

OPINION 8
INHERITORS
OF CULTUREWORLD 11
THAI ACTIVISTS URGE UN TO HELP
REPEAL ROYAL DEFAMATION LAWSSPORT 14
REAL MADRID, ATLETICO
ADVANCE IN CL; INTER OUT

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

SARA GEARS
UP FOR COOLIE
NO. 1 RELEASE
12 VIVACITY

Farmers threaten to halt India in tracks

Union leaders say blocking of railway tracks will not be limited to Haryana and Punjab but it will be done across country, reason that farm is a State subject so Central laws illegal

STAFF REPORTER/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI

The farmers who have been agitating for the past two weeks against the new agri laws on Thursday announced that they will block railway tracks if their demands are not met by the Government.

The farmers' unions, which held a meeting on Thursday, said they will soon announce a date for blocking tracks across the country.

Addressing reporters at the Delhi's Singhu border where they have been protesting for almost two weeks to demand a rollback of the agri laws, the farmers' unions also reiterated that they will intensify their agitation and start blocking all highways leading to the national Capital.

"We will block railway tracks if our demands are not met. We will decide on the date and announce it soon. The blocking of tracks will not be limited to Haryana and Punjab but it will be done across the country," farmers' leader Boota Singh said at the press conference.

"The Centre has admitted that laws have been made for traders. If agriculture is a State subject, the Centre does not have right to make laws on it," said Balbir Singh Rajewal, another leader.

Thousands of farmers have been protesting at various border points of Delhi for almost



Farmers at Ghazipur Border during their protest against the new farm laws in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

two weeks seeking a repeal of the new agri laws, which they claim were aimed at benefiting corporates by weakening the "mandi" system and the minimum support price (MSP) regime for procurement of farm produce.

The Government had on Wednesday proposed to give a "written assurance" that the existing MSP regime for procurement will continue.

However, the farmers' unions rejected the proposal and said they would intensify their agitation until the Government accepts their demand for a complete repeal

of the three laws.

The Government has also proposed to make necessary amendments on at least seven issues, including one to allay fears about the weakening of the "mandi" system.

"Five rounds of talks have already been held with the Government, but they remained inconclusive. So far, the Government has not sent us any invitation for another round of talks. If Government sends us proposal for a meeting, we will decide it in our meeting," another farmer leader Shiv Kumar Kakka told PTI.

Asked about solution to

ongoing standoff with the Government, Kakka said, "only God knows."

"We are facing a lot of difficulties due to cold weather and the Covid-19 pandemic, but despite this, we will continue our protest until our demands are met," Kakka also added.

Meanwhile, Chandigarh-based farmers' organisation AIKCC, not one of the 40 unions that are protesting at Delhi borders seeking repeal of the farm laws, on Thursday welcomed the Government's gesture to keep the dialogue open with farm leaders.

Govt has open mind, farmers should discuss proposals, says Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a fresh attempt to explain the Government's offers to farmers and try to allay their fears, the Government on Thursday invited them for talks with an open mind. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar also urged farmers to go through the proposal of amendments that the Government is planning to incorporate in the farm laws.

Replying to whether the Centre would consider a new bill on minimum support price (MSP), Tomar said it has got nothing to do with these laws.

"It was not proper to announce the next stage of agitation when talks were continuing. We gave our proposals to farmers after meeting them and therefore we urge them to consider those. If they want to discuss those proposals also, we are ready for that too. Any law cannot be entirely defective. I urge unions to set a date for discussion," said Tomar.

He was addressing a Press conference, along with his Cabinet colleague Piyush

Goyal. Tomar assured farmers that the new laws will not affect the APMC Act or MSP mechanism.

The Minister said the Government kept waiting for suggestions from farmers' leaders to address their concerns. "We sent a proposal to farmers. They wanted those laws to be repealed. We are of the stand that govt is ready for open-minded discussions on provisions they have an objection against. Laws don't affect APMCs or MSP. We tried to explain this to farmers," he said.

"The Government wanted to liberate the farmers of the shackles of mandi so that they could sell their produce anywhere, to anyone, at his own price, outside the purview of mandi," stated Tomar.

"It is being projected that the land of farmers will be occupied by industrialists. Contract farming has been going on for a long time in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka but there has never been such experience," Tomar said.

Continued on Page 11

Pawar may head UPA to shore up anti-BJP unity

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

In what could be a major political development in the Opposition camp, NCP chief Sharad Pawar might replace Congress president Sonia Gandhi as the new chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

Sources in a couple of constituents of the UPA confirmed that initial talks have already taken place in this regard and the move may have the endorsement of both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

The move comes at a time when both Sonia and Rahul are struggling to contain the infighting within the grand old party after the miserable performance of the Congress in the recently held Bihar Assembly elections and the Hyderabad Municipal polls.

With Sonia's health not permitting her to actively lead the Opposition against the BJP, and Rahul not acceptable as a leader to many Opposition stalwarts, the elevation of Pawar could be the first step towards creating a pan-India anti-BJP plank.

Pawar will have the mammoth task of reviving the moribund Opposition camp where the Congress has failed to play the lead role. In fact, after the Congress flop show in Bihar Rahul became the butt of jokes

and attacks both from leaders of the Opposition and the BJP. At the same time, a section of Congress leaders have been questioning the leadership of an n "aloof" and "unwell" Sonia to lead the Opposition fight back against the BJP.

A senior AICC functionary said that Rahul is yet to agree to return as the Congress president and does not desire to succeed his mother as the UPA chairperson.

"In the given situation, there are chances that while Rahul Gandhi can continue to be the face of the UPA, Pawar, being the senior-most leader might become its chairperson. Sonia may continue as an adviser only," said the functionary.

"There is a need for a chairperson who is a veteran and astute politician, and who can negotiate with other parties. Pawar has the stature to hold talks with senior leaders like Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, and if required with leaders like Nitish Kumar," said a UPA leader.

The NCP and the Congress are part of the coalition of the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Agadi Government in Maharashtra. Pawar was the key man in stitching the alliance along with late Ahmed Patel, Congress' leader and a long-time adviser to Sonia.

Continued on Page 11

'New Parl building a Atmanirbhar Bharat sign'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament complex, saying the new building will be the witness of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Pujaris from Sringeri Math performed the rituals for the "Bhoomi Pujan" conducted by the Prime Minister, followed by prayers by all religious groups. Later the PM laid the foundation stone of the new building in the presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh. The messages of President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu were read out in the function.

The new Parliament building in 64,500 square metre will cost ₹71 crore and is estimated to be completed by 2022 and expected to conduct the session on 75th anniversary of Independence.

Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hardeep Singh Puri, Dharmendra Pradhan and many foreign envoys attended the function.

"This is a day of pride for over 130 crore Indians when we are witnessing this historic



Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone of the new Parliament building during a ceremony in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

moment. The new Parliament building is an example of the co-existence of the new and the old. This is an effort to make changes within oneself in accordance with time and needs. The old building fulfilled the needs of the country, the new Parliament building will fulfill the country's aspirations. If the old Parliament House gave direction to post-Independence India, the new building would become a witness to the creation of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat,' said Modi.

Terming the current

Parliament building constructed 100 years ago as the beacon of democracy, the PM said it had fulfilled the needs of the country, and the new building will fulfill the country's aspirations and ambitions. Modi said the new Parliament complex will help the legislators as well as those who come to meet them. He said there were space constraints in the old building that has been taken care of in the new complex.

Continued on Page 11

Modi building a palace for himself: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and other Opposition parties on Thursday questioned the timing and need for a new Parliament building amid the coronavirus pandemic and the farmers' protest.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala criticised the PM for the ceremony and "building a palace for himself" even as the farmers' protest entered its 16th day. In a separate tweet, he said

Parliament "is not mortar and stones", but it imbibes the Constitution and represents values like democracy, equality and compassion.

"What would a building built upon trampling of these values represent," Surjewala asked.

CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury took exception to Modi's speech at the foundation laying ceremony, where he spoke about values and culture of democracy.

Continued on Page 11

Nadda's convoy attacked in Bengal, BJP slams TMC rule

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
DIAMOND HARBOUR

The saga of political violence in Bengal reached a new low with alleged Trinamool Congress members on Thursday attacking the convoy of BJP president JP Nadda and other senior saffron leaders, including Kailash Vijayvargiya, Mukul Roy and State party president Dilip Ghosh.

Nadda, who was riding a bulletproof vehicle, escaped unhurt. But Roy and some other local leaders received minor injuries, sources said adding one BJP man got a fractured forehead. The attack triggered widespread criticism with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who otherwise enjoys a good personal chemistry with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, raising serious concern over the falling law and situation of the State.

Reacting to the incident Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Bengal has descended into an era of tyranny, anarchy and darkness under the Trinamool rule. The manner in which political violence



Injured BJP national secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya receives treatment following an attack by alleged TMC activists on BJP national president JP Nadda's convoy at Sirakal near Diamond Harbour in South 24 Pargana on Thursday PTI

has been institutionalised and brought to the extreme in West Bengal under TMC rule is sad and worrying."

The incident took place post noon when Nadda's vehicle was going past Sirakol More en route to the port town of Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas. When the convoy approached the junction hundreds of slogans shouting men carrying Trinamool flags pelted stones and full-sized bricks at the vehicles smashing the windows and windshields.

The TMC activists stopped

the BJP workers on motorbikes, threw them on the ground, and rained blows on them in front of the media men some of whom intervened to rescue them.

Diamond Harbour falls in the Parliamentary constituency of Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of the Chief Minister.

While one broken bottle pierced through the window of Ghosh's vehicle hitting one of his personal security staff, stones flying in from all sides smashed the windows of almost all the vehicles.

Continued on Page 11

BJP men attacked Sisodia residence, accuses AAP, BJP rejects allegation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Thursday claimed that the house of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was "attacked by BJP goons" but the Delhi BJP refuted the charge, saying their protest was peaceful.

The Delhi Police also said the allegations that the gate of the Deputy CM's residence was damaged or broken are "incorrect" and a case has been registered under appropriate sections in the matter.

The Delhi Commission for Women said it has set up an enquiry into the incident and has also sought response from the Delhi police.

The BJP workers earlier staged a protest near Sisodia's residence a day after its leaders lodged a police complaint alleging that there was a "conspiracy to kill" mayors and leaders of the party-led municipal corporations.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal condemned the alleged attack on Sisodia's residence and asked why is BJP getting so desperate by the day in Delhi.

CAPSULE

9 NEWBORNS DIE IN KOTA HOSPITAL

Jaipur: Nine newborns have died at a State-run hospital in Kota city of Rajasthan within a span of hours, officials said on Thursday. Five of the babies, who were 1-4 days old, died during Wednesday night and four more on Thursday at the JK Lon Hospital, an official said. The health facility had hit national headlines in December last year over deaths of unusual number of infants.

IMA TO PROTEST MIXOPATHY

Lucknow: In a bid to display their strength and unity, the medical fraternity will oppose mixopathy and crosspathy on Friday. A member of IMA said the state unit has decided to keep all the establishments closed from 6 am on Friday to 6 am on December 12. "All routine activities will remain suspended, except emergency and Covid services."

In veiled attack at China, Rajnath calls for self-restraint at ASEAN summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As logjam persisted at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called for exercising self-restraint and avoid actions that may worsen situation.

He was speaking at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), a platform comprising 10-nation ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners, including India and China.

Rajnath's counterpart Weng Fei was also present. The two leaders had held more than two-hour long one on one face to face talks two months ago on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Moscow. The two Ministers had then discussed ways to

defuse tension at the LAC.

The latest note of caution by Rajnath came in the backdrop of aggressive military behavior of China in Ladakh, South China Sea and Indo-Pacific region.

Rajnath also said self restraint has to be observed in the conduct of activities and avoiding actions that may further complicate the situation.

In his address, Rajnath talked about "the current regional environment with visible strains", and appreciated the central role of ASEAN-led forums, including ADMM-Plus in promoting dialogue and engagement towards a pluralistic, cooperative security order in Asia.

"As we enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercising self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoiding

actions that may further complicate the situation, will go a long way in bringing sustained peace to the region," he said.

The Defence Minister also said the ability of the grouping to collectively respond to challenges based on the fundamentals of freedom, inclusivity and openness in the region will define its future.

"Threats to the rules based order, maritime security, cyber related crimes and terrorism, just to name a few, remain the challenges that we need to address as a forum," Rajnath said.

On the Indo-Pacific region, the Minister said an impetus has to be given to cultivate strategic trust and continuously promote ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture.

Continued on Page 11

Covid 3rd wave in Delhi on wane: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 positivity rate in Delhi has been on decline and it has hovered around five per cent for the past seven days which is a sign of relief, said Minister of Health and Family Welfare Satyendar Jain. He said the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic is not over yet but it is "definitely on the wane".

Delhi recorded 2,463 new Covid-19 cases and 50 fatalities on Wednesday, the lowest number of deaths in a single day since November 1.

