



OPINION 8

MISSING
MAN, RIP!

WORLD 11

ANOTHER JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP'S
TIKTOK BAN; APP STILL IN LIMBO

AVENUES 12

MUST HAVE SKILLS FOR
PROJECT MANAGERS

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

AUS BEAT INDIA
BY 12 RUNS IN
THIRD T20I
14 SPORT

Today's talks put off as farmers won't meet halfway

Amit Shah promises to give in writing for amendments; farmer unions insist on repeal of laws; their leaders to hold meeting at Singhu border over Centre's proposal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A Bharat Bandh wound to a mostly peaceful close, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday met the farmer leaders ahead of the sixth round of talks between Central Ministers and farmer representatives on Wednesday but the two-and-half hours meeting remained inconclusive as the Government made it clear that amendments can be made but the farm laws won't be repealed. The farmer leaders refused to accept anything less the repeal of the laws.

Shah invited all 13 farmer unions on Tuesday to discuss a way out by promising to give in writing that Government will bring in amendments, but the farmers refused his proposal. This was the first time that Shah met farmers' leaders to discuss their concerns and demands. The Government will send a proposal for the consideration of farmers and the unions will hold a meeting to discuss the same.

With this, the sixth round of talks between farmer leaders and the Government scheduled for Wednesday has been canceled, All India Kisan Sabha

general secretary Hannan Mollah said after meeting with Shah. "We'll decide on next round of talks after consulting others," said Hannan Mollah. At the meeting, Shah proposed written assurances on amendments on minimum support price and APMC. The new proposals will be given to farm unions on Wednesday.

The meeting between Shah and the leaders of the protesting farmers on Tuesday got delayed owing to confusion over the venue of the meeting. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7pm but it began after 8pm as some of the union leaders were not ready to hold the meeting at Shah's residence. Finally, the meeting was shifted to the office of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal too were present.

Farmer leader Ruldu Singh Mansa returned saying he won't be part of meeting due to confusion over venue. In a social media post, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, who was not invited to the meeting, said there was no need for the talks before official consultations. The

meeting appeared to have created a discord among the organisations spearheading the protests on Delhi borders for the past 12 days.

Continued on Page 11



Farmers protest at Tikri border against Centre's farm reform laws in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Bharat Bandh evokes mixed reaction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharat Bandh observed by farmer unions and supported by 22 political parties and a number of trade unions on Tuesday evoked a mixed response. The wholesale and

Normal life disrupted in several parts of country, but many parts were unaffected; transport industry incurs ₹2K cr loss

retail mandis remained closed in several States even as several shops, commercial establishments, industrial houses,

shopping malls kept their shutters open.

All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), repre-

senting about 95 lakh truckers and other entities, had announced to suspend operations in the country to support the Bharat Bandh called by agitating farmers. The AIMTC said the support to the farmers' Bharat Bandh call was successful, and the transport industry incurred a loss of ₹2,000 crore on account of halting operations.

"The transport fraternity support to farmers has been highly successful...About 90 lakh trucks, tempo, trailers stood still on the call of AIMTC and the transport industry too bore losses of about ₹2,000 crore," AIMTC president Kulturn Singh Atwal said. AIMTC in a statement said it will continue to extend support to farmers.

"The support by the transport fraternity to the Bharat Bandh call by farmers is successful, peaceful and voluntary," AIMTC secretary general Naveen Gupta said.

Normal life was disrupted in several parts of the country especially in the Opposition-ruled States. Shops and commercial establishments stayed

closed, transport service was affected and protesters squatted on key roads and rail tracks during the bandh. However, in many parts of the country, the normal life remained unaffected.

The bandh has been largely peaceful except in Jaipur where the BJP Yuva Morcha workers and the Congress workers clashed while holding a protest while in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, police used water cannons to disperse agitators who were led by a Congress leader. Incidents of arson have been reported from Rajkot and Sabarkantha and Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets in parts of Gujarat.

Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav has claimed the bandh was observed at 10,000 places in 25 States across the country.

Farmers blocked national highways and other key roads at many places in Punjab and Haryana as part of their nationwide protest to press for repeal of the farm laws. Shops and commercial establishments remained closed at most places in Punjab and several places in Haryana as traders backed the agitating farmers.

Continued on Page 11

Protests peaceful in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bharat Bandh called by farmer organisations on Tuesday in protest against the new agricultural laws drew mixed response in Uttar Pradesh. Various opposition parties had supported the Bharat Bandh call and the administration was fully prepared to deal with any untoward incident.

The state government spokespersons claimed that the bandh passed off peacefully with almost no impact on normal life. At some places, the political activists tried to create disturbance but timely action by the administration prevented them from doing so. Several persons were taken into custody but later released in the evening. There was no significant impact of the bandh in the state capital Lucknow. In other districts of the state too, the bandh drew lukewarm response.

However, Samajwadi Party (SP) workers supporting the Bharat Bandh call had fierce clashes with the police in various districts of the state. There were reports of clashes between the SP workers and police in Basti, Bahraich, Gorakhpur, Chandauli, Sonbhadra, Etawah and some other districts of the state. According to the reports received here, the police also lathi-charged the SP workers.

The SP leaders and activists were also put under house arrest at some places. Former minister Arvind Singh Gope of the Samajwadi Party was put



Police personnel asking traders to open shops in Naka, Lucknow

Pioneer

under house arrest in Barabanki. In Rae Bareilly, SP leader Manoj Pandey was put under house arrest while SP MLA Amitabh Bajpai was detained in his house in Kanpur Nagar.

In Lucknow, SP Legislative Council members Rajpal Kashyap, Anand Bhadoria, Sunil Sajjan and Ashu Malik staged a sit-in in front of Chaudhary Charan Singh's statue in Vidhan Bhawan in support of the Bharat Bandh.

UP Congress Committee president Ajay Kumar Lallu said that his party workers were targeted by the police in almost every district of the state. He said that this kind of action would not deter the Congress and the party would continue to fight for the farmers. UPPCA administration head Siddharth Priya Srivastava said

that the government did everything to suppress the bandh and the process started with the arrest of Congress leaders since late night in various districts of the state.

He said that hundreds of party workers, including UP Sewa Dal chief Prahlad Yadav, who were supporting the bandh in Varanasi had put under house arrest. He said several district unit presidents were also put under house arrest while many others were arrested on Tuesday morning.

In Lucknow, Congress city unit chief Mukesh Chauhan and district unit president Ved Prakash Singh led the demonstration at the district headquarters. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Radhey faction) national president Radhe Lal Yadav said that the government

Continued on Page 11

5-member Opp team to call on Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties have announced to call on President Ramnath Kovind on Wednesday to apprise him of the situation arising out of farmers' protest over the farm laws. The joint delegation will include Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar and others, said CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury. The Opposition parties had last met and requested the President not to give his assent to the controversial laws which has now become an Act.

NCP president Sharad Pawar said leaders from dif-

ferent political parties will discuss and take a collective stand on the contentious farm laws before meeting President Ram Nath Kovind.

"Leaders from different political parties (those opposing the farm laws) will sit, discuss and take a collective stand on the contentious farm laws before meeting President Ram Nath Kovind," said the former Agriculture Minister.

Pawar also met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday though the meeting was pertaining to discussions on land acquisition for the Purandar airport in Pune district.

Earlier in the day former

Congress president Rahul Gandhi urged people to support the Bharat Bandh call given by farmer leaders and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop "stealing" from farmers.

Congress and almost 15 Opposition parties are supporting the farmers' agitation and they have demanded a repeal of the three farm laws.

"Modi ji, stop stealing from farmers. All fellow citizens know that today is Bharat Bandh. Make our food growers' struggle successful by fully supporting it," Rahul said in a tweet in Hindi.

Continued on Page 11

Kejriwal under house arrest, claims AAP, Delhi Police reject allegation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that the Delhi Police put Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal under house arrest after he met protesting farmers at the Singhu border. However, the Delhi Police denied the claim, saying the Chief Minister was free to go anywhere.

Later, Kejriwal said, "I wanted to sit with farmers today as an aam aadmi but was not allowed to go. I hope that the Centre will soon accept all the demands of the farmers so that farmers are not forced to spend nights in shivering cold."

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj claimed the Delhi Police had put barricades at all the sides of the CM residence and no one was allowed to meet him.

"Our MLAs were supposed to meet the Delhi Chief Minister but the Delhi Police did not allow them to meet. Moreover, the Delhi Police harassed and beat up party MLAs and volunteers," he said.

Bhardwaj said, "The BJP-ruled Central Government is scared because if Delhi Chief Minister comes out of his residence and stands beside the farmers today in support of the Bharat Bandh called by the

farmers then the lies of the BJP will be exposed. The BJP is scared because they have been lying continuously and want to stop the CM to stand with the farmers in their protest."

"The Delhi Police Commissioner was informed about the fact that the Delhi Police barricaded the CM residence. When we informed the Delhi police Commissioner he expressed his helplessness on the recent situation. The Delhi Police officials have informed us that this is happening under the instruction of the BJP-ruled Central Government," he claimed.

Continued on Page 11

In a first, Army chief to visit UAE, Saudi Arabia as relations strengthen

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signifying growing defence and strategic ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, Army Chief General MM Naravane on Tuesday commenced a week-long visit to these two nations. He will discuss the entire range of military relations with his counterparts and also explore ways to invite manufacturers from there to invest in Indian defence industry.

More than ten million Indian expatriates are residing in these two countries. Their annual remittances are pegged more than 45 billion dollars.

This will be the first visit to Saudi Arabia and UAE by an Indian army chief, underlining fast-developing relations between the two nations.

Naravane's visit comes at a time when Pakistan's relations with the Saudi Arabia and UAE are under pressure. Peeved over Islamabad's criticism of Riyadh's position on the Kashmir issue, Saudi Arabia recently sought the early repayment of a \$3-billion loan provided to the Imran Khan Government in 2018.

During the first leg of his tour, Naravane will visit the UAE from December 9 to 10.

Continued on Page 11

Mt Everest now 8,848.86m tall

PTI ■ KATHMANDU/BEIJING

Nepal and China on Tuesday jointly announced that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest is 8,848.86 metres, about 86 centimetres more than the previous measurement done by India in 1954.

The Nepal Government decided to measure the exact height of the mountain amid debates that there might have been a change in it due to various reasons, including the devastating earthquake of 2015.

The new height of Mt Everest, the world's highest peak, is 8,848.86 metres, China and Nepal jointly announced on Tuesday, China's state-run Xinhua news agency said in a brief report. Nepal recalculates the height of Mount Everest at 8848.86 metres, the country's Foreign Minister



Pradeep Gyawali announced in Kathmandu.

According to China's past measurement, the height of Mount Everest is 8844.43 metres which were four metres less than Nepal's calculations.

In Tibetan language, Mount Everest is known as Mount Qomolangma. China

and Nepal settled their border dispute in 1961 with the boundary line passing through the summit of Mount Everest. Mount Everest is located in the collision and compression zone between the edges of the Indian plate and the Eurasian plate, where crustal movement is very active.

Yogi directive to increase beds in Covid hospitals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Directing officials to maintain complete vigilance to contain novel coronavirus infection, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked them to increase beds in the Covid hospitals in Lucknow, Meerut, Varanasi, Kanpur Nagar, Jhansi, Ghaziabad and Gorakhpur districts.

The chief minister, who was presiding over an unlock review meeting at his official residence here on Tuesday, also directed officials to continue contact tracing and surveillance systems actively and pay special attention to contact tracing. "Vigilance is the only defence until an effective medicine or vaccine is available for COVID-19," he said, adding

that the Team-11 was working with coordination and was giving good results and it should be continued.

Directing officials to ensure that the Integrated Command and Control Centre operated actively, the chief minister said that its role in preventing the spread of COVID-19 was very important. He also stressed on random testing for COVID-19 infection.

The chief minister also directed officials to prepare the COVID-19 vaccine cold chain on the lines of the cold chain made for the polio vaccine and said that concrete safety arrangements should be made at the storage centres being set up for the COVID-19 vaccine.

CAPSULE

CENTRE NOT NEED GREEN NOD FOR NH WORKS: SC

New Delhi: The Central Government is not required to obtain "prior environmental or forest clearance" under the laws before declaring a stretch as national highway (NH) and expressing its intention to acquire the land for building, maintenance or operating such roads, the Supreme Court held on Tuesday.

90-YR-OLD MAGGIE FIRST TO GET ANTI-COVID JAB

London: A 90-year-old British grandmother, Margaret "Maggie" Keenan, on Tuesday became the first person in the world to receive the Pfizer/BioNTech jab against Covid-19 as the UK kicked off its biggest-ever vaccine campaign in history. At 6:31 am GMT early riser Margaret was given the life-saving vaccine. P8

Bharat Bandh call evokes mixed response

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The call for Bharat Bandh evoked mixed response in the state capital on Tuesday, with the district administration officials claiming that the situation remained normal in both urban and rural areas. Representatives of farmers' organisations, however, insisted that they got full support as farmers did not carry their produce to mandis and blockades were held in Gosainganj, Nigoha and Sultanpur road.

In Lucknow, markets and shops remained open since morning. Vegetable mandis also functioned normally, though there was some problem at Dubagga mandi in the morning. UPSRTC officials said though the passenger count was low, the buses were functioning in a normal manner and they faced no problems.

District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said: "Everything remained normal in both urban and rural parts of the district. Senior officials monitored the situation round the clock and we held dialogues with farmer organisations and labour groups. As a precautionary measure, section 144 had been imposed across the entire district."

ADM, trans-Gomti, said all the mandis, including the



Officials at Dubagga Mandi following reports of forced closure on Tuesday morning

Pioneer

ones on Sitapur road mandi and in Dubagga, functioned normally. Mandi secretary Sanjay Singh said some local trader leaders tried to create problems and close the Dubagga mandi but that they reached and handled the situation.

President of Adarsh Vyapar

Mandal Sanjay Gupta said traders did not support the Bharat Bandh call.

However, president of the Lucknow Chapter of Bharatiya Kisan Union Gurmeet Singh claimed that the Bharat Bandh was successful and they got hundred percent support from

farmers. "We held blockades on Sultanpur road from 1 pm to 2 pm, in Nigoha on Rae Bareilly road from 11 am to 2:30 pm and Gosainganj from 11 am to 2:30 pm. We allowed only wedding processions and ambulances to pass through," he said.

He claimed that they got full

support from farmers who brought no fresh vegetables, fruits or dairy products to the local markets. "In the local markets too, 40 percent shops remained closed," he added.

RLD STATE PRESIDENT UNDER HOUSE ARREST

State president of Rashtriya Lok Dal Masood Ahmad was placed under house arrest when he was leaving for the party office in Hazratganj on Tuesday morning. Party leaders condemned police action. Party spokesman Surendra Trivedi said state president of Yuva RLD Ambuj Patel, along with leaders such as Chandrakant Awasthi, BL Premi, Ikaram Singh, Ramawati Tiwari, Preeti Srivastava and others, courted arrest while protesting near Vidhan Bhawan.

S-I SUSPENDED

Incharge Badali Kheda police outpost in Sarojininaragar was suspended for forcing people to close their shops after a video went viral. Sub-inspector Ram Sudhar Yadav was seen instructing Shubham Gupta and Sonu Gupta to down their shutters in view of Bharat Bandh in the morning. As the video went viral, senior officials took cognisance and the S-I was suspended.

Immunisation: Health officials' tryst with operational guidelines

233 test +ve, 336 recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A virtual orientation programme on operational guidelines for Covid-19 vaccination was organised for health officials by Central government on Tuesday. CMO, who is also the district immunisation officer, was present on the occasion. The health officials were imparted training in how to carry out the immunisation for Covid-19.

Regarding the containment activities in the district, a senior health official said target sampling is going on in focused areas as part of the 14-day exercise which will conclude next week. "Out of the 11,000 samples being tested on a daily basis, 800 to 1,000 are collected from Gomtinagar, Indiranagar, Sarojininaragar, Chinhat and Aliganj which have maximum coronavirus cases," the officials said. However, very few people have tested positive and it shows that the infection is being spread by the contacts of patients, he pointed out.

On Tuesday, 233 persons tested positive for coronavirus

in Lucknow while 336 patients recovered. The death toll in the state capital reached 1,033 and there are 3,244 active cases in the district. The fresh cases included 25 from Gomtinagar, 23 from Indiranagar, 17 from Vikasnagar, 15 from Rae Bareilly road, 14 from Ashiyana, 13 from Talkatora, 11 from Madaon, and 10 each from Hazratganj, Chowk & Mahanagar. Across the state, 1,824 persons tested positive, including 79 in Kanpur, 187 in Ghaziabad, 114 in Gautam Buddhagar, 126 in Varanasi and 148 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,58,173. There were 23 deaths in the state, including four in Lucknow, two each in Kanpur, Varanasi, Basti & Shahjahanpur, and one each in Prayagraj, Gautam Buddhagar, Meerut, Moradabad, Sitapur, Gonda, Sonbadra, Bijnor & Firozabad.

Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar claimed that the situation is under control in Lucknow and less people are testing positive because of the scientific approach being employed for containment activities.

"The teams work round the clock and there is no relaxation. The scientific system includes 100 percent home iso-

lation and contact tracing," Kumar said.

Director of RMLIMS Dr AK Singh said they are in the process of holding a meeting with SGPGI and KGMU and tabulating the protocols in terms of treatment.

Singh said even bodies such as WHO come up with unified protocols after brainstorming with experts. "Having a unified protocol of treatment for the entire state will help," he said. He said they will be increasing 110 Covid beds in the first phase and 115 in the second. He added that they have tested over six lakh samples.

Meanwhile, medical superintendent of Lok Bandhu Hospital Dr PN Ahirwar said there are 45 Covid patients and the ICU is full to capacity.

Meanwhile, Indian Medical Association staged a symbolic protest on Tuesday against the Central government's move of creating mixedpathy in the medicine. Secretary JD Rawat said the government's move of allowing Ayurveda doctors to perform at least 50 surgeries was wrong because modern medicine has its own importance and the streams of the traditional medicine should be kept independent and not allowed to be mixed.

Left leaders ask govt to release protesters

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Left wing parties asked the state government to release the protesters immediately and without any condition. In a joint statement, state secretary of Communist Party of India Girish, state secretary of Communist Party of India (M) Heeralal Yadav, state secretary of Communist Party of India (ML) Sudhakar Yadav and convenor of Forward Block Abhinay Kushwaha said the party workers and leaders made the Bharat Band a success. They said leaders and workers staged demonstrations, burnt effigies of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi & corporates, and blocked roads across the state.

They said different trade unions, women's organisations, advocates, transport & mandi workers took part in the protest on Tuesday. The leaders said that it was a farmers' bandh call and not of the traders, and opening of shops should not be parameter to claim that it was a damp squib.

In Lucknow, CPI (ML) leader Sudhakar Yadav and others — Ramesh Sengar, Radhe Shyam Maurya, Meena and Shiva Razwar — were arrested at Parivartan Chowk while taking out a protest march. They were later taken to Eco Garden. Likewise CPI (ML) leaders were arrested in Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Ballia, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Mathura, Kanpur, Mirzapur and other districts.

Sudhakar Yadav said the police had started conducting raids at the houses of party leaders since midnight to detain or place them under house arrest, and the action continued till late evening on Tuesday. In Lucknow, the police remained alert and kept a close watch on protesters who were trying to get the shops closed. Shop-owners said they had already suffered huge losses due to the lockdown and they could not afford to shut down their establishments when the business was picking up due to the ongoing wedding season.

Youth thrashed, over refusal to pay extortion

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was thrashed and attacked with a knife when he refused to pay extortion to a group of youths in Madaon on Tuesday. The victim also accused the attackers of looting cash from him. However, police claimed that both the parties had an enmity and a cross-FIR was lodged in this connection. As per reports, Ajay Verma, a private company employee, was returning home around 11:30 pm on Sunday when he stopped at Engineer College crossing to have tea and found Anubhav Srivastava and his aides there. Ajay alleged that Anubhav and his aides demanded extortion from him and thrashed him over his refusal. He further alleged that they attacked him with a knife and looted Rs 1,800 from him before fleeing the scene. Contrary to his claim, Anubhav alleged that Ajay and his aides thrashed him.

In another case, a man thrashed his wife and bit her tongue during a brawl at their house in Para on Monday night. The victim, identified as Suman of Bhaptamau village in the area, alleged that her husband Rachit returned home in a drunken state and picked up a fight with her without any provocation. "He choked my throat and as I stuck my tongue out, he bit it," she alleged.

YOUTH FOUND HANGING

A youth working with a plywood factory was found hanging from a tree in Chinhat on Tuesday. He was missing since Monday evening as he did not return home from the factory. He was identified as Sandeep (22) of Anaura Kala village. Father Dhaniram said Sandeep left the house around 8 am on Monday but did not return. "We tried contacted him but he remained untraceable. On Tuesday, a villager spotted him hanging from a tree," Dhaniram told the police.



मिशन रोजगार

निष्पक्ष एवं पारदर्शी भर्ती प्रक्रिया के अन्तर्गत

उत्तर प्रदेश अधीनस्थ सेवा चयन आयोग द्वारा सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग के नवचयनित

3209

नलकूप चालकों

को नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण एवं पदस्थापना तथा संवाद



योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश
द्वारा
गरिमामयी उपस्थिति
डॉ. महेन्द्र सिंह
मंत्री, जल शक्ति, उत्तर प्रदेश

बलदेव सिंह ओलख
राज्यमंत्री, जल शक्ति
उत्तर प्रदेश

विजय कश्यप
राज्यमंत्री, राजस्व एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण
उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 09 दिसम्बर, 2020 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ



सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Sub-inspector accused of killing daughter for ‘honour’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A police sub-inspector posted in Jaunpur allegedly killed his daughter and later cremated the body to conceal the crime. The killing took place in Chandauli district in the name of saving family honour but the local police took no action claiming that the matter was still under investigation.

Reports said that Ankit Yadav, a native of Alinagar in Chandauli, was in love with Priti Yadav who was preparing for her medical entrance test.

Annoyed by her affair, Priti's parents settled her marriage

with another boy in Varanasi but Priti refused to marry another boy on which her family members brutally assaulted and even threatened her with dire consequences. Priti, however, informed Ankit about this development on November 9. Before the family members could marry her somewhere else, both the lovers went to court and entered into wedlock. They also got their marriage registered. Later Ankit's family called both and organised a ceremony to get them married before their relatives and neighbours on November 25. According to Ankit, his in-laws later hatched

a plan and took them in confidence saying that they wanted to get their daughter married properly before their relatives and asked him to send her back. Ankit said he allowed Priti to go back but he was shocked that soon after she reached her parent's house, they got her killed in the name of saving the family honour. Not only this, they also cremated her body to conceal the crime. When Ankit learnt that Priti was killed for marrying him, he lodged a report at the Alinagar police station and her father Mahendra Yadav, mother Prabhawati Devi and half-a-dozen other kin.



