is for the protection of players and needs to be used fairly and responsibly.

"The concussion rules are there to protect players," Taylor, a former member of the ICC Cricket Committee, was quoted as saying by *Sydney Morning Herald*.

"If they are abused there's a chance it will go like the runner's rule. The reason the runners were outlawed was because it started to be abused. It's up to the players to make sure they use the

concussion sub fairly and responsibly.

"I'm not suggesting that didn't happen last night."

The fact that Jadeja did not seek medical attention immediately and scored two more boundaries in his quick-fire 44 off 23 balls, fuelled further suspicions about the concussion finding.

"I've said for years I'd like to see players and coaches take more responsibility in running the game. The laws are there to protect them and make the game better for the player. Just make sure they're used correctly, that's all I would say," Taylor said.

agree with it. May be I am old fashioned and I have always believed that if you are not good enough to play the bouncer and get hit on the helmet, then you don't deserve a substitute. I am sorry," Gavaskar said, forthright in

his observation.

"But at the moment, it is being allowed as part of the rules of the game and according to the rules of the game, there was no problem with Chahal playing instead of Ravi Jadeja."

## Corey Anderson retires

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Plagued by injuries, New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson, who once held the record for fastest ODI hundred, called time on his international career and signed a three-year deal with USA's Major League Cricket (MLC).

The 29-year-old, who has played 13 Tests, 49 ODIs and 31 T20Is for New Zealand, didn't feature in any of Black Caps' assignment for the past two years.

In the 93 international games across formats, he scored 2277 runs with two hundreds and 10 half-centuries. He also picked up 90 wickets.

"It's been a huge honour and (I am) extremely proud to represent New Zealand," Anderson, who holds the record for the fastest ODI century for his 36-ball innings against West Indies in 2013, was quoted as saying by *Cricbuzz*.

His 35-ball hundred against West Indies on the New Year's Day in 2014, was the fastest ODI hundred for a year before AB de Villiers' broke the record with a 31-ball feat against the same opposition.

Anderson lamented that he couldn't play more internationals for his country.

"I would have loved to have achieved and played more but just is what it is sometimes, and different opportunities arise and send you in a direction you never thought would be a possibility. Very appreciative for everything that NZC has done for me." **PTI**

## Bumrah one of best T20 bowlers: Pattinson

**SYDNEY (PTI):** Australia Test pacer James Pattinson says he has picked Jasprit Bumrah's brain during his unexpected stint at the Mumbai Indians in the recent IPL and wanted to know the secret of Indian speedster's lethal yorkers.

Pattinson went unsold in the IPL auction but was included in the MI squad as a last-minute replacement for Lasith Malinga. He played 10 games for the IPL champions picking 11 wickets.

"I lucked out a bit going to Mumbai, the most successful franchise in IPL history. It all happened so quickly. It was such a great experience and surprise," Pattinson told *Australian Associated Press*.

"Boom is one of the best, if not the best, T20 bowler in the world. I picked his brain. I was asking about his yorkers and how he gets them so good; he likes to bowl from a higher position and a few other things."

"You watch him bowl and just think 'how does he do that?'" Pattinson said.

The 30-year-old is a member of the Australia Test squad and



he will warm up for the four-match series by playing for Australia A in a tour game.

He said playing in the IPL "ignited a spark to play more white-ball cricket ... To try and get back into Australia's white-ball teams."

Pattinson, who has not been picked in Australia's T20 or ODI side since 2015, said meeting Bumrah was a good lesson in not tinkering with bowling actions

for the sake of the textbook.

"It's fantastic. He's got an unusual action, been allowed to keep doing that and it's what makes him successful."

Pattinson said Bumrah "was happy to share a lot of information around his bowling mindset." "He's a fantastic guy. He bowls a lot more than I thought he would at training. He just bowls and bowls and bowls ... You see how switched on he is."

## Head wants to put India's bowling under pressure

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia batsman Travis Head said they will look to test their skills against India's "unbelievable" bowling attack and put the visitors under pressure during the first warm-up game starting Sunday.

The 26-year-old, who was part of the 2018 Test series, will lead the Australia A' side in the first three-day warm-up game.

"Nice to have some memories and stuff from that series, but (they are) an unbelievable bowling attack and been well supported throughout the whole attack," Head said on Saturday.

"... You get through the new ball and someone like Shami comes on and he's just so relentless on his length. There was just no rest that, you had to be on for every bowler."

"That is expected of Test cricket but that was my first real look at a quality attack like that. Those next spells are as strong as their first so you have to be on 100% of the time. Looking forward to that test again."



While the first warm-up will be a red-ball affair, the second practice match scheduled to begin from December 11, will be played with a pink ball.

"... It is a great opportunity with the red ball, the way we start that campaign in the same manner and we have three strong days and, I know the boys are really keen to start that three days and get leading into that Test series," he said.

"(These are) really important couple of games for us, not just as Australian A squad but as Australian squad and we want to play our best foot forward and start putting the Indian guys under pressure."

## SA team clears Covid tests, 1st ODI today

AFF ■ CAPE TOWN

The entire South African cricket squad has tested negative for coronavirus, allowing three one-day international matches against England to start on Sunday in Paarl near Cape Town.

A Cricket South Africa statement released on Saturday said the latest round of tests were done Friday and they were "pleased to announce that the entire Proteas team has returned negative results".

There had been concerns that the matches, rescheduled for Sunday, Monday and Wednesday in Cape Town, might be cancelled after an unnamed South African player tested positive Thursday despite staying in a "bio bubble".

Originally, the series was due to begin in Cape Town on Friday, but the match was called off just one hour before the scheduled start after the revelation of the positive test.

Two other South African players tested positive before the T20 series, which finished this week with the tourists winning 3-0.

The decision to go ahead with the ODI series was a relief to South African officials, who have been puzzled as to how a player became infected with the virus in the "bubble".

The Paarl match will be a day game followed by two day-night matches in Cape Town.

(Live from 1:30pm on Star Sports 1)



# Relief for Zidane

Real Madrid ease pressure on under-fire boss with 1-0 away win over Sevilla

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Zinedine Zidane had some of the pressure lifted on Saturday when an own goal from Sevilla goalkeeper Bono gave Real Madrid a 1-0 win away to Sevilla.

Bono guided Vinicius Junior's effort into his own net in the second half, allowing Zidane's side to move up to third in the table after their first league victory since October.

Since Madrid crashed to a 2-0 defeat to Shakhtar Donetsk in midweek to leave their Champions League qualification hopes in the balance, press reports in Spain have linked former Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino and ex-Madrid forward Raul to Zidane's job.

Zidane made two changes from the debacle in Ukraine with Casemiro and Vinicius replacing Martin Odegaard and Marco Asensio.



Ex-Madrid boss Julen Lopetegui brought back Bono into the starting lineup after he missed four games with coronavirus which included Wednesday's heavy European defeat to Chelsea.

Morocco's Bono made a shaky start as his attempted clearance inside his own box was blocked by Vinicius.

He made up for the error on his own line despite Karim

Benzema's efforts.

The former Girona keeper kept the sides equal at the break with a tidy save from Benzema's 38th minute shot, but his crucial mistake came 10 minutes into the second half.

Ferland Mendy played a low cross into the area before Vinicius slid in to guide it towards the goal.

Bono came out to close the



space but deflected Vinicius' limp attempt into his own goal.

The hosts' Suso, making his first appearance since late October, and Lucas Ocampos had late chances to equalise but Zidane's men held on for a morale-boosting win before Wednesday's crucial Champions League group game against Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Later, Atletico Madrid and in-form forward Joao Felix can go above Real Sociedad and take top spot as they host Real Valladolid, while Barcelona head to Cadiz.

Sociedad travel to Deportivo Alaves on Sunday.

**CELTA BEATS ATHLETIC**

Hugo Mallo and Iago Aspas scored second-half goals as Celta Vigo defeated Athletic

Bilbao 2-0 for consecutive wins in the Spanish league.

The pair of victories came after an eight-match winless streak that left the Vigo team in the relegation zone. It moved to 14th in the standings.

It was the first loss after three straight home wins for Athletic, which stayed in ninth place. The Basque Country team had outscored its opponents 8-1 in those wins at home.

Mallo put Celta on the board with a header in the 61st minute and Aspas sealed the victory after a mistake by Athletic goalkeeper Unai Simón in the 78th.

**PSG EYE MESSI**

Lionel Messi reportedly remains a target for Paris Saint-Germain.

Messi, 33, is contracted at Barcelona until the end of the season, having stayed at the club after sensationally requesting to leave earlier this year.

With uncertainty still surrounding his future, the Barcelona star is apparently wanted by PSG.

PSG are exploring the possibility of signing Barcelona star Messi, according to ESPN.