As the positivity rate slipped to 3.42 per cent, Jain had on Wednesday tweeted that it was heartening to see that the national capital is "emerging victorious" in the battle against the coronavirus.

"Cases are falling, and death count in a day is lowest in the last 40 days. The situation has improved, and we can

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 97,83,292

DEATHS: 1,42,005

RECOVERED:

92,71,933

ACTIVE: 3,66,870



definitely say the third wave of the pandemic here is on the wane. It is not over, but on the wane," he said.

On plans of Covid-19 vac-

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	18,64,348	47,902	17,42,191
Karnataka	8,96,563	11,900	8,61,588
Andhra Pradesh	8,73,995	7,047	8,61,711
Tamil Nadu	7,94,020	11,836	7,71,693
Kerala	6,54,042	2,534	5,91,845
Delhi	6,01,150	9,874	5,72,523
Uttar Pradesh	5,59,499	7,987	5,30,854
West Bengal	5,10,951	8,867	4,78,434
Odisha	3,22,642	1,847	3,17,870
Rajasthan	2,87,219	2,500	2,65,689
Telangana	2,75,904	1,482	2,66,925
Chhattisgarh	2,52,638	3,054	2,30,238
Haryana	2,49,329	2,676	2,35,197
Bihar	2,41,534	1,307	2,34,940
Gujarat	2,24,081	4,135	2,06,226
Madhya Pradesh	2,18,574	3,366	2,01,987

cination, he said, healthcare workers and frontline staff will be administered the vaccine first, followed by the elderly and then others.

"If we have vaccine availability, we can vaccinate the entire population in a week's time, we have the preparations ready," he added.

‘Purvanchal to be the most developed, prosperous region’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hitting out at people who called Purvanchal a backward region, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the present BJP government had reversed the trend.

“For many years there was an attempt to malign the image of Purvanchal by dubbing it as a backward and laggard region. The academia also put a stamp on it to escape answerability. We have reversed the perception and are committed to making eastern UP a prosperous region of the country,” Yogi said while inaugurating a webinar-cum-seminar organised to have a brainstorming on the development of Purvanchal at Deen Dayal Upadhyay University campus in Gorakhpur.

The event being organised jointly by UP Planning Department and DDU on ‘Sustainable Development of Purvanchal: Issues, Strategy and Future Course of Action’, is spread over 45 sessions, and was attended by Chief Minister Yogi, several ministers, development experts, researchers and other stakeholders.

The CM said this region had everything to offer — nine kinds of climate, the most fer-

Maintain quality of construction of e-ways: CM

Lucknow (PNS): Asking officials to maintain quality in the construction of the Purvanchal Expressway and Gorakhpur Link Expressway, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the district magistrates and other officials to ensure availability of soil for the earth work.

He also directed officials to ensure completion of earth work before the onset of the rainy season to expedite one of the most ambitious projects of his government which promises to give a boost to social, economic and industrial progress of entire eastern Uttar Pradesh.

He pointed out that after the construction of Purvanchal Expressway and Gorakhpur Link Expressway, the commuters will get an alternative road between Gorakhpur and Lucknow.

tile land in the world, abundant human resources, adequate water and flowing rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Sarayu and other natural resources.

“On the basis of such existing resources, we have resolved



The chief minister was reviewing the progress of the construction of package-1 of the 91.35 km-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway at Sikriganj. The link expressway is starting from Jaipur NH 27 in Gorakhpur and will connect with Purvanchal Expressway in Azamgarh district.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress of the project, the chief minister asked the officials of Power Transmission and UP Power Corporation Limited to accord high priority to the relocation of power lines during the course of construction.

The chief minister later

inspected the under-construction Ghagra bridge at Kamhariya and directed officials to complete the project on time.

UPEIDA CEO Awanish Kumar Awasthi, who was present on the occasion along with other senior officers, told the chief minister that the design of the bridge was prepared by experts of IIT, Roorkee and every possible attention was being given to maintain the quality and timeline.

The officers of construction companies APCO and Dilip Buildcon assured the chief minister that the Gorakhpur Link Expressway would be completed by March, 2022.

The Gorakhpur Link Expressway is being constructed at a total sanctioned cost of Rs 5,876.68 crore under two packages.

tery of Azamgarh, brassware of Moradabad and kala namak rice of Siddharthnagar.

“We have embarked on the path to develop, promote and market these products under ODOP to realise the dream of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make Atmanirbhar Bharat,” he said while asserting it had already become the most popular scheme of the country.

The chief minister stressed upon his urgency to achieve his goals and said that the need of the hour was to not create ‘white elephants’ and formulate policies while sitting in air-conditioned chambers.

“We need to make policies as per the local requirements and in consultations with the local talent and expertise,” he said. He said UP provided a good law and order, world class infrastructure and an effective policy back-up to provide all logistics to reach the summit of progress, growth and prosperity. Purvanchal Development Board Vice Chairman Daya Shankar Dayalu, speaking on the occasion, said that the good times for Purvanchal had started six years ago when Narendra Modi became the MP from Varanasi.

DDU Vice Chancellor Prof Rajesh Singh, Narendra Singh, the vice-chairman of Purvanchal Development Board, MP Ravi Kishan, the state ministers, senior officers, public representatives and prominent citizens were present on the occasion.

Folk art painters, sculptors to get LKA scholarships

Lucknow (PNS): In order to promote art and culture in Uttar Pradesh, the Lalit Kala Akademi has launched a scholarship scheme for painters and sculptors associated with folk art. Under this, scholarships will be given every month to artists associated with the field of folk art.

A scholarship of Rs 5,000 per month (from January) will be given to six folk artists of the state under the Art Teaching Scholarship Scheme by the Lalit Kala Akademi.

The proposal was sent by Lalit Kala Akademi to the government, after which the rule was amended to include folk art along with visual arts.

It may be mentioned here that the scholarships have been launched to encourage and help folk artists who are doing research.

“Till now, only painters and sculptors of Drishyakala used to get scholarships, but now the artists associated with folk art of the state will also be given scholarships,” said Yashwant Singh Rathore, secretary, Lalit Kala Akademi.

Apart from the scholarship, the artists doing research will be also get financial assistance of Rs 10,000 for painting and

sculpture exhibitions.

Till now five visual artists of UP used to get scholarships in modern painting and sculpture, but after amendment to the manual, now six folk artists will be given scholarships for one year. This will encourage other painting styles, including Sanjhi and Bundelkhandi.

Meanwhile, the Lalit Kala Akademi will organise an art camp in Ayodhya from December 14 to 18.