LUCKY ESCAPE: A lawyer had a providential escape when his SUV caught fire all of a sudden at PICUP flyover under Vibhuti Khand police station area on Tuesday afternoon and he was alerted by a passerby. As per reports, Mohammed Khaliil of Husainganj was going to a service centre via the flyover. A passerby, identified as Sarfaraz, spotted smoke emanating from the bonnet of Khaliil's SUV and he alerted him. Khaliil stopped the vehicle, got down and opened the bonnet to check what was wrong. However, the flames engulfed the SUV in no time. Later, a police team, along with a fire tender, reached the scene and doused the flames

Pioneer

उपग्रह पावर ट्रान्समिशन कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा संख्या 09 / विभागांक(गुल) / 2020-21

निविदा संख्या - 09 / विभागांक(गुल) / 2020-21 के अन्तर्गत 132 कौवीर उपकेंद्र मोहनलालगंज, लखनऊ पर सेवकालिका निर्माण तथा अन्य कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है। ई-निविदा दिनांक 28.12.2020 को 12.00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अनिवार्य की जा सकती है। निविदा मांग-1 खुले की तिथि 28.12.2020, समय 14.00 बजे, मांग-2 (ग्राइस पार्स) खुले की तिथि तदनुसार ई-वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 236/- मात्र (रु 200.00 + जीएसटी 18 प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त)। सन्दर्भित निविदा हेतु घरोरघ घनराशि रु 2,000/- मात्र है। कार्य की कुल मात्रा, निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम एवं शर्त ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है। अयोध्यावासी को बिना कारण बाधे निविदा निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा। निविदा तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बंधित सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल वेबसाइट पर डाली जायेगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपर्युक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखें। **अधिसूचना अधिसूचना, विस्तार पत्रण खण्ड-तृतीय, लखनऊ। पत्रांक-1221, दिनांक-08.12.2020 "सुप्रसिद्ध बिजली बचाये"**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender Notice Date: 04.12.2020

Open E-Tender Notice

For & on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), Prayagraj North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites **Open E-tender** in prescribed forms from reputed company with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work up to **15:00 Hrs.** of Date of opening of tender :- **S.N.- 1, E-tender Notice no. : NCR-M-PRYJ-Net-20-20, Name of work- Provision of 36 Nos. USB modem with Sim for Internet connectivity for 13 enroute C&W point over PRYJ division for 03 years. Bidding System- Single packet system, Tender Value (₹)- ₹6,10,182.72, E.M.D. (₹) - ₹12,20,000, Cost of tender Form (₹) - Free, Period of work - 3 Year, Date of publishing on IREPS website - 14.12.2020, Date of opening of tender - 05.01.2021, Similar work definition for minimum eligibility Criteria - NA. Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender booklet of above E-Tenders will be available/ uploaded since Date of publishing on IREPS Website and shall be remained on Website www.ireps.gov.in, up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 6. E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. 7. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of E-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 8. Any firm recognized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as 'Startups' shall be exempted from payment of earnest money deposit detailed above. 100% Govt. owned PSUs shall be exempted from payment of earnest money deposit detailed above. Labour Cooperative Societies shall deposit only 50% of above earnest money deposit detailed above. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Online E-Tender can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 1360/2020 V 24X7 PASSENGER HELP LINE NO.: 138**

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EE-5/2020-21/D-348 Date : 08.12.2020

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: EE-5/10/2020-21

Bids are invited for consultancy work as per details given :-

S.No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (in Lacs)	A&F	Nature of Work	Last Date
1.	JDA2021SLOB00289	490.00	152/2020-21	Consultancy Work	28.12.2020

Details are available at Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj. Samwad/C/2020-21/7457 Executive Engineer-5

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARIPADA,
Tel. 06792-254029, Fax No. 06792-259464, E-Mail : eerwss_bdp@rediffmail.com, eerwss_bdp@ori.nic.in
Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Notice.
Bid Identification No. 30 of 2020-21, Date: 25.11.2020

- Nature of the work : Execution/Retrofitting of Rural Piped Water Supply New/Commissioned Project under different Blocks of Mayurbhanj District in Lump-sum rate contract. (10 packages).
- Estimated Cost : 99.95 lakh to 192.03 lakhs.
- Period of Completion : 300 days.
- Date and time of availability of bid document in portal From 11 hour of 11.12.2020 to 21.12.2020 upto 17 hours.
- Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Both Technical & Financial Bid For each package Upto 17 hours of 21.12.2020.
- Name and address of the O.I.T. : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Baripada.
- Date & Time for Opening of Tender : 22.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
- Corrigendum and addendum if any shall only be published in the above website <http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in>

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement Portal : "https://tendersodisha.gov.in" Executive Engineer RWS&S Division, Baripada OIPR-25014/11/0007/2021

RMLIMS security guard, ward boy attacked

Lucknow (PNS): Five attendants of a patient attacked a ward boy and a security guard of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences with knives during a brawl over their alleged carelessness in treatment and crass behaviour on Tuesday. The hospital staff nabbed the accused and later handed

them over to police. The police registered a case against the accused and detained them. The accused were identified as Akash Kumar Verma, Arjun Kumar Verma, Aditya Kumar Verma (all of Gonda), Ritik Gupta and Deva Nishad (both of Gomti Nagar). As per reports, the group

of men had come to the hospital as attendants of a patient. On Tuesday morning, a ward boy, Sachin, stopped them from entering a ward as a senior doctor was on a visit. Enraged over this, they indulged in a verbal spat with Sachin and attacked him. Security guard Sanatan Kumar rushed to Sachin's

rescue but he was also attacked.

Later, another ward boy, Jai Prakash, and others rushed to the scene and, with the help of some other attendants, overpowered the attackers and handed them over to the police. Sources said one of the accused had a criminal background.

CITYBRIEFS

WI-FI SERVICES IN ENTIRE CITY

The 12th Smart City board meeting on Tuesday resolved to Wi-Fi facility will be provided across Lucknow. It was also decided that an ATM Health would be established in coordination with SGP GIMS. The representatives of SGP GIMS were also present at the meeting and they were consulted on the issue. Officials said it would help in telemedicine health facilities through which poor and middle class families could benefit. It was also decided to have an LED screen at Kaiserbagh crossing and open air restaurants at Nagar Nigam parks. The meeting also decided on the promotion of cashless transaction. It was also decided to keep the environment clean and for

that, bus depots would be constructed at five points in the city for charging of electric buses.

LU SIGNS MoU WITH NBRI

A memorandum of understanding was signed on Tuesday between the University of Lucknow and National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI). LU Vice-Chancellor AK Rai, dean of research cell Monisha Banerjee, dean of academic cell Arvind Mohan, Vivek Srivastava from NBRI, Sudhir Mehrotra (head of LU's Biochemistry department) and others were present on the occasion. According to LU authorities, the MoU is aimed at facilitating and promoting multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary

research activities, sharing of expertise & resources, through the participation of students, research scholars, scientists and faculties, of these signing institutions.

POWER EMPLOYEES STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS

All India Power Engineers Federation claimed that around 15 lakh power employees and engineers across the country staged demonstrations in support of farmers and against the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The power employees are opposing the amendment in the Electricity Act which provides for eliminating subsidy for all categories of power consumers.

‘Underground sand won’t affect Ayodhya temple construction’

IANs ■ AYODHYA

The sand layers found below the ground at the Ram Janambhoomi temple site in Ayodhya, will not affect construction of the temple. “Experts have found sand below the ground but it has not come as a surprise. Loose sand was expected as Ayodhya is situated on the banks of river Saryu,” said Anil Mishra, member of the Shri Ram Janambhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. He said, “Take the example of Taj Mahal. It stands on a land that has loose sand underneath but it has caused no damage to the structure.” He said experts were working to finalize the laying of foundation.

The chairman of Ram Mandir construction committee, Nripendra Mishra, is in Ayodhya on a two-day visit to finalise details related to the ongoing foundation work of temple.

Mishra visited the Ram Janambhoomi premises on Monday with Mishra, treasurer Govind Dev Giri, trust secretary Champat Rai, and experts from Larsen and Toubro (L&T) and Tata Consultancy Services to take stock of the work. Later, he held a meeting with experts

‘EXPERTS HAVE FOUND SAND BELOW THE GROUND BUT IT HAS NOT COME AS A SURPRISE. LOOSE SAND WAS EXPECTED AS AYODHYA IS SITUATED ON THE BANKS OF SARYU’

and trustees at Faizabad circuit house. Though there was no official briefing by the trust regarding the meeting, sources said the committee was pushing for speedy construction of the temple.

Mishra said: “Experts are trying to ensure that the foundation of the grand Ram temple is strong enough to last, at least, 1,000 years.” Earlier, there were reports that loose sand below the ground was delaying the foundation laying work and it was discussed how the pillars would be jammed and made sturdy to give strength to the structure. IIT-Madras is working on soil testing of the foundation of Ram Mandir and the trust has already started shifting of carved stones from Karsevakpuram workshop to the temple premises.

Number of Haj applicants declines due to Covid-19

Lucknow: The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has clearly affected the Haj pilgrimage, as there were only 3,200 applicants from Uttar Pradesh to travel in 2021, compared to last year's 29,000. The window for online and offline applications opened on November 7 and the last date for depositing the form is December 10.

Officials have said that the pandemic was one of the main reasons for a lesser number of Haj applications this year. Not even a single woman has applied under the category of 'without mehram' (only women group). Under the category, women can apply in the groups of three. The Haj Committee of India has reserved 500 seats for such women. With nothing final on the number of pilgrims to be allowed by Saudi Arabia, the quota of states has not been decided as yet.

No one knows how many pilgrims would be visiting

Mecca and Medina from Uttar Pradesh next year.

However, the Secretary State Haj Committee, Rahul Gupta, said: “We want to send the maximum number of pilgrims for Haj but some things are not in our hands. We cannot comment on the quota of Uttar Pradesh because we are still awaiting directives about the numbers.” He admitted that Covid was having a major effect on Haj pilgrims and the number of boarding points for Haj in Uttar Pradesh have already been reduced.

There will be no Haj flight from Varanasi this year. Boarding points for the pilgrimage all over the country have been reduced from 21 to 10. Uttar Pradesh pilgrims can board Haj flights from Lucknow or Delhi. However, the reduction of boarding points also indicates a reduction in quota of Haj pilgrims this year.

IANs

SIMI member on 10-day police remand

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Delhi police took Abdullah Danish on 10 days remand to clear the doubts that the Delhi Police and agencies have about him. Since the establishment of SIMI, there are many questions about the connection to the Indian Mujahideen, whose answers are yet to be revealed. His family, relatives and close friends are also on the radar of agencies.

The team of Delhi Special Cell Inspector Shiv Kumar and Karmaveer Singh arrested Danish from the flat number C-3 of the third floor of Dohpur's Shami apartment. He was taken to Delhi from here and after interrogation, police came again here to leave his wife. A ten-day custody remand has also been approved. According to Delhi Police, apart from Delhi Police, agencies will also interrogate him on different aspects for the next ten days.

Delhi Police believe that when SIMI President Shahid Badar Fallah and Secretary Safdar Nagori were arrested from Zakir Nagar area of ??Delhi, then their links with Pakistani terror organization Indian Mujahideen were exposed.

UP becoming a hub of medical education

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh turning out to be a medical education hub seems to be finally becoming a reality as the state has climbed to the third position with regard to number of seats in medical colleges — both private and state-run — and is placed after Karnataka and Maharashtra.

According to the Medical Education department data, till three years ago, there were 5,100 MBBS seats in the state and this number has now increased to 7,150.

“Now, the only states having more seats in MBBS courses than UP are Karnataka (8,845) and Maharashtra (7,270),” a

senior official said, adding that this was the first time that UP had moved towards becoming a hub of medical education by increasing the number of medical seats in the state.

He said this had become possible because of the government decision to open new medical colleges.

Till 2016, there were 12 medical colleges in the state. But between 2017 and 2019, the foundation stones of 28 medical colleges were laid and out of them, seven medical colleges have started teaching work, the official said.

“Teaching and training will be started in eight other medical colleges by next year. The construction of 13 new medical

colleges is going to start soon. Not only this, the establishment of Gorakhpur and Rae Bareilly AIIMS is proving to be a milestone in terms of medical education and health facilities of UP,” he said. Along with this, many medical colleges are going to open in the private sector. Once these start functioning, 9000-10,000 additional students will be admitted to MBBS courses every year.

“The government has established Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University in Lucknow, giving a unified form of administrative system of medical education. Earlier, different medical colleges were affiliated to different state universities,” the official said.

Student going for exam gang-raped

Lucknow (PNS): In a sensational incident reported from Jhansi, a Class 11 student was gang-raped in an auto while she was going to appear in the examination. The incident was reported from Mauranipur, a town in Jhansi. The victim was found unconscious in an auto outside a hotel and was taken to hospital. It is reported that the victim took an auto from Mauranipur bus stand Monday morning to

reach her school but was later found in an unconscious state in the auto in the evening. It is believed that she was given drugs.

After the victim regained consciousness, she revealed her trauma to the police and a case was registered. The SP (Rural) said the girl's family members said that she was gang-raped by knife-point. Meanwhile, in an inhuman act, a 3-year-old girl

was allegedly raped by her first cousin in the Wazirganj area of Budaun. The minor had gone missing on Monday afternoon and later she was found in an unconscious state in the evening at a secluded spot in the area. District Magistrate Kumar Prashant and Senior Superintendent of Police Sankalp Sharma also visited the village when the cops were informed about the incident.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender Notice No.: TMC/CPOH/PRYJ/20-21/07 Dated: 04.12.2020

E-Tendering Tender Notice

CWM/CPOH/North Central Railway/Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 hrs. on 11.01.2021. The details of the Tender are as under :-

S. N.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)
1.	TMC-CPOH-PRYJ-08-20-21	Overhauling of Cummins Engines Model-NT/NTA 855L, NTA 855 LBC, KTA 1150L & VTA1710L for the year 2020-21 & 2021-22	4,74,80,979.58	3,87,400.00

Completion Period : 24 Month, Date of Opening of tender : 11.01.2021. Eligibility : Only authorized service agencies from OEM of Cummins make engines are eligible to participate in this tender. **Note:-** 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on website www.ireps.gov.in, up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenderers shall submit a notarized affidavit on a non judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender will not be considered and may be rejected. 5. The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 6. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 8. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 11.01.2021. 1345/2020 V

f North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
Tender Notice No.: PRYJ/Br/L/2020-21/03 Date: 08.12.2020 Dy. Chief Engineer/Br/Line/PRYJ North Central Railway, Prayagraj

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Bridge/ Line/ North Central Railway, Prayagraj acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-TENDERS on prescribed forms for the following work up to 14:30 hrs. on 14.01.2021. The details of the Tender are as under:-

Sr.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of tender form
1.	2020-04	Miscellaneous repairing of Bridges including ROB/RUB/FOBs in the section of SFG-MIU under SSE/Bridge/CNB Jurisdiction of Dy. CE/Br/Line/PRYJ in Prayagraj division.	Rs. 1,03,39,862.61	Rs. 2,01,700/-	Rs. 00.0/-
2.	2020-05	Miscellaneous repairing of Bridges including ROB/RUB/FOBs in the section of DDU-PRYJ, CAR-CPU and NYN-MKP under SSE/Bridge/PRYJ Jurisdiction of Dy. CE/Br/Line/PRYJ in Prayagraj division.	Rs. 91,37,116.18	Rs. 1,82,800/-	Rs. 0.00/-

Completion period: 12 Months (for Sr. No. 1 and 2) Date of Opening of tender: 14.01.2021 (for Sr. No. 1 and 2) Sr. No.: 1 Eligibility Criteria for similar work: Any Bridge construction/Rebuilding/Repair works. **Note: (1)** The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 14:30 hrs. upto the due date of tender opening i.e. 14.01.2021. **(2)** Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. **(3)** Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. **(4)** Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. **(5)** Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **(6)** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. **(7)** Online tender can be submitted upto 14:30 hrs. on 14.01.2021. **(8)** Supplier of Goods and/or services would be the subject to GST Act, and Rules as applicable from time to time. 1381/20 (P)

f North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Zonal office Lucknow

NOTICE OF SALE E-AUCTION

Notice of intended sale under Rule 6(2) & (8) of The Security Interest (Enforcement Rules) 2002 under The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank) had taken constructive possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided by the Service Provider - <https://www.mssteconcommerce.com>

Physical Possession of property is not available at present.

Name & Address of the Borrower (s), Proprietor/ Partners/Directors (s) Guarantor (s)/	Description of the Immovable Properties (All the part and parcel of the property consisting of)	Dt. of Demand Notice	a) Reserve Price b) Earnest Money c) Account Detail for EMD d) Increase in Bid Amount	Date & Time for Submission of EMD Amount in Wallet Date & Time of e-auction
Branch- Indian Bank, Hussainganj Branch				
1. Shri Abhijeet Dutt (Borrower/Mortgagor & Legal Heir of Late Sri Pradeep Dutt (Guarantor)) S/o Late Sri Pradeep Dutt, R/o 5/13 Vinay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010.	All that part & parcel of immovable property at House No. 21 D(Nagar Nigam no. 36/10 D) on Plot No. 6 at 21, measuring 2610 sq. ft at Outram Road, now called as D Prem Nagar, Sapru Marg, Lucknow in the Joint names of Abhijeet Dutt & Amies Dutt. Boundaries as per deed North: Land of Syed Ali Zaher, Bar-at Law South: Road 20 feet wide leading to Ashok Marg East : Common Staircase & half of plot No.6 falling in the share of Shri G. S. Chooramani, West : Plot No. 5, Prem Nagar Boundaries as per actual	30-01-2020 22-6-2020	a) Rs.99,000,000.00 b) Rs.2,49,000,000.00 c) A/c No. 5004944245 IFSC ALLA0211571 d) Rs.10,000.00	23.11.2020 till 4 pm 24.11.2020 from 10 am to 2pm
2. Smt. Amita Dutt (Borrower/Mortgagor) R/o 5/13 Vinay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010				
3. Smt. Jyotsana Dutt (Guarantor) R/o 5/13 Vinay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010				
Branch- Indian Bank, Indira Nagar Branch				
1(A) Borrower: M/s Sushrita Suits and Sarees, Shop NO UGF 44, Ansal City Centre, Behind Tulsī Theatre, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001 (B) Mrs. Kiran W/o Arun Kumar, R/o 538 ka/26, Triveni Nagar-1, Sitapur Road, Lucknow (Proprietor) (C) Arun Kumar S/o late Babulal R/o 538 ka/26, Triveni Nagar-1, Sitapur Rd, Lko (Guarantor) 2(A) Smt Seema @ Kiran Gupta W/o Late Ravindra Kumar Gupta R/o 269/154, Birhana, kumbhar wali Gali, Near Railway Crossing, Rakabganj, Lucknow through Legal Heir of Guarantor & Mortgagor Late Ravindra Kumar Gupta (B) Sri Ajeet Gupta @ Sonu R/o 269/154, Birhana, kumbhar wali Gali, Near Railway Crossing, Rakabganj, Lucknow through Legal Heir of Guarantor & Mortgagor, Late Ravindra Kumar Gupta (C) Kumari Neha Gupta @ Sonu R/o 269/154, Birhana, kumbhar wali Gali, Near Railway Crossing, Rakabganj, Lucknow through Legal Heir of Guarantor & Mortgagor, Late Ravindra Kumar Gupta (D) Kumari Pooja @ Nikki Gupta R/o 269/154, Birhana, kumbhar wali Gali, Near Railway Crossing, Rakabganj, Lucknow through Legal Heir of Guarantor & Mortgagor, Late Ravindra Kumar Gupta	All that part and parcel of Plot No 1 B Out of Khasra No 1330, Village Sarosa Bharsa, Pargana-kakari, Tehsil and Jilla Lucknow, Minjmla of Khasra No 1330, measuring 750 sq Ft. standing in the name of Sh. Ravindra Gupta S/o Champallati Gupta R/o Rakabganj, Lucknow. Area East: 20 ft wide passage West; land of others North: Plot No 1A South: Plot No 1C	10-10-2018 02-1-2019	a) Rs. 24,90,000.00 b) Rs.2,49,000.00 c) A/c No. 50431352451 IFSC ALLA0211142 d) Rs.10,000.00	21.12.2020 till 5 pm 23.12.2020 from 10 am to 4pm

Date: 8-12-2020 Place Lucknow Authorised Officer: Indian Bank

Opposition leaders arrested during Bharat Bandh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amidst tight security arrangements, strong protests from different opposition parties and social organisations were seen on the roads, though the call of Bharat Bandh given by the agitating farmers near the Delhi borders evoked only a partial response here on Tuesday. However, despite tight security arrangements at all the important places, the workers of several parties have shown courage to raise their voices demanding withdrawal of all the three farm laws. On the instructions of state government, not only in Varanasi but in almost all the districts in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP), senior opposition and farmer leaders were house arrested right from Monday night by the administration in its bid to foil the attempt to make the bandh a success.

Despite this, most of the opposition parties were seen enthusiastic on the roads, though there was a little impact seen on the normal life of the people as most of the markets remained open and buses and other public transport were running as usual. Throughout the day, senior district and police officers were visiting different areas to study the stock of the situation. Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and IG (Range) Vijay Singh Meena visited Manduadih railway station apart from several leading markets including Lahurabir, Godowlia, Lanka and Sundarpur.

The workers of Samajwadi Party (SP) staged protests at several places. A group reached district headquarters and locked the gate to express their



SP workers staging protest at district headquarters during Bharat Bandh in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer



Congress workers being arrested in Rohania area in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

protest. They handed over their memorandum to the ACM-IV for forwarding the same to the Governor, demanding withdrawal of farm laws. They said that if the laws are not withdrawn, in the coming days the farmers would just become debtors and bonded labourers. Among those who were seen there were Raju Yadav, Vikash Yadav 'Bachcha', Tanuj Pandey, Sandeep Yadav, Amit Yadav, Deepchandra Gupta, Rahul Dev, Prabhakar Yadav,

Sriprakash and Neeraj Yadav. In Bhelupur area, while protesting farm laws, SP leader Shankar Bisnani and others were also held. SP workers were also arrested in Ravindrapuri area. In Janghambadi area, operator Gopal Yadav, Ravi Yadav and some other party workers were also arrested.

Congress leaders were also seen on the roads and many party workers led by district president Rajeshwar Patel and city president Raghvendra

Choubey were detained in Rohania area. In Mehandiganj (Mirza Murad) area, state convener of National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) Suresh Rathore was house arrested even during Monday night. In Gangapur area, senior leaders like Dilip Seth and Brijbhan Keshari were also house arrested.

Meanwhile, the leaders of various political parties and Left organisations including ex-MLC Arvind Singh, Socialist Kunwar Suresh Singh, Gandhian thinker Dr Mohammed Arif, state CPM secretary Hiralal Yadav, state NCP secretary Rakesh Pathak, bank union activist Shiv Nath Yadav, district CPI secretary Nandlal Patel and others were held when demanding withdrawal of farm laws, they were taking out a procession from Company's Bagh. Later, when the police carried the arrested activists to Kotwali police station, they continued raising slogans in support of their demands.

Besides, under the banner of Lok Samiti and Sanjha Sanskriti Manch, the activists and farmers staged demonstrations at many places including Bhikhampur, Ghamhapur, Parmanandpur and Nagepur where the artistes of Perna Kala Manch through street plays highlighted the pains of farmers. The annoyed farmers also burnt the copies of new farm laws and they have threatened the government that if their demands are not met soon, they would continue their stir.

Among those who were present were Nandlal Master, Vijay Kumar, Rajesh Pradhan, Baby, Malti, Panchmukhi, Mohammed Sajjad and Sunil Master.

131 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The number of COVID-19 cases has shot up once again, crossing the three figures mark when as many as 131 new positive patients have been detected in the district, increasing the total number of cases to 19,899 on Tuesday. The day saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 324. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 74 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 15,891. As none of the patients were discharged from any of the hospitals, the

number remained at 2,879. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 18,770, leaving 805 active cases. The recovery rate is 94.32 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, 81 positive patients were found out of 2,431 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,50,392 and the results of 2,277 are awaited. Out of them, 4,30,543 were negative, while 19,849 positive. The total number of samples

collected was 4,71,285. Earlier, two females aged 53 and 65 from Manduadih and Orderly Bazar respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of three new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,537 including 215 red zones. Six green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,322 green zones with 17 new ones.

Meanwhile, on the instructions of the District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, mass/ group antigen

tests continued to be conducted at Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) and Manduadih railway stations but all the 32 and 40 tests done there respectively were found negative. Besides, two out of 285 tests have been found positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura and two out of 52 at Swami Vivekanand Hospital, Bhelupur but all the 183 tests at Government Women's Hospital, 41 at CHC Shivpur, 182 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and 78 at SSH BHU have been found negative.

Jaiswal holds meeting with NR GM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal held a meeting with General Manager (GM) of Northern Railway (NR) Ashutosh Gangal during the latter's visit here on Tuesday. The meeting was also attended by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Lucknow Division, Sanjay Tripathi and other senior officers of NR apart from District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma. During the meeting, Jaiswal not only emphasised on the development of Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) railway station but also on the upgradation of smaller outer stations like Shivpur, Lohta and Jansa in order to lessen the traffic load at Cantt, the biggest station of the city.

Since Manduadih and Varanasi City of Northern Eastern Railway (NER) have been developed, the demands have been raised for the upgradation of some other smaller outer stations like Shivpur, Lohta and Kashi in view of seeing the expansion of the city. In



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal holding meeting of NR GM and others in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

this direction, Jaiswal also met the NR DRM in Lucknow recently and now the meeting was held when NR GM came here from Delhi. During the meeting, Jaiswal stressed the need for upgradation of stations like Shivpur and Lohta so that the traffic load on Cantt can be minimised. He also emphasised that the trains coming to Cantt should also be stopped at these outer stations. According to Jaiswal, if

the trains have stoppages there, it would reduce the traffic load at Cantt. Besides, the minister also said that as the flats in NR Colony which were built almost seven decades ago are now in a dilapidated condition so by demolishing them, multi-story flats should be constructed. According to information, the process of redevelopment of Vasundhara Colony of NR has already been started. The minister also stressed

the need for reopening of an underpass near Roadways bus depot which remained closed for the last 55 years and regular maintenance sewer lines of Railway colony near Dhoobi Ghat apart from an early repairing of damaged lines. He asked the NR officers that the second entry of Cantt station should be developed on the line of Manduadih station so that the passengers coming here from Jaunpur, Azamgarh and Ghazipur apart from trans-Varuna localities can reach the station easily.

He also stressed the need for development of Cantt and other station as per the heritage of this holy city.

Later, NR GM has instructed the local officers to make efforts in the direction as the same were suggested by the minister. ADRM Ravi Prakash Chaturvedi informed that the expansion work is already going on at Shivpur station apart from expansion of its platform, construction of toilets and modernised waiting room for passengers and installation of high-mast lights which would be done soon.

Fourth body fished out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Almost after more than 30 hours, the NDRF team succeeded in fishing out the fourth body at Janaki Ghat after midnight on Tuesday with the help of boatmen and divers.

With this, the bodies of all four drowned youths have been recovered. It is pointed out that five friends had hired a small boat on December 6 last to go across the river to celebrate their reunion party as they had met after a gap of five

years. They had done their intermediate from Udai Pratap Public Inter College together. One of five friends, who had been rescued, had alleged that the boatman Manoj Sahani had allowed six others to ride despite being denied by them.