Along with Manchester City and Inter, PSG have been among the clubs most heavily linked with a move for the Argentina international.

The report says Neymar and sporting director Leonardo have discussed bringing Messi to PSG.

It comes just days after Neymar said he wanted to play with Messi again and was keen for it to happen "next season".

## SINGLES

**TOM BANTON TO PULL OUT OF BBL**

**BRISBANE:** The Covid-19 bubble hubs have started to unnerv players with England T20 star Tom Banton pulling out of Big Bash League citing bubble fatigue. Banton, who has been living in controlled cricketing environment since July and is a reserve for England in their white-ball series squad in South Africa, was to represent Brisbane Heat in the tournament that begins on December 10. "It has been harder than I thought, spending so much time in the hubs and bubbles, and I came to the realisation that it wasn't doing me much good," Banton was quoted saying by *cricket.com.au*. "I'd like to thank the fans and members who are getting ready to support the Heat during the tournament and pass on my regrets to them that I won't be there."

**KOHLI, BUMRAH IN LARA'S BEST OF THIS ERA**

**NEW DELHI:** Indians Jasprit Bumrah and Virat Kohli feature in Brian Lara's lists of five best batsmen and bowlers of this era. The former West Indies captain listed Kohli, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson, England's Joe Root, South African AB de Villiers, and Australia's Steve Smith as the best batsmen of this era on his Instagram account, although he did not rank them. Among bowlers, Lara mentioned Bumrah, England's Jofra Archer and James Anderson, South Africa's Kagiso Rabada and Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan as the best five in the present era.

**PHL INAUGURAL EDITION FROM DEC 24**

**JAIPUR:** The inaugural edition of the Premier Handball League (PHL) will be held from December 24 to January 10 at the Savai Manshing Indoor Stadium in Jaipur, the national federation said on Saturday. The PHL, being held under the aegis of Handball Federation of India, will have 33 matches in 18 days this season. The first season will have six men's teams — Telangana Tigers, UP Icons, Maharashtra Handball Hustlers, KingHawks Rajasthan, Bengal Blues and Punjab Pitbulls — battling for the title. The PHL will see more than 80 players taking part in the inaugural edition as each team will consist of 14 players.

**NAPOLI RENAME STADIUM AFTER MARADONA**

**NAPLES:** Italian club Napoli renamed its stadium in honor of former captain Diego Maradona. The Naples city council unanimously approved the change of name from Stadio San Paolo to Stadio Diego Armando Maradona. "Napoli is delighted about today's decision," the club said in a brief online statement on Friday. In a seven-year stint at Napoli from 1984-91, Maradona led the club to its only Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990, the Italian Cup in 1987, and its only major European title, the UEFA Cup, in 1989.

**RITU PHOGAT BEATS JOMARY TORRES**

**SINGAPORE:** Indian wrestler-turned-mixed martial arts fighter Ritu Phogat won her fourth consecutive MMA championship title on Saturday. The 26-year-old Indian beat Philippines' Jomary Torres via technical knockout in round one of ONE Championship (ONE) at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. "I'm constantly pushing my boundaries in the circle and the match with Jomary bore witness to the same. Although this was not an easy match, I know I have bigger challenges to combat in future," Ritu was quoted as saying in a release.

**2020 HRT RACE HELD VIRTUALLY**

**NEW DELHI:** Like every year, 30th Himalayan Run & Trek International Annual Event was scheduled to be organised during November 01 to 05 at Darjeeling region. During this race, participants have to cover the distance of 160 km in 5 stages. Participants registered for 2020 HRT Race but due to Covid-19 crisis, the race could not take place on the said route and organisers and participants had to satisfy their quench for adventure running through virtual version of this race.

Agencies



# Sterling lifts Man City into top 4

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City closed to within three points of the top of the Premier League as Raheem Sterling found his form in a routine 2-0 win over Fulham.

Kevin De Bruyne was also on target from the penalty spot as City recorded back-to-back league wins for the first time this season to move into the top four.

Sterling had not scored in the league for nearly two months and been left out by Guardiola in recent weeks.

But the England international looked more like his old self to provide some much-needed penetration in behind for a City side that has struggled to score goals this season.

Sterling should have opened the scoring inside three minutes when he fired too close to Alphonse Areola after Riyad Mahrez's pass opened up the Fulham defence.

Less than two minutes later, Sterling got a second chance from another sumptuous De Bruyne assist and this time made no mistake on his favoured right foot for a first goal in seven games.

Sterling then helped create the second as he turned Joachim Andersen inside the box and went down under the faintest contact from the Danish defender for a penalty.

De Bruyne had missed his last spot-kick against Liverpool,

but confidently strode forward to send Areola the wrong way and end the game as contest just 26 minutes in.

Another flying save from Areola then denied Sterling a spectacular second with an acrobatic volley.

John Stones is enjoying a renaissance at the heart of Guardiola's defence as he was again preferred to Aymeric Laporte alongside Ruben Dias.

However, it was a mix-up between Stones and Ederson that came closest to providing Fulham a lifeline as the goalkeeper came rushing off his line to clear as Stones played the ball back towards his own goal and was relieved to see it roll wide for a corner.

After scoring just 10 goals in their first eight league games of the season, City clicked into gear last weekend in a 5-0 thrashing of Burnley.

Had De Bruyne been more clinical, the hosts could have had another handful.

The Belgian turned Gabriel Jesus's pass onto the crossbar then could not beat Areola when one-on-one after a brilliant through-ball from Mahrez set him clear.

Mahrez was the creator again with a well-worked corner for De Bruyne's next effort which flew well over the bar.

But two goals were more than enough as City recorded a fourth consecutive clean sheet.

# Dortmund drop more points in Frankfurt draw

AFP ■ BERLIN

With their star striker Erling Braut Haaland sidelined by injury, Borussia Dortmund dropped more Bundesliga points on Saturday when they laboured to a 1-1 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt.

The draw leaves Dortmund third in the league, three points behind leaders Bayern Munich who host second-placed RB Leipzig later Saturday night.

After suffering a shock 2-1 home defeat last weekend against struggling Cologne, Dortmund missed the finishing of top scorer Haaland, who is out until January.

Dortmund's defence was caught napping when they conceded an early goal by Frankfurt's



Japan midfielder Daichi Kamada.

The introduction of 16-year-old striker Youssoufa Moukoko after half-time saw Dortmund raise their tempo.

They equalised with a superb strike from 18-year-old US forward Giovanni Reyna but failed to again breach the Frankfurt defence despite finishing the stronger.

**HERTHA BEAT 10-MAN UNION**

On Friday night fixture, Hertha Berlin substitute Krzysztof Piatek scored twice for a 3-1 win over 10-man Union Berlin in their Bundesliga derby.

Robert Andrich was sent off for a dangerous challenge just three minutes after Taiwo Awoniyi gave them a 20th-minute lead.

Hertha defender Peter Pekarik equalized on a rebound in the 51st as Piatek scored twice in three minutes to give Hertha its first home win of the season.

The buildup was dominated by Hertha's move under cover of darkness on Monday to plant about 60,000 flags around the German capital's 12 districts. No fans were allowed to attend the game due to a lockdown aimed at bringing coronavirus numbers under control.

The streets in and around the Olympiastadion were deserted. Normally there would have been thousands of fans milling around in anticipation of the match, lubricating their singing voices with mulled wine, sausages and beer.

## Neeraj, other javelin throwers begin training

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

India's top javelin throwers, including Olympic-bound Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal Singh, on Friday began their month-long training camp at the Kalinga Stadium here in Bhubaneswar.

The team has shifted base from NIS Patiala, which is very cold at the peak of winter, to the Odisha capital, which will be comparatively warmer than the Punjab city.

The other javelin throwers are Annu Rani, Rohit Yadav and Rajinder Singh. They are accompanied by coaches Uwe Hohn and Dr Klaus.

"We are here for the training for Olympics 2021. In 2017 (Asian

Championships), I won gold here and have fond memories of the city. With our best efforts we are hoping to do well at the Olympics," said the Asian Games Gold medalist Chopra.

Chopra and Shivpal have already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics during competitions in South Africa in January. The entire domestic athletics calendar has been wiped out due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AFI said a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared for the training of the athletes, treating their safety as priority.

The SOP has laid down numerous Covid-19 protocols and guidelines in an exhaustive manner.

## Lazio return to form in win over Spezia

AFP ■ MILAN

Ciro Immobile scored his 10th goal of the season as Lazio won 2-1 at Spezia on Saturday to climb seventh in the Serie A table.

The capital-city club bounced back from last weekend's 3-1 home loss to Udinese to make it four wins in six league outings.