The exhibition will be organised under the Kala Rang programme on the theme ‘Kya Kehti Hai Sarayu Ki Dhara’.

For this, online registration of artists from across the state is being done. The last date for registration is December 12. So far 100 artists have registered for this camp.

The art camp by the Lalit Kala Akademi will be organised in Lucknow, Ayodhya followed by Prayagraj, Kanpur Nagar, Mathura and Varanasi.

It is worth mentioning that Lalit Kala Akademi will also organise a painting exhibition in Mathura on former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth anniversary on December 25. The exhibition will be also on the theme of Sri Krishna.

CITYBRIEFS



VEERBHADRA AWARD

Ichcha Bharadwaj, a talented student of City Montessori School, Mahanagar Campus, was honoured with the prestigious ‘Veerbhadr Award’ for best presentation on Environment and Biodiversity in a contest organised under the joint aegis of voluntary organisation Swayam Siddha and Environment Directorate, UP. Ichcha impressed the judges by her presentation on “Think out of the box” and walked away with the first prize. She spoke on human and global education delivering the message that the earth can fulfill everyone’s need but not greed. Organisers of the competition presented a trophy and certificate to her.

CM to students: Become leaders not followers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Exhorting students to become leaders not followers, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that students should make a mark in the field of education and for this the educational institutions should play a pivotal role.

The chief minister, who was speaking at the 88th foundation week programme of Maharana Pratap Education Council (MPEC) in Gorakhpur on Thursday, said that students should excel in the field of education and this was possible when educational institutions worked as a team.

“People associated with the MPEC will have to work continuously for the betterment of the institution so that they can set an example for others to follow,” the chief minister said, adding that this was also the aim of the national education policy.

“In the testing times of the coronavirus pandemic, the extraordinary work done by the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was possible only because of technology. People should also get associated with technology and make better use of it,” he said.

Yogi Adityanath said that the COVID-19 vaccine would arrive by January next year and until then, everyone should comply with the Covid protocols.

The chief minister, along with Vidhan Sabha Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit, also released a book, Bharatiya Sanskriti Ka Vishwa Mein Prasara.

Speaking on the occasion, Dikshit said that education was the only way by which the society and the world could be made beautiful. “The MPEC is also imparting social values along with education and it is

also an example for other educational institutions to follow,” he said.

UP Jal Shakti Minister Mahendra Singh said that education gave a solution to every problem and the MPEC was doing this since 1932.

“The works done under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are exemplary and UP is developing at a fast pace,” he said.

Those present at the programme included Bharatiya Janata Party state president Swatantra Dev Singh, State Disaster Management Authority Vice Chairman Lt Gen RP Shahi, Digambar Akhara, Ayodhya, Mahant Suresh Das, Swami Raghavacharya, Devipatan Shaktipeeth Mahant Yogi Mithilesh Das, Member of Parliament Ravi Kisan and Jai Prakash Nishad, MPEC president Prof. UP Singh and others.

Govt efforts to restore lost identity of potters

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Before the advent of the plastic era, clay products used to adorn the people’s home but the gradually conventional clay products lost their charm and plastic products gradually dominated the markets.

“Efforts are now on to get back the lost identity of the potters, artisans and craftsmen associated with clay crafts and for this, work has been started to establish Maati Kala Micro Common Facility Centres across the state,” a government official said.

The results of the efforts of the UP government were seen this Deepawali when over 10 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) were sold, he said and added that the government had started other schemes to give a new direction to the craftsmen associated with clay craft trade.

“To promote clay crafts, training was imparted to potters through Maati Kala Skill

Training Programmes (MKSSTP) and financial assistance was also made available to potters, artisans and craftsmen to make them self-reliant under the Mati Kala Scheme,” the official said.

As many as 39,505 families of craftsmen were identified by the government and out of them, 24,000 families were allocated revenue lease for making arrangements of raw material. Along with this, modern tool kits were also made available to artisans to help them in creating designer clay products, he said.

The official said that the government also helped potters, craftsmen and artisans in getting financial assistance and under the Mati Kala Scheme, 1,415 potters applied for loans.

“The banks gave loans of Rs 265.93 lakh to 142 beneficiaries. Besides, loans of Rs 98.03 lakh have also been disbursed to 71 units,” he said.

Girl thrown from terrace for resisting rape bid

Lucknow (PNS): A minor girl was critically injured when she was thrown from the terrace of a house by a youth after a failed rape attempt in Rampur.

The 15-year-old victim was rushed to the district hospital with multiple fractures, from where the doctors referred her to a trauma centre because of her critical condition.

The incident took place in the Civil Lines area of Rampur on Tuesday night and the accused was arrested on Wednesday evening.

Reports said that the minor girl was on the terrace of her house when the accused, residing in the same locality, jumped and caught hold of her.

As he tried to rape the victim, she raised an alarm and pushed him away following which the youth threw her down from the terrace. Later,

before the family members and local residents came, he jumped back and escaped.

The girl revealed her trauma to the family members after which they filed a written complaint.

Rampur’s Additional Superintendent of Police Arun Kumar Singh said the accused, a resident of the Pahari Gate area under the Civil Lines police station, had been booked under several sections which included section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 325 (punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt) of the Indian Penal Code and appropriate sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

CS asks officials to promote investments

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari has directed all district magistrates and all the departments concerned to adopt a positive approach towards promoting and facilitating investments in the state as per the industrial and investment-oriented policies of the Uttar Pradesh government.

The chief secretary was presiding over a high-level inter-departmental meeting on investment promotion and problems of entrepreneurs at his office in Lok Bhawan on Thursday.

He said that the practice of charging stamp duty twice, once on sale-deed and then on lease-deed, on the assets purchased in auction of units set up in the industrial development authorities should be abolished.

“As it is only the transfer of

lease, stamp duty should be charged only once,” he said.

These instructions were issued to UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) in connection with the resolution of case of M/ s Tribula Exports, Kanpur regarding payment of stamp duty twice in the matter of the auction under SARFAESI Act, 2002 (The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act).

As a result of this decision, about 12 other cases of similar nature will also be resolved.

Regarding the pending electricity bill of the previous unit that was purchased in auction by M/s. Sadahari Shakti Pvt. Ltd., Fatehpur, the chief secretary directed that appropriate valuation of assets be done in the event of pendency of dues of the previous unit located in the indus-

trial development authorities being auctioned under various laws.

He directed the official concerned to issue a government order in this regard.

Expressing displeasure over the lack of complete information on the issues listed in the meetings relating to investment promotion and facilitation, Tiwari said that officers should attend meetings with proper preparation and unnecessary delays in resolution of issues would attract punitive action.