When the boat was coming back to Bhadain Ghat from across the river, it capsized in the river in the evening. Seven had been rescued by the team of NDRF with the help of boatmen and divers on the same evening.

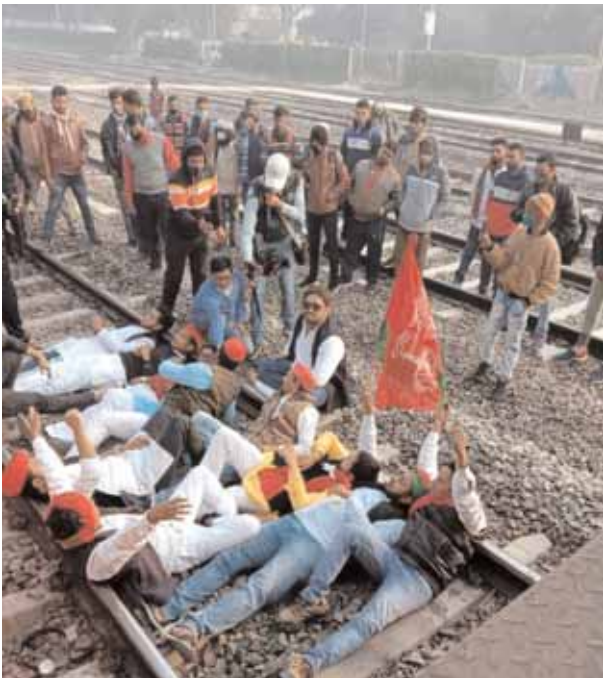
Bharat Bandh a flop show in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Bharat Bandh call given by the Opposition in favour of the farmers movement, remained a flop show in Prayagraj. The SP and the Congress workers besides of the AAP tried to stop a train and forced the shopkeepers to pull the shutters down, but heavy deployment of police foiled all their attempts. Some SP and Congress local leaders and workers were taken into custody.

In rural areas also the Bandh was a total failure, barring a few villages where the AIKMS organised a protest with red flags. Some farmers, vegetable and fruit sellers staged a protest dharna at Mundera Mandi.

Main markets in Prayagraj functioned as usual, while the traffic also remained unhindered. People were seen ignorant about the opposition parties' bandh call and the district



witnessed smooth normal administrative officers were functioning. The police and on high alert all through the

day and they successfully foiled all the attempts of the SP and the Congress activists of stopping trains and forcing traders to pull the shutters down.

Bundelkhand Express train was stopped for a while at Prayagraj Junction by the SP workers who blocked the railway track in front of the train. The alert security personnel arrested the leaders and shoed away the others to let the train move.

To ensure peaceful passage of the day, the police conducted flag march, and the officers with adequate force were present almost at all strategic points to defeat any move of forcing people to close their establishments.

Shops in Muslim dominated areas remained closed, though they had nothing to do with the farmers. They availed the bandh call as a opportunity to oppose Modi.

Docs protest against mixopathy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Doctors of the city protested against mixopathy which is unethical mixing of different treatment modalities like Ayurved, Unani etc. This was brought by CCIM in their recent notification. This system allows Ayush doctors to perform difficult and complicated surgeries and prescribe allopathic medicine for which even qualified MBBS and MD doctors are not legalised.

President AMA Dr MK Madnani told media that treating complicated diseases with limited training will be like playing with the health of the patients. Secretary Dr Rajesh Maurya said that this will legalise untrained doctors and will promote quackery.

The protest was called by Indian Medical Association and was performed at over 10,000 places across all the cities of the country. Places of protest at Allahabad were Subhash Crossing, Civil Lines, Medical Crossing, AMA Convention Centre, Company Garden Gate. Along with this



doctors at Swaroop Rani Hospital, Children Hospital and Colvin Hospital also registered their protest silently using COVID-19 protocols. Students of medical college also joined the protest in huge numbers.

During the protest time which was 12 to 2 pm twitter also showed the trend "#SayNoToMixopathy".

Dr Sujit Singh, Dr Alok Misra, Dr Subodh Jain, Dr RC Gupta, Dr Yuganter Pandey, Dr Tribhuwan Singh, Dr Ghanshyam Mishra, Dr Ajay Dwivedi, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Dr Subhash Verma, Dr GC

Patel, Dr Arun Maurya, Dr Sanjay Tiwari, Dr Anurag Agrawal Dr Santosh Singh, Dr Abhinav Agrawal, Dr Suryabhan Kushwaha were also present. Meanwhile, All India Medical Association has protested against allowing Ayurveda doctors surgery. At the same time, the National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) has praised the move. This will increase people's faith in Ayurveda. Also, its members expressed happiness by cutting the cake. And they said that NIMAs doctors will not attend the bandh call on December 11.

While talking to mediapersons at the Press Club, Dr SK Rai, Chairman of NIMA said that Ayurveda is a very old medical practice. It also mentions surgery. Yes, when the Sushruta treatise was Englished, the development of Ayurveda was interrupted. The monopoly of people of a particular path was put on surgery while doctors of Ayurveda are trained under CCIM. There are many drugs in this method that cause anesthesia. This is another form of anesthesia. Dr DK Srivastava said that engineers make computers but everyone does experiments. Similarly, there should be integrated service in the medical system as well. Now the effort being made in this direction is commendable. This will also increase people's faith in Ayurveda. Cheap treatment of common people will also be possible. An organisation has called for a bandh on December 11 but doctors affiliated with NIMA will treat the patients. Their clinics, hospitals will remain open. They will not join this bandh, added Dr Srivastava.

48 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Prayagraj reported a total of 48 positive cases of the COVID-19 within the last 24 hours. At the same time, 56 patients also became infection free on the same day on Monday evening. About 50 persons also completed their home isolation, while 6 patients also discharged from different Covid hospitals. With this number of people completing their home isolation, a total of 19,452 persons have completed their home isolation till today.

One patient also suc-

cumbed to the deadly virus on the same day. On Monday evening, a total of 6,291 persons got their corona test conducted. Of them, as many as 48 persons were tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday.

Meanwhile, a total of 14 people, including about half a dozen employees of two marriage halls of Lohar village of Belkharnath development block and the former village head in Bhangwachungi town were found corona infected in the Pratapgarh district. This stirred up. However, the administration closed the marriage hall for 24 hours and got

it sanitised.

A sample of employees of the Plaza Palace in Bhangwachungi in the city was sent by the Health Department on December 1 for examination. According to the Health department, four people of the marriage hall were found positive. Due to this, the Health department served a notice to close the 24-hour marriage hall on Monday itself.

On Monday, a second marriage hall employee at Bhangwachungi found Corona positive. A half-dozen people from the village, including his

wife and daughter, the former head of Lohar village in Belkharanath, have been found corona positive. Reports of three people from Lalganj have been positive.

The Health department has been involved in preparing the list of the people involved in the marriage hall since the last three days. Those involved in the matrimonial programme will be tested by taking a sample. CMO Dr Arvind Srivastava said that he has now made arrangements to send samples of the marriage hall operators and employees for testing.

AU V-C focuses on quality of research

ALLAHABAD (PNS): Meetings were held at the Vice-Chancellor's office on Tuesday wherein three departments were invited for deliberation of departmental problems and NIRF/AISHE ranking issues. The Vice-Chancellor Prof Sangeeta Srivastava specifically focused on the quality of research, research publications in good journals, projects and patents. Division of students as per cast, numbers of NET/JRF, placements, employability, physically challenged students, sports and cultural activity in the university were also the highlights of meeting.

Prof SI Rizvi, Dean Research and Development and Prof AR Siddiqui, Nodal officer for NIRF ranking also explained all faculty members about the details on which the format has been filled up. The Vice-Chancellor mentioned the importance of digitalised education system in COVID-19 era. The importance of well-functioning website was discussed to maintain the contactless work culture in the university. The biggest challenge is to systemise the website and it will take some time to reconstruct it. She further said, all the lectures should be uploaded on the website, this will help students to get access of study material and teachers may get an opportunity to get projects

from different organisation. Placement and employment of students is one of the most important agenda that has been discussed by the Vice-Chancellor of university. She asked to launch new programmes to make students skilled and employed.

UGC GUIDELINES ON COVID-19: The University Grants Commission (UGC) had issued guidelines for reopening the universities and colleges post lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic in November 2020 suggesting various measures to cope up with teaching-learning and administration amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the University of Allahabad commenced its new academic Session from November 2, 2020 adopting online mode of teaching and also extending online classes/tutorials/ consultation on Saturdays. In this light of the above, it is being notified by the registrar that online mode of teaching shall continue as far as possible from the respective departments / centres / institutes during office hours (09.00 am to 5 pm) from Monday to Friday. Bonafide PG students and research scholars in the science and technology stream may continue to their experimental work in the laboratory as earlier. On Saturdays,

all the respective departments / centres / institutes must be mandatorily sanitised and remain closed under the guidance of the respective heads / coordinators / directors and unit incharge. However, keeping in mind the urgency and requirements of the teaching-learning, all faculty members may continue their online classes on Saturdays as per need from their homes so that there is no loss of teaching hours and work. All the departments /centres are required to display their modified time table accordingly.

By the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the registrar has notified that the following changes have been made —

Prof Syed Ibrahim Rizvi Department of Biochemistry, University of Allahabad is appointed as Chairman of the Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) in place of Prof Prasant Agarwal Department of Defence and Strategic Studies. Prof Anuradha Agrawal, Department of Political Science, as Chairperson, Medical Cell, University of Allahabad. The Vice-Chancellor constituted a committee with immediate effect for the purpose of collection, consolidation and coordination with the NIRF, AISHE and other accreditation agencies on behalf of University of

Allahabad. The committee consists of the following faculty members : Prof Syed Ibrahim Rizvi, Department of Biochemistry Chairman, Dr Ashish Khare, Department of Electronics & Communication, Dr Munish Kumar Pandey, Department of Biochemistry, Dr Shefali Nandan, Department of Commerce & Business Adm, Dr Haribansh Singh, Department of Law, Dr Prakash Singh, Department of Earth & Planetary Science, Dr Pramendra Singh Pundir Department of Statistics, and Dr Vinod Kumar. Department of Electronic & Communication.

WEBINAR: SIEMAT UP, Prayagraj has organised a three-day webinar on 'Deep Conceptual Understanding of Subjects at Elementary Level' from December 8 to 10. This webinar will clear conceptual understanding of various subjects at elementary level. Addressing the inaugural session of the webinar Sanjay Sinha, Director, SIEMAT UP, Prayagraj said 'Knowing the fact that there is need of deep understanding of concept to every child as well as teachers at elementary level'. He said that at the grassroot level if our teachers clear every concept of concerned subject then new generation would be very enrich and groom properly.

SP stages demonstration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Thousands of Samajwadi Party workers led by their party's city unit president Dr Imran staged a demonstration at Shikshak Park here on Tuesday in protest against the "high-handed and anti-farmer" attitude of the National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre and to express solidarity with the farmers.

They shouted slogans against the Narendra Modi government and warned to intensify their agitation in case the "Black Bill" was not rolled back completely.

Dr Imran warned that the oppressive stand and Nazi attitude of the government would damage the situation further and demanded that the farm ordinances and the bill on it be withdrawn immediately.

The massive police force deployed at the venue forcibly removed demonstrators and took them to the Police Lines.

Addressing the gathering at the protest venue, Dr Imran said the entire world was witnessing the arm twisting tactics of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central and state governments. He and said all the three Draconian bills should be



Demonstrating Samajwadi Party members being forcibly being lifted from Shikshak Park by police force on Tuesday.

scrapped.

The SP leader said the new farm laws would push the farmers to suicide and they would be forced to give up farming in the country.

He said on account of the

obdurate stand of the Centre, the farmers and their families had been driven to starvation and many of them had lost their lives trying to protest against the legislation.

He said the fact was that

the farm bills were the Machiavellian move of the capitalists who were the mastermind of these bills and if this was not stopped the country would become a slave to multinational companies run by foreign powers.

Dr Imran said on the directive of the Centre and state government, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav was arrested on Monday and several cases were filed against him.

He said the SP strongly condemned the autocratic and high-handed attitude of the Modi and Yogi Adityanath governments and warned them to immediately halt this anti-farmer and anti-people tirade.

He said unless the farmers of the country were happy the nation could never progress.

He said that with the passage of the farm bill, the farmers would lose their ownership of land and would be forced to take to contract farming under the direct control of the MNCs.

Prominent among those who took part in the protest were MLA Amitabh Bajpai, MLA Irfan Solanki, Abhishek Gupta, Munendra Shukla, Deepa Yadav, Deepak Khote besides hundreds of party workers.

54 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 54 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 54 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 31,201 cases. He said that no patients was discharged from hospital. He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 796. The CMO said at present 878 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 3674 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Woman held for dumping skulls in vacant plot

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In the human skulls' recovery case, the woman detained by the police was found to be the real culprit on Tuesday.

During interrogation, she admitted to have been involved in occult practices and confessed that she bought these human skulls to subjugate her former paramour but on failing to subjugate him, she had dumped the skulls in a vacant plot.

It may be recalled that local residents of Panki had spotted five human skulls lying in a vacant plot in Kanshiram Colony on Monday. The police had recovered four of them while the fifth one was taken away by a stray dog.

Forensic experts had found the skulls to be around two years old.

Superintendent of Police (West) had also said that these skulls were brought from somewhere else and dumped in the plot.

Police had taken a woman suspect, Gita, resident of a slum behind Kanshiram Colony, into custody. On being grilled, has confessed her crime on Tuesday. She told the police that a long time ago, she lived in live-in relationship with her paramour Ashok, in Naubasta Galla Mandi and after he parted ways with her, she started living in the slum behind Kanshiram Colony. Gita said she had bought these skulls to subjugate her paramour.

Meanwhile, after coming into contact with a man of Banda, both began to perform tantrik rituals with the help of these skulls to subjugate Ashok.

Gita is mother of three children.

But when the occult practices failed to make any impact on Ashok, she hid the skulls in a tin container for one year. When Ashok married another woman, she dumped these skulls in the garbage in a vacant plot.

She had purchased the skulls at Rs 5,000 each from a cemetery.

Now the police are trying to identify the people who sold these skulls for occult practices.

Kalyanpur's Circle Officer Ashok Kumar Singh said investigations were on in the matter and soon the racket of selling skulls would be exposed.

KILLED: A man was hacked to death with sharp-edged weapon in Bandh village under Sajeti police station late Monday night.

His body was recovered behind a primary school on Tuesday morning.

NER GM reviews works

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

NER GM Vinay Kumar Tripathi reviewed various works related to passenger amenities in GM's auditorium here on Monday. AGM Amit Kumar Agarwal, Principal Chief Operations Manager (PCOM)Anil Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) SC Prasad, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) AK Pandey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/Construction RK Yadav, Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) Satish Kumar Pandey, Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer (PCSTE) Anil Kumar Mishra, Principal Financial Adviser (PFA) Tanuja Pandey, Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC)/ Railway Protection Force (RPF) Atul Kumar Srivastava, Chief Project Director (CPD)/Station Development SK Mishra, Chief Personnel Officer/ Administration Nuruddin, secretary to GM DK Khare, CPRO Pankaj Kumar Singh and Dy GM/General Omkar Nath Singh and via video conferencing DRM/ Lucknow Dr Monika Agnihotri, DRM/ Izzatnagar Ashutosh Pant and DRM/Varanasi VK Panjiyar took part in it. GM said that we have to work continuously with alertness in the direction of achieving the goal of overall passenger satisfaction. He described the expansion of passenger amenities and availability of modern passenger amenities as an important aspect of passenger satisfaction. Tripathi held a detailed discussion with the officers regarding the passenger amenities available as per the standard on the identified ideal stations on the NER. During this period the GM VK Tripathi issued instructions to the officials concerned regarding the works related to extension of platforms, increasing their height, construction of foot overbridge, availability of all facilities like ramp, wheel chair etc for Divyangians, piped water



HOMAGE PAID: On the Mahaparinirvan Diwas (death anniversary) of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, NER GM Vinay Kumar Tripathi at a function organised in the GM's auditorium on Monday garlanded the portrait of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and paid homage to him. AGM Amit Kumar Agarwal, PCOM Anil Kumar Singh, PCCM SC Prasad, PCME AK Pandey, CAO/Construction RK Yadav, PCE SK Pandey, Dy GM/General ON Singh and others offered flowers on Baba Saheb's portrait. The function was conducted by the CPO/Administration Nuruddin. Dr Ambedkar's death anniversary was observed in all departments at headquarters Gorakhpur. Tributes were paid to Baba Saheb in functions organised under the presidency of the DRMs in the three divisions of NER — Izzatnagar, Varanasi and Lucknow. Meanwhile under the presidency of DRM of Varanasi division VK Panjiyar the death anniversary of Dr Ambedkar was observed in the Premchand conference room. On the occasion ADRM (Infra) Praveen Kumar, SDPO Sumit Paul, SDOM Rohit Gupta, SDCM Sanjeev Sharma, SDE Rajiv Agarwal, SDSTE Trimbak Tiwari, SDEE SK Yadav, SDME (O&F) Alok Kesharwani, SDME (C&W) Satyaprakash Shrivastava, SDEE (Traction) Pankaj Kesharwani, SDO Virendra Yadav, senior engineer-II MK Singh, Divisional Safety Commissioner Rishi Pandey, Assistant Personnel Officer SN Uraon and others paid floral tributes to him.

DM's directive to officials

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A meeting of the district- level Officials was held at the meeting hall of the Collectorate on Monday which was presided over by DM Sushil Kumar Patel. Reviewing the top priority points of the government he expressed dissatisfaction with the departments for slow progress in Aadhar feeding as far as golden card, pension for handicapped etc were concerned. He made it clear that the progress up to 75 per cent should be achieved with in the current month. He expressed his anger over the absence of some officials and directed the CDO issue show-cause notices to them and if it was repeated then stringent action would be taken against them. He took the officials of Jal Nigam to task for tardy progress in work under which out of 14 projects only three were on the verge of completion. He directed them to complete the work and hand it over to the officials concerned without delay. During the review of ICDS he was informed that the work was on in all the projects and a drive was going on to eradicate malnutrition. For the Kayakalp scheme the DM directed the officials



concerned to expedite the work. Reviewing the Shramyogi Maandhan scheme he directed all the working agencies to increase the number of registrations as a drive and provide maximum jobs as possible. The mass marriage

scheme was also discussed and the DM directed the officials concerned to complete the preparations and organise the mass marriage in each block on December 13. The DM directed the CMO to ensure the timely presence of doctors, availability of medicines and vaccination as per the target. He said that the condition of the ambulances should be monitored. Reviewing the NRLM scheme the DM directed the officials concerned to allot the ration shops to the eligible self-help groups without delay. Besides the scheme like Mukhyamantri Avas Yojna, incomplete works of health department etc. were reviewed and the officials concerned were directed to expedite the works. The DSO was directed to allot the ration shops which were vacant. The meeting was attended by CDO Avinash Singh, DSO Umesh Chand along with the other officials.

Dibrugarh-Lalgahr spl timing revised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is making changes in the timings of special trains being run for the convenience of people as per the new timetable. As a result as per the revised timing the 05909/05910 Dibrugarh-Lalgahr-Dibrugarh special train will from December 10 run from Dibrugarh and Lalgahr, CPRO said. Therefore, the passengers are requested that they should get information about the revised timetable of the trains that at the time of making reservation or before travelling. The 05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgahr daily special will leave Dibrugarh at 10.20 hrs daily from New Tinsukia at 11.15 hrs, Bhojo at 12.13 hrs, Simalguri at 12.43 hrs, Mariani at 13.50 hrs, Furkating at 14.52 hrs, Sarupathar at 15.22 hrs, Dimapur at 16.00 hrs, Diphu at 16.38 hrs, Lumding at 17.35 hrs, Hajoai at 18.12 hrs, Chaparmukh at 19.00 hrs, Jagirod at 19.50 hrs, Guwahati at 21.58 hrs, Kamakhya at 22.20 hrs, Rangiya at 23.10 hrs, second day Barpeta Road at 00.09 hrs, New Bongaigaon at 01.15 hrs, New Alipurduar at 02.50 hrs, New Cooch Behar at 03.20 hrs, Dhupguri at 04.12 hrs, Jalpaiguri Road at 04.57 hrs, New Jalpaiguri at 06.25 hrs, Aluabari Road at 07.10 hrs, Kishanganj at 07.43 hrs, Dalkhola at 08.07 hrs, Barsoi Jn at 08.40 hrs, Azamnagar Road at 08.55 hrs, Katihar Jn at 11.00 hrs, Naugachia at 11.50 hrs, Thanabihpur at 12.05 hrs, Mansi Jn at 12.40 hrs, Khagaria Jn at 12.52 hrs, Begusarai at 13.25 pm, Barauni Jn at 14.25 pm, Dalsingh Sarai at 14.54 hrs, Samastipur at 15.40 hrs, Muzaffpur at 16.40 hrs, Hajipur at 17.35 hrs, Chhapra at 19.45 hrs, Siwan at 21.06 hrs, Bhatni at 21.59 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 22.23 hrs, Gorakhpur at 23.45 hrs, the third day from Khalilabad at 00.28 hrs, Basti at 00.57 hrs, Mankapur at 01.45 hrs, Gonda at 02.20 hrs, Barabanki at 03.55 hrs, Lucknow (NR) at 05.30 hrs, Balamau Jn at 07.05 hrs, Hardoi at 07.40 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 09.18 hrs, Bareilly at 10.32 hrs, Rampur at 11.30 hrs, Moradabad at 12.30 hrs, Amroha at 13.05 hrs, Hapur at 14.11 hrs, Pilkhuwa at 14.27 hrs, Ghaziabad at 15.08 hrs, Delhi at 16.10 hrs, Delhi Kishanganj at 16.24 hrs, Shakurbasti at 16.38 hrs, Nangloi at 16.48 hrs, Bahadurgarh at 17.01 hrs, Rohtak at 17.37 hrs, Jind at 18.17 hrs, Narwana at 18.44 hrs, Tohana at 19.06 hrs, Jakhal at 19.24 hrs, Bareta at 19.38 hrs, Budhlada at 19.53 hrs, Mansa at 20.08 hrs, Maur at 22.24 hrs, Bathinda Jn at 22.00 hrs, Mandi Dabwali at 22.33 hrs, Sangaria at 22.57 hrs, on the fourth day Hanumangarh Jn at 00.15 hrs, Suratgarh at 01.15 hrs, Mahajan at 02.03 hrs, Lukaransar at 02:35 hrs and reach Lalgahr at 04.10 hrs. During the return journey the 05910 Lalgahr-Dibrugarh daily special from December 10 will leave Lalgahr at 19.50 hrs, Lunkaransar at 20:47 hrs Mahajan at 21.19 hrs, Suratgarh Jn at 22.40 hrs, Hanumangarh at 23.35 hrs. Sangaria on second day at 00.01 hrs, Mandi Dabwali at 00.27 hrs, Bhatinda at 02.00 hrs, Maur at 02.26 hrs, Mansa at 02.42 hrs, Budhlada at 02.57 hrs, Barreta at 03.11 hrs, Jakhal at 03.26 pm, Tohana at 3.39 hrs, Narwana Jn at 04.00 hrs, Jind at 04.29 hrs, Rohtak at 05.15 hrs, Bahadurgarh to 05.50 hrs, Shakurbasti at 06.28 hrs, Delhi Kishanganj at 06.42 hrs, Delhi at 07.25 hrs, Ghaziabad at 08.12 hrs, Pilkhuwa at 08.45 hrs, Hapur at 08.56 hrs, Amroha at 09.55 hrs, Moradabad at 11.03 hrs, Rampur at 11.33 hrs, Bareilly at 12.30 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 13.48 hrs, Hardoi at 15.12 hrs, Balamau at 15.44 hrs, Lucknow (NR) at 18.00 hrs, Barabanki at 18.51 hrs, Jarwalroad at 19.29 hrs, Gonda at 20.25 hrs, Mankapur at 20.49 hrs, Basti at 21.48 hrs, Khalilabad at 22.18 hrs, Gorakhpur at 23.45 hrs, Deoria Sadar on the third day at 00.47 hrs, Bhatni at 01.15 hrs, Siwan at 02.30 hrs, Chhapra at 04.00 hrs, Hajipur at 05.28 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 06.23 hrs, Samastipur at 07.25 hrs, Dalsingsarai at 07.50 hrs, Barauni Jn at 08.55 hrs, Begusarai at 09.13 hrs, Khagaria at 09.50 hrs, Mansi at 10.06 hrs, Thanibihpur Jn at 10.43 hrs, Naugachia at 10.58 hrs, Katihar Jn at 13.35 hrs, Azamnagar Road at 14.23 hrs, Barsoi at 14.42 hrs, Dalkhola at 15.07 hrs, Kishalganj at 15.40 hrs, Aluabari Road at 16.07 hrs, New Jalpaiguri at 17.55 hrs,

Jalpaiguri Road at 19.07 hrs, Dhupguri at 19.37 hrs, New Coochbehar at 20.50 hrs, New Alipurduar at 21.15 hrs, New Bogaigaon at 23.25 hrs, on the fourth day Barpeta Road at 00.07 hrs, Rangiya Jn at 01.20 hrs, Kamakhya at 02.35 hrs, Guwahati at 03.10 hrs, Jagiroad at 04.06 hrs, Chaparmukh at 04.52 hrs, Hajoai at 05.51 hrs, Lumding at 07.00 hrs, Diphu at 07.33 hrs, Dimapur at 08.35 hrs, Sarupathra at 09.08 hrs, Farkating at 10.42 hrs, Mariani Jn 11.40 hrs, Simalguri at 12.45 hrs, Bhojo at 13.15 hrs, New Tinsukia at 14.35 hrs and reach Dibrugarh at 15.35 hrs. A total of 22 coaches will be attached.