Simone Inzaghi's side will now turn their attention to Tuesday's crucial



Champions League clash with Club Brugge at the Stadio Olimpico, where they need to avoid defeat to reach the knockout rounds for

the first time since the 1999-2000 campaign.

Lazio took the lead in the 15th minute as Immobile was played in on

goal by Sergej Milinkovic-Savic before slipping the ball through the legs of Spezia goalkeeper Ivan Provedel.

Milinkovic-Savic doubled the advantage 12 minutes before half-time, whipping a fine free-kick into the top corner.

Spezia pulled one back with M'Bala Nzola's powerful 64th-minute strike, but Lazio held on to move level on points with sixth-placed Roma, despite Andreas Pereira seeing an injury-time goal ruled out by VAR.

## Kashyap, Prannoy, two more test virus +ve

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Four top Indian men's badminton players including former Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Parupalli Kashyap, HS Prannoy and RMV Gurusaidutt, have tested positive for Covid-19 but they are all "asymptomatic".

Doubles specialist Pranaav Jerry Chopra is the fourth player to test positive. All the players are currently in self-isolation.

"The players took the RT-PCR test as a precautionary

measure a few days back after one of them was showing very mild symptoms.

"Kashyap, Guru, Prannoy and Pranaav returned positive but Saina tested negative," a source in the Gopichand academy told PTI.

"However Guru's wife Amulya Gulapalli and Saina Nehwal have tested negative."

The players will get tested again for the second time on Monday.

"There have been cases when a lot of time the first test result comes false positive, so

the players have been advised by the doctors to wait and monitor a few days and take a second test on Monday," the source said.

While Guru took a break due to his wedding, the rest of the players have been training at the Pullulla Gopichand Academy.

However, since the players had attended the wedding of Gurusaidutt, who tied the knot on November 25 in Hyderabad, the trainees at the Gopichand academy also were tested as a precautionary measure.

# Pujara caught in racism controversy at Yorkshire

PTI ■ LEEDS

English county side Yorkshire finds itself in the centre of a raging issue with its former players and employees backing cricketer Azeem Rafiq's claims of "institutional racism" at the club, including reference to India's Cheteshwar Pujara with a generic name.

Pujara, currently in Australia for Test series, had played for Yorkshire in 2015 and 2018.

Former West Indies international Tino Best and Pakistan's Rana Naved-ul-Hasan provided evidence in support of Rafiq as part of an ongoing investigations into his

allegations.

According to ESPNcricinfo, two former Yorkshire employees — Taj Butt and Tony Bowry — have also given evidence against the club which has institutionalised racism.

"(There were) continuous references to taxi drivers and restaurant workers when referring to (the) Asian community," Butt, who was employed within the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation as a community development officer, was quoted as saying by the cricket et portal.



the game for black communities.

"Many youngsters struggled to make progress, and the few that did found the environment of the dressing rooms very difficult and unwelcoming, as a direct result of racism they faced," Bowry said.

"It affected performance... They were labelled trouble-makers."

Speaking about his experiences at the club, former off-spinner Rafiq who left Yorkshire in 2018, said he had been close to committing suicide after what he experienced.

During an interview by the independent investigating team last month, he said that he had been "bullied and tar-

geted because of my race".

Best, the former West Indies fast bowler who played at the club in 2010, and Rana Naved, the former Pakistan seamer who joined as an overseas player between 2008 and 2009, also supported Rafiq.

In a statement, Rana said he agreed with "each and every statement of Azeem" and that "many Asian players were affected by their (Yorkshire's) bad attitude".

After the revelations by Rafiq, Yorkshire announced that they will initiate measures to tackle discrimination and boost inclusion in the club, including appointing a head of equality.

## SC East Bengal suffer third loss on trot

PTI ■ VASCO

SC East Bengal suffered their third loss on the trot in the Indian Super League as NorthEast United beat them 2-0 at the Tilak Maidan Stadium here on Saturday.

An own goal by Surchandra Singh handed NorthEast United a 33rd minute lead in an intense first-half that saw the red-and-gold's penalty claims being rejected by the referee.

SC East Bengal stepped up their attack after the interval but the Highlanders sealed the issue in the injury time with substitute Rochharzela scoring a brilliant goal from a counter-attack (90+1).

It was NEUFC's other substitute VP Suhair who set it up from the right flank as their diminutive 22-year-old Mizoram midfielder picked up pace to shoot it past Debjit Majumder and take them to second place in the table.

The win took the Highlanders to the second spot with eight points as they remained unbeaten from four matches.

Robbie Fowler's SC East Bengal had another impressive day in possession football and looked the better side but they were let down by some dubious refereeing decisions as they remained rooted at the bottom of the table without any point



from three matches.

Fowler must have thought his side had a penalty in the 20th minute when Maghoma, after taking a touch in the box, was tripped by Mehta. It looked like a clear foul but the referee waved play on.

At the hour mark, SCEB had another penalty claim when Anthony Pilkington's shot at goal seemed to have brushed a NEUFC defender's arm before being parried by the keeper.

**MUMBAI EYE HAT-TRICK**

**Bambolim:** With a well-oiled unit at their disposal, in-form Mumbai City FC will be eyeing their third successive win when they take on Odisha FC on Sunday.

Mumbai first registered a 1-0 win against FC Goa and

then routed SC East Bengal 3-0 in their last game.

Much will again depend on how strikers Adam Le Fondre and Bartholomew Ogbeche fare.

Fondre scored a brace in the game against East Bengal and would be raring to go one more time.

Santana is also in prime form having netted in the game against East Bengal.

On the other hand, Odisha FC are still winless in the tournament. They have drawn one and lost two of the three games they have played this season.

In the second game of the day at Fatorda Stadium, a win eluding them in previous three outings, both FC Goa and Kerala Blasters will be desperate to grab their first three points when they face off.





**■ What is Torbaaz about?**

The promos more or less tell you in essence what it is about. It is about Nasir Khan played by Sanjay Dutt who has also been a victim of terrorism but rises above his personal tragedy and gets down to spreading message of peace and transforming the lives of the children who are disillusioned and on

the path of destruction through the game of hope — which is cricket. It is a normal approach and highlights the fact children of today are the one who will be shaping the future. In some ways it is a crazy story of a man who is in Kabul and comes to teach the children and while uncovering the darkness on whether he can save these kids; this in a nutshell is what the film is about.

**■ How did the story idea come up?**

A lot of people have asked me why I would write a story like this? My personal interest lies in what is happening around the globe, why people react in a certain way to a situation. So, I was fortunate enough to come across people, certain situations and stories that were real. Like I met some cricketers who are doing a lot of work by working with the refugee children.

A lot of NGOs were giving them cricket gear and some were teaching them football. Many years back, it was suggested that I make a documentary and I said a movie. And I ended up writing it; it took us a couple of years to do so.

**Talktime**

**GIRISH MALIK**

*The critically acclaimed director known for his work in Jal that won him a National Award, is now back with another action-thriller — Torbaaz starring Sanjay Dutt. He speaks with Shalini Sakseena about the challenges of shooting in exotic locations of Kyrgyzstan and other projects in the pipeline*

**My films are about infotainment. I try to incorporate situations that are high on drama and have a thrill quotient to them. There is warmth and triumph of human spirit**

**■ Is it important that a movie have a message which can inspire the audience?**

My films are about infotainment. I try to incorporate situations that are high on drama and have a thrill quotient to them. There is warmth and triumph of human spirit. It is a combination of Chak De and Lagaan; there is a fight between good and evil. There is always a great story behind my films. Hence, I didn't want to make a documentary but a movie that can reach a wider audience with a message. The essence of the film is to tell people that those innocent minds re not the terrorists but the sufferers of terrorism. We can't change the past or the present but we can definitely change the future and be told in an engaging manner.

**■ Why choose Sanjay Dutt and Rahul Dev?**

There is Nargi Fakri as well. I chose Sanjay Dutt because he is a good actor and his eyes have hope, dreams and yet a loss. When he smiles, it is so endearing. I was looking for someone like that to play Nasir. I cast him because he fit my character and felt that he would bond well with the kids. Nargis Fakri fit the role of an American-Afghani. I chose Rahul Dev simply for his looks and body language. He suited the role where he had

to look threatening. The surprise cast are the kids in the film. Some of them are from small towns in Kashmir and Utranchal.

**■ Was it a tough decision to release the film on an OTT platform?**

Everybody wants their movie to be released on the big screen since the film has been shot in exotic locations like Kyrgyzstan. But the truth is that most movies don't last more than a week or two in theatres. Gone are the days of golden or silver jubilees. While I may want to see a film on the big screen, on the OTT platform, it reaches over 190 countries which is great and critical.

**■ You were an actor, how did you venture into directing?**

I had this vision of being a lead in movies. Even in my theatre days I used to write and direct. But I wanted to do more amazing work and was not getting it. So, I ventured into making my own projects and Jal came for which I got so many awards.