In the meeting, nine issues related to departments of Infrastructure and Industrial Development, Energy, Housing, Stamp and Registration, Agricultural Marketing, Cooperative, and UPSIDA were discussed and the departments concerned were asked to resolve them in a time bound manner.

New tenancy law on the anvil

Lucknow (PNS): In an effort to protect the interests of the tenants as well as the house owners, the Uttar Pradesh government will be bringing a new law on tenancy in the state.

“Once the proposed laws are introduced, the disputes between landlords and tenants will end to a large extent, and it will be easily ascertained how many people are giving houses on rent in the state,” a government official said. The Housing department has issued a draft of the Uttar Pradesh Urban Complexes Renting Regulations Ordinance, 2020.

It has also sought suggestions from the public for a new tenancy law. For this, the draft has been uploaded on the official website <http://awas.up.nic.in> and the website of the Awas Bandhu www.awasbandhu.in.

People can give their suggestions till December 20. Principal Secretary (Housing) Deepak Kumar said the government was planning to bring tenancy regulation ordinance for

which people could give their suggestions by reading the draft.

Officials said the law had been drafted under the supervision of Chief Minister Yogi

“WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW TENANCY LAW, THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONSTITUTE A RENT AUTHORITY IN THE STATE”

Adityanath and had received in-principle approval.

“With the implementation of the new tenancy law, the government will also constitute a rent authority in the state,” he said.

According to the officials of the Housing department, many things have been taken care

of in the new law, including the most important condition of increasing the annual rent.

Under the existing agreement, the owner increases 10 percent rent every year. But after the new law comes, 5 percent annual rent will be increased on residential properties and 7 percent on non-residential properties.

In the new law, there will be a rule for the tenant that he has to take care of the living place. The tenant will be responsible for the damages in the rented property.

There will also be a provision in the law that if the tenant is unable to pay the rent for two months, the landlord can remove him. After the new law comes into force, no landlord will be able to keep tenants without agreements. Also, the landlord will have to inform the tenant to the rent authority. Under the new law, landlords will have to give a written contract letter to the renting authority within three months in relation to the tenancy.



भारत सरकार
कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य आयकर आयुक्त
 5-अशोक मार्ग, लखनऊ
सार्वजनिक सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि बोर्ड के पत्र संख्या ए-110197 / 14 / 2019-ए.डी.IX दिनांक 02.11.2020 के अनुपालन में एक पेशन अदालत गरित की गयी है। यह पेशन अदालत दिनांक 15.12.2020 को प्रातः 11.30 बजे आयकर भवन, 5-अशोक मार्ग, लखनऊ के सभागार में बैठेगी।

इस पेशन अदालत का उद्देश्य नीतिगत दिशा-निर्देशों के दायरे में रहते हुए पेशनरों की शिकायत का त्वरित निपटान करना है। अतः ऐसे पेशन धारक जिन्हें कोई असुविधा या शिकायत हो, वे अपने मामले को, त्वरित निपटान के लिये पेशन अदालत के समक्ष प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

पेशन अदालत में निम्नलिखित पेशन मामले स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे –

- पूर्णतः विधिक प्रसंगगत मामले यथा उत्तराधिकार आदि को अदालत में स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- नीतिगत मामलों संबंधी शिकायतों को इस अदालत में नहीं लाया जा सकेगा। इसके साथ यह भी अनुरोध है कि जो पेशन धारक अपने मामले को इस अदालत में प्रस्तुत करना चाहते हों, वे अपनी शिकायत का विवरण अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में दिनांक 14.12.2020 को या इससे पूर्व अवश्य भेज दें।

(एस0एल0 कनोजिया)
आयकर अधिकारी (मु0)(ज.स.)
कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य आयकर आयुक्त, लखनऊ।

500 vaccinators to take part in Covid immunisation drive

250 test +ve, 3 succumb

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 500 vaccinators will be pressed into service for the Covid-19 immunisation drive in Lucknow in the first phase. A senior health official said that state-level training has been completed and district-level training will be undertaken soon.

One vaccinator will administer the vaccine to 100-odd health workers as 50,000 health workers will be vaccinated in the first phase. The official said they are carrying out capacity building, improving logistics and setting up an

effective cold chain for the immunisation process.

“In the district-level training, we will be briefing the vaccinators on the strategy for the Covid-19 vaccination drive. The sites for these vaccinations will be different from those for regular immunisation and we will have to go to hospitals to vaccinate the staff,” he pointed out. The official said that after a dip in coronavirus cases on Wednesday, there was a slight increase on Thursday. “However, there has been an overall decline in the number of cases lately,” he added.

On Thursday, 250 people tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow while 207 patients recovered. The death toll stands at 1041. The fresh cases

included 25 from from Gominagar, 28 from Indiranagar, 16 from Ashiyana, 15 from Vikasnagar, 12 from Gudamba, 11 from Jankipuram, and 10 each from Mahanagar, Chowk, Rae Bareilly road and Mahanagar. Across the state, 1,677 persons tested positive, including 103 in Kanpur, 94 in Ghaziabad, 107 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 73 in Varanasi and 122 in Meerut, taking the UP case tally to 5,61,161. There were 25 deaths across the state, including four in Varanasi, three in Lucknow, two each in Gorakhpur, Meerut, Sultanpur & Chandauli, and one each in Prayagraj, Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar, Shahjahanpur, Bulandshahr, Sonbhadra, Sitapur, Badaun, Mainpuri,

Amethi & Sambhal, taking the UP toll to 8,011. Besides, 1,495 patients recovered, taking the strength of recoveries to 5,32,349.

Meanwhile, Lok Bandhu Hospital, which carried out a clinical trial of Ayurveda for Covid-19 treatment, is going for another research with biochemical markers. Dr Adil Raees from the hospital said they have made plans and sought permission from Clinical Trial Registration of India (CTRI) and ICMR and will begin the study after getting the nod. He said there were three groups in the first trials conducted in June and they found that the group which was given Ayurveda treatment was negative by fifth or seventh day.

Teenager found under mysterious conditions

Lucknow (PNS): A 19-year-old boy was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Sarojininar police station area on Wednesday night. Police said the teenager succumbed to injuries that he suffered in a road mishap. Police said he was rushed to the community health centre where he was declared brought dead late on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Dharmendra Kumar Yadav of Mohanlalganj. According to police, Dharmendra suffered injuries after he fell from his motorcycle near gate number 2 of CRPF office on Bijnaur road around 8 pm. The police said they got a memo from the Sarojininar CHC on Wednesday night.