K O L K A T A - A G R A CANTT SPECIAL: The railway administration for the convenience of passengers will run the 02319 Kolkata-Agra Cantt special train from Kolkata from December 9 and 02320 Agra Cantt-Kolkata special from December 10 from Agra Cantt until further order. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 02319 Kolkata-Agra Cantt additional special train will from December 9 leave Kolkata every Wednesday at 13.10 hrs, Durgapur at 15.27 hrs, Asansol at 16.07 hrs, Dhanbad at 17.15 hrs, Gaya at 20:05 hrs, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn at 20.40 hrs, the second day Kanpur Central at 03.05 hrs, Kanpur Anwarganj at 03.20 hrs, Farrukhabad at 05.22 hrs, Kasganj at 07.05 hrs, Mathura at 09.15 hrs and reach Agra Cantt at 10:40 hrs. During the return journey the 02320 Agra Cantt-Kolkata additional special train from December 10 every Thursday leave Agra Cantt at 17.50 hrs, Mathura at 18.35 hrs, Kasganj at 20.25 hrs, Farrukhabad at 22.10 hrs, on the second day Kanpur Anwarganj at 00.40 hrs. Kanpur Central at 01.05 hrs, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn at 06.23 hrs, Gaya at 08.38 hrs, Dhanbad at 11.25 hrs, Asansol at 13.00 hrs, Durgapur at 13.37 hrs and reach Kolkata at 16.40 hrs. A total of 22 coaches, including two of generator- cum-luggage van three of general second class, nine of sleeper class, six of AC third and two of AC IIInd will be attached in the train.

Doctors stage dharna against move to impose mixopathy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of doctors and members of the Indian Medical Association's Kanpur chapter staged a dharna and kept their establishments partially closed in protest against the Narendra Modi government move to forcibly impose "mixopathy and khichdification" of mode of treatment.

Holding placards, posters and banners, the doctors raised anti-government slogans and appealed to the Bharatiya Janata Party government to roll back the decision, saying it would harm the people.

The IMA-K members said that from December 11 onward, the medical fraternity would paralyse the non-essential and non-Covid medical services all over the country until the decision was withdrawn.

Addressing the doctors at the dharna venue, IMA-K president Dr Neelam Mishra said



The Indian Medical Association, Kanpur members sitting on dharna on Tuesday.

all the doctors of the city kept their clinics, pathologies, nursing homes and hospitals closed between 12 noon and 2 pm in to register their protest.

She said treatment of an ill patient could not be left to quacks and experiments, adding that the effective allo-

pathic mode of treatment had proved its efficacy since centuries.

She said the government move to replace allopathy with mixopathy would pose a big threat to human lives and so the IMA strongly condemned the khichdification.

DGDC launches IT course

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Dayanand Girls' Degree College Principal Dr Sadhna Singh, while inaugurating the new information technology course in the college on Tuesday today in the current times there was need to focus on IT as it offered better job opportunities.

She said in the first year 50 students had been enrolled for the subject and would be imparted on-hand training and prepared for self-employment.

She said once the girls completed this course they would be entitled to take up self-employment as junior software developer and web developer and could become job giver instead of job seeker.

Dr Singh said the purpose of information technology course was to equip students with theoretical knowledge as well as the skill sets that met the requirements of the IT companies. Whether it was the

designing, development or testing of software, all the things were a part of the IT course, she added.

She said the students need to realise that this course included the core concepts of database management systems, Java programming, information security, analysis of the algorithm, computer networking, ERP, e-commerce, cloud computing, software engineering and many other things related to operating systems.

She said information technology offered a promising career to the students and the IT sector was growing tremendously with every passing year but was full of challenges.

She said IT was a common term, and the fact was that it was a study which covered the use of computer systems.

She said IT had many more things to offer and was not just confined to the boundaries of the computer system. She said

ness. He said people had started realising the role of life management coaches and motivators and with their help students focused on creating a new life paths in order to achieve goals, whereas therapy sometimes looked into emotional resolutions to past problems in order to move forward. He said there were two types of stressors — short-term and long-term and added that those that were considered longer-term could not be changed very quickly, and therefore took to adapting and resiliency to handle them in better ways. He

said there were a few things one could do to improve overall health, balance, and manage lives in positive ways and could also develop a better defence against chronic stressors. He said one may not see a direct connection between how one ate and responded better to an unexpected problem. He said getting daily exposure to sunlight, just for 10 minutes, could help one feel more resourceful. He said by being aware and making few choices that created balance and self-care could have positive and confidence building effects on one's life. He

advised students to include at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day, get regular check-ups by doctor, take medications as prescribed, and rest when one's body signalled that one should take a break. Dr Shah stated that one need to discuss the issues with some professional as just by this means could talk to a professional and studies had showed that 85 per cent of people could benefit from mental health support. He said spirituality and faith could be a significant source of hope and comfort. He questioned the students if their

Institute brought satisfaction. He advised them to eat more vegetables and fruits. He also advised them to have time to maintain friendships and relationships with family. Noted personality development trainer Dr Deepak addressing the students said in the current times everyone had realised the importance of personality development and said students when out from the college fall short on many fronts and for employability it was essential that they should be trained and groomed in a professional manner.

Experts give tips on life management

KANPUR (PNS): Noted professor and motivator, Dr Ketan Shah from LJ College, Ahmedabad, while addressing a virtual session on 'Life management, empowerment and employment generation' at Dr Virendra Swarup Institute of Professional Studies said life management formed a professional therapeutic relationship to help students sort through emotional or mental stressors. He said it aimed to reduce the stigma regarding students seeking mental health care by normalising the need to focus on mental health and overall well-

Shah steps in

The self-starter farmers' protest has snowballed into a national movement, one that has made the Govt uncomfortable



If Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stepped in to solve the farmers' protest over the new laws enacted by his Government, it shows that he has sensed the runaway consequences of a localised dissent turning into a national movement. And that's because this agitation, quite unlike the demonstrations over the citizenship law or the students' protests, cannot be attributed to liberal advocacy, ideological conflict or the Opposition's conspiracy, but is coming from the sons of the soil. And they have decided to speak for themselves without taking the help of either politicians, rights activists or celebrities, drawing traction with their quiet

dignity and right to live with it. They have demanded their equity in the new order, not as a constituency or votebank, but as conscious citizens. In that sense, they embody the deeper undercurrent of a revolt against the authoritarian dispensation of the day that expects its people to yield to the weight of majoritarianism. The farmers have shown that heft isn't always about numbers. In fact, the subliminal resentment now has vented itself and become a voice that doesn't need endorsement. On the contrary, politicians, sportsmen, civil society, celebrities are latching on to them than the other way round, when the cause needs to rent them. True, the farm laws attempt structural reforms to liberalise the agriculture market but they do not factor in the farmers' well-being and comfort or hand-hold them to a new regime where they have a level-playing field. They have, therefore, become the ignored voice of the common man at the mercy of the State's imposition. That's why the farmers have resurrected Guru Gobind Singh's *Pagri Sambhal Jatta Lehar* movement. For the Sikh guru made it a symbol of honour, the right of every honest man to live a life of dignity and declassified it as a right of the elite. Peasants, who rose against the British Raj, used the *pagri* to band together dissolving their identity based on religion or caste. That's why though the Government has been trying to box the protesters in as belonging to Punjab and button-holing it as a State problem, the farmers are reminding us that this is not a problem of Sikh farmers, redefining the *pagri* as worthy of any one of them who fights for their rights. It is this universalising of agenda, with some farmers' unions now drawing attention to other causes, like the incarceration of students, activists and teachers, that has made their activism credible enough to be taken seriously by the establishment. Particularly when it is spreading in State after State and farmers' lobbies, through NRI pressure groups, have been successful in getting legislators in the US, UK and Canada involved and defend their right to protest.

Their integrity and commitment have been strong enough to draw in other trade unions, be it of transporters, traders, taxis, banks, railways, even lawyers, basically working class people who almost always turn out to vote. This coalescence is stronger than any of Shah's intention to break up the unions. This is a political capital too difficult to ignore. One that has forced all parties, particularly those in the Opposition, to ignore their hypocrisy and stand with farmers. Which is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself called Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patron Parkash Singh Badal on his birthday, more to assuage concerns, considering that the latter had returned the Padma Vibhushan, demanding rollback of the farm Acts. In fact, with Punjab Assembly elections in 2022, the SAD couldn't risk its image with farmers. So it walked out of its alliance with the BJP and withdrew its Minister for Food Processing, Harsimrat Kaur Badal. Punjab Chief Minister and Congress leader Amarinder Singh went a step further, amending the Central law and bringing in fresh Bills in the Assembly, guaranteeing existing rights of farmers. This seems odd considering the Congress, which has itself been reformist on the agriculture sector and favoured some of the measures in the farm Acts, has done a U-turn. It even advocated dismantling the State Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts in its 2019 manifesto. And despite promising loan waivers in States ruled by it, it has failed to provide even limited relief. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which initially had a hands-off attitude to the farmers' stir, is now supporting it primarily because it is still ambitious about making inroads into Punjab. Hence AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal made it a point to visit agitators at the State's borders. This despite the farmers refusing AAP support for community kitchens and shelters. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, whose State wouldn't be much affected by the new laws, has now sided with the unions, given that Assembly elections are months away and the issue has turned out to be even bigger than those on the citizenship law or students, which were limited to their constituencies and hadn't galloped with such frenzy. Clearly, the Opposition has once again been reactive rather than being proactive. By being disunited on the farmers' issue, they failed to either block the Ordinance on farm reforms or muster enough numerical strength to shout out the ruling party in the Rajya Sabha, force a debate and discussion in the House or at least make sure that the legislation was scrutinised by parliamentary committees. And till the farmers landed in Delhi, none of them had planned a cohesive national campaign on their rights. Now that the issue has become a veritable tinderbox, they have no choice but to look concerned. That actually makes them look even more unconcerned. In the end, the Government has to give a price guarantee of sorts as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) has itself become unremunerative given rising input costs. Farmers are but naturally wary of any contracted price in the open market that could push them further down the trough they are in. They are not entirely unreasonable or against market economics. If only the Government had acted with reason than haste.

Brown wings

Jet Airways' new owners hope that 'Jet 2.0' can take wing in summer. They are being very optimistic



Ever since the Resolution Professional (RP) appointed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) recently decided that the Murari Jalan and Kalrock consortium will take over the assets of the moribund Jet Airways, there has been intense speculation of what the airline's version 2.0 will look like and what model it will follow. In an email sent out by their public relations agency yesterday, the new owners of Jet outlined some of their ambitions for the future. But it was far from a clear plan of how the airline will acquire either the slots they need to operate, given that rival airlines have gobbled them up since these are not "owned" by any airline, or where Jet Airways will acquire new

aircraft to operate new flights. Besides, civil aviation is certainly not the most promising sector in a pandemic-hit world and a new player certainly cannot get adventurous in a slump. The statement thus reads more like a wishlist more than anything else.

Sure, Jet Airways has undeniable brand equity among flyers but in a price-sensitive market, they care more about prices and schedules. Besides, it will not be easy to replicate the old Jet Airways' standards of service given that several of Jet's older employees have found new jobs elsewhere. Also, while Jet Airways did own some aircraft, they have not been flown for over a year and the cost of bringing them up to safe flying conditions is considerable. The plans outlined by the new ownership have no details about the additional funding that the owners will bring in to not just revitalise aircraft but acquire new planes and the costs of restarting an operation. A line in a statement said that the owners looked at starting a new airline but decided against it, so they are essentially starting a new airline with an old brand. How much is that brand worth is a debatable point because when Jet Airways crashed and burned, it also lost several of its high-value customers. To assume things will be alright quickly by the summer might be expecting too much and makes one wonder if the owners really know what they are doing.

opinion

Missing Man, RIP!

Despite the advent of modern technology and guiding systems, naval aviation remains among the riskiest services



BHOPINDER SINGH

Soldiering is extremely risky business, even without the escalation to a full-fledged war. The unpredictable vagaries of nature, machines, circumstances and the operating turf combine to test the warrior at each step – it is from that fount of perennial uncertainty that the military families silently invoke, “We wait. We hope. We pray. Until you're home again.” The truism of the daily dangers that beset a warrior's life manifested in the tragic incident of Indian Navy's MiG-29K, which went down over the Arabian Sea. While one of the pilots was immediately rescued, the other, instructor Commander Nishant Singh, had remained untraceable. Tragically and finally, the family, squadron and the other loved ones of Commander Nishant Singh were joined in their prayers by a grateful nation, in the poignant moment of necessary “closure,” as the news of a body believed to be his was recovered from high seas after 11 days of relentless search.

In an ode to the timeless spirit of “I will never leave a comrade behind,” which underpins the sacred ethos of all warriors, the Indian Navy launched intensive search operations, deploying nine warships, 14 aircraft and fast interceptor craft.

Even among the comity of warriors, the naval aviators are cut from a brazenly different cloth, as they earn their swaggering-flyer mystique owing to the inherent dangers and glory that accompany their professional calling. These very few men and women manage the additional complexity of landing their machines on a moving aircraft carrier deck by snagging the “tailhook” to arresting high-tensile wires, after having approached the deck at exactly the right angle. Then the pilot counterintuitively pushes the engines to full power, in order to stop. All strategising and coordination has to happen in a matter of seconds. The complexities, the adrenaline rush and the dangers are simply unmatched.

Despite the advent of modern technology and guiding systems, naval aviation remains among the riskiest services. The soul of a true naval aviator is forged amid that trying loneliness of flying over the endless azure of daytime or the haunting darkness of the open ocean at night – either way tempering mind into steel so that when



that split second critical decision is required, it is done to perfection. These rare warriors need to combine the multiple dimensions of sea, air and land, simultaneously.

Conversely the extreme pressures of job also lead to unique personalities that typify naval aviators. Ironically, it was Nishant who had jumped into popular imagination with a now-famous letter written to his senior, seeking permission to “bite the bullet (get married).” Nishant had asked tongue-in-cheek, “I regret to be dropping this bomb on you at such a short notice, but as you would agree, I intend to drop a nuclear one on myself and I realise that just like all the split second decisions we take up in the air in the heat of combat, I cannot afford to allow myself the luxury to re-evaluate my decision,” and had serendipitously added, “I promise to never repeat such a performance in air or teach it to my trainee pilots.” His Commanding Officer, another naval aviator, had matched Nishant's good-humoured (albeit, private communication) with, “But all the good things have to finally come to an end” and recorded his acquiescence with jest, “welcome to hell!” Certainly, no one had imagined or ever assumed the “end” to imply death. Beyond the obvious camaraderie and the classic flamboyance and élan of naval aviators, there is also the human side of warriors who cherish nothing more than home and family, above all. Very often, owing to ignorance or sheer lack of concern, the cit-

“EVEN AMONG THE COMITY OF WARRIORS, THE NAVAL AVIATORS ARE CUT FROM A BRAZENLY DIFFERENT CLOTH, AS THEY EARN THEIR MYSTIQUE OWING TO THE INHERENT DANGERS AND GLORY THAT ACCOMPANY THEIR PROFESSIONAL CALLING”

izenry forgets the dangers that are inherent, routine and unimaginable on land, air and sea, in the course of maintaining the sovereignty of the nation, which could lead to the payment of the “ultimate price” in the discharge of military duties.

It was to its home base at *INS Hansa*, Goa, that the all-weather, carrier-based, multi-role fighter aircraft, i.e. MiG-29K, was flying back from the aircraft carrier, *INS Vikramaditya*. Part of the Indian Navy's famed “Black Panther” squadron, this has been the third accident involving the MiG-29K fighter in the last one year, albeit, this entailed the trainer two-seater variant. Last November, a trainer crashed in Goa after engine failure due to a bird hit. Both pilots ejected safely. In February, a MiG-29K on a routine training sortie crashed off Goa due to technical glitch. The pilot ejected safely and was recovered. Of course, the aircraft has reported glitches in the past and in other countries though the Navy has rectified the engine. Hopefully, going forward, operational deficiencies will be looked at much more keenly before acquisitions.

But while the armed forces will never forget its own in Commander Nishant Singh, it will persevere whatever the odds, as they do not know of any other way, except to fight the odds, everyday. The flyers have a unique tradition of honouring their fallen pilots with flying in a “missing man formation.” Last year, the Indian Air Force Chief himself led a group of MiG-21s

to give a symbolically moving aerial salute through the “missing man formation” to honour the valour and supreme sacrifices of its pilots at Kargil.

The pain of not knowing the fate and hoping-against-hope that the family of Commander Nishant Singh had to endure for all of 11 days is of indescribable magnitude but it ends now. The author too had a family elder, Lt Bikram Singh Rathore of 6 Kumaon, who took the “last stand” in the fierce Battle of Walong in 1962. At 22, the lionheart had fought till last man, last bullet. The noble warrior had stoutly refused to surrender or retreat, and towards the same action *Time* magazine famously noted, “At Walong, Indian troops lacked everything. The only thing they did not lack was guts.” Lt Bikram Singh Rathore was last seen dragged away by the Chinese, never to be afforded a “closure” for the family as the official status is “missing, believed killed.” Such are the ways of the profession of arms that seldom does a warrior outlive a couple of chances, yet the soldiers will always back their instincts and take calculated chances to fight another day. “I’ve got your back” is a reassurance they convey each other but for now, the nation mourns its naval aviator, Commander Nishant Singh, who will remain symbolically the “missing man” for his family, squadron and the nation.

(The author is former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

I have been detained once again because I wanted to visit Budgam where hundreds of families were evicted from their homes.



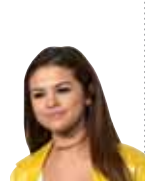
PDP chief —Mehbooba Mufti

Believe it or not, I'm one of the fortunate, among very few, who reached the top with a single kidney, with a dead takeoff leg.



Former long jumper —Anju Bobby George

I'm a huge advocate for therapy. I think it's such a normal thing, especially nowadays.



Singer and actor —Selena Gomez

Canada could start its COVID-19 vaccine plan next week. This will move us forward on our whole timeline of vaccine rollout.



Canadian Prime Minister —Justin Trudeau

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All religions are equal

Sir — All religions teach humanity vital lessons in tolerance. Religion is not subject to any place, time, colour, person or nation and it is the same for everyone. In a United Nations (UN) discussion on the “Culture of Peace,” India criticised the World Union for being “selective” in the protection of the Abrahamic religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism and not speaking out for the remaining religions of the world. The UN should not be partisan and must condemn hatred against all religions as that represents the wicked face of civilisation. It should be discouraged and crushed wherever in the world it raises its ugly head.

Sunil Chilwal
Haldwani

When will this stop?

This is with reference to the article, “Girls please, not brides.” It is a sad fact that the Coronavirus outbreak has pushed so many children into marriage at a time when they are not mentally, emotionally and physically ready for it. It is an evil that is hiding in plain sight. And the irony is

Our rich should be more giving

The list of India's top philanthropists and their contributions that is released every year is not one that makes us very proud. This year, too, the list shows that the country's record of generosity is poor. Most of the names that find a place in the list are known and familiar, and even their order, in terms of the size in contributions, remains more or less unchanged.

While the difference between the top and second contributor is striking, still more striking is the general unwillingness of India's rich and privileged class to do their bit to help the poor and the needy with voluntary acts of giving. Philanthropy has grown in India over the years but has not kept pace with the growth of wealth and individual incomes in the country. The number of billionaires and millionaires has increased steadily but with that the gap between the rich and poor has grown, too.

Even during COVID times, it is not the rich but the poor who have suffered. They have not only lost their lives due to the disease, a large number of them have lost their livelihoods, too. Yet, there has not been an outpouring of help and charity from our rich and famous. They would much rather spend the money they have in buying more property, fancy cars and luxury goods for themselves than help an underprivileged family. If every rich person were



to adopt a village or orphanage or old people's home or an animal shelter, they would make a major difference to the lives of so many people. No one can change the world, but they can change a small part of it.

Though there is much more scope for philanthropy and charity in India, the country has lagged behind Western nations in this respect. We think that the Western society is individualistic, materialistic and acquisitive and that we have higher values of renunciation and compassion which place the community over the individual. But our actions belie the values we claim to have.

Shovanlal Chakraborty
Kolkata

Abhinav Sharma
Delhi

Leave the IIMs alone

Sir — The Ministry of Education

is considering a proposal that will empower it to initiate an inquiry against the Board of Governors of any of the 20 IIMs if they are found to be in violation of the IIM Act. The heads of the institutes are alarmed, rightfully so, at this clear move to encroach on the autonomy guaranteed to the

IIMs almost three years ago by the very same Act. The recent stand-off between the Government and the IIMs involves its one-year programme. The IIMs call it an MBA degree, as is the global norm in many business schools. But the UGC says only two-year programmes deserve that term. This illustrates the kind of tussle over trivialities that bureaucratic systems expend energies on, almost by reflex.

This kind of a war erupted in 2016, too, but at that time the PMO interfered in the matter and it was settled amicably. The current move threatens to undo that detente and slide back into central micro-management for goals that remain extremely unclear.

The Prime Minister has championed the autonomy of the IIM, a system which has proved its mettle over and over again. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 too envisages greater freedom for institutions of higher learning. Neither of those objectives are met by this attempted change in law.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

On the right track during a crisis

Taking advantage of the lull in operations, the East Central Railways fast-tracked projects where suspension of traffic for long periods was needed



RAM C **ACHARYA**

In order to carry out urgent works, repairs and modifications to the existing railway infrastructure in the country, suspension of all train movement in a given section is inescapable. This cessation of all activities is called a "traffic block" in railway parlance. Over the years it had become hard, if not impossible, to order a "traffic block" on account of the exponential growth of the Indian Railways, where over 16,000 trains originating everyday run on the vast network of 67,000 km.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic, which has adversely impacted the nation's economy over the last nine months, resulted in the number of trains originating daily from all over the nation, dropping to less than half. Due to this, a "traffic block" could now be ordered at the drop of a hat. Taking advantage of the lull in operations, the East Central Railways (ECR) fast-tracked nearly a dozen projects where suspension of rail traffic for long periods of time was involved. These projects had been dragging on for years as train operations were being routinely accorded top priority and stopping all train movement for them was simply out of the question, unless it was for a safety-related task.

However, due to the Coronavirus, upgrading the 390-km long Jhajha to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU), the erstwhile Mughalsarai station route, to run trains at 130 kmph instead of the earlier 110 kmph became possible since long "traffic blocks," extending up to six hours, could be ordered. This involved extensive replacing of existing rails with those of higher Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS). Hence, Plasser Quick Relaying System (PQRS) machines that could lay down 230 m-long welded rail panels in one go were deployed for the completion of the task.

The Jhajha-DDU section, though an alternative to the Asansol-Dhanbad-Gaya-DDU route, had suffered neglect for decades. But having gained adequate traffic over the last decade or so, it was now ripe for an upgrade. No less than six stations that had the antiquated system of hand-lever cabins with semaphore signals were replaced by electronic interlocking and coloured-light signals. Similarly, electronic-interlocking was commissioned at the Kiul-Lakhisarai section and an Intermediate Block Hut (IBH) was provided at the Sachivalay Halt, Block Hut C, Hathidah, Bhalui and Chaura. This upgrade had a salutary effect on the speed of trains, and the time to cover the Jhajha-DDU stretch was now cut by almost half an hour.

Route Relay Interlocking (RRI) is the gold standard for train operations, where hundreds of train-routing points and signals in major yards can be operated from a Central Cabin. Long-pending projects for Patna (₹30 crore), Danapur (₹52 crore) and Kiul-Lakhisarai (₹21 crore) were taken up and completed. This was a very difficult, if not impossible, task to finish in the pre-Coronavirus era of busy rail traffic.

Another work from the vast basket of projects of the ECR that had been in a limbo for a number of years, too, got sped up. This was a bridge over the River Kosi, that would bring prosperity to the remote region of north Bihar. The old bridge, built in 1887, between Nirmali and Saraighar (district Supaul) in north Bihar (along the Nepal border) had been destroyed in an earthquake in 1934, snapping rail connectivity to this region. The foundation stone for a new bridge had been laid by Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002 and the project was in the final stages of completion, waiting for rail approaches from the Nirmali and Saraighar ends. This project, costing ₹323 crore, picked up momentum with resources now available due to the pandemic, and the 1.9-km long railway line, along with the mega-bridge over Kosi, was completed at a final cost of ₹620 crore. It was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September.

Connectivity between south and the equally, if not more, prosperous north Bihar has always been an issue. Constructed at a cost of ₹2,800 crore four years ago, a rail-cum-road bridge over the Ganga provides a vital connection between Munger and Katihar, bypassing the congested Barauni Junction route for movement from south to north Bihar and beyond, to Bengal and Assam.