**■ What next?**

It is a musical and what music means to different countries. Seven-eight musicians have come together to tell this story. It is titled *Band of Maharajas* and slated to release next year.

# BIG REELTIME PLUS FOR KIDS

The virtual ongoing 4th edition of the International Kids Film Festival will see 150 films from 40 countries in 25 languages on issues ranging from environment to conflict to childhood to space. SHALINI SAKSENA tells you more

2020! What a year it has been. This can't be truer for the school-going children who have had the toughest time. With being cooped up at home, taking classes online and the general uncertainty whether the schools would open this year or not. A lot has been and is being done for the children. But we need to focus on building social and cultural skills in our kids; we need to expose them to stories and make them wonder, we need to share the challenges of the world and make them overcome them.

The fourth edition of the International Kids Film Festival (IKFF) is a great opportunity for the children to watch some of the best world cinema. This year, for obvious reasons, the film festival is virtual. The good part is that these films are not available on any other platform and are exclusive to this festival giving the kids a chance to be part of something special.

"This year we have several international award-winning films covering a wide range of topics like environment, relationships, body image, culture, emotions and inspiration. The films have been categorised according to age, relevance and there are movies that are curated for the entire family to watch. The IKFF will give the children the opportunity to learn the nuances of making and visual story-telling. There will be multiple workshops and master classes and feature a filmmaking competition. The idea is to give the young minds a chance to express their talent and tell their stories. The winners will get a chance to be a jury of international film festivals and get exciting prizes as well," says Syed Sultan Ahmed, MD & Chief Learner@LXL Ideas.

"This year we have several international award-winning films covering a wide range of topics like environment, relationships, body



image, culture, emotions and inspiration. The films have been categorised according to age, relevance and curated for the entire family to watch. Then there are movies that are exclusively for the teachers and parents to watch. The IKFF will give the children the opportunity to learn the nuances of making and visual story-telling. There will be multiple workshops and master classes and feature a filmmaking competition. The idea is to give the young minds a chance to express their talent and tell their stories. The winners will get a chance to be a jury of international film festivals and get exciting prizes as well," says Syed Sultan Ahmed, MD & Chief Learner@LXL Ideas.

Unlike last year, where the schools in the Capital hosted these films, since it is online, over 10,000-plus schools have partici-

pated in the same reaching children far and wide. To bring everybody on one platform had some challenges. "The challenge was not to coordinate with 40-50 countries and get them to showcase their work here. We were used to working with them digitally and curating the festival. We didn't have an issue in that aspect. Our festival is designed and executed in a manner where children can come and watch them in a school. But due to the lockdown, we had to build a platform to showcase the movies. People are used to high-end OTT platforms like Netflix. We needed to build something that was as good as that and do it quickly," Ahmed tells you. He says that they app allows one to watch films either on a mobile or even TV.

Ahmed tells you that it is important for parents to understand that they need to expose their

kids to good content and unless one sees good content, one doesn't know what it means. "It is still a sorry state of affairs. We still don't make movies that are children-friendly. There are a few reasons. First, there are very few people who make children films. Second, those who make them think that children are intelligent enough. I have seen some outstanding children films globally, but in our country, we continue to make superficial ones. Most of the money is spent teaching math and science and beyond that we are not interested or devoting enough energy. Also, what is in demand makes a difference. The awareness is low. The content about what children should watch is much higher in countries like Finland or Australia. In India, not so much. Here, we don't know what good content is since we are not exposed to it," Ahmed tells you.

**WATCH OUT FOR**

**Daughter of Kashmir**

India  
5 Minutes  
No dialogues

**Director:** Kiran Subhash Deshmukh

A story about the relationship between a father and daughter who live in Kashmir. The father works in a handmade carpet factory but circumstances made him take to militancy. But he sees his daughter's struggle for the family and escapes from the militant camp ad joins the family but he forced to go back.

**Feature Film**

2040

Australia

**Director:** Damon Gameau

Practical solutions to environmental concerns are addressed with the hope that the filmmaker's daughter, 21 years old in 2040 will face a better future.

**Captain Morten And the Spider Queen**

Germany

**Director:** Kaspar Jancis, Henry Nicholson and Riho Unt

**Animation**

A young boy is magically shrunk down to the size of an insect and must learn to sail his toy boat across familiar but now dangerous surroundings.

**Dharan (Dam Wall)**

India

**Director:** Dedanti Dani

It is a story of a friendship between a six-year-old urban girl and an eight-year-old rural boy who devise a way to save the boy's house from being submerged in the catchment of a proposed dam.

As the festival is hosted online, it will give children from all parts of the country an opportunity to watch these films and learn from filmmakers and media experts through specially curated workshops.

All this can be done after downloading the Krayon app, a secure video platform. The platform has three parts called — Watch, Learn and Perform. The app is a talent learning platform with high levels of interaction. The cost to watch 150-plus films in one month (festival started on November 20) in 30 different languages from 40 countries is ₹99.

## ‘Blue Eyes set tune for us’

Choreographer ATUL JINDAL has done some of the biggest music videos for the likes of Yo Yo Honey Singh, Badshah and Diljit Dosanjh and worked with Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. SHALINI SAKSENA chats him up



**■ How did you end up being a choreographer?**

Dance was a passion and wanted to pursue it. I completed my college but then I went on to pursue dance from Broadway in New York. To begin with, the idea was to teach dancing and we have schools — one in Delhi and the other in Mumbai and have been teaching for the last 11 years. Then one day someone asked me to choreograph a dance for him. I thought it was a prank but turned out to be a genuine call and that propelled me to choreographing.

**■ What is Big Dance Centre all about?**

The biggest centre is at Delhi and we purely teach western dance form. Of course, there is Bollywood since we are working in the industry. We opened the school in 2009. The aim was to teach dance styles that I had learnt in New York, Los Angeles and London. I wanted to bring in the right kind of dance knowledge to India. I knew if this was not the case, western style wouldn't grow in the correct direction and people would continue to dance in the same style. The Delhi school has 5,000 sq feet space with 1,000 students who come in to learn. The focus is to train people professionally rather than those who want to learn as a hobby. But it is not as if we discourage people who come to us for the same. Our target age is 13 to 17.

**■ You were in the US. Why did you come back to India to work here professionally?**

I was there when I was 23 and got a chance to work there as well. But I wanted to come back because I saw there was a huge gap in India 11 years back and I knew I could step in and fill it. I still travel the world over for various reasons and see that there is so much that I can do in India. The market abroad is saturated, there are no weddings and no Bollywood.

**■ You have been in the industry for long. What are the changes that have taken place while choreographing?**

We started with *Blue Eyes* which got us noticed. Mr Amitabh Bachchan then called us for some training later we did the same for Shah Rukh Khan. I toured with Badshah. However, I have been dancing for two decades. Initially, dancing for Indian-based like one saw Madhuri Dixit do at her time. Today, music is changing and evolving and so has the dancing and choreography style. Music video scene has changed as well. Rap requires a different style of movement as does hip-hop.

**■ What is the difference between choreographing for ads and music videos?**

These are two different things. In ad commercials, one has to constantly keep the brand in mind. For example, for a jeans ad, one has to keep in mind the flexibility it offers rather than the upper body or the face. The choreography and movement have to be centred around the lower body. In music videos, the focus is on the artist as much as one can and give steps that connect with the viewers and how they perceive the artist.

**■ Do you choreograph keeping in mind who the actor is or what the situation demands?**

The most important thing is to keep the actor in mind. Like I said, I had trained Amitabh Bachchan sir. I can't give him the same steps as I would to Tiger Shroff or Hrithik Roshan. If the artist is comfortable and enjoying the steps, the video or the commercial will look good. But I also have to keep in mind what the makers want.

**■ The best dancer in the industry according to you. Why?**

Hrithik Roshan and since I am old school, Madhuri Dixit is my favourite. I feel what she can do, nobody can.

**■ What made dances so much better back then?**

Definitely there was grace in the movements as opposed to staccato style that we have today. Some of the dances we appreciated was because of the Indian movements. Actors would train more back then. Also, if you are a dancer, it makes a lot of difference. Music also makes a difference; it is staccato and steps have to match the music.

**■ How much does your choreography is inspired by what is happening globally?**

While most of it comes from what I have learnt and what is taking place globally. But we have to cater to the Indian audience and keep sensibilities of the families. I try to be unique and have elements of western and Indian style.

**■ What are your upcoming projects?**

We recently released a video — *First Kiss* — and it is already trending worldwide. Next month, we are working on a track by Yo Yo Honey Singh.