“The memo stated that Dharmendra was brought dead to the CHC and a sub-inspector has been tasked with conducting the probe,” the police said. The SI said Dharmendra suffered head injuries after he fell from the bike and succumbed to injuries. The body was sent for autopsy and further investigation was started.



People seem to be making the most of pleasant weather at Lucknow zoo on Thursday

Pioneer

Case registered three days after RPF sub-inspector found dead

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Police registered a case in connection with the murder of a Railway Protection Force (RPF) sub-inspector whose body was recovered from railway tracks in Alambagh police station area on December 8. The victim, identified as Pooran Singh Negi, was deployed in CIB Battalion 38 of Alambagh and was staying with his family in Om Nagar (Alambagh). His wife Aneeta was at her parents’

house in Almora district of Uttarakhand on the day of the incident and she had talks with him around 7 pm on December 7.

The next day, Aneeta got a call from the RPF office and asked to reach Lucknow as her husband was seriously ill. Aneeta reached Lucknow on December 9 and she was taken to the mortuary where she was shown the body of her husband. Aneeta said she was handed over the body on December 9 and it was taken

to the RPF office where he was given the guard of honour before cremation at Alambagh Baikunth Dham.

Suspecting foul play, she said her husband was honest and he might have been killed over enmity with someone. On her request, a case was registered against unidentified miscreants. She said her husband was busy in train checking work when she talked to him last. “He had told me that he was at Charbagh railway station and busy in checking

drive,” she said.

The police said Negi had firearm injuries on the chest and he was found lying on railway tracks. The police explained that the RPF took time in contacting the police and a case was registered on the request of his wife. Sources said the RPF officials conducted an investigation into the case before contacting the police. “It took two days to decide if the S-I committed suicide or was killed,” one source said.

16-day activism campaign concludes

Lucknow (PNS): On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, a group of women activists organised the closing ceremony of 16-day activism campaign, ‘Todi bandishen: Himsa ke khilaf kamari awaz’. The event was organised online in view of the coronavirus pandemic. Around 100 young women and men participated in the event.

As panellists for the webinar, Harshita Ahuja, Sabika Abbas and Richa Rastogi, in conversation with Hameeda, spoke on increased levels of gender-based violence during the last nine months. Yasmeen, who attended the webinar, said: “Because of the lockdown, domestic violence increased and in terms of women’s emancipation, we moved backwards.”

The discussion provided motivation to young girls and women who were the target audience for this event. There were also community girls present as panellists who spoke on their experience as active participants in the campaign. They mentioned how community leaders found employment and are supporting their families.

Upset with husband, woman ends life

Lucknow (PNS): Upset with her husband’s refusal to take her to his workplace in Surat (Gujarat), a 26-year-old woman hailing from Bhadohi allegedly committed suicide after consuming ‘sindoor’ (vermilion), police said on Thursday.

Station Officer of Suryava police station, Pradeep Kumar, confirmed the above incident and claimed that the body of the victim was sent for post-mortem. He claimed that the police were waiting for the autopsy report before heading with the investigation.

The girl’s family was also informed of the incident.

“Vikas Bind, a resident of Danpur village, married to Saraswati Devi three years ago. Vikas works in Surat district of Gujarat and had come home

during the lockdown. Four days ago, he left for Surat to join his duty. Saraswati wanted to accompany her husband, but Vikas insisted that she stayed at home and looked after their two-and-half-year-old child,” Kumar said. The SO said Saraswati consumed ‘sindoor’ after Vikas left for Surat, but it was not clear how much of the substance she had consumed. “As Saraswati’s condition deteriorated, she was admitted to a hospital where she died on Wednesday,” the police officer said. ‘Sindoor’ contains lead or mercury compounds and can be toxic.

In Pratapgarh, a 34-year-old man died in a mishap when he was celebrating his brother-in-law’s marriage on Wednesday night.

According to reports, the marriage of one Kishore Yadav was taking place at Tiwaripur hamlet of Ramnagar under the Antu police station in Pratapgarh on Wednesday night. Just after the dwarachar ceremony, all the members of the marriage party were dancing to the DJ. Kishore’s brother-in-law Kamlesh (34), a resident of Bhuwanpur in Jethwara, suddenly started bursting crackers to enjoy the occasion. However, tragedy struck when one of the bombs exploded in his hand and he along with one another baraat were injured. They were taken to a local hospital where the doctors pronounced Kamlesh dead. A case was registered in this regard and the body was sent for post-mortem.

Farmers’ stir a step towards restoration of democratic values, says Akhilesh

Lucknow (PNS): Describing the farmers’ agitation as a step towards restoration of democratic values, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday said that people were emotionally connected with the farmers’ “save democracy” campaign.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Yadav said, “The farmers’ agitation is also a movement to restore the democratic values of India. There

should be participation of the general public in all decisions of the government. To save democracy, every citizen of the country is also becoming emotionally connected with the farmers’ agitation.”

The Samajwadi Party is supporting the farmers’ agitation against three new farm laws. On Monday, Yadav courted arrest in support of the agitation.

Mystery of dentist abduction unravelled

Police bust gang honey-trapping people for ransom

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of a youth and a girl on Thursday, the Vibhuti Khand police claimed to have worked out the mysterious abduction of a dentist. With their arrest, the police claimed to have busted the gang that would honey-trap gullible people for ransom.

Those arrested were identified as Sachin Rawat (20) of Unnao and Kakhshan Khan aka Neeshu of Delhi. Their aides have been identified as Adil, Balram Verma, Pravesh Jaiswal, Nazam Abbas and Sana aka Tabassum Fatima aka Devanshi and all of these are absconding.

Both the accused owned their crime and disclosed that they held Dr Akhilesh hostage in a flat at Omaxe Building (Phase-2) in Sushant Golf City police station area. They said they filmed the doctor in a compromising state with one of their woman associates and beat him black, forcing him to share the PIN of his ATM card. The police said Dr Akhilesh knew Sana, who is the elder sister of Kakhshan, and had met her on two to three times for medical consultation. On the day of the incident (December 1), Sana called the dentist and asking him to visit her flat. Dr Akhilesh reached the building and was received by Sana and Nazam Abbas. He was later taken to flat number 1302 where Adil, Sachin, Balram, Pravesh Jaiswal and Nazam



The accused owned their crime and disclosed that they held Dr Akhilesh hostage in a flat at Omaxe Building. They said they filmed the doctor in a compromising state with one of their woman associates

Meanwhile, a 30-year-old man repeatedly hit his head against a wall in Para in an inebriated state and succumbed to injuries on Wednesday night.