It was indeed a red-letter day for the Indian Railways when the more than 3-km-long bridge over the Son River was converted from double to triple track, with advance signalling features, thanks to less than half the level of rail traffic now moving due to the pandemic. A major upgrade for the Grand Chord route (Dhanbad-DDU), it also involved RRI work at the Dehri-on-Son and Sonnagar stations of the DDU division. Expected to make a significant impact on the throughput of coal trains, it is slated to hike the potential for supplying coal to power plants by 20-25 per cent, meeting the burgeoning demand of electricity for the Indian economy.

(The writer is a former member, Railway Board)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE AAP WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONWIDE STRIKE. I HOPE THE WHOLE COUNTRY JOINS IT PEACEFULLY AND SUPPORTS THE FARMERS.

—DELHI CHIEF MINISTER
ARVIND KEJRIWAL



THE FARMERS ARE JUST AN EXCUSE FOR THE AAP AND ARVIND KEJRIWAL TO COME TO POWER IN PUNJAB.

—BJP LEADER
GAUTAM GAMBHIR

Dial M for health

The ubiquity of mobile phones and internet in rural and remote areas has paved the way for increased use of phones as devices to deliver healthcare services



MEENAL SHARMA **JAGTAP**

A strong Primary Health System (PHS) ensures equity, efficiency and effectiveness in extending healthcare facilities to people. The local health centre is the first point of contact between the citizens and the healthcare system. India started working on the establishment of the PHS with the implementation of its first National Health Policy (NHP) in 1983, based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) Alma Ata declaration of 1978. According to the declaration, the objective of a PHS should be to deliver "curative, preventive, promotive and rehabilitative" health services. However, even after decades, these objectives still pose a challenge to policymakers. Though consistent efforts are being made in this direction, one of the key factors that can help achieve the NHP's objectives is to ensure that care providers are able to reach out to people in the remotest parts of the country. In rural India, the first point of contact with the community is the sub-centre at the gram panchayat level, that is supposed to take care of five to six villages.

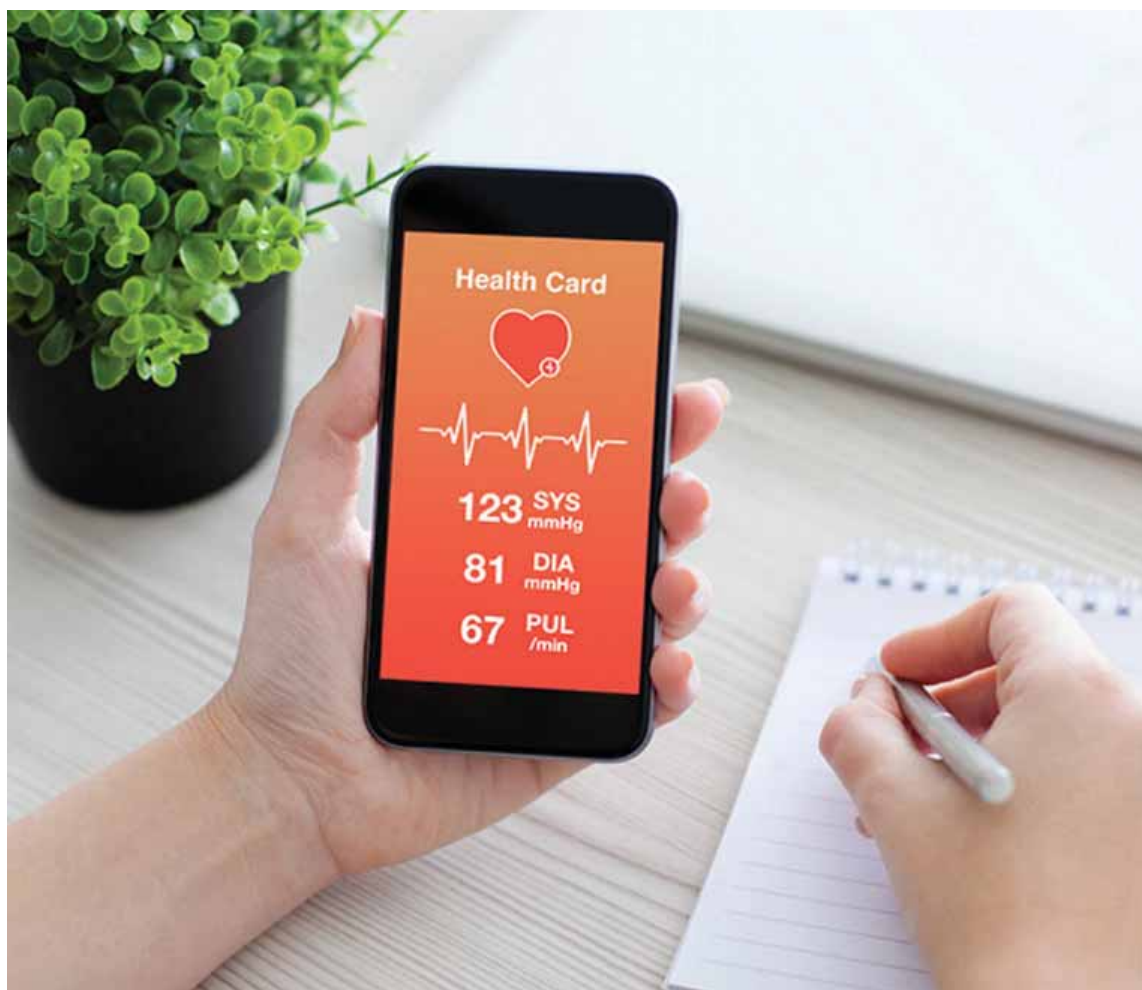
The basic healthcare facilities offered at the sub-centre are through the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM). The next level is the Primary Health Centre (PHC) that takes care of the population of around 50-60 villages. The PHC is the referral unit for six sub-centres, a medical officer and around 14 paramedics. The uppermost is the Community Health Centre (CHC) for 100 villages or one lakh population. It provides the facility of a 30-bed hospital with specialised services. A CHC is termed a fully-operational first referral unit if it is equipped to provide round-the-clock emergency obstetric care and blood storage.

The Urban PHC (UPHC) is structured in a similar way. For a population of 50,000-60,000 and for every five to six UPHCs, there is an Urban Community Health Centre (UCHC), which includes empanelled secondary/tertiary private healthcare providers. Though historically, India's policy has been rural-centric, in May 2013 the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) was launched as a part of the National Health Mission (NHM). This was done to cater to the healthcare requirements of an increasing number of urban poor as a result of a mass exodus of people from rural to urban areas. A strong PHS has immense importance in a country like India, which is a vast nation of over 1.36 billion people with diversity in terms of needs, socio-cultural norms, an inequitable distribution of facilities and so on. This is because the primary healthcare system involves educating the community about the prevailing health problems and methods of preventing and controlling them.

Also, it operates using socially-acceptable methods and technology with full community participation. For example, the network of ASHA and Anganwadi workers at the PHC level played a pivotal role in helping to achieve rapid progress in reducing the Child Mortality Rate (CMR) by ensuring that Government schemes on immunisation reach the beneficiaries. Plus, the PHS does not involve huge infrastructure costs while delivering major benefits. The Health and Wellness Centres announced in 2018 under the Ayushman Bharat scheme now aim to build on health systems, thus strengthening the NRHM.

In rural India, considerable progress has been made in the number of sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs. However, there is still a huge shortfall as compared to the population. As per data available

TAKING PROACTIVE STEPS, GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST NOW STEP UP RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF MHEALTH AND INCREASINGLY LEVERAGE MHEALTH APPLICATIONS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE SERVICES TO THEIR PEOPLE



in the *Ninth Common Review Mission Report, 2015* of the NHM, there has been a 5.2 per cent increase in the number of sub-centres, 8.9 per cent increase in PHCs and a 61.3 per cent increase in the number of CHCs since 2005 to 2015.

In India, the States are responsible for organising and delivering health services to the citizens. Vast disparities exist as far as the condition of the PHS in different States and the health outcomes are concerned. This is also true for rural and urban areas. There are some States that are leading in terms of achievement of health outcomes, whether it is maternal, child or general healthcare, whereas some are way behind. In States like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, one PHC caters to around 41,000 people whereas ideally there should be one PHC for a population of 20,000. The story is repeated in many other States around the nation, meaning that the first line of healthcare services is very weak.

One way in which this problem can be overcome is through use of technology, especially mobile technology. There is a need to step up investments in the field of mHealth, which is basically the use of mobile communication devices (such as personal digital assistants, smartphones) to enhance the delivery of healthcare services and the technology for healthcare in the developing world.

The ubiquity of mobile phones and internet penetration in rural and remote areas of India has paved the way for increased use of mobile phones as devices to deliver healthcare services in several ways. The mHealth applications on phones (smartphones or simple handsets) are being used to send SMS reminders for prenatal or postnatal check-ups in case of maternal and child healthcare. These reminders help the

ANMs track the medical records of pregnant women and infants, which ultimately helps to improve maternal and child mortality. Much research is being carried out in emerging economies and many projects have been carried out in India to prove the effectiveness of such interventions on healthcare.

Mobile phones with internet connectivity can also help in connecting patients in remote areas to obtain preliminary diagnostic services from qualified doctors sitting miles away from them. Many start-ups are developing mobile applications for this, sensing the business opportunity. For example, an app named "Aayu", available in Hindi and English, can be easily downloaded on an Android phone and is fairly simple to use. Patients just have to just press "E-Consult" after which s/he can just choose the category that best describes the ailment.

The categories range from issues like acidity, breathlessness, common cold, ear discomfort, fever, headache, insect bite, joint pain, loose motions and skin infections among others. The patient then needs to answer some questions to narrow down the problem, and finally a specialist doctor is matched, who may give diagnosis and prescribe medicines as required. Interaction with the doctors is possible through video calls. Such mobile applications would solve the problem of access to qualified doctors. It also provides digital records to patients that can be used by them in the future as well.

Not only as a tool for providing access to healthcare services in remote areas of developing countries but globally, too, the mobile healthcare market is growing exponentially due to fast internet connectivity, increasing cost and

space constraints for hospitals, less supply of qualified doctors in comparison to demand, the increasing problem of lifestyle diseases and an increasing number of consumers who demand healthcare anywhere and anytime.

The number of mHealth apps available in the market globally has increased substantially. There are now over 3,18,000 healthcare apps available on the top app stores worldwide, nearly double the number of apps available in 2015. This amounts to more than 200 apps being added each day.

According to a report titled *Mobile Health App Market: Industry, Trends, Opportunities and Forecasts to 2023* by Research and Markets, the global mHealth app market is projected to be valued at \$28.320 billion in 2018 and is expected to reach up to \$102.35 billion by 2023. With such investments expected in mHealth app market, one should hope that these serve the purpose of enabling delivery of quality healthcare, especially primary healthcare services, in developing and under developed countries. The recent COVID-19 crisis caught the world quite unprepared as far as development of the health infrastructure, required to deal with a prolonged pandemic, is concerned. Not only this, the research on microbial diseases, its impact and public awareness about such epidemics was found wanting.

Taking proactive steps, governments in developing countries must now step up research in the field of mHealth and increasingly leverage mHealth applications for solving the problem of providing quality healthcare services to their people.

(The writer is Joint Director, National Institute of Labour Economics, Research and Development, NITI Aayog)

Investing against the tide pays off

Through a careful analysis, the right timing and expertise, a contrarian buying approach can make a fortune for investors



HIMA BINDU **KOTA**

Be fearful when others are greedy, and be greedy when others are fearful." This statement by the famous investor Warren Buffett puts in a nutshell the concept of contrarian investing. It is an approach that has benefited many successful investors like Buffett himself and billionaires like Peter Lynch and John Templeton, to name a few. Contrarian investing is an approach that follows rational behaviour when the popular sentiment on the bourses is irrational. Contrarian investors go against the prevalent market sentiment and invest in stocks and sectors that have vast growth potential

in the long run but are currently undervalued due to a short-term negative sentiment. The stock market is made up of traders and investors. Traders have a short-term view and invest based upon the temporary ups and downs which are created by positive and negative news and investor sentiments. Stocks which are not fundamentally strong get overvalued in a bull phase and scrips, which are intrinsically strong, get beaten down in a bear phase. This definitely does not mean that every stock that is overvalued is strong or every scrip that is undervalued is fundamentally weak.

A long-term or fundamental investor identifies healthy companies whose share value increases proportionately as the business grows and invests in them. Many times, due to temporary economic conditions, war, or pandemics, stock markets enter an extended bear phase. During this time, all stocks, strong or weak, take a beating and their values go down. This time is marked with extreme pessimism where all investors panic, behave irrationally

and start selling their shares. The general view is that such times are unsuitable to start investing in scrip. However, this view is not shared by the contrarian investors, who look at the beaten market as an opportune time for bargain hunting and invest in stocks that have strong fundamentals.

These contrarian investors reap huge benefits when the negative sentiment settles down and the market starts its upward journey, making their investments multi-baggers.

The 2008 economic crisis is one such instance when the investors across the globe went into panic selling mode, leading to massive selling on the global bourses. Shares of fundamentally strong companies were available at huge discounts. During this time, contrarian investors avoided the herd mentality and picked up beaten but healthy companies and subsequently enjoyed significant returns during the recovery phase. The main strength of a contrarian investor is to identify scrips that are fundamentally strong but undervalued. They use financial ratios like Low Price

to Earnings (PE), Price to Book Value, Price to Cash Earnings and other financial ratios to discover undervalued stocks. Over the years, contrarian investors started using several additional ratios like Earnings to Price (E/P), they use Book to Market (B/M), Cash Flow to Price (C/P) and Past Growth of Sales (GS) to ascertain the value of firms. Studies regarding contrarian investing can go back as far as 1977 when Basu analysed the performance of US stocks, based on their PE ratio, for a period of 14 years from 1957-1971, and found that lower PE stocks generate higher returns when compared to higher PE scrip. Here are some contrarian investment strategies that are followed by most successful investors.

Swim against the tide: As humans are social animals, almost all of them are bound by social confirmations. When a majority of people believe in something, it is thought to be true. This herd mentality is also visible in stock markets during a bear or bull phase. Investors tend to follow others either in panic selling or buying, irrespective of

the valuation of the shares. So they end up either buying overvalued or selling undervalued stock. Contrarians, on the other hand, have independent thinking and do not follow the crowd. They make investment decisions based on the fundamentals of the stocks.

Seeing opportunity in a crisis: For irrational investors, a market crash is a bad news as they panic and follow the herd. For contrarians, every market crash is an opportunity. They wait for the downward slide in the market to buy good stocks at a bargain.

Be a long-term investor: Contrarian investors believe in long-term investing. They pick up great stocks when they are undervalued and wait patiently for the prices to go up.

Research: Due to changing economic and business scenarios, a contrarian investor should not depend only on the past performance of the scrip. Research has to be continuous as many stocks that were considered intrinsically strong earlier are nowhere to be found now. If a company is showing continuous downfall in financial

performance, it is better to exit the stock and look for an alternative.

Any investment style is not without its pitfalls, and so is contrarian investing. It is hard to practise, as going against the general market sentiment is never easy and is often marred by self-doubt. Despite having the backing of research and careful analysis, contrarian investing does not guarantee success. Even a shrewd and experienced businessman like Buffett lost \$443 million by investing in Dexter Shoes in 1993, that was making year-on-year profit, but went out of business in 2008 as competition increased.

To conclude, contrarian investing is a technique practised by a handful of investors who have the expertise and rationality to pick intrinsically-strong bargain stocks, and extreme optimism to see hope in market downturns. Through a careful analysis, the right timing and expertise, a contrarian investing approach can make a fortune for investors.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)



FOREIGN EYE



WILL THE UK GO BACK IN TIME?

Britain's departure from the EU under Boris Johnson with — or without — a free trade deal will dim prospects for the UK next year. At best Johnson will secure a deal at the last minute that eliminates tariffs on trade. Brexit reveals the Government's ideological commitment to take the country back to where Margaret Thatcher left it. (The Guardian editorial)

MODI TO INDUSTRY

Need to work together to ensure timely rollout of 5G

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that all stakeholders in the telecom sector along with the government will have to work together to ensure a timely roll-out of the fifth generation technology. Addressing the India Mobile Congress (IMC), Modi urged the industry for working together to make India a global hub for telecom equipment, design development and manufacturing.

“Let us work together to make India a global hub for telecom equipment, design, development and manufacturing,” he said.

Prime Minister Modi said that it is because of mobile technology that benefits worth billions of dollars were available to millions of Indians. He added that it is because of mobile technology that the government was able to help the poor and vulnerable “quickly” during the pandemic.

“It is because of mobile technology that we are seeing billions of cashless transactions which boost formalisation and transparency. It is because of mobile technology that we will

enable smooth contactless interface on toll booths,” the Prime Minister told the industry participants.

Commenting the telecom and technology players amid the pandemic and the lockdown,

Modi said that it was because of the efforts of the industry and its innovations that the world was functional even during the pandemic, including connectivity, education and business and other operations.

Huge opportunity for India in 5G adoption: Facebook official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has a huge opportunity to work on aspects like transforming total costs of running a network and demonstrating leadership as 5G adoption gains traction across the globe, a top Facebook executive said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the India Mobile Congress 2020, Facebook Vice President Dan Rabinovitsj said the group’s focus is on getting more people online to a faster internet, and collaborating with partners in the ecosystem to help transform the underlying econom-

ics of developing and operating telecom networks. “...One of the biggest opportunities is how do I transform the total costs of running and owning a network, which I think is one of the great opportunities for India to leapfrog the rest of the world,” he said.

Rabinovitsj further stated that India has talent density in this domain, and it is an opportunity to “demonstrate leadership here in a way that you know we haven’t seen in the past”.

He noted that deployment of 5G has a number of use cases for enterprises.

Fitch raises India’s FY21 GDP forecast to -9.4 per cent

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Global credit rating agency Fitch on Tuesday raised its FY21 GDP growth forecast for India by predicting a narrower economic contraction of (-) 9.4 per cent from an earlier predicted fall of (-) 10.5 per cent

“We now expect GDP to contract 9.4 per cent in fiscal year to end March 2021, followed by (+) 11 per cent and (+) 6.3 per cent in the following years,” Fitch Ratings said in its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO) for December.

“The coronavirus recession has nevertheless inflicted severe economic scarring.

The need to repair balance sheets, increased caution about long-term planning,

and firm closures will limit investment demand.”

Furthermore, it pointed out that increased financial-sector weakness - amid deteriorating asset quality - will hold back credit provision.

“The failure of another bank in recent weeks - the third failure in the past 16 months - underlines the challenges in the financial sector,” the December GEO said.

Recently, India recorded a faster than anticipated economic recovery.

The country’s GDP contracted 7.5 per cent in the July-September period, as the economy rebounded from a record slump of 23.9 per cent in the previous quarter due to slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic.



India needs more reforms, States must take lead: Kant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said it is difficult to carry out tough reforms in India as there is ‘too much of democracy’, and emphasised that more reforms are needed make the country competitive.

Addressing a virtual event organised by Swarajya magazine, the Niti Aayog chief executive officer said for the first time, the Centre has carried out hard reforms across sectors, including mining, coal, labour, agriculture, and the next wave of reforms must be pushed by the states.

“Tough reforms are very difficult in the Indian context, we have too much of democracy..You needed political will to carry out these reforms (mining, coal, labour, agriculture) and many more reforms still need to be done,” he said.

It is not easy to compete against China without hard reforms, Kant said.

“This government has demonstrated political will to carry out hard reforms,” he added.

The Niti Aayog CEO stressed that the next wave of reforms must come from states.

RBI cancels licence of Karad Janata Sahakari Bank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday said it has cancelled the licence of The Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd, Karad, Maharashtra, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

More than 99 per cent of the depositors of the bank will get full payment of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the Reserve Bank said in a statement.

With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of The Karad Janata Sahakari Bank will be set in motion.

On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to repayment of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh only from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) as per usual terms and conditions.

Consequent to the cancellation of its licence from close of business on December 7, the bank has been prohibited from conducting the business of ‘banking’ which includes acceptance of deposits and

RBI cancelled the licence of the bank as it “does not have adequate capital and earning prospects”. As such, it does not comply with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

repayment of deposits with immediate effect.

Giving details, the RBI said the bank was under “all inclusive directions” since November 07, 2017.

The Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maha has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.

The RBI said it cancelled the licence of the bank as it “does not have adequate capital and earning prospects”. As such, it does not comply with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 “The continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors,” it said, and added the bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full.

Also, public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	13,393.85	13,435.45	13,311.05	13,392.95	37.2
ULTRACEMCO	5,064.85	5,237.00	5,064.85	5,211.40	154.9
TCS	2,740.00	2,805.55	2,732.45	2,795.00	57.3
RELIANCE	1,961.15	2,014.25	1,950.00	1,992.45	34.25
WIPRO	360.3	365	358.4	363.5	5.05
HCLTECH	859	875.7	856	863.2	7.9
INFY	1,145.00	1,167.00	1,145.00	1,153.00	9.5
KOTAKBANK	1,832.30	1,839.00	1,817.25	1,834.00	13.45
HDFCLIFE	652.55	657.7	644	652.35	3
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,320.00	3,384.75	3,300.55	3,334.15	14.6
SBIN	270.95	273.7	265.25	270.75	1.15
BRITANNIA	3,639.40	3,654.90	3,617.65	3,644.30	15.35
SBILIFE	854.8	859.5	848.2	854.9	3.15
M&M	753.35	764	743.55	754.85	2.55
HDFC	2,315.00	2,340.00	2,292.05	2,309.00	5.2
HDFCBANK	1,375.00	1,388.80	1,365.15	1,374.90	2.65
IT	1,174.95	1,182.50	1,148.05	1,171.70	2
MARUTI	774.800	8,013.15	7,700.00	7,754.00	10.6
AXISBANK	619.1	623.85	611.6	620.05	0.8
TITAN	1,425.30	1,435.65	1,412.35	1,427.05	1.75
HINDUNILVR	2,239.50	2,278.20	2,240.15	2,256.10	-0.05
NESTLEIND	17,674.00	17,729.40	17,386.25	17,535.00	-27.55
ITC	203.9	204.7	199.55	202.7	-0.45
HEROMOTOCO	3,175.00	3,204.80	3,154.65	3,163.95	-10.1
TATATEEL	616	621.45	602.45	612.55	-2
DREDDY	5,090.00	5,080.00	4,955.90	5,001.10	-18.1
ICICIBANK	511.5	512	505.4	508.55	-1.9
DIVISLAB	3,717.55	3,749.00	3,676.60	3,700.00	-17.55
GAIL	124.05	125	120.65	121.75	-0.65
EICHERMOT	2,561.15	2,609.00	2,515.35	2,547.00	-14.15
JSWSTEEL	366.5	367.2	357.55	362.6	-2.4
IOC	92	92.3	90.05	91	-0.7
UPL	481.25	488.5	469.45	472.25	-3.7
SHREECEM	24,950.00	25,289.95	24,735.50	24,756.20	-197.95
CIPLA	777	779.45	757.8	766.7	-6.45
POWERGRID	194	194.6	191.1	191.85	-1.65
BAJFINANCE	4,850.00	4,865.00	4,775.00	4,787.55	-41.9
BAJAJFINSV	9,056.00	9,080.00	8,950.00	8,965.00	-86.95
TATAMOTORS	184.95	185.7	178.95	181.75	-1.8
ONGC	93	93.45	90.05	90.6	-0.95
ASIANPAINT	2,470.55	2,484.20	2,427.95	2,445.00	-27.55
BHARTIARTL	514	516.25	504.25	509.95	-6
BPCL	399	399	389.05	390	-5
TECHM	945	947.2	927.2	931.5	-12.8
GRASIM	937.5	942	918.4	924.5	-13.2
NTPC	100.55	100.85	97.8	98.05	-1.7
ADANIPORTS	472.7	474.7	457.55	463.5	-8
INDUSINDBK	937.05	938.75	907.1	918.5	-16.65
COALINDIA	137.45	137.7	133	134.3	-2.5
SUNPHARMA	582	582	565.8	569.3	-13
HINDALCO	251.85	253	244.45	245.55	-5.75