**MUSBA HASHMI**  
chats up  
15-year-old  
leader and  
philanthropist  
**SIYA TAYAL**,  
whose Project I  
Am Enough,  
aimed towards  
normalising  
bodies, has  
earned  
her recognition

It is very rare that one gets to see teenagers not only talking about social issues, but doing something to fight it. A case in point is the 15-year-old Gurugram-based Siya Tayal, who has been working towards social issues since she was seven.

"I have been body shamed a lot, especially by my peers. I know how it feels. I am 5'8 and I always wanted to be a petite girl because of the peer pressure. This got me thinking to come up with an initiative aimed towards making everyone feel great and confident of their bodies," Tayal tells you.

With I Am Enough, Tayal aims to normalise every body, spread awareness about body shaming and eating disorders in a creative, inclusive manner. "This is may be the only international body shaming awareness initiative for both men and women," Tayal tells you.

She adds that it is good to see so many men coming up and voicing their opinions about body shaming.

This quality, she says, is in



Siya Tayal

her genetics. "My father, who passed away in July this year, has always been the one to speak for the ills and help those in need. Even during the lockdown, he did his bit. He even won an award for bravery. He always told me no matter how bad things are for you, there are people who had it worse. Our job is to help them. So, I have grown up with this

thought of mind," she tells you.

At 7, she made dresses for dolls out of the waste fabric that her grandfather had given to her. "When I made those dresses, I wanted to show it off to my classmates. I needed a bag for it. That's when my teachers told me that I can work towards sustainable development by equipping women to make recyclable bags in the village. I was left

awestruck by the idea and realised that we are never too young to contribute towards the environment," Tayal, who has won The India Volunteer Award, Pramerica Bronze Award and has been nominated for Kurt Han Prize 2020, tells you.

Tayal is also associated with bunch of other initiatives like 100% non-profit initiative — Bee Nifty, an initiative which provides income and livelihood to women in rural Haryana by making recyclable bags. She has spoken at UN, Geneva and she is a youth Ambassador under Im2030 (a UNITAR & Global Challenges Forum initiative).

"I have also collaborated with UNITAR and I am now an educator for sustainable development. I am also the social media manager and director for Artem NexGen," she tells you.

She recalls an incident from her childhood days and tells you even the smallest of acts can make a difference. "I used to spend my vacation with my grandparents in their vil-

lage. One day, I saw a starving stray dog who was looking for food. So, I started feeding him everyday. After a couple of days, when I went again to fill the bowl with food, I realised somebody has already done it. It felt great that I have inspired someone to help others," she says.

Tayal has a message for everyone who stands up for body shaming and even for those who are guilty of doing it. "I wish you an amazing year ahead for having the courage to speak up. And I would wish the exact same thing for those who body shame others. I know you are insecure deep down, but it is alright. We are here to make a positive environment for everyone. For all the victims of body shaming, I want to tell you all are beautiful. Even if we all work out the exact same way and eat the same diet, still we will all look different. You should not love yourself despite what you are, instead you should love yourself for what you are," Tayal opines.

## Beautiful inside out





# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

## God's game of love

Our life is a game in which God loves us and wants us to love Him and the creations back

2



4

## Set your priorities straight

Talent alone does not suffice. You need to have an organised mind to make the most of your potential

When you start to develop your powers of empathy and imagination, the whole world opens up to you  
— Susan Sarandon



Each season has its own attributes or *Gunas* that effect the human body differently. Our strength as well as our metabolism changes with seasons, which in turn changes our internal circadian rhythms (or biological clocks) as they shift intelligently to each passing season.

Sadly, we may have lost our internal link with these changing rhythms, although we may be adapting unconsciously to them with an innate cultural wisdom passed down via our elders and by observing through our personal relation with each season.

We, therefore, each may have our favourite season or not so favourite, based on our individual proportion of *doshas*, *prakriti* or constitution and how well we are able to sync with that season.

### SWASTHASYA SASTHYA RAKSHANAM

The phrase means “to protect or preserve the health of an individual as preventative to disease”.

According to Charaka, the father of Ayurveda, one of the principle objectives of Ayurveda is prevention and preservation of our natural *Prakriti* the best we can, inspite of being constantly bombarded with reasons (within our control or not in our control), that can throw our balance off.

Ayurveda and Yoga focus on early detection and prevention and there lies their strength. Both these great sciences of health and longevity prescribe some routines, rituals, diets and exercise recommendations to align with universal intelligence and reduce their negative effects so we live our lives with minimum resistance and in a less antagonistic manner, and preserve our state of well being and health.

These sister sciences of Ayurveda and Yoga know that how we spend our days alter the course of our lives and emphasised the practice of *Dinacharya* and *Ritucharya*.

To maintain an internal balance to ever shifting qualities externally in nature, our *Dinacharya* or daily routines, eating habits, exercise regimen, lifestyles and rhythms should also ideally adapt to the six changing seasons or the *Ritus*.

Ayurveda divides a year or 12 months into six seasons of approximately two months each.

1. Early Winter or *Hemanta Ritu*
2. Late Winter or *Shishir Ritu*
3. Spring or *Vasanta Ritu*,
4. Summer or *Greeshma Ritu*
5. Rainy Season or *Varsha Ritu*, and
6. Autumn or *Sharad Ritu*

The seasonal variations can effect the human body and have to be taken into consideration for designing our daily prescribed routines to negate mistakes in intelligence in adapting to changes in nature within and around us. As humans, we are part of the ecology of life around us, the cycles of earth interact with the cycles of our bodies. Adaptation to changes outside is one of the three pillars of our anchors for health and is a crucial to health and well being. As the saying goes: “As in the Universe, so within us..”

*Hemant* and *Shishir Ritus*, consisting of four months starting November (broadly after *Sharad Purnima*) are considered winter cold season in most parts of India. According to Ayurveda, like increases like, so the winter season — which shares a number of characteristics with *Kapha dosha* — will tend to increase *Kapha*, predisposing us to *Kapha* seasonal aggravations, especially if it is a key player in your constitution. These will be mostly felt in the seat or ‘home’ of *Kapha* eg head, throat, nose, mouth, tongue (hence the emphasis on oil pulling, tongue cleaning, *Jal neti*, *Nasyam*, and *Kriyas* such as *Bhastrika* and *Kapalbhati*), chest, stomach and joints — unctuous in its attributes and cannot take dryness, hence foods rich in good natural fats.

When out of balance, *Kapha* can lead to accumulation and stagnation, dullness of the mind, lack of motivation, depression or attachments.

To avoid this accumulation, one of the most important things you can do to balance *kapha* is to get plenty of exercise, maintain metabolism and move cellular waste or *Kleda* from the body to bring lightness by encouraging *Sveda* or Sweat. As the healing capacity of the body tissues increase, Good nourishment for proper structural repair is recommended in the winters.

Our Metabolism, digestive fire or *agni* according to Ayurvedic cycles is at its best capacity during winter season; also the reason why we have a rich appetite at this time of the year. Nourishment is therefore maximised



Ayurveda and Yoga focus on early detection and prevention, and there lies their strength, writes MINI SHASTRI, as she shares some learnings and practices to stay healthy through seasonal transitions

## WINTER OF GOOD HEALTH

through what we eat, as nutrition reaches the tissues with efficient metabolism at this time of the season-al year.

This *Kapha* tendency when in balance, gives internal *bala* or strength to the human body at the time of winter bringing endurance to the body.

On the flip side, if we don't nourish ourselves well in the winter with good fats, nutrition dense foods, it can lead to imbalance in *vata*, leaving us anxious and ungrounded, nagging seasonal ill health, compromising our immune system. Neglecting a wholesome diet in the winters, rich in fats and nutrients can lead to auto digestion or catabolising of our own tissues (Autolysis) due to our naturally heightened metabolism at this time of the year.

### AYURVEDA-BASED DIET AND LIFESTYLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Applying regularity and routine brings structure to our days and pacifies aggravations. The body requires more fuel to stay warm and healthy in the winter months — igniting the digestive capacity. Our digestive fire or *agni* is high at this time, so our diet should naturally be nourishing and substantial as our system will deliver it efficiently for repair and building of tissues.

Foods that have the potential to be building blocks should be on our diet plan. Proteins via vegetarian and non vegetarian sources. Fats, Vitamin C rich Amla, Sea Food, Nuts, coconut, pumpkin, Red carrots, Apples, Heavy lentils like Black *dal* with *Ghee*, Avocados etc. We can eat oilier and richer foods best in this season to keep the body warm and nourished. Eat a spoon of Sesame or Flax seeds (toasted in small batches

“ACCORDING TO CHARAKA, THE FATHER OF AYURVEDA, ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES OF AYURVEDA IS PREVENTION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL PRAKRITI THE BEST WE CAN, INSPIRE OF BEING CONSTANTLY BOMBARDED WITH REASONS (WITHIN OUR CONTROL OR NOT), THAT CAN THROW OUR BALANCE OFF



and grounded cursedly) everyday or sprinkle on your *dals*.