He was identified as Sumit Singh of Jalalpur Bagia in the locality. As per reports, Sumit returned home in a drunken state and was scolded by his family members. His mother Sushila Singh told the police that Sumit was stone drunk the previous night and he started banging his head against a wall on being scolded. As he started bleeding, he was rushed to Rani Laxmibai Hospital from where he was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre. “We took him to the Trauma Centre where doctors declared him brought dead,” she said. The police sent the body for autopsy further investigation was started.

Web symposium on Covid-19

Lucknow (PNS): A web symposium on Covid-19 enabled people from many places, including Lucknow, to have a comprehensive view of the pandemic. The programme was organised as a certain raiser to IISF by Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and was moderated by scientist CM Nautiyal. The experts included Subrata Sinha, Archana Singh, Anant Mohan, Tapasya Srivastava and Rajiv Kaul.

Nautiyal said that in the present circumstances, it has been found to be a very effective mode to convey science as well as ways to protect from the pandemic.

“The viewing of the two-hour session by about 800 people so far shows the reach of this approach which otherwise would have been limited to 100-odd persons,” he said.

Tapasya Srivastava concentrated on the structure and properties of the virus and explained that its invasion is followed by multiplication inside the body cell. She said that the RNA of the virus is studied by sequencing in the laboratory and it demonstrated its similarity with the earlier SARS virus leading to the present nomenclature of the present SARS-COV-2.

She explained with videos how masks prevent the spread of droplets and aerosols. She said frequent hand-washing with detergent causes the water-loving lipid web of the virus to be dissolved and washed away. She added that hypochlorite solutions provide reactive oxygen that kills the virus. Archana Singh focused on the vital role which mask plays in protecting those wearing it. She said a mask must be a good filter without obstructing breathing should fit snugly.

ANGEL BROKING LIMITED.
Regd. Off: G-1, Akroti Trade Centre, MIDC, Road No. 7, Andheri (E), Mumbai-93
SEBI Registration No (Stock Broker): INZ000161534
PUBLIC NOTICE

Name of SB/AP	Trade Name of SB/AP	BSE Reg No.	NSE Reg No.	MCX Reg No.	NCDEX Reg No.	Regd Address of SB/AP
SUDHEER	SUDHEER	AP010612 01104529	AP03972 33901	MCX/AP/ 127509	120127	4/1, Mohila-Ambekar, Opp.- Water Tank Phalauda, Meerut -250401, Uttar Pradesh

This is to inform/confirm that we have discontinued our Business Relations with the above mentioned Authorized Persons. Clients and General Public are warned against Dealing in with them in his/their capacity as our Authorized Persons and we hereby confirm that we will not be liable in any manner for any consequence of such dealings/deals. Clients are requested to contact our centralized desk 022-3355 1111/4218/5454 or email us to support@angelbroking.com.

For ANGEL BROKING LTD
Sd/-
Authorised Signatory

Place : Uttar Pradesh
Date : 11.12.2020

DHFL
National Office: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051.
Branch Office: Dhiraaj Baug, Building 'A' Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Nives Circle, Naurada, Thane (West) 400602.
DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) UNDER Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) the "said Borrower(s)", to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given above. Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	PROPERTY ADDRESS
(LC No. 00001903 of Lucknow Branch) Mamta Rajpoot (Borrower)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 610709 /- (₹ Six lakh Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Nine) NPA (01-03-2020)	Plot No. 9a Kharsa No. 177 And 202 Kharkha Pargana Bijnaur Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226001.
(LC No. 00002357 of Lucknow Branch) Arvind Kumar (Borrower) Preeti Kashyap (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 907150 /- (₹ Nine lakh Seven Thousand One Hundred Fifty) NPA (01-03-2020)	Plot No. 186 Part Of Kharsa No. 426 Alinsagar Sunehra Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226001.
(LC No. 00001252 of Agra Branch) Rinku Shrivastava (Borrower) Raj Kumari (Co Borrower 1) Amit Rawat (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 814617 /- (₹ Eight lakh Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Seventeen) NPA (01-03-2020)	Part Of House On Plot No.24-a Mansprover Colony Near Prithvini Phatak Lahamandi Ward Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh :- 226003.
(LC No. 00001154 of Raj Nagar Branch) Praveen Kumar (Borrower) Sarita (Co Borrower 1) Vijay Kumar Shukla (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 756234 /- (₹ Seven lakh Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Four) NPA (01-02-2020)	Flat No. 142, Second Floor, Block-C Sector- Omicron-1 Greater Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh :- 201308.
(LC No. 00001690 of Kanpur Branch) Alok Kumar (Borrower) Sadhna Varma (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 470170 /- (₹ Four lakh Seventy Thousand One Hundred Seventy) NPA (01-03-2020)	Part Of Plot No. 27 Arazi No 1255 Radha Puram, Naubasta Kanpur Kanpur Rural Uttar Pradesh -208021.
(LC No. 00043012 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Fakhrul Islam (Borrower) Farhana Parveen (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 865511 /- (₹ Eight lakh Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Eleven) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot No. 31 Kharsa No. 61, Shakhpur, Habibpur, Sahadatganj, Kala Pahad, Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020.
(LC No. 00002709 of Kanpur Branch) Manoj Kumar Singh Rathour (Borrower) Meenakshi Devi (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 / ₹ 194858 /- (₹ One lakh Ninety Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA (01-04-2020)	Premises on Plot No. 83 & 76 Part Of Arazi No. 322 , Gram- Pipouri Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh :- 208001
(LC No. 00003081 of Meerut Branch) Uma Devi (Borrower) Suresh Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Salman Khan (Co Borrower 2)	23-10-2020 / ₹ 1818870 /- (₹ Eighteen lakh Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy) NPA (01-06-2020)	Part Of House On Plot No.10 & 11, Kharsa No. 19, Surya Puram Colony Vill. Noor Nagar, Delhi Road Meerut Meerut Uttar Pradesh-250002.
(LC No. LUK31226 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Kapilish Construction Private Limited (Borrower)	23-10-2020 / ₹ 6985747 /- (₹ Sixty Nine lakh Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Seven) NPA (01-03-2020)	HOUSE ON PLOT NO. 54, K- BLOCK, SCHEME-2KIDWADI NAGAR KANPUR Uttar Pradesh :- 208011.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 11.12.2020
Place : Uttar Pradesh

Sd/- (Authorised officer)
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

UCO BANK
ZONAL OFFICE : DHANSHREE COMPLEX, 1st FLOOR, D-63/8-1M, TULSI PUR, MAHMOORGANJ, VARANASI
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD (THROUGH NEFT/RTGS) AND DOCUMENTS 24/12/2020 UPTO 5:00 PM
Auction Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to the Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with rules 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002). Possession of the following property has been taken over by the Authorised Officer, pursuant of the Notice issued u/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the Brawl Accounts Mentioned below with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS" AND "WHAT IS WHERE IS" basis for realization of Banks Dues.