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	31,823.20	31,941.75	31,381.25	31,714.40	-10.35
PNB	36	41.1	35.9	41.1	5.35
BANKBARODA	60.15	66.15	59.9	66.15	6
DMART	2,530.00	2,689.00	2,520.00	2,678.05	15.16
HDFCAML	2,735.00	2,845.00	2,730.00	2,816.60	105.6
OFSS	3,070.00	3,137.00	3,049.05	3,117.00	65.9
ICICI	1,453.00	1,474.90	1,445.05	1,468.30	25.55
MUTHOOTFIN	1,184.00	1,204.85	1,172.85	1,195.00	18.95
AMBUJACEM	254.5	259.6	253	257.1	4
COLPAL	1,548.00	1,569.25	1,530.55	1,568.00	24.3
ACC	1,669.00	1,700.00	1,665.20	1,685.00	24.45
UPL	1,107.90	1,139.65	1,095.25	1,110.55	15.8
IGL	483.25	489.1	474.8	487	6.2
SBICARD	845.85	859.3	841.1	855	8.1
GICRE	142.5	144.1	139.35	142.5	1.05
DABUR	503	506.8	499.05	503.35	1.3
ABOTINDIA	15,300.00	15,500.00	15,280.10	15,300.00	6.95
SIEMENS	1,536.70	1,548.60	1,521.10	1,537.25	0.55
INDIGO	1,753.70	1,787.00	1,736.60	1,740.05	-0.25
PGHH	10,990.00	11,011.55	10,870.00	10,954.15	-5.9
ICICIPRULI	482.15	486.3	472.55	482	-0.25
ITI	3,300.00	3,329.00	3,235.00	3,263.80	-7.15
PIDILITIND	1,618.10	1,637.50	1,600.10	1,611.00	-4.2
MCDOWELL-N	589.1	604.7	584	587	-1.85
MOTHERSUNL	159.8	160.7	154.85	158.7	-0.5
HINDPETRO	218.1	218.65	214	216	-0.7
AIKEM	2,948.00	2,966.00	2,884.40	2,911.75	-9.35
BERGEPAINT	672.2	677.75	665.55	669	-3.2
HAVELLS	830	833.7	813	820	-5.8
BAJAJHLING	3,124.55	3,133.90	3,022.00	3,089.00	-23.15
TORNTPHARM	2,704.00	2,727.95	2,662.20	2,670.00	-20.9
NAUKRI	4,301.00	4,342.95	4,243.45	4,280.80	-35.05
HINDZINC	240.95	243.2	232.55	238.05	-1.95
ADANIGREEN	1,109.00	1,121.00	1,088.00	1,097.00	-9.25
TATACONSUM	570	570	558	563.1	-4.75
DLF	207.8	211.35	204.25	205.95	-2.2
BIOCEN	451	459	440.55	445.8	-4.8
GODREJCP	717	717	701.25	706.5	-7.95
NMDC	109.35	110.05	106.25	108.1	-1.25
BOSCHLTD	13,450.00	13,536.50	13,200.00	13,270.00	-166.4
CADILAH	472	475.7	463	466	-6
PEL	1,510.00	1,522.60	1,490.00	1,479.90	-20.35
AUROPHARM	914.8	917.7	888.6	897	-13
CONCOR	410.1	413.95	402.7	404.5	-5.85
MARICO	400	405.8	391.15	394	-6.4
INFRATEL	243.65	248.7	237.9	240.2	-4.5
BANDHANBNK	412.95	417.5	400.6	403.4	-7.6
ADANITRANS	435.95	439.7	415.1	417	-8.35
PCF	118.95	119.5	115.2	115.8	-2.25
LUPIN	971	975.45	940	947.1	-20.35
PETRONET	270	271.9	258.65	261.15	-6

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	BIOCON	450.35	459	440.7	445.25	GNFC	242.9	244.7	227.7	233.05	PRESTIGE	292.15	295	284.35	286.65	DCMSHRIRAM	390.1	395	377	380.85
RELIANCE	1963	2014.2	1950.15	1993.75	BAJAJ-AUTO	3300	3383.9	3300	3325.65	JKTYRE	81.1	84.7	81.1	84.05	UFLEX	396	403.15	360	389.5	AAVAS	1730.95	1730.95	1635.95	1648.55
SBIN	270.35	273.65	265.2	271.95	MOTHERSUN	160.5	160.5	154.95	157.7	NAUKRI	4272	4342	4244.4	4270.35	NHPC	22.75	22.8	21.9	22.3	POWERINDIA	1246	1268	1192.5	1213.45
INDUSINDBK	938.95	938.95	907.55	916.9	EICHERMOT	2564	2609.15	2515	2547.25	APLAPOLLO	3945	3945	3673.65	3752.7	ICIGI	1460	1475	1445.85	1464.25	KPITTECH	115.95	118	109.75	110.85
INFY	1144.4	1166.75	1144.4	1153.85	HEG	846	875.45	841.1	847.5	ENGINEERSIN	77.3	79.9	76.85	77.55	MEGH	85.5	85.85	81.3	82.25	RATNAMANI	1667.5	1694.8	1616.75	1626.4
PNB	36	41.15	35.9	40.7	JUBILANT	862	885.1	839	860.85	VBL	866	890	866	883.2	BAJAJCON	201.75	203.5	198	199.05	SHIRAMCIT	1109	1115.5	1073	1096.25
KOTAKBANK	1825	1838	1818.45	1833.85	RAIN	135.4	142.2	135.05	137.75	PAGEIND	24120	24358.55	24033.9	24308.55	IFBND	80.5	923.8	835	915.2	LINDEINDIA	905.05	911.6	893	904.2
IRCTC	1710	1793	1600	1643.55	BSOFT	192.85	202	191.85	200.95	HAVELLS	839	839	813.75	820.5	APLITD	1030	1044	1013.7	1029.9	THYROCARE	1064	1064	1026	1031.9
ICICIBANK	511.7	511.7	505.3	508.5	IOC	92.45	92.45	90	91.05	SUZLON	3.6	3.71	3.51	3.59	ARUNFASN	159.35	159.75	149.35	154.5	PRSMJOHNSN	88	90	86.6	88.8
BAJFINANCE	4845	4862.4	4774.9	4789.65	INDIANSH	74.7	88.95	73.5	85.6	GODREJCP	717	717	701.8	706.7	LTTTS	1860.5	1860.5	1801	1810.05	LALPATHLAB	2235	2254.15	2223.9	2234.5
HDFCLIFE	652.1	657.75	643.8	651.4	LICHSGFIN	351	357.65	347.6	355.15	ISEC	462	473.6	458.6	460.9	BDL	345	348.3	338.15	341	DBCORP	90.75	91.75	87.25	88.15
CANBK	118.1	141.05	117.65	136.8	JSWSTEEL	365.55	367.3	357.55	362.45	UCOBANK	13.35	14	13.03	13.86	MPHASIS	1339	1339.7	1307	1314.4	CYIENT	479.75	480.15	472.3	474.6
IDEA	9.64	9.85	9.52	9.57	PFIZER	5370	5400	5305	5315.8	IBREALEST	72	72.1	67.6	69.55	JSLSHISAR	129.95	130.25	124.4	129.2	SONATSOFTW	347.55	349.5	344	344.6
MARUTI	7710	8006.95	7701	7762.25	POLYCAK	1022	1038	1005.15	1023.75	ALKEM	2920	2950.05	2885.95	2910.25	HIMATSEIDE	140.7	146.6	133.05	137.65	TNPL	119	119.5	115.05	117.15
TATAMOTORS	185.35	187.5	178.95	181.75	ALOKTEXT	25.25	25.25	23.4	24.1	AMARAJABAT	917.15	939.4	914.05	917.7	FORTIS	145.9	147.8	143.6	144.85	OMAXE	90	90.45	86.45	89.05
TATASTEEL	615.35	620.95	602.55	614.1	FORCEMOT	1535	1559.5	1391.5	1418.75	COLPAL	1550	1568	1532	1564.5	PGHL	6767.3	6800	6501	6685.9	HEIDELBERG	215	216.3	211.4	214.45
BANKBARODA	60.4	66.15	60	65.3	BIIND	2444	2544	2350	2355.55	DCAL	162.7	169.4	155.45	162.25	SPARC	194.25	194.35	185.6	188.05	GLAXO	1552	1555.95	1547.65	1549
HDFCBANK	1377	1388.7	1365.55	1376.25	PEL	116	116	111.1	113.1	IFCI	8.7	8.7	7.85	8.1	SUNTECK	335	337.7	319	323.75	SJVN	25.05	25.35	24.8	22
HDFC	2320	2339.9	2294.55	2309.85	HEROMOTOCO	3172	3201	3155.8	3167.55	IDBIL	11.25	11.85	11.09	11.72	VARROC	426	427	397	409.95	EPL	263.9	264	250.2	255.9
DMART	2533.95	2689.8	2529	2657.7	UNIONBANK	31.5	34.15	31.2	33.8	PIDILITIND	1621	1636.5	1601	1611.35	RITES	271.9	271.95	265	266.35	IRCON	91.4	91.6	88.25	89.6
UPL	482.9	488.95	469.75	472.55	NATIONALUM	43.1	43.8	41.45	42.4	SUMICHE	319.9	321	305.1	308.45	BAJAJHLONG	3130.85	3130.85	3026.85	3077	JYOTHYLAB	146.4	147.2	140.8	141.65
SHREECEM	25007.05	25258	24733.35	24794.1	IGL	481	488.95	474.8	486.95	HAL	868	873.95	855	864.8	ZENSARECON	223.8	238.65	216.7	231.4	GOLFOILLUB	763.25	778.5	751.2	763.9
BHARTIARTL	512	516.2	499.5	504.25	TITAN	1427.55	1435.75	1413.05	1427.45	CAPPL	521	527.75	501.8	507.9	KNRCON	313.8	318.3	300.75	305.25	WESTLIFE	445	445	431	439.75
HCLTECH	855.1	875.35	855.1	863.45	INDIAMART	5060	5333.75	5050	5235.7	SYMPHONY	899.9	906.45	875	894.1	GSPL	224	228.5	220	226.65	LUXIND	1598.1	1618.35	1541.8	1551.15
ONGC	93	93.4	90.05	90.75	MCX	1580	1614	1566.6	1594.05	EDELWEISS	81	82.8	77.8	78.75	ABBOTINDIA	15390	15493.9	15267.3	15342.2	TCIEHP	876.3	912.75	864.95	910
DIVISLAB	3724	3750	3676.45	3688.9	TINDIA	821	835.6	807.1	810.85	BEML	741.25	748	717	732.1	CREAVESCOT	83.65	85.3	81.1	83	MAHESEMLES	308.5	315.1	297.45	304.15
GESHIP	290	290	274	277.2	EQUITAS	71.8	73.15	69.7	72.05	VRLOG	195.7	199	189.1	194.4	JKLAKSHMI	363.5	367	352.35	358.5	PERSISTENT	1205	1230.4	1195	1199.95
WIPRO	360	364.95	358.55	363.65	JUSTDIAL	636	648.5	616	624.55	RAJESHHEXP	495	499.2	480	482.5	BAYERCCRP	5295	5334.05	5202.25	5267.6	GARHBRES	2199	2201	2170	2186.25
TATACHEM	515.45	521.35	505.15	510.35	BANKINDIA	49.5	54	48.95	53.2	METROPOLIS	1962.8	2001.5	1934	1962.1	NICINDIA	55	55.6	54.3	54.75	MASFIN	1005.3	1018	978.5	993.05
TC	2745	2804.85	2733	2796.4	LAURUSLABS	337	339	322.6	332.55	MRPL	34.45	36.8	33.9	35.7	GILLETTE	5755	5755	5702	5716.3	SHOPERSTO	194	197.1	191.55	194.35
LIT	1175	1284.15	1148.65	1171.2	BPLCL	398.8	398.8	389.45	390.55	COCHINSHIP	372	372.7	359.35	359.95	FINCABLES	361.1	364.45	340.8	343.4	CARBORUNIV	376.4	377.75	360.45	365.05
AXISBANK	619.9	623.6	611.9	620.45	BATAINDIA	1571.3	1578.4	1545.35	1563.45	VOLTAS	820.9	820.9	804.35	81.1	KANSAINAR	555	570	550.8	562.8	JAGRAN	45	45.85	42.65	43.2
ULTRACEMCO	5083.7	5233	5083	5215.35	GRAPHITE	268.8	287.75	268.8	281.05	FRETAIL	77.1	77.6	76.15	76.85	TATAMETALI	602.65	609.95	581.95	595.15	REDINGTON	135.95	135.95	130.7	132.7
M&M	752	764.1	744	753.95	RECLTD	131	131.75	127	128	RVNL	24.4	24.45	22.9	23.35	AVANTI	547.4	548.1	527.9	529.85	REPCOHAME	262.45	265.35	254.8	258.3
ITC	204.35	204.75	199.7	202.45	I&KBANK	23.89	26.01	22.91	25.86	GODFREYPHLP	943.75	955.2	923.7	933.7	JAMNAUTO	55.1	55.7	52.7	529.85	HONAUT	31000	31200	30630	30689.65
GODREJPROP	1219	1261.6	1216	1256.55	SBICARD	830.1	859	830.1	854.7	VINATIORGA	1150	1185	1143.35	1162.5	NETWORK18	38.5	39.2	37.15	37.5	WABAG	204.65	205.6	198.5	200.4
DRREDDY	5065	5081.4	4960	5014.15	EXIDEIND	192.3	195.05	187.15	191.75	IEX	214.5	219	212.95	214.3	NAVINFLOUR	2670.9	2635.95	2540.35	2546.1	OBEROIRLTY	522	529.15	514.5	518.55
TATAPOWER	73.2	73.2	70.25	72.05	TATAELSI	1710	1725	1669.1	1686.95	NOCIL	142.4	145.2	140.6	142.05	NBVENTURES	570.5	587.5	55.5	55.85	LAXMIMACH	4601	4702.4	4508.05	4615.55
JINDALSTEEL	268.8	268.8	254.2	260.4	MARCONO	569	570.45	558.1	562.6	JAICORPLTD	97.4	97.75	95.45	96.8	STLITECH	168	169	162	164.75	MOTILALOFS	655.9	664.35	636.95	649
SUNTV	471	457.25	452.15	458.15	TATACO	400	405.75	391.4	394	MGL	1042.4	1042.5	1020.9	1037.3	JSL	70.75	71.1	65.75	68.3	CSBBANK	224.6	226.75	221.65	224.8
M&MFIN	179	179	171.5	175.35	BOSCHLTD	13700	13700	13190	13233.3	CHAMBLFERT	206.4	213.9	204.25	207.9	NESCO	566.9	570	547.05	552.85	GICRE	142	144	139.5	142.55
PVR	1360	1402.95	1335	1386.95	DIXON	11698	11960	11698	11805.3	DISHTV	11.6	12	10.85	11.21	BERGEPAINT	672.3	677.3	662.85	667.95	HERITGFOOD	283.3	285.85	279	279.95
VEDL	133.3	138.7	130.75	136.1	VANGRANGEE	42.8	44.5	41.6	43.3	TRENT	695.05	707.15	683.3	687.65	FDC	366	369.5	355	357.6	PGHH	11007.5	11018.75	10862	10936.55
RBLBANK	250	250	233.7	237.15	UBL	1100	1139.2	1096.6	1112.9	HINDZINC	240	243	232.8	237.65	FINOERG	2586.85	2610	2528.35	2537.4	SCHNEIDER	90.72	91.85	88.35	89.05
BAJAJFINSV	9045	9081.6	8903.2	8967.05	DELTACORP	157.15	158.55	147.6	154.6	AFPLE	3840	3840	3615.7	3678.4	EHOTEL	103.8	104.85	99	101.4	ALICARGO	130.9	133	128.15	128.7
BHEL	35.3	36.75	34.1	36.2	MRF	79698.4	79986.55	78921.25	79107.3	IPCALAB	2224.4	2278.05	2212	2255.2	MINDACORP	86	86.05	82	82.65	SCHAEFFLER	4260	4400.4	4250	433.05
APOLLOHOSP	2480	2504	2415.7	2448.55	ADANIGAS	369.9	369.5	353	355.15	MAHABANK	15.6	16	14	15.41	SHK	138.4	138.4	129.3	130.5	MMTC	20.55	20.55	19.55	19.85
NCC	58.75	60.55	55.25	59.1	DEPAKNI	859	867.25	785.85	832.45	ECLERX	799.95	818.9	770.8	773.9	GSFC	75.95	76.5	71.8	73.55	QUESS	503.5	505.3	488	496.5
SKSTRANSIN	1077.7	1080.25	1046.55	1066.85	PETRONET	270	271.8	258.7	261.3	AIJANPHARM	1699	1710.1	1670.05	1682.3	CARERATING	550	559.7	525	528.25	BASF	1630	1642	1610.55	1617.85
LUPIN	971.3	974.85	940	948.2	NATPCOMBND	975	987.95	955	970.6	ASTRAL	1464.25	1465	1417.4	1423.2	KRBL	276.45	276.45	257.35	262.25	TCSBRANDS	439.4	439.75	416.9	432.1
SAIL	55.55	56.65	53.1	55.75	RAYMOND	343.95	344	330	336.4	BALRAMCHIN	168	168	159.5	162.3	KEC	372.05	377.3	368.4	370.8	AIENG	2057.65			

90-year-old Maggie world's first to get anti-Covid jab

London: A 90-year-old British grandmother, Margaret "Maggie" Keenan, on Tuesday became the first person in the world to receive the Pfizer/BioNTech jab against Covid-19 as the UK kicked off its biggest-ever vaccine campaign in history.

At 6:31 am GMT early riser Margaret, known to family and friends as Maggie, was given the life-saving jab by nurse May Parsons at her local hospital in Coventry to mark what the National Health Service (NHS) has dubbed a "landmark moment" on V-Day or Vaccine Day in the fight against the deadly virus.

Maggie is among the first set of people contacted in advance by the NHS for the jab based on a predetermined health risk criteria.

The second person vaccinated was 81-year-old William Shakespeare from Warwickshire, who said he was "pleased" to be given the jab.

They're joined by an 87-



Margaret Keenan, 90, is applauded by staff as she returns to her ward after becoming the first patient in the UK to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine at University Hospital, Coventry, England on Tuesday

year-old British Indian grandfather of nine Dr Hari Shukla and his 83-year-old wife who

became the first Indian-origin couple in the world to get a vaccine against Covid-19.

"I feel so privileged to be the first person vaccinated against Covid-19, it's the best

early birthday present I could wish for because it means I can finally look forward to spending time with my family and friends in the New Year after being on my own for most of the year," said Maggie, who turns 91 next week.

The former jewellery shop assistant who retired four years ago has a daughter, a son and four grandchildren and is looking forward to being able to go out again once she receives the top-up booster dose 21 days later.

"I can't thank May and the NHS staff enough who have looked after me tremendously, and my advice to anyone offered the vaccine is to take it – if I can have it at 90 then you can have it too," she said.

"It's a huge honour to be the first person in the country to deliver a Covid-19 jab to a patient, I'm just glad that I'm able to play a part in this historic day," said nurse Parsons.

Dr Shukla and his wife got injected with their first of two

doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech jab at a hospital in Newcastle.

Shukla, a race relations campaigner based in Tyne and Wear, had been contacted by the NHS last week. His wife, Ranjan, then volunteered for the jab as she also falls within the first phase of people aged 80 and over, care home workers as

well as NHS workers at high risk eligible to receive the "life-saving jab".

"I'm so pleased we are hopefully coming towards the end of this pandemic and I am delighted to be doing my bit by having the vaccine, I feel it is my duty to do so and do whatever I can to help," said Dr Shukla,

who was born in Kenya and whose father hailed from Mumbai.

They have been picked based on the criteria set by the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation phased rollout based on those at the highest risk of death from the deadly virus.

PTI

US regulators post positive review of Pfizer vaccine data

Washington: Documents released by US regulators on Tuesday confirmed that Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine was strongly protective against COVID-19 -- offering the world's first detailed look at the evidence behind the shots.

The Food and Drug Administration posted its analysis online even as across the Atlantic, Britain on Tuesday began vaccinating its oldest

citizens with the Pfizer-BioNTech shots.

But the U.S. Judges experimental vaccines in a unique way: On Thursday, the FDA will convene what's essentially a science court that will debate -- in public and live-streamed -- just how strong the data backing the shots really is.

A panel of independent scientists will pick apart the FDA's first-pass review before rec-

ommending whether the vaccine appears safe and effective enough for millions of Americans. The FDA, which typically follows the committee's advice, is expected to issue a decision in the days following the review. If given the green light, the first recipients would be health care workers and nursing home residents according to plans laid out by each state.

AP

Dramatic increase in Afghan Govt airstrikes, says US-based group

Kabul: A US-based institute warned on Tuesday that there has been a dramatic increase in airstrikes conducted by Afghan government forces from July to September this year, attacks that have led to a sharp rise in civilian casualties.

The Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs, a research center at Brown University, said in its report that 70 Afghan civilians have been killed in the third quarter of this year, compared to 86 killed in the first six months of 2020. The somber statistic comes even as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban are holding negotiations about a peaceful resolution to the country's 19-year war. The talks have been underway since September in Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office. The two sides last week finally made a step forward after a long impasse, agreeing

The Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs said 70 Afghan civilians have been killed in the third quarter of this year, compared to 86 killed in the first six months of 2020

on rules and procedures for the negotiations. In its report, the institute also said that from 2017 through 2019, civilian deaths due to US and allied forces' airstrikes in Afghanistan dramatically increased. In 2019, airstrikes killed 700 civilians -- more civilians than in any other year since the beginning of the war in 2001 and 2002. The civilians have borne the brunt of the fighting, despite repeated pleas from the United Nations to spare civilian lives.

AP

Protesters block traffic in Armenia demanding Prime Minister to resign

Yerevan (Armenia), Dec 8 (AP) Dozens of protesters took to the streets of the Armenian capital Tuesday, demanding the resignation of the country's prime minister over his handling of the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian opposition politicians and their supporters have been calling for Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to step down ever since he signed a peace deal that halted 44 days of deadly fighting over the separatist region, but called for territorial concessions to Azerbaijan.

On Saturday, opposition parties warned Pashinyan there would be civil disobedience across the country if he does not resign by noon on Tuesday.

The prime minister has refused to step down, defending the peace agreement as a painful but necessary move that prevented Azerbaijan from overrunning the entire Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Protesters on Tuesday temporarily blocked traffic on dif-



A police officer tries to detain demonstrators during a rally demanding the resignation of the country's Prime Minister over his handling of the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh in Yerevan, Armenia on Tuesday

ferent streets of Yerevan, Armenia's capital, and at one point blocked trains at one of the city's subway stations.

The subway had to shut down as the result until further notice, spokeswoman of the Yerevan subway TATEV Khachatryan told The Associated Press.

Demonstrators chanted "Armenia without Nikol," "Nikol, go away!"; Police detained several dozen protesters. Similar

protests were held in other Armenian cities.

The Armenian Apostolic Church on Tuesday joined in on the opposition's calls for Pashinyan to step down. The head of the church, Catholics of All Armenians Karekin II, urged the prime minister to resign in a statement, saying that the move would "prevent upheavals in public life, as well as possible clashes and tragic consequences."

AP

China condemns new US HK sanctions, Taiwan arms sale

Beijing: China on Tuesday lashed out at the US over new sanctions against Chinese officials and the sale of more military equipment to Taiwan.

The US actions are part of what critics see as an effort by the Trump administration to put in place high-pressure tactics toward Beijing that could make it more difficult for President-elect Joe Biden to steady relations.

The Cabinet's office for Hong Kong affairs expressed "strong outrage and condemnation" over the sanctions levied against 14 members of the standing committee of China's legislature, which passed a sweeping Hong Kong National Security Law earlier this year.

Foreign ministry spokesman Hua Chunying, meanwhile, demanded the US cancel its latest arms sale to Taiwan and said China would make a "proper and necessary

response."

The State Department on Monday said it added 14 members of the Chinese legislature's standing committee to the list of officials banned from traveling to the US or having access to the US financial system over the crackdown on civil rights in Hong Kong.

It also announced the approval of a \$280 million sale of advanced military communications equipment to Taiwan.

President Donald Trump's administration has incensed Beijing with 11 separate arms sales and closer military and political ties with the self-governing island democracy that Beijing claims as its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

China has stepped up military flights near the island and pledged to punish US companies involved in the arms deals in response.

AP

Another judge blocks Trump's TikTok ban; app still in limbo

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A federal judge has blocked President Donald Trump's attempts to ban TikTok, the latest legal defeat for the administration as it tries to wrest the popular app from its Chinese owners.

The Trump administration had tried to ban the short-form video app from smartphone app stores in the US and cut it off from vital technical services. TikTok sued, arguing such actions would violate free speech and due process rights.

Judge Carl Nichols of the US District Court in Washington, DC, said in a ruling Monday that the Commerce Department "likely overstepped" its use of presidential emergency powers "and acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner by failing to consider obvious alternatives."

BHARAT BANDH...

Public and private transport services remained shut in Punjab. In neighbouring Haryana, inter-State and intra-State bus services were disrupted. Petroleum dealers in the twin States kept filling stations closed to support the Bharat Bandh called by the farmer unions.

Agitating farmers blocked several key roads, including Chandigarh-Delhi, Amritsar-Delhi, Hisar-Delhi and Bhiwani-Delhi national highways. They parked tractors, trucks and other vehicles in the middle of the carriageways.

Carrying placards, the protesters squatted on key roads and raised slogans against the BJP-led Government at the Centre.

There were sit-ins at toll plazas in several places. The road blockades led to inconvenience to commuters across both States, including Chandigarh. Over 50,000 Government employees in the State have taken mass casual leave in support of farmers, claimed Punjab Civil Secretariat Staff Association president Sukhchain Khaira.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, an apex gurdwara body, has also announced to keep its offices and institutions closed.

In Haryana, police had issued a travel advisory stating that people might face traffic blockades on various roads and highways of the State.

Haryana Roadways officials said their services were hit by the blockades. In Ambala, the wholesale cloth market, Sarafa market and the grain market were closed even as some others were open. Shops at many places in Rohtak, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Bhiwani and Hisar districts also remained closed.

In Uttar Pradesh, there was no impact on bandh as shops and commercial establishments were opened. Roadways buses, trucks and mini buses were seen plying on the roads as well as auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws while the Samajwadi Party (SP) held protests in a number of districts and even holding up a train in Allahabad.