Lukewarm water or warm spiced herbal tea and tisanes, soups to save the body from needing to equalise the outer with inner temperatures. A teaspoon or two of *Chyavanprash* before night time along with some warm turmeric milk will increase energy, immunity, and inner strength through the winter

### VIAYAM OR CORRECT EXERCISE

*Kapha* tends to stagnate easily. One of the best ways to get it moving again is to engage in physical activity, increase circulation, warm the tissues and break a sweat. *Balam* or our strength is maximum at this time of the year.

Start your day with a short but invigorating morning routine. You will feel more motivated if you are up by about 7 am as sleeping in or rising in *kapha* hours leave us feeling heavier and sluggish.

If you are feeling overextended and

The ancient sages of Ayurveda knew that how we spend our days alters the course of our lives, and emphasised the practice of *dinacharya*. While times and experiences may change over millennia, the need for a daily routine may be more important today than ever. Even one or two practices, everyday healthy rituals will help keep your body and mind energised.

We can use early morning as a window of opportunity to go back in time to change, heal and re-pattern early negative patterns. Each new day ushers in a cascade of new possibilities and a shower of second chances. We can focus on encouraging the smooth flow of *prana* in these early morning hours.

### Here is a summary of your suggested morning routine.

- Wake up with the Sun, ideally at Pre-dawn
- Rinse mouth and splash eyes with cool water
- Massage gums or gargle with sesame seed oil, ending with a warm water rinse
- Drink a glass of warm water
- Eliminate
- Brush and scrape the tongue
- *Jal Neti* (time permitting)
- Administer *Nasya* (nasal) oil
- Meditate
- Exercise appropriately for your constitution
- *Abhyanga* (Self massage with warm oil) before a shower

overwhelmed, exercise like walking, *tai chi*, or gentle yoga will help bring some grounding.

If you are feeling sluggish and heavy, a more vigorous workout will help move the *Kapha* energy from building up. Include invigorating backbends like *Ustrasana*, *Dharunasana* to remove heaviness and sluggishness.

*Surya namaskars* and *Vinyasa* practices with deep slow breaths, a sequence *Pranayma*, brisk walking and dancing are recommended during winters. They help in maintaining the body heat. *Surya Namaskars* are best enjoyed now with mind on strength, grace in transition and unhurried breaths. One can build on range of movement and endurance by increasing the number of *Surya namaskars* in Winter months.

We must also try to increase our sunlight exposure in this time of the year. Sunlight in this phase of *Dakshinayana* or Southern Solstice gives out energy unlike in the Northern solstice when the Sun absorbs energy to all beings leaving us weaker and low on energy.

*Abhyangam* or Oil Massage for your body regularly with warm oils is highly recommended according to Ayurveda.

A great night time routine, If short on time, is to give yourself a foot massage at least as often as you can. My personal favourite is Apricot or Almond oil with Lavender essential oil added.

A little care and a lot of mindfulness goes a long way in keeping our body healthy and happy. Bring in joy by staying happy and calm and watch your life transform.

The writer is a Yoga practitioner, teacher and founder of Om Yoga Shala





LET US ALWAYS MEET  
EACH OTHER WITH SMILE,  
FOR THE SMILE IS THE  
BEGINNING OF LOVE  
— MOTHER TERESA

# GOD'S GAME OF LOVE

Our life is but a game based on the law of love. It is a game in which God loves us and wants us to love Him and the creations back, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



When we come into this physical life, we are gifted a certain number of breaths. These breaths correlate to a measure of time counted by seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years. This is our real capital. We may think that the most important pursuit of life is the financial exchange of making money and spending it. But when we look at the big picture, the most important pursuit of life is making the best use of the time we have been given. We are here to accumulate spiritual wealth. Instead, we have been caught up by the attractive and colourful sights of this world that we think will bring monetary gain. At the end of this life, we will find that we have worked for

the wrong goal, and that we will leave this world with nothing. The fact is clear that no matter what we do with our life, our life will end one day. If we choose to play the game of life by investing all our time in the acquisition of wealth and property, we will be forced to leave it all behind in the end. When our last breath is taken, we must hand over our bank account and properties to those we have left behind. It stays in this world, while our soul departs this world. It is true, no doubt, that the world is based on an economic system in which we have to work to make a living to exchange it for the goods and services we need to take care of ourselves and our family. Spirituality does not require us to negate life and to live

REAL HAPPINESS IS FINDING JOY AND CONTENTMENT IN LIFE. PEOPLE, WHEN FACED WITH A TERMINAL DISEASE, NO LONGER CARE ABOUT MONEY, WHAT MATTERS IS THEIR FAMILY, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND FAITH IN GOD

off others, but rather to earn our own honest livelihood. But we should seek a healthy balance. We need to take stock of our money and our land, but also we need to take stock of how we spend our time. Real happiness is finding joy and contentment in life. Most people, when faced with a terminal disease, no longer care about money. The things that matter to them are their family, what they have accomplished in life, and their faith in God. These are intangible gifts. Love becomes more important. Love for their family, love for God, and what they did to express their love for humanity are the gifts they take with them into the beyond. So how best can we use our time? If we know that this life is but

a small part of our existence, and that as soul we have an existence that extended before this life and will extend beyond this life, then what is valued in the rest of our eternal existence?

## THE COMMODITY OF LOVE

The commodity that is most valued in the realms beyond this world, to which we all will go, is spiritual love. The soul is measured not by our financial records, but by the amount of love we have radiated to others. Did we love God? Did we love our fellow beings? Did we love all creation? Love is translated into thoughts, words, and deeds that are expressed in kindness to others. It is expressed in how much we care about others. It is demonstrated by how much we give of ourselves to help or serve others.

## WHICH GAME SHOULD WE PLAY?

As children, a popular game has been "Monopoly," in which one circles a game board through the throw of the dice. In this game, one lands on spaces with the names of properties. Players are given cash to spend, and they can buy the property with that cash. Then, they are able to build homes and hotels on that property, and charge rent each time another player lands on that spot. This game is quite long and children can spend hours engaged in it. It is so engaging they often forget about their homework or their other sports activities. This game of high finances or "Monopoly" is very similar to the game of the world, which has little to do with the true game of God.

God has another game going on. It is a game based on the law of love. It is a game in which God loves us and wants us to love God back. This love is not only between God and each created being. It is also having love for the entire family of God. God wants us to play the game of godly love.

## WHAT IS GOD'S GAME OF LOVE?

It is the game wherein we experience God's love for ourselves, and radiate that love to all around us. God is an ocean of bliss and love. When we connect with God, we are bathed in that ecstasy. It is more enjoyable than any game of this world. It is a happiness far beyond any possible in this world. We can play God's game of love through meditation, the process of taking our attention away from the world outside and focusing it within. It is through God's Game of Love that we experience the riches that lay latent within us, which will bring us unfathomable joy, Light and bliss.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDEN SOULS  
PRAMOD PATHAK

## Decline of democracy



The US Presidential election reiterated the obvious that the dividing line between a Dictatorship and a Democracy is thin. The drama was a reminded of events that took place hundred years ago in Germany and Italy, that saw rise of Hitler and Mussolini from nationalist democrats to exploitative autocrats. We must remember that a democracy's success or failure is determined by the values of the people at helm. A Democracy is not exactly a system of governance in which there are rulers and subjects. It is an arrangement in which the representatives of the people are given the responsibility to run the State on the principles of summum bonum. Leadership in an ideal Democracy has to be values driven, not power driven. Naturally, it is the character of the leadership that will ensure the sanctity of the system. There are no subjects in a Democracy. There are only citizens who have inalienable rights. They have obligations, too. To uphold the values enshrined in the constitution. Governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever a government becomes destructive of these ends, people have a right to change the government. The underlying assumptions are that the leadership that runs the government will accept the people's verdict. The catch is what if it doesn't? Democracy becomes dictatorship. This threat is always there. And everywhere. It is the leadership character that is critical. One man and his cohorts can make a Democracy degenerate into totalitarian regime. This possibility is always there. It is for this reason that maintaining the sanctity of democratic institutions is a crucial requirement. The checks and balances need to be continuously strengthened to ensure survival of a Democracy. The citizens have a holy duty towards this. Above petty interests, they need to rise. After all, who lives if the Democracy dies. We saw how Hitler killed Democracy in Germany. And all in the name of racial superiority which is a direct anti-thesis of Democracy that rests on the foundation of the golden rule that all men and women are created equal. Democracies thrive when they are responsive and welcome dissent. It is rather in the interest of Democracy to encourage dissent. Liberalism is the soul of dissent. Criticism is the feedback that helps a Democracy evolve. In corona times, we find that Heads of State have developed a propensity to consolidate power. Even in proclaimed and seasoned democracies. According to Economist Intelligence Unit, the present times have been the worst for democracies. The threat to Democracy was not from military coup but by elected governments. Why this has happened needs to be deliberated. The biggest stakeholder is the citizenry. It must rise to the occasion. Particularly when institutions that were to be neutral become partisan. Fear and half-truths are driving the corona times and chaos has become the order. Clues can be picked up from an interesting dialogue between Lord Ram and Sugriva when the latter refuses to rule Kishkindha stating that he wants to renounce and opt for sanyas. Lord Ram then delivers the golden rule that sanyasi is the ideal person to rule. This is what Plato said much later that philosophers should be kings. Abdicacy is the essence of Democracy.