SP leaders sat on a silent protest near the statue of former Prime Minister Chaudhary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Charan Singh at the Vidhan Bhavan in Lucknow in support of the bandh. SP MLCs Rajpal Kashyap, Sunil Singh Sajjan, Anand Bhadauria and Ashu Malik were part of it.

In Bihar, railway tracks, highways and roads across the State were teeming with supporters of the Bharat Bandh, which affected normal life. RJD supporters, and workers of Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party fanned out to various parts of Patna, forcing shopkeepers to down their shutters and deflating tyres of vehicles plying on the roads. In Jehanabad, the movement of Patna-Palame Express was obstructed for a few minutes until the bandh supporters, squatting on the tracks, were chased away by the police. Burning tyres were placed on National Highway 110 and 83, resulting in the disruption of traffic, leading to long queues of vehicles. The Opposition parties supporters in Patna blocked the Dak Bungalow Chowk intersection leading to disruption of traffic.

In Maharashtra, Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) remained closed in many parts in support of the Bharat Bandh. The wholesale markets in major cities like Pune, Nashik, Nagpur and Aurangabad remained shut. Retail shops also downed shutters in many cities. Except mandis, there was no impact of bandh in the States as buses and transports were continued to ply. All business establishments and Government offices were opened in the States.

In Chhattisgarh major cities including capital Raipur, wore a deserted look with most of the business establishments remained closed. The Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries has decided to keep businesses and shops shut. Supporters of the Congress and Left parties blocked railway tracks at several places, and held sit-ins on roads to enforce the nationwide shutdown, which evoked a mixed response in West Bengal.

In Kolkata, CPI(M) activists along with SFI and DYFI members blocked roads

in Lake Town, College Street, Jadavpur and Shyambazar Five-Point Crossing.

In Gujarat protesters blocked three highways in rural areas by placing burning tyres on roads affecting vehicular traffic for some time. A highway connecting Ahmedabad to Viramgam was blocked near Sanand by protesters from the Congress party who placed burning tyres on roads, causing a traffic jam. Another group of protesters blocked a national highway in Vadodara. In another incident, a highway connecting Bharuch and Dahej in Bharuch district was similarly blocked near Nandelav by protesters. Police detained protesters in Ahmedabad and brought the situation under control.

5-MEMBER OPP...

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Shiv Sena, Shiromani Akali Dal, Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), the Revolutionary Socialist Party, the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) are the Opposition parties who supported the farmers' protest and the 'Bharat Bandh' called by various farmer organisations. These parties are likely to be part of the memorandum to be submitted to President Kovind. Congress said it was not against farm sector reforms, but the ones brought in through the three recent laws did not reflect those changes, and demanded that these legislations be scrapped by convening a special session of Parliament. Senior Congress leader and former Haryana chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said agriculture reforms should be discussed afresh in Parliament and new laws enacted after consulting all stakeholders. Hooda also said the Minimum Support Price mechanism needs to be incorporated in the law because it is a must to protect the inter-

est of farmers. He alleged the farm laws brought in by the centre were passed without any consultation with farmers, and that the government pushed them through as the coronavirus pandemic raged across the country.

"The government must immediately scrap the three farm laws and convene a Parliament session to discuss reforms in the agri sector," Hooda said at AICC Press conference.

PROTESTS PEACEFUL...

was adopting every tactic to suppress the voice of the farmers to thwart the Bharat Bandh.

He said that workers of his union had been arrested for making Bharat Bandh a failure.

Meanwhile, national president of Rashtriya Kisan Manch, Shekhar Dixit, said that the office-bearers of his organisation were arrested in Unnao, Sitapur, Hardoi, Auraiya, Kannauj, Prayagraj, Ghaziabad and other cities and it amounted to "killing democracy".

According to a report received from Mau, markets remained closed in urban and rural areas during the Bharat Bandh. According to the report received from Kaushambi, the major markets of the district remained open as usual.

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad was detained at his residence in Saharanpur on Tuesday when he was leaving to join the Bharat Bandh of the protesting farmers. Chandrashekhar Azad tweeted saying, 'India has again gone back to the Emergency era today. Our providers, the farmers, need us, but the police under the Yogi government have detained me since morning.' All shops in Lucknow remained open and public transport plying on the roads. A few shopkeepers, apprehending trouble, kept their establishments closed in the morning but most of them opened up by noon. The Dubagga Mandi wore a deserted look since morning. The Naveen Galla Mandi on Sitapur Road was, however, open. Rinku Sonkar, president of the Fruit and Vegetable Welfare Association

of Naveen Galla Mandi said that if the mandi did not open, the stocks would go waste, adding that the farmers on their own were bringing fruits and vegetables.

TODAY'S TALKS...

The head of the BKU (Ugrahan), which is one of the largest outfits in the bloc, questioned the rationale of the talks a day before the scheduled official consultations.

Hours ahead of a meeting with Shah, farmers reiterated their stance of not compromising on their demand that the three contentious farm laws be repealed. "There is no midway, we will demand just 'yes' or 'no' from Shah at today's meeting," farmer leader Rudru Singh Mansa said. The farmer leaders included eight from Punjab and five from various national-wide organisations. The participating leaders included Hannan Mollah of the All India Kisan Sabha, Rakesh Tikait of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), Gurnam Singh, Shiv Kumar Kakka.

KEJRIWAL UNDER...

The AAP in a statement said Kejriwal, along with the whole Cabinet of Delhi, visited the Singhu border to review the situation and informed the farmers that he has come here as a caregiver and not as a CM. "As soon as he returned home the Delhi Police put him under house arrest. The AAP observed that the Delhi Police has done this so that Kejriwal cannot come out in support of the farmers and join the Bharat Bandh," it said.

Reacting to the charges, a senior police official said, "We have our security personnel deployed outside his residence as a precautionary measure to avoid any clash between BJP and AAP members. Even last evening, he had come out of his house. There is no restriction on his movement."

Anto Alphonse, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district on Tuesday also tweeted a photo of the entrance of Kejriwal's residence and denied the allegations. "This claim of the CM

being put on house arrest is incorrect. He exercises his right to free movement within the law of the land. A picture of the house entrance says it all," he stated in his tweet.

Hitting hard at Kejriwal, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused him of indulging in "politics of lies".

"Stop this politics of lies and step out of your house. There are cameras outside your house. Let the entire country and Delhi see whether you're under house arrest or not," said Bhatia.

IN A FIRST...

He is scheduled to call on senior military officials where he will discuss avenues for enhancing India-UAE defence relations, officials said here on Tuesday.

The issue of the pending deal for 93,895 close quarter carbines with Caracal for the Indian Army is expected to be raised by the UAE side, an official source said. The trip has been delayed by couple of days from the original schedule. It comes close after the visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to UAE.

The Army Chief will travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the second leg of his tour from December 13 to 14. "He will take forward the excellent defence cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and India through multiple meetings with senior functionaries of security establishment and exchange views on various defence related issues," the Army said.

Naravane will visit the Headquarters of Royal Saudi Land Force, the Joint Force Command Headquarters and King Abdulaziz Military Academy. He is also scheduled to visit the National Defence University and address the students and faculty at the institution. Last year, India and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on defence industries collaboration and an agreement on security cooperation. These high-profile visits are part of India's outreach to West Asia, seen by New Delhi as part of its extended neighbourhood. This effort has bolstered defence and security cooperation, especially in counter-terrorism.

Nepal's Oli calls all-party meeting to discuss current political issues

Kathmandu: Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, squeezed by the feud within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) and challenge from pro-monarchists from outside, on Tuesday convened an all-party meeting to discuss the current political issues, calling for unity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and anti-constitutional activities in the country.

The meeting began at 11 am at Baluwatar, the official residence of the prime minister, said Surya Thapa, Oli's press adviser. Addressing the meeting, Oli called for unity among all the political forces at a time when the country is facing Covid-19 and anti-constitutional and violent activities.

"The Prime Minister stressed on the need for controlling Covid, protecting democratic achievements, and forging unity among all against anti-constitutional and violent activities," Thapa said on social media. Senior leaders of the



The meeting comes at a time when pro-monarchist forces are organising protest rallies in different parts of the country, including national capital, Kathmandu demanding reinstatement of constitutional monarchy and re-establishing Nepal as the Hindu state.

Demonstrations in support of former king Gyanendra have been initiated in different parts of the country with protesters raising slogans in favour of the monarchy and the Hindu nation.

PTI

Lords vote to bar trade deals with genocidal countries: UK

London: Britain's House of Lords has voted to back proposals aimed at preventing the UK from making trade deals with any country deemed by the British High Court to be committing genocide.

Members voted late Monday for two proposals to amend the Government's post-Brexit trade bill to bar trade deals with countries that commit serious human rights abuses.

Under one of the plans, minorities alleging they have been the subject of genocide can for the first time apply to the High Court of England and ask for judges to determine if a country trading with the UK has perpetrated genocide.

Bilateral trade agreements can then be revoked if the court makes a preliminary ruling against that country.

The proposals were intended as a way around the lack of international action in addressing human rights abuses in countries such as China.

Proponents argue that despite mounting evidence of atrocities targeting Uighurs in the western Chinese region of Xinjiang, the United Nations is highly unlikely to refer Beijing to the International Criminal Court because China, a permanent member of the Security Council, will veto the move.

"Parliament has had enough of this unconscionable inertia. We owe it to Uighurs to find another way, and now we have," said Conservative lawmaker Anthony Mangnall. Britain's Conservative government opposes the measures, which will go to the lower house of Parliament next for debate.

AP



SKILLS TO SUCCEED

Infrastructure development is the backbone of global economy; naturally, project managers in this sector need to be competent and well-versed with the processes. DR PRATIMA SHEOREY shares must have qualities

Whether we talk about the development of private residential structures, business structures, or building bridges, infrastructure managers need to possess knowledge and skills related to the development and management of the built infrastructure.

It is up to the infrastructure development manager to oversee every activity in compliance with the project requirements, while additionally keeping up a safe and effective workplace environment. They likewise need to deal with the financial plans, create and manage deadlines, strategise and coordinate for feedback and updates with all the involved stakeholders.

Aspirants desirous of developing a career in infrastructure development and related industries must remain focused on the following seven skills, along with possessing experience and the technical know-how:

Basic technical skills: Technical skills in the areas of engineering (civil,

mechanical and electrical) will help students understand the ground details of projects and create innovative solutions, aligned with industry expectations and recent developments in the sector.

Contract management: Given the multi-stakeholder nature of infrastructure projects, a single infrastructure project can have multiple contracts in force. A skilled infrastructure professional must possess the acumen to identify potential contractual defaults ahead of time, and recommend/prepare the most cost effective mitigation strategy. Thus creating water tight contracts and subsequently managing the contracts must come naturally to contract professionals.

Project management: Infrastructure projects span across several years and are usually multi-stakeholder projects, including government, private investors and impact local citizenry. Thus effective project management skills are essential, such that time delays, resulting cost overruns

and resulting risks can be managed, to minimise social and economic costs.

Financial structuring: Due to the large scale of investments coupled with paucity of funds with the government, Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) based projects are likely to continue to be at the front and centre of Infra projects. Within PPP projects, new and innovative financing modules are emerging such as the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in road projects, amongst others. Thus students need to stay abreast of financial innovations in the sector.

Risk Management: With large infrastructure projects, come higher risks. Risks such as construction risks, operational risks, change in force majeure, change in law, and other environmental risks need effective planning, mitigation and monitoring.

Communication skills: The ability to concisely yet transparently communicate their requirements and ideas is another most significant skill that stu-

dents must learn. Good communication skills ensure that no detail is lost in comprehension. However, when we talk about communication, it not only includes prowess in expressing oneself but also the patience to listen to what the client or other members of the team have to say.

Entrepreneurial and leadership mindset: Managing any project is like running a business. Each project that you manage will have its own set of challenges. So, having an entrepreneurial and leadership mindset is a huge advantage. Expansions in small and entrepreneurial businesses in infrastructure projects holds promise in the coming future, owing to increase government focus on the sector. Thus possessing risk taking abilities and leading small businesses will become an essential skill in the sector.

The writer is Director — Symbiosis Centre for Management and Human Resource Development

VIPS organises Spandan 2020 virtually



Withstanding the onslaught of global pandemic, the media students of Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (VIPS), New Delhi accomplished a historical feat by organising their annual media festival online with over thousand participants across the globe. Themed at digital literacy, media and pandemic, the three-day event with a total of 22 Competitive and Non Competitive Events was organised by over 300 media students of Vivekananda School of Journalism and Mass Communication (VSJMC) from December 3 to December 5.

Industry veterans across the globe participated in various events. Amongst the various sessions, a 'Ad Man's Webinar' was organised to picture the current status of the advertising industry during the pandemic.

Industry veteran Suraja Kishore, who is currently CEO — BBDO India, addressed participants and discussed the ground realities of the advertising industry and human's counterbalance to it.

Exemplifying the festival, Prof Sidharth Mishra, chairperson VSJMC, says: "When everything stopped and the world was introduced to a new normal, digital platforms became the only resort for education and showcasing talents, and bringing normalcy in our lives.

The media students of VIPS have demonstrated a high level of commitment and sincerity by organising Spandan 2020 on the virtual mode."

The organising team of students was mentored by Dr Charulata Singh, Dr Praveen K Singh, Dr Ramesh K Sharma, Dr Sunil Mishra and Anurag Gupta under the leadership of Prof Mishra.

Spandan 2020 allowed experiencing nor-



Suraja Kishore, CEO, BBDO India

malcy, instilling creativity, competitive high, excitement, and happiness to every participant even in such unpredictable times.

Spandan 2020 concluded with a musical extravaganza, where over 100 students participated in a lineup for the musical performances in the form of Grand Musical Finale including dance, music, *jugalbandi* and theatrical acts.

Exemplifying the festival, Prof Sidharth Mishra, chairperson VSJMC, says: "When everything stopped and the world was introduced to a new normal, digital platforms became the only resort for education and showcasing talents, and bringing normalcy in our lives. The media students of VIPS have demonstrated a high level of commitment and sincerity by organising Spandan 2020 on the virtual mode."

We have witnessed some interesting trends coming out in the last couple of quarters, where businesses took years' worth of decisions in a matter of weeks to sail through these challenging times. The behaviour, needs, as well as wants of consumers shifted rapidly.

To meet consumers where they are, businesses had to reconstruct their business models. Innovations that would normally take years to happen, in some industry verticals, took place in a matter of months. Organisations that looked at things differently and innovated at a rapid pace while adapting to the situation outperformed their peers who failed to adapt.

Few of the questions that come in mind are how can your organisation turn all the great ideas your teams are coming up with into reality as quickly as possible? How can you fast-track innovation? The answer not only lies in sound leadership, cross-functional team collaborations, and communication with these six approaches:

Make innovation imperative: Will it be enough for business leaders to just support and provide a platform for innovation? What if only a handful of them step forward and take the initiative? That's not going to be enough. Innovation should be embedded into the mission; the way workforce thinks and the way it works daily. Only then can you expect to drive breakthroughs. It's like the age-old saying: can you walk the talk? Organisations need to be serious about being innovative. While the workforce keeps churning out ideas

Follow the 3 Os

It's time for organisations to outthink, outwork and outsmart in this post-pandemic world or risk becoming obsolete, says KAMAL DUTTA



and transforms them into concepts, leadership should help refine it.

Value creativity at all times: Creativity lies at the heart of innovation. With ever-evolving consumer trends and demand cycles, companies need to consistently innovate their products or services to stay ahead of the curve. Albert Einstein famously said, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we

created them." Therefore, it is absolutely essential to provide employees with the space to exercise their imaginative thinking. The freedom to express ideas and thoughts is crucial because its absence can obstruct the free-flow of creativity and, in the long run, hurt business interests.

Focus more on your employees: An organisation's growth is directly dependent on its employees and therefore it is crucial to keep

them satisfied and motivated. Empower them to think about difficult problems and give them space to exert their individual agency and values to arrive at solutions. To get the best out of people, recognition and rewards also go a long way. Rewarding successful new ideas serves to motivate others to think out of the box.

Try a non-hierarchical management: If your goal is to encourage innovation, depending on a well-defined hierarchy might do worse than good. Allowing employees to break down workplace barriers enables greater interaction across all levels which results in better cooperation and idea generation. Easy sharing of ideas and problems supports critical thinking, which is essential for innovation and effective decision-making.

Try again. Fail again. Fail better: The path to innovation is paved with failures. Therefore, it is better to make peace with the possibility of failure and keep moving forwards regardless than not trying at all.

The writer is Managing Director of Skillsoft & SumTotal India

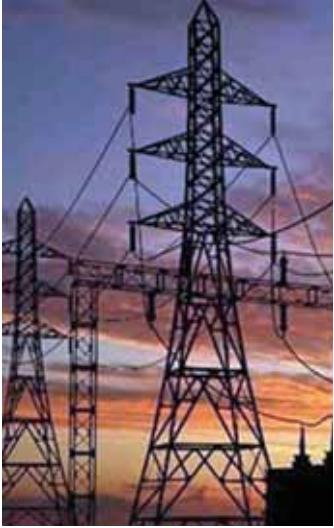
Need to power up

With digitalisation driving across the value chain, skill development becomes imperative for the entire power sector, says RAVI P SINGH

Electricity is a source of energy, which has the capacity to change the world. Power is and will be a part of our lives for as long as the mind can imagine. A city dweller will have to take extreme efforts to disconnect with power, even momentarily. Even a villager cannot think of surviving without Power, such intimate is our present relationship with Power.

It is a fact that India is one of the biggest economies in the world. The Government's "Make in India" initiative, will lead to a huge spurt in industrialisation, as a consequence of which, demand for power will increase. The rural electrification projects under the Government's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY) and PM's Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya Scheme) to electrify over 3.89 crore households, and increasing per capita energy consumption will further add to the demand for Power. According to the National Electricity Plan, by the year 2026-2027, there will be the demand for 2047 billion units of electricity in the country.

Skill gap in the sector
Due to the high demand for electric energy, the demand of skilled and trained people in this area will increase. It is estimated that



the Power Sector will need an additional 16.6 lakh skilled manpower by 2025. Meeting this demand for additional skilled manpower in the entire chain of the power sector and downstream value-added services will be a challenge for the sector. This situation is unfolding right now as we discuss, not in some distant future.

The irony is that despite demographic dividend in our favor, the sector is not able to take advantage. The Demographic Dividend occurs

when the proportion of working people in the total population is high, which indicates that people have more potential to be productive and contribute to the growth of the economy. This is happening because the power sector faces an enormous shortage of workers with requisite competencies. With digitalisation driving across the value chain, skill development becomes imperative for the entire sector and all the more so in the distribution segment.

Distribution companies need to undertake measures like smart metering, smart grid technology, switching to renewable sources of energy, adoption of Blockchain in managing distributed energy resources and Artificial Intelligence. All of this calls for upscaling of existing workforce and preparing future power sector professionals to make strong impacts.

The need of the hour is to have well-established training institutions to train and fill the scarcity of astute power sector professionals. Considering this, Power Sector Skill Council (PSSC) has engaged capable training partners who are providing meaningful training to the workforce.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Power Sector Skill Council

For a sustainable environment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Source burning is one of the major sources of pollution in the country, especially in the northern region. Year on year the intensifying pollution is becoming a serious health threat to humans along with flora and fauna. While the Government is aggressively looking for solutions to curb the pollution caused by the burning of stubble, KJ Somaiya College of Engineering and Godavari Biorefineries Ltd have come together with a solution to help abate the harmful effects of burning paddy straw.

Prof Shivangi Viral Thakker, Faculty Mechanical Department from the insti-

tute has proposed to use paddy straw for making useful products like pulp and tableware. The three-year-long project has been approved and funded by the Department of Science and Technology.

With the primary objective of managing the stubble waste, the project also aims to replace plastic with agricultural products to address another national issue of Plastic Ban.

The project focuses on process optimisation for pulping the paddy straw to produce eco-friendly tableware. The process includes the segregation of silica and pulp by pulping the rice straw. The pulp developed will then be used for making 100% biodegradable tableware.

New high for SRM MCHRC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC), Kattankulathur has successfully completed two phases of human testing of the COVAXIN trial and the third phase for the same will start today (7th December 2020), says SRM MCHRC's Pro Chancellor (Academics) Dr P Sathyanarayanan.

Speaking at a press meet held at the launch of the third phase of the COVAXIN trail in the hospital, he said that the number of



patients who will be tested in this final phase will be over 1000.

"Until now we have received 500 volunteers for the test. We will be taking in more volunteers till the end of December 2020. We are trying our best to make this

work, as it will be India's first indigenous vaccine," he added.

"Any person above 18 years of age and had not suffered COVID19 illness in the past can participate as a volunteer in this trial. Pregnant women are excluded. The vaccine shot will be administered twice — 28 days apart," said Principal Investigator for COVAXIN, Dr Satyajit Mahapatra.

The hospital will be able to conduct the trial for 50 people a day. Once the process is successful, the vaccine will be approved on a fast track basis.

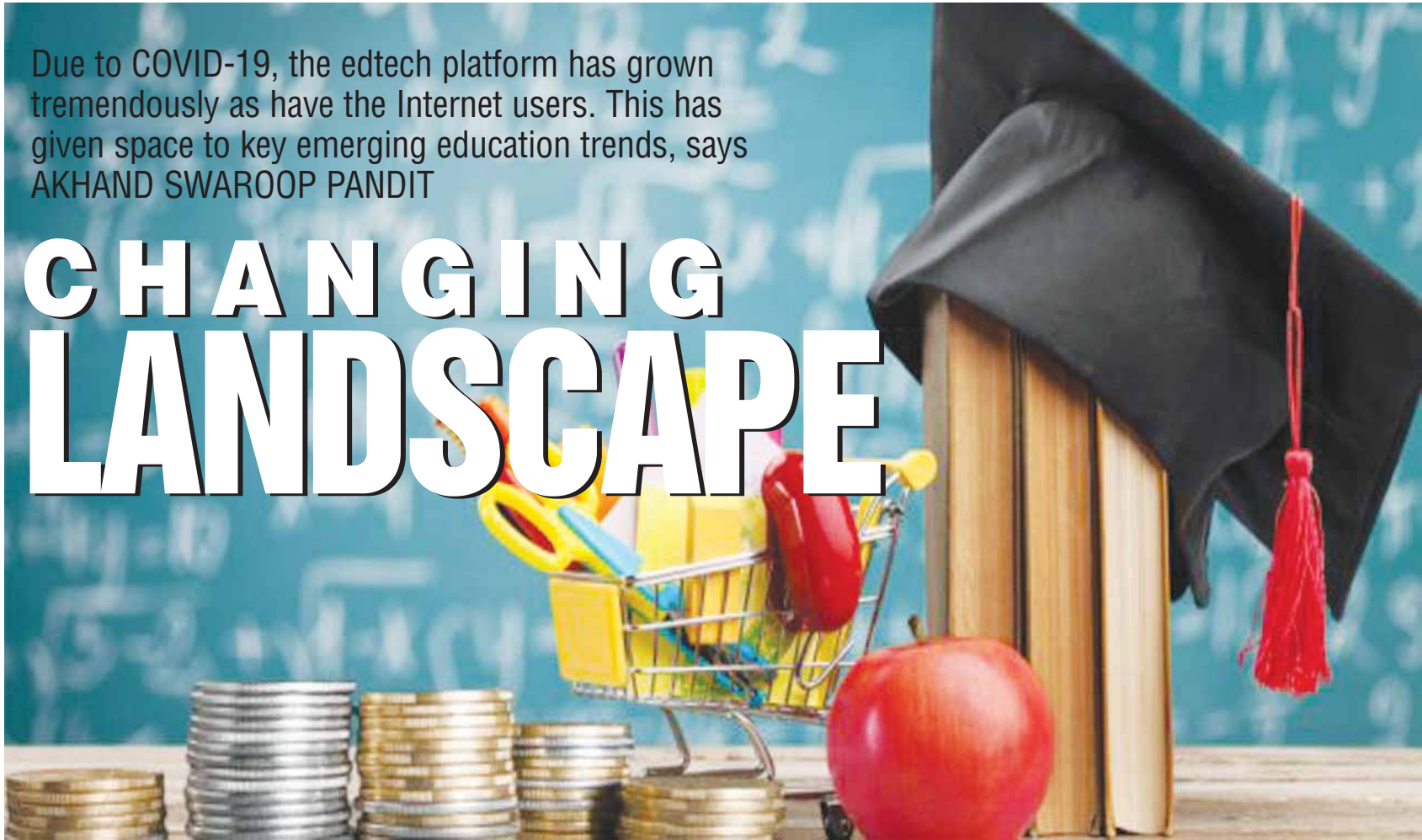
Helping MBBS aspirants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jagvimal Consultants, one of the spearheading undergraduates migration advisors in the nation zeroing in on confirmations in MBBS courses abroad has come up as a beam of hope for some undergraduates who need to take affirmations in unfamiliar colleges for MBBS. In the previous few months, Jagvimal Consultants has effectively done 60+ confirmations in nations like China, Kazakhstan, Russia and Georgia. Likewise, during the ongoing

pandemic crisis, Jagvimal Consultants has applied RTI for realising online classes are accessible for MBBS or not particularly for the undergraduates who needed to seek after MBBS from outside countries.