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# CURB YOUR MOOD SWINGS

When feelings are intense and strong, they can cause disruption. But, there are ways you can regulate your mood swings, says DR ANJU SHARMA

We all experience mood swings. But what exactly is a mood swing? This can be explained as to a prompt change in mood from happiness to anger, irritability, and even depression. Some of us often describe mood swings as a "roller coaster" of feelings. When these feelings are very strong they can cause disruption. Some times we come across terms like anxiety and depression. Please understand that these two are different from each other. There's a marginal difference between anxiety and depression. When someone starts panicking about something it's called anxiety, whereas, in depression, usually an individual doesn't talk and becomes quite. Have you ever thought why we have mood swings? It's due to Hormonal changes. The neurotransmitters like Dopamine and Serotonin and hormones like Oxytocin plays a crucial role in our behaviour.

Neurotransmitters are chemical messengers that control countless functions and processes in your body, from sleep to metabolism. One of the neurotransmitters — Dopamine plays a huge role in terms of motivation and reward. When you put some efforts in achieving your goals and a sense of satisfaction on getting success is partly due to a rush of dopamine. Therefore, times when you feel a little demotivated, helpless and tired of certain tasks, this is often to dysfunction within your dopamine system. For Serotonin, experts believe that low serotonin levels result in depression. In terms of Oxytocin, it is said that if this high then the person is happy and sees good in everything.

Every single problem has its solution. To regulate your mood swings, exercise the following methods:

● **Include protein in your diet:** By adding protein to your meals can help



slow the absorption of carbohydrates in your blood and increase the discharge of dopamine, which can improve your mood and energy. ● **Exercise:** It is important to keep our physical and mental health in good shape. Exercise stimulates chemicals within the brain that improve your mood and make you feel more relaxed. The brain releases feel-good chemicals throughout the body. Physical activities enhance self-esteem and reduce depression. ● **Say no to unhealthy food:** It's said that processing those carbohydrate-heavy foods can cause you to feel an unpleasant feeling. Researches have proved that eating healthy can drastically change your mood and improve your way of life. ● **Meditation:** When you meditate at that point of time you channelise your mind

and energy to one thing with your Subconscious, unconscious and conscious mind. ● **Get proper and adequate sleep:** People that are sleep deprived experiences negative moods like anger, frustration, sadness etc. Therefore, it's important to have an equal amount of oxygen supply and CO<sub>2</sub> release. ● **Music Therapy:** Music can lift your mood, boost happiness and reduces anxiety. It also helps in improving our focus. Therefore, choose the genre of music you like and let the sound heal you from inside. Your body is your temple. Stay healthy, worship your mind, body and soul. The writer is a renowned Psychic reformer, Sound & Energy Master, Wellness-Holistic Coach and the founder of Musical Healing Band, *Sound of Infinity*

# Wishes as we get old...

As we get older, we are more aware about what is desirable and what is possible, and wish accordingly, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We all have many wishes. However, the nature of wishes may undergo a big change with age. For example, a child might wish to play games, eat fast food, go to a fun park, etc., whereas an old person may wish to sit in a park peacefully, eat simple foods, watch some spiritual programme, etc.

I have chosen ten wishes, which are common in old age or should be. But before I get into the details of these wishes, it is important that we understand that they have to be managed. Let me begin with my favourite wish, that is enjoy the company of God. This I try to ensure through several ways. I try to recite "Rama" as much as possible in the twenty four hours that I have. Even during sleeping hours, I try to chant whenever there is break in sleep. Then, I love to see Lord Krishna's photo; He is so beautiful. I do *namaskar* to Him many times during the day. The list goes on. What do I expect in return? I need guidance from the Omniscient. Who else? Similarly, I need His help, which is several times during the day. *Shaktis* of all kinds are always required. Who else than the Omnipotent to provide. Same is applicable for resources; the Master of the universe is the one to approach. The list is long; I need peace, *sukha*, protection, support, etc. The next big wish is to qualify for a great next birth. I am genuinely desirous of being born in a family of pure and prosperous. (*Bhagwad Gita* 6.41) I apply myself very seriously to deserve this privilege. I disseminate God's instructions in order to become dearest to Him. (18.68-69) I try to follow God's instructions as much as my nature permits. I wish to become exceedingly dear to God. (12.20) The



third wish is to finish all my responsibilities/duties up to date, that is when I leave my body. There are always some, but my wish is to keep fulfilling them as they arise. The fourth and a very important wish is to be able to live a normal life till the very last day, if my Lord will be so kind. I make multiple sacrifices in order to gain this boon. I eat in a very controlled way, my habits are on the good side, my enjoyments are healthy, etc. Surely, I hate to be dependent physically on anyone. So far so good; I am able to manage almost all my personal works except cooking and cleaning my room. Then, comes financial security. I have worked all my life to ensure this, and I continue to earn my living even now. It is tough to be materially active as well as please the Lord by my spiritual acts, but the kind Lord helps me in achieving this difficult balance. The idea is also to leave my descendants in a comfortable financial position. This is part of my legacy. There are other aspects of my legacy as well. My descendants are excellent to say to least.

We, human beings, have the responsibility to leave the world better than when we came in. Regular consultations go on with them in order to leave them with the best sanskars that I can manage. In order to do that I have to practice them, otherwise my wise counsel will not be effective. Surely, I wish to have the satisfaction of having a life well lived. So far so good in this regard with my hundreds of spiritual articles published in various newspapers and tens of books, which are purchased in good numbers in books-fairs. And I wish to leave with my name unblemished; no one should question my character. It is a tall order for anyone, but lot can be managed in the remaining time. To begin with, we must have clarity about what is desirable, what is possible, etc. Then, we must get serious to achieve all those wishes. If you have a good connection with God; He will help generously as He is helping me. I thank God for His mercies. Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



# Need for new wave of liberalism in Kerala temples

Discrimination at places of worship is not new to India. Irrespective of any belief systems, social prejudices, inequity and favouritism exist, though the forms and degree vary from religion to religion. However, it surprises us that such practices still exist and often gets patronised in the State of Kerala, which tops in almost all kinds of social parameters, including the Human Development Index (HDI). The issue becomes more serious, especially when practices of discrimination are observed in temples owned by the Devaswom Board, rather than by any individual or family or community.

The recent news about separate toilets being made available only for Brahmins by Kuttumukku Mahadeva temple managed by Devaswom Board at Thrissur in Kerala, surfaced in social media and was criticised by all. The temple authority had to withdraw its decision under pressure. True, we see the practice of separate toilets in most educational institutions for staff and non-staff (students or other visitors). But they are two forms of arrangements not based on any superiority of one type of people over others. The basis has never been caste, religion and race for such common facilities. Had the temple authority earmarked separate toilet for the priest or temple staff, the move could have been justifiable.

It is worth mentioning here that Devaswom Boards in Kerala were established with a noble purpose to undertake the management of the temples of Princely States of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar, to regulate their finances, maintenance and removal of pre-existing discriminatory practices (if any).

They were created by the Travancore-Cochin Religious Institutions Act (1950), regulated, empowered and expanded by subsequent laws passed in the State Legislative Assembly of Kerala. Though the establishment of Devaswom Board was considered to be an important reformative step, in reality, the tem-



ples owned by the Board have become one of the most discriminatory places for worship, persisting even in the 21st century. Several forms of social and economic differentiation such as separate queues based on payment, ban on the entry of non-Hindu devotees or visitors, priority to Brahmin for the post of priests, ban on entry on the basis of gender, removal of shirt, etc, continue to be practised in these religious institutions.

The price discrimination for *Darshan* (auspicious sight of a deity/idol) is found in Kerala only among the temples managed by Devaswom Board. The most visited Devaswom temples have provisioned separate queues based on payment, which simply means higher fee for entry into shorter and easier queues to save time, while ordinary people, who cannot

afford to pay or do not want to pay at all, face longer queues to take the *Darshan* of the deities. Moreover, all the devotees do not get similar kind of *Darshan* in the temple, some form of product differentiation is also applied to justify differential price, where devotees can get *Darshan* of deities at a close range if they pay higher.