Not only this, during coronavirus, Jagvimal Consultants has made various letters to the human Government help office to recognise candidates as full time masters in crown disaster to complete the openness of authorities who complete their MBBS from abroad without FMGE test.



This COVID-19 pandemic impacted education of 1.26 billion children worldwide as estimated by the UNESCO, with over 300 million children just from India. As a response, the online and edtech industry has grown tremendously. Also, educational institutions have rapidly adopted digital technologies and increased the use of the Internet to impart learning digitally.

The change in digital learning landscape was already happening. As per Statista, today India has around 700 million Internet users. This is expected to grow immensely in the next decade. Given the context, the online learning space is witnessing the following emerging trends.

Transitioning to online learning: Digital transformation, whether in part or in whole, is going to be vital for traditional education businesses. This essentially means that educational institutions will implement hybrid models which will have students in classes as well as those connected virtually. The way one teaches will also transform significantly, making classrooms equally suited for

the digitally connected students. Those businesses who don't turn digital will lose market advantage.

Rapid growth in K12-edtech sector: As per a 2019 industry report, the K12 education sector is expected to show a six times growth to reach \$1.7 Bn by 2022. More schools and institutions will now have hybrid formats, leveraging technologies to promote digital learning amongst students across families. This is going to be a marked shift from traditional medium.

Strengthening role online learning in post-K12 sector: The post-K12 sector includes higher education, technical skilling, test preparation for Government and other professions. The importance of higher education degrees for better job roles has grown in the past decade. There is a lot of focus on both technical and non-technical skilling and upskilling. Also, traditionally, high volume of aspirants prepare for government exams. Collectively, the entire post-K12 online learning space is expected to grow by three times to touch \$1.8 Bn by 2022.

Video-based content will

One of the major benefits of offline classes is that they appear more interactive, personal, and focused yet exciting. However, for an educator or a student, the virtual class today may appear less personal and interactive

grow: Online learning is going to be one of the biggest space for producing and consuming video content. The content will range from streaming and recording of live classrooms to production of dedicated videos on educational concepts.

Focus on interactive content: One of the major benefits of offline classes is that they appear more interactive, personal, and focused yet exciting. However, for an educator or a student, the virtual class today may appear less personal and interactive. Online learning space is grappling with the challenge at present and is finding ways and means, such as digital boards, real-time quizzes, polls, etc., to make virtual classrooms more interactive and participatory through either content or technology.

Rise of advance digital technologies: Evolving technologies like artificial intelligence, augmented reality (AR), and virtual reality (VR) will completely reinvent the online learning experience.

AI has the potential to understand and assess the learning abil-

ities of students and help us build with stronger educational programmes. AR/VR has the potential to transport a student to a dedicated, programmed educational environment and experience learning like never before.

Supporting operations: Admissions, customer service and marketing. Online learning is changing the complete experience of enrolling in a course to completing it. Therefore, there are chat bots and AI tools to guide a candidate through the complete process of filling forms. These tools are also being leveraged to respond to program specific or content specific queries.

The customer and educational services including content, technology, and programmes, except those being conducted live, will be available 24x7 for the benefit of students. Also, with more people available on the Internet, digital marketing will take central stage for offline or online institutions.

The 5G Internet connectivity can be a game changer in the field of online learning, making various possibilities a reality.

The writer is founder, Catalyst Group

‘Overhaul in education needed’

The National Education Policy is bold and the shift it sees in the system needs change in role of teachers at the base, says SARASWATHY RAMAMOORTHY

The National Educaion Policy (NEP) 2020 is bold and audacious, no doubt. Its success will determine the path education takes in India. The paradigm shift in education envisioned by the NEP requires large-scale overhaul of our educational system. But any overhaul must begin at the base and in education, that is the teacher. The role of the teacher is instrumental, to say the least, not just at the primary level but at all levels.

India is already facing a dismal dearth of well-trained teachers. While the NEP aims to take a holistic approach to address poor teaching quality with a slew of changes in pedagogy and recruitment, there are certain elements in teacher training that must be addressed to guarantee success.

Teaching teachers how to teach: According to IndiaSpend 2019 reports, after five years of schooling, just over half (51%) of students aged 10-11 years in India can read a grade II-level text (appropriate for 7-8 year olds). This throws light on the poor teaching skills. The NEP emphasizes a holistic approach that will focus on students' understanding of the practical implementation of a subject using critical and innovative thinking.

In order to impart such skills, teachers first need to be trained on teaching pedagogy itself. From stepping away from chalk-and-talk to adopting activity-based teaching, teachers need to be trained on multiple, diverse strategies to engage students, teach effectively, and assess holistically. This is the crux of success.

Incorporating teacher feedback into training programmes: According to NEP 2020, a National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education will be drafted to guide all teacher education, pre-service and in-service, in academic, vocational and special education streams. While this is good, it is important for NEP to collect and inculcate feedback from teachers to develop a training pedagogy that is relevant and meaningful to them. Teachers in different parts of India face a varied set of problems.

Thus, the training should be devised to address the cultural, geo-



Saraswathy Ramamoorthy
Co-founder, Learning Matters

graphical and economic diversity of our country. What works for one teacher will not necessarily work for another. A one-size-fits-all, integrated B.Ed program cannot be the answer.

Ongoing professional development through a blended model: There has been a seismic shift in the education industry this year as it leaped into the digital arena. Classrooms will never be the same after the coronavirus crisis. As online learning and teaching continue to evolve, changes will be constant in the education space, too.

Thus, the training given to teachers needs to be an ongoing one that reacts to and complements the situation on the ground. How are teachers handling online teaching? How are students reacting? What needs to change? A technology-enabled platform that allows training to become continuous and measurable and also makes real-time metrics on student engagement available is essential.

The NEP is a visionary policy aiming to bring much-awaited, holistic changes in the teaching industry. Emphasis on teacher training will guarantee its success. How this will be achieved will be the litmus test.

The boom of edtech platforms have empowered students, professionals and kids across regions — whether be in regards to continuation of school curriculum, introducing a new concept/study material, upgrading your skills or just clearing a doubt. Now when the schools are opening, a new integration is about to inset in education.

“In every field, be it finance, medicine, engineering, or business, we had innovations periodically with the entire equipment, protocol and procedures undergoing changes in as less as 3 to 5 years. The advanced diagnostic tools, mathematical modelling tools and fintech have empowered them to an extent that the best services can be made

available even in a village. We are in an age where a wrist watch is being used as a medical diagnostic tool effectively. However the regular school education — which is to prepare the generation to undertake these jobs — saw very little or no change in a decade. EdTech players were forced to sell B2C providing software tools for augmented learning,” Saiju Aravind, Founder of EduBrisk Knowledge Solutions, says.

However, the COVID lockdown has changed the scenario, empowering all stakeholders in education in an unprecedented manner. “We belong to that category of edTech companies who strongly believe that every school can deliver extraordinary teaching with the help of these state of art tools and we are happy to see

MIND IT

that hundreds of schools are embracing it with confidence and certitude that it will serve as the finest scalpels in the hands of an expert surgeon. And for those who are not experts, the tool is serving as an upskilling element,” Aravind says.

The integration of e-learning in the education system has enabled study on the go for students and has taken the connectivity and exchange of resources to the next level. Students can now access quality education from the remotest corner of the country and they also have accessibility to x-factor courses that can

level up their existing skill set.

“Lately, the role of online education has grown tremendously among the Indian education fraternity. Students and people from all age groups are now willingly participating in online study regimes; it not only saves them both time and money but also allows them the option to choose the appropriate platform based on their requirement. This online boost has also helped in increasing the popularity and awareness about skill-building courses among students and professionals. People are now opting for study regimes like

Entrepreneurial training, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning from a very nascent stage in their life,” Pavan Allena, founder-CEO of MetamorphosisEdu tells you.

The future beholds a merry fusion between the traditional and online educational platforms and it's hard to say that one can dominate the other. Co-existence of the two streams will help in bringing a welcome change in the Indian educational regimes and the biggest beneficiaries will be the students as they can now have a 360 degree approach to their study module.

“There comes a point in every field that the entire system gets pushed into a new reality because there is no other way left.

Education saw that point when COVID 19 hit the world. The acceptance and usage of Edtech today is, as if we never knew any other way at all. Today everyone, in whatever capacity one can, is giving their best in combining education and technology. Both learners and teachers are learning new ways of education. However, the real challenge would be to marry the old methodologies and the new reality when we go back to a normal world. Teachers would be expected to learn new skills and implement them in the blended classrooms. We believe that teachers, not robots, will lead the future of education and we are ready to empower them to lead the change,” Rishabh Khanna, Cognitive Scientist and founder of Suraasa says.



The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow invites applications for Faculty of Science Masters Scholarship. It is open to international students. The scholarships between £3,000-£5,000 are available to new international students joining a post-graduate taught masters degree in the Faculty of Science in the 2021-2022 academic year at the university.

Help with tuition fees: One year.

Subject: Chemistry, Computer and information sciences, Mathematics and statistics, Pharmacy and biomedical sciences, Physics, Forensic science, Biochemistry, Biology and biological sciences, Biomedical science, Immunology, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Pharmacy

Eligibility: Candidates must: Be a new, international fee-paying student holding an offer of admission for a full-time, taught masters degree in the Faculty of Science for the 2021/2022 academic year. Be self-funded. Students who receive full scholarships, for example from a government office or embassy, will not be eligible.

Application deadline: It is July 31, 2021 For further information - [https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-](https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-withus/scholarships/sciencescholarships/facultyof-science-mastersscholarships-forinternationalstudents202122/)

[withus/scholarships/sciencescholarships/facultyof-science-mastersscholarships-forinternationalstudents202122/](https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-withus/scholarships/sciencescholarships/facultyof-science-mastersscholarships-forinternationalstudents202122/) or contact: science-scholarships@strath.ac.uk

The University of Detroit Mercy invites applications for its international undergraduate students scholarships for the academic session 2021-2022.

Award: \$10,000 per academic year.

Eligibility: Pursuing a bachelor's degree coursework in any subject stream; Students have to enrol in an undergraduate degree program at the university.

Supporting documents: The university may ask you for a copy of the bank statement, statement of financial support form and copy of passport.

Candidates of all nationalities can apply.

Admission requirements: Applicants must hold a previous degree certificate and other admission requirements of the university.

Language requirement: Candidates are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency for admission.

How to apply: Interested aspirants are enforced to take admission in the undergraduate degree coursework at the university.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is March 30, 2021.

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AT UNACADEMY

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹30,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/l/6354113
Deadline: December 17, 2020

DATA ANALYTICS AT SPARK CAPITAL ADVISORS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/l/6354112
Deadline: December 17, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT FLYVHEEL

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/l/6354114
Deadline: December 17, 2020

LINUX ADMIN AT ATL FOUNDATION

Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/l/6354118
Application deadline: December 17, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT MERAKI ADS

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/l/6354120
Application deadline: December 17, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT TAPGENICS

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/l/6354122
Application deadline: December 15, 2020

CENTER MANAGEMENT AT TESTBOOK ONLINE LEARNING CENTRE

Location: Ranchi, Patna
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/l/6354121
Application deadline: December 14, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

Exciting prospects for students studying abroad

Mobility of students, joint research with supervision, collaborative masters and doctoral programmes open new doors

The Auckland University of Technology (AUT) has strengthened bilateral ties with India through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian

Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, the first agreement between IIT

Madras and any university in New Zealand. The MoU formalised the well-established history between the two universities which has included joint research activities, funding applications and collaborative post-graduate programmes.

Professor Guy Littlefair, Pro Vice-Chancellor International and Dean of Design and Creative Technologies at AUT said the two institutions are both very much at the fore of innovation and applied research. “The opportunities presented in this partnership will allow both students and staff tremendous prospects to enhance bi-national relations for the benefit of both countries and universities,” said Professor Littlefair.

This was endorsed by Professor Raghunathan Rengaswamy, Dean Global Engagement at IIT Madras who said the agreement will allow “mobility of students, joint research and joint supervision of students and collaborative masters and doctoral programmes.”

The MoU means AUT students will get the opportunity to complete their final year project or internship at the prestigious IIT Madras which is an exciting prospect for students and especially for those of Indian origin. The COVID-19 has meant some planned student exchange initiatives will be delayed; but work is underway with academics and potential online student internships.

Recently, the AUT supported IIT Madras as foreign collaborator for joint research funding with their Department of Science and Technology and Indian Government.

New Zealand students will get a chance to do their internships/final year project at IIT Madras considering the feel and excitement associated with studying at IIT especially for Indian origin students.

IN BRIEF

FREE EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN UTTAR PRADESH

The Global Classroom Private Limited (GCPL) and Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) is launching the first Global Dream Shaala, an initiative for providing free education to out of school children starting with Uttar Pradesh on the December 10, 2020.

The literacy programme is the first-of-its-kind exponentially scalable model that aims at making people literate using the Global Dream Toolkit which is a vastly alternative way of teaching that accelerates learning.

It has two-fold objective of firstly providing an education to the children who are out of school and secondly to make adults literate. As education has

become inaccessible during the Pandemic, Dr Sunita Gandhi has approached this with a unique strategy to provide functional literacy to the masses.

The lessons have in-built tests developed to assess whether the student is learning and progressing before they moving further. Each new step is a natural progression of the previous lesson. This allows learning to be personalised.

A learner knows exactly where they are in the learning journey, and they can always go back and review a previous lesson. The programme also includes the teaching of English and it is available in 13 Indian languages including Urdu.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR CLASS XII STUDENTS

The Indian School of Business and Finance (ISBF) announced the opening of registrations for the 2020-2021 edition of The Power of Why Challenge (POWC), a unique scholarship programme for Class XII students. The challenge will be held in two rounds

over a month, following which two winners will be awarded with a 50% waiver on ISBF's tuition fees for the LSE undergraduate programmes.

Dr Jitin Chadha, founder-director of ISBF, said: “The POWC is a unique challenge with the

purpose of ensuring that merit gets the encouragement and financial support. I urge Class XII students to participate.”

Registration Link: <https://www.isbf.edu.in/b-sc-undergraduate-courses/the-power-of-why-challenge/>.

ALL INDIA KOREAN LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

The Korean Cultural Centre India organised 13th All India Korean Language Speech Contest online in which 32 shortlisted candidates participated amongst 128 participants from 11 Korean language institute.

The participants in each level, beginner (9), intermediate (15), advanced (8) performed their speeches with each given titles — Korean culture which I love, My second mother tongue, Korean, and Korea and I meeting in Corona age. This year, for the first time, Q&A session

was introduced for advanced level. Shin Bong-kil, the ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea said ‘I am glad that even in the difficult situation caused by Corona the event happened online. Thanks to Indian people’s special love for Korean language. President Moon Jae-in had earlier mentioned his gratitude on the adaptation of Korean Language as the new second language in National Education Policy. I expect all participants to perform as the bridge between Korean and India in future.

WINNING STREAK COMES TO END

Aus stop Kohli, prevent clean sweep by India with 12-run win in final T20

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian bowlers held their nerves to come up trumps against the genius of Virat Kohli, stalling an Indian clean-sweep with a 12-run victory in the third and final T20I at Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

While India won the shortest format 2-1, it was overall an even result for the two teams which won three white-ball games each. Tuesday's loss ended the visitors' 10-match winning streak in the format.

Kohli got as many as four reprieves and cashed in well enough to smash his way to 85 off 61 balls but India could only reach as far as 174/7 in their pursuit of 187 in 20 overs.

It was a slash drive off Andrew Tye in the penultimate over which was plucked inches off the ground by Daniel Sams, who compensated for a forgettable day with the ball.

An over before that Hardik Pandya's swagger was checked by Adam Zampa (1/21 in 3 overs). Zampa's leg-break turned enough to force the 'Baroda Bomber' to hit one against the turn and be caught at short third-man.

Once Pandya was gone, there was too much pressure on Kohli and this was one rare occasion when he failed to take the team home.

While he hit four fours and three sixes, Kohli did lead a charmed life as Steve Smith missed a dolly at deep mid-wicket fence when he gave Maxwell the charge.

Then Sean Abbott failed to get his hands on a tough return catch while another slipped through Tye's palms. During the fag end, Matthew Wade missed an easy stumping.

The Indian captain scored his third fifty of the tour and an effortless six off Abbott after the completion of the milestone gave much-needed relief to the Indian dug-out. This was after man of the match Swepson's (3/23) innocuous leg-breaks reduced them to 100 for 4.

Swepson would be the first to admit that he was lucky to dismiss Shikhar Dhawan (28 off 21 balls) with a half-tracker and ever unreliable Sanju Samson (10) with a low full-toss.

The only wicket-taking delivery he bowled was the one that got Shreyas Iyer out for a first-ball duck.



Indian players and support staff pose with T20 series trophy after the end of third and final T20 at Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday

Kohli earmarks Natarajan for T20 WC

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Impressed by newcomer T Natarajan's ability to deliver under pressure, India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday said the seamer could be a great asset for the team heading into next year's T20 World Cup.

The 29-year-old from Tamil Nadu has been sensational since making his international debut in the third ODI at Canberra, snapping eight wickets in four matches.

"Special mention for Natarajan, in the absence of (Mohammed) Shami and Jasprit (Bumrah), he stood out and really delivered under pressure," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

"It is outstanding because he is playing his first few games at the international level. He looks very composed, he is a humble and hard working guy, he is sure of what he is doing."

India is scheduled to host the T20 World Cup in October and November next year.

"I hope he continues to keep working hard on his game and gets better because a left-arm bowler is an asset for any team and if he can keep bowling in this way consistently, it will be a great thing for us heading into the World Cup next year," Kohli said.

India lost the third T20I but claimed the series 2-1, and Kohli said he was impressed with the way the team never gave up despite missing experienced players such as Rohit



Sharma, Bumrah and Shami.

"We played good cricket over the last 11-12 T20s, the fact that this squad had players that don't have much exposure in international cricket, from that point of view it was a nice performance especially after losing the first two ODIs. We came back nicely and showed belief."

"We carried the momentum, fighting back again in the first T20s and even tonight, the game was close, so the standout is that guys are not giving up."

Hardik can only play as all-rounder in Tests: Virat

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Hardik Pandya's stupendous batting in the white ball series has given him an extra option of a designated "finisher" but India skipper Virat Kohli is clear that the all-rounder needs to start bowling regularly in order to be considered for Test cricket.

Pandya has had scored of 90 and 92 in the first and third ODIs respectively and a match-winning knock of 42 not out in 22 balls in the second T20I, which helped India to seal the T20 series, got him the Man of the series award.

Asked if he would be tempted to keep Pandya back as a pure batting option for the upcoming four-Test series, Kohli answered in the negative.

"Hardik couldn't bowl and we knew he will not be able to bowl but we saw in the IPL the headspace that he has been. But Test cricket is a different challenge and we need him to bowl," Kohli was clear about priorities.

"We have spoken about it. He is one guy who brings in a lot of balance for us in overseas conditions like South Africa, England. We were able to compete for longer periods of time and he adds a lot of balance in terms of his



bowling."

Kohli believes Pandya is getting into the zone where he would like to perform in all formats of the game.

"He is definitely in a zone where he wants to perform for India in all three disciplines. That's always been his 'X-factor'. In white ball cricket, we found some one who can finish games consistently," the skipper said.

But according to him, even Pandya realises that he needs to get back to peak bowling form. "He himself wants to get back into the bowling space and make sure he is available in Tests because it becomes way more important for five days, that little bit extra."

"He understands that he has to come back the fittest he is able to," he added.

Kohli might skip pink-ball warm up game

SYDNEY: India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday hinted that he might skip the three-day pink-ball warm-up game ahead of the eagerly-awaited Test series against Australia after an intense limited-overs leg of the tour which ended on Tuesday.

The tour game against Australia A is due to begin in three days time and will be India's final tune-up before the opening day-night Test in Adelaide from December 17.

Kohli will lead the team in the opener of the four-match series, after which he will go back to India for the birth of his first child.

"I will wake up tomorrow and see if I can play the tour match. Playing it on and off is

not my thing and I like to play the full game. I will talk to my physio and then decide on my participation," Kohli said after the third T20I.

Having won the series, Kohli was looking forward to the Tests and said the current team is stronger than the one that made history by winning its first Test series Down Under two years ago.

"We need to take the same competitive attitude into the Tests, and having played here a few times, we can score runs as well."

"Once it's time to capitalise and score, we need to do that session by session. I'm sure the current side is stronger than last time," Kohli said. **PTI**

Pak team head to Queenstown for training

AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Pakistan's cricketers left quarantine in Christchurch on Tuesday after testing negative for Covid-19, New Zealand health authorities said.

The touring party of more than 50 players and officials had been holed up in their hotel for two weeks as they underwent mandatory isolation under New Zealand's strict coronavirus protocols.

They had been confined to their rooms unable to train for



most of that time after 10 virus cases were detected among the group, with coach Misbah-ul-Haq complaining this week about the impact on his players.

But New Zealand's health

ministry confirmed on Tuesday that the latest swabs had all come back negative and the bulk of the group had been cleared to leave quarantine.

"After extensive testing and completion of their time in managed isolation in Christchurch, the Canterbury (district) medical officer of

health is satisfied these people pose a very low risk to the community," it said.

The department said one person was being kept in isolation at the Christchurch quarantine hotel to ensure he was fully recovered from the virus.

The tourists will travel to Queenstown for training ahead of their first Twenty20 match against the Black Caps in Auckland on December 18.

Pakistan will play three T20s and two Tests in New Zealand.

Saha strikes fifty before Test opener

PTI ■ SYDNEY

In the form of a sedate half-century, Wriddhiman Saha got himself some invaluable batting practice ahead of the first Test against Australia, but his other famed Indian colleagues failed to bat long as their warm-up game against Australia A concluded in a draw here on Tuesday.

Medium pacer Mark Steketee, who returned impressive figures of 5/37, came in the way of what could have been a few sessions of good batting practice on the third and final day for the touring Indians.

Making up for his first-innings nought, Saha top-scored for the visitors with 54 after facing 100 deliveries at the Drummoyne Oval on the final day of tune-up.

Bracing for the first Test, the seasoned Saha found the fence seven times during his stay in the middle.

Beginning with a deficit of



59 runs, the Indians declared their second innings at 189 for nine and in reply, the Australians, needing 130 in 15 overs to register an outright victory, reached 52 for one when

the stumps were drawn for one last time in the game.

India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane, who is going to lead the team in the absence of Virat Kohli after the first Test, followed

up his neat first-innings century with a knock of 28. Cheteshwar Pujara, who made a solid half-century in preparation for the marquee series opener, however, failed to open his account in the second essay.

The young opening duo of Prithvi Shah (19) and Shubman Gill (29) added 37 runs for the first wicket before Cameron Green sent the former back.

Pujara did not last long and was bowled by Michael Neser, which brought to crease Hanuma Vihari. Vihari made 28 before Neser had him caught by Burns.

For the home team, Green enjoyed a fine all-round outing having scored a hundred in the first innings which ended at 306 for nine declared.

After his impressive performance in the first innings, during which he picked up three wickets, pacer Umesh Yadav added another scalp to his name when the Australians went out to bat again.

'Pogba is unhappy at Man Utd & should leave'

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Paul Pogba is "unhappy" at Manchester United and should leave in the next transfer window, his agent Mino Raiola said, in comments that may signal the exit of the one-time world's most expensive player. Raiola said

the World Cup-winning France midfielder, 27, needs a "change of scene" after struggling to establish himself under United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. "Paul's unhappy at Manchester United, he can't express himself any more as he would like to and as we expect of him," Raiola told Italian newspaper *Tuttosport*.

"He has to change teams, he needs a change of scene. His

contract is up in a year-and-a-half, in the summer of 2022, but I think the best solution for all sides is a transfer in the next window."

He added that Pogba, who returned from a spell at Juventus for a then world record fee of £89 million (\$118 million) in 2016, has no plans to extend his contract. "The club... knows it risks losing him for nothing, as at the moment

the player has no intention of extending his contract," Raiola said. "If anyone doesn't understand, they don't understand anything about football."

SAINTS UP TO 5TH
BRIGHTON: Southampton extended its unbeaten run against Brighton to eight games and moved into fifth place in the Premier League with a 2-1 win.

प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षित मातृत्व अभियान

हर गर्भवती माँ को हो एहसास कि वह है सबसे खास!

प्रधानमंत्री सुरक्षित मातृत्व अभियान

09 दिसम्बर, 2020

खतरे के लक्षण

सतर्कता से जिम्मेदारी निभाएं, पूरी जांचें कराएं

हर माह की 9 तारीख को सरकारी अस्पतालों में

1 ब्लड टेस्ट 2 यूरिन टेस्ट 3 ब्लड प्रेशर 4 हीमोग्लोबिन 5 अल्ट्रासाउंड

स्वास्थ्य संबंधित जानकारी एवं शिकायत निवारण हेतु सम्पर्क करें 104

पहली बार माँ बनने पर प्रधानमंत्री मातृ चंदना योजना के अन्तर्गत तीन किरतों में रु. 5000/- की धनराशि लाभार्थी को देय है। अधिक जानकारी हेतु सम्पर्क करें 7998 7998 04