This practice is found in the Sree Krishna Swamy temple in Guruvayoor, one of the most popular religious centres in Kerala, where a VIP queue system exists with a payment of Rs 1,000 for “Special *Darshan*”.

In another surreal practice, most of Devaswom Board temples do not allow non-Hindus to enter temple. A controversy had erupted in the State in 2007 when purification rituals were performed by the temple authority after some religious ceremony of former Union

Minister Vayalar Ravi’s grandson took place at the previously mentioned Guruvayur temple, since the Minister’s wife was a Christian. Similarly, legendary singer KJ Yesudas, a recipient of prestigious national awards such as Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan, who had sung some of the most popular devotional songs in praise of various Hindu deities, was not allowed to enter the Guruvayur and Kadampuzha Devi temple in Malappuram for being a non-Hindu. Later, he was allowed to enter the famous Sri Padmanabhaswami Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, which is not under any board, after years of waiting (Outlook Web Bureau 2017).

Similarly, Sabarimala Temple, another Devaswom Board owned institution, do not allow the entry of women

aged between 10 and 50. One may call it diversity, but it could have been better if the restrictions were made wholly on a voluntary basis, by making people aware of the old beliefs and practices of this ancient temple, and allowing the devotees themselves to decide whether to visit the temple or not.

It can also be found that Devaswom temples have not been considering people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes for the post of temple priest. Their first Scheduled Caste (SC) priest was appointed only in 2017, by the Travancore Devaswom Board (Balan 2017). It is noteworthy that Kerala had unique culture prior to the formation of Devaswom Board, where most of the temples were owned by a caste or community itself, who uses to appoint

their own caste people as temple priest. This practice can still be noticed in many parts of the State where rituals related to marriage and birth are performed by own caste people, expert in mantra vidya (chanting hymns) rather than by Brahmins.

However, there exists scores of private/trust run temples in Kerala which have been appointing persons from Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribal communities as their priests for many decades. Popular temples in Thiruvananthapuram such as Kollampuzha Devi temple in Attingal, Elambrakode Devi temple in Pallikkal, Mullanalloor Devi temple in Navayikulam have priests belonging to Paravar and Kuravar caste of SCs while priests of Venkamala Devi temple belong to Kaani communi-

ty of Tribals.

Similarly, the medieval practice of verifying “janau” (sacred thread) of people by removing the upper wear (shirt) is still practised in the temples owned by Devaswom Board, especially in Travancore region. For example, Sharkkara Devi temple, Sreekandeswaram temple, Pallippuram Devi temple, all in Thiruvananthapuram follow this custom. Interestingly, this practice is abandoned or discontinued by non-Devaswom Board temples.

The pertinent question is whether Hindu temples are getting more rigid or more liberal over the time. The answer is both yes and no. We can notice wave of liberalism in temples all over the country, and the temples in Kerala are no exception of it. But we can still notice such discriminatory practices in most of the temples owned by Devaswom Board i.e. Pattambi Guruvayur temple and Mulayankavu Bagavathy temple (both in Palakkad), Vadakumnatha temple and Kadampuzha temple (both in Thrissur), Kalar Bagavathi temple (Maruthur, Pattambi, also in Palakkad), Angadippuram temple, Thirumittakodu temple, Thirunavaya temple, Thiruvilwamala temple, and Sabarimala temple. Such discriminatory practices are not only bringing bad name to the religion but to the State as well.

It is very surprising that despite the fact that Communist Party of India (Marxist) and their allies, which claim to be religion-neutral and frequently proclaim themselves as a perennial supporter of social progress, did not initiate any reforms in the temples owned by State. It raises doubt on the intention of political dispensation if they want to continue these practices to vilify Hindu religion especially when these practices have been opposed by most of Hindus.

(Anish Gupta is an Assistant Professor of economics, Delhi University. The co-writer is a student of politics)

The recent news about separate toilets, one ‘only for Brahmins’, by Kuttumukku Mahadeva temple in Thrissur surfaced in social media. Thankfully, the temple authorities withdrew the decision after pressure mounted on them. It is high time the temple authorities annihilated such discriminatory practices that vilify the religion of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’



ANISH GUPTA



LALKRISHNA M

## PERSPECTIVE

# Effective public health communication must for Covid fight

The Covid-19 global pandemic has exposed the fault lines in how we communicate about public health. The pandemic has made it evident that public health communication is not only an important but indispensable part of our response to mitigate the ongoing global challenge



RAJNIKANT SRIVASTAVA



KAUSHIK BOSE

For the past few months, Governments, scientists, policymakers, foundations, businesses, and civil society members have been grappling with mitigating the Covid-19 pandemic.

The whole world is now looking towards a potential vaccine, with a couple of candidates displaying outstanding results in various phases of clinical trials. But it is critical to understand that a vaccine alone cannot be a magic bullet that can “end” the pandemic — we need social and behavioural changes that can help tackle the disease till an efficacious vaccine or a drug is discovered, and even after that. How do we ensure that people continue to follow simple measures like wearing masks, hand washing and physical distancing? The answer lies in effective public health communication.

The Covid-19 global pandemic has exposed the fault lines in how we communicate about public health. The pandemic has made it evident that public health communication is not only an important but indispensable part of our response to mitigate the ongoing global challenge.

According to the World Health Organization, in times of public health emergencies like the one we are currently in, people need to know what health risks they face and what actions they can take to protect their health and lives. Accurate information provided early, often, and in languages that people understand, trust, and use, enables individuals to stay informed and make choices to protect themselves, their fam-



Rajasthan Policemen ride on elephants during the ‘No Mask, No Entry’ campaign against the Covid-19 at Badi Chaurpar in Jaipur on Saturday

PTI

ilies and communities from foreseeable health hazards.

Another factor that effective public health communications can help address is misinformation. The WHO has identified an “infodemic” sur-

rounding the coronavirus — that is, “an overabundance of information and the rapid spread of misleading or fabricated news”. Coupled with the nature of the pandemic itself, where new evidence around the

disease is constantly coming to light — this has led to a deluge of information which has made it difficult for the general public to sift fact from fiction, especially on the Internet. Over the past months, we have seen the

circulation of several harmful “fake news” about the pandemic that has the potential to hamper response efforts and affect public behaviour.

This is where a clear and robust public health commu-

nication strategy can go a long way in dispelling myths and “fact-checking” misinformation. This is why, throughout the pandemic, the Indian Council of Medical Research has taken proactive steps to communicate regularly and effectively through press releases, website updates and via social media to help ensure that accurate information reaches the public.

Specific portals for information around Covid-19 and on vaccine development have been created, as well as a clinical registry for Covid-19. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also facilitated regular media interactions.

In this context, it is also necessary to ensure that any kind of public health messaging echoes through every rung of society and comes from sources that are trusted by the target audiences of those messages. We all remember the *Do Boond Zindagi Ki* campaign, carried out as part of the polio elimination campaign in India.

This iconic slogan became the cornerstone of this massive campaign and, delivered by Amitabh Bachchan, created much-needed awareness, even among hard-to-reach populations. The media also played a key role in the campaign, in fact, no public health communication strategy can hope to be successful without the support of the media. During the current pandemic, slogans such as *Do Gaj Doori Hai Zaroori* and *Jab Tak Dawai Nahi Tab Tak Dhillai Nahi* have helped communicate the importance of taking precautionary measures.

This is not the first pan-

demic we have seen, nor will this be the last. But today, we have a real opportunity to invest in building a conducive environment for public health communications in the country. And for that to happen, we need to encourage collaboration between technical experts — doctors, scientists, public health researchers — and communication experts — social and behavioural scientists, communicators and the media.

For technical experts, now is the time to arm ourselves with an arsenal of communication tools, so that we can effectively communicate nuances of a complex disease and its effects to the larger public in a way that is understandable and engaging. For communicators, this is a time to leverage increasing public interest in health and engage more and more technical experts to champion public health issues in the community. Only if we come together can we create an environment where everyone has access to timely, accurate and trusted information that can directly impact their health and save thousands of lives in the long run.

(Rajnikant Srivastava is Director of Regional Medical Research Institute (ICMR-RMRC) in Gorakhpur, and Scientist G & Head, Research Management, Policy, Planning and Communication, ICMR Headquarters and currently heads the communications unit at ICMR. Kaushik Bose is vice president, Global Health Strategies, New Delhi)





**Lucky number** 20  
**Lucky colour** Pink  
**Lucky day** Monday

**Lucky number** 12  
**Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Saturday

**Lucky number** 18  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Tuesday

**Lucky number** 19  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday

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# Set your priorities straight

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