Sr. No.	Name of Branch Borrower (s) Guarantor(s)	Details of Immovable Properties	Possession or Date/ Status of Possession (Physical or Symbolic)	Demand Notice Date & Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price		Detail of Officer Concerned	Date & Time Of E-Auction
					EMD	EMD Increase Amount		
7.	Jaunpur	Emtd of land & building situated at part of Arazi No. 39/2, Measuring area 1360 sq.ft. Mauza- Arazhi Bhupat Patti, Pargana Haveli, Tehsil Sadar, Distt. Jaunpur, registered vide Deed No. 2656, Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 2133, Page No. 299 to 326 Dated 24.06.2003 at sub Registrar Office Jaunpur in the name of Mr. Jitendra Kumar Yadav s/o Shivsharan. Boundaries : North : Land of Hari, (At Present House of Manager Lal Srivastav, South : At present house of Baldev Lal Shrivastava, East : House of Dinesh, West : Rasta	20.05.2016 (Symbolic)	3.12.2015 Rs. 3,81,878/-	17.82 Lacs 1.78 Lacs 0.10 Lacs	Smt. Suman (M) 888858644 E-mail: zc.varanasi@uco.bank.co.in	28.12.2020 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM.	

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in UCO Bank secured website i.e. <https://ucobank.com> and <https://ibapi.in>

Date : 10-12-2020 Place : Varanasi

Authorised Officer- UCO Bank

NER General Manager inspects Manduadih-Ballia section

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

General Manager (GM) of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vinay Kumar Tripathi conducted a window trailing inspection of Manduadih-Ballia railway section along with Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varanasi Division Vijay Kumar Panjiar and other senior officials on Thursday. The GM started its inspection from Manduadih railway station here taking note of the passengers' amenities including general passengers' air-conditioned and VIP lounges and upper class female and male waiting rooms. He also inspected the circulating area and gave directions to the concerned for its maintenance and cleanliness. He expressed satisfaction over the high level facilities provided to the passengers at Manduadih station.

After this, he reached Saidpur Bhitari station, in his window trailing inspection, where the GM did a thorough inspection of the electric loco shed apart from seeing the blueprint and drawing of the 12-acre project apart from 65/15 and 25/5 tonne cranes. He instructed the officers to increase the connectivity of the 2.6 route km line installed



NER GM VK Tripathi inspecting Manduadih station in Varanasi on Thursday

in this shed being constructed for maintenance of power locos and to complete the pucca construction in 1470 sqm by next month ensuring quality so that electric loco can be monitored in this shed from February next. He said that due to electrification, most of the trains are currently being operated with electric locomotives, so timely maintenance of electric locomotives is also very important. With the commissioning of this shed, the main-

tenance work of electric locomotives will be easier, he added.

The GM inspected the railway tracks, block sections, level crossing gates, bridges, culverts, station sections, information boards and other safety aspects on this rail section. Later, the GM reached Phephna station and inspected the passengers' amenities apart from seeing the goods siding site being constructed there. During his informal chat with

the newspersons, the GM said that the doubling the tracks work on Phephna-Ballia railway section will be completed by February next year and the work of the washing pit is also at the final stage which will be completed soon.

Along with this, reviewing the progress of the ongoing works for doubling the tracks work of the Aunrihar-Ballia railway section, Tripathi directed the concerned officers to complete all the works within the stipulated time. During his inspection at Ballia station, he inspected under-construction washing pits. He instructed he concerned officers to improve the connectivity by linking sick lines from both Ballia and Bansdih ends. He also asked the officers to complete the construction of washing pits soon. Apart from this, while discussing all the projects related to the development of Ballia station, he said that the purpose of his inspection is to review the progress of various development works and inspect the safety aspects during ongoing doubling the tracks and electrification work in this railway section. After Ballia, the GM returned Manduadih in Varanasi boarding in his special vehicle.



District Magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami, along with his wife Megha, performing Ganga puja in Prayagraj

DM performs Ganga puja for peaceful passage of Magh Mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The preparations for the Magh Mela have been intensified, with the wish of concluding the Magh Mela 2021 peacefully at Sangam. District Magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami, along with his wife Megha Goswami, performed the Maa Ganga aarti. As per the age-old tradition, the administration performed Ganga puja on Thursday amidst Vedic chanting. During this, a grand view of Ganga puja was seen on the banks of the Ganga.

On this auspicious occasion, all the officials including the District Magistrate and Dharmacharya were present. With this, the city of tents will be populated on the Sangam coast in a few days.

On Thursday, the district administration performed the aarti of Maa Ganga for the peaceful conclusion of the Magh Mela on the banks of the confluence. During this period, many Dharmacharyas also

attended. Ganga is worshiped every year before the Magh Mela. Apart from this, all other administrative officers also came to worship Maa Ganga. Manoti was also sought to make the Magh Mela smooth. At the same time, the district administration also wished for the elimination of corona from the mother Ganga. Prior to this, the police administration has worshiped Mother Ganga.

Magha Mela 2021 on Thursday became auspicious with Ganga worship in auspicious time. The Magh Mela administration duly performed Ganga puja amidst Vedic chanting on the sacred Sangam Coast of Patitpavani Ganga, Shyamal Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati on Thursday afternoon. During this, the aarti of Ganga and Triveni was also performed. The officials associated with the Mela administration also wished the Ganga for the Magh Mela to be conducted smoothly. Also they worshiped to end the corona epidemic. The Ganga puja is

organised by the administration only after the preparations for the Magh Mela begin.

On the tenth day of Krishna Paksha, the District Magistrate of Prayagraj, Bhanu Chandra Goswami, along with his wife Megha Goswami, performed Ganga puja. Along with them Mela Officer Vivek Chaturvedi, Magh Meladhikar Rajnish Kumar Mishra of the year 2020 and members of the Mela Advisory Committee performed puja on the Triveni coast. All saints-Mahatma and Dharmacharya also participated in the duly worshipped for about an hour. Apart from this, all other administrative officers also came to worship Maa Ganga. Manoti also sought to ensure the Magh Mela here. The Magh Mela administration did not send invitations to prominent saints in Ganga puja. Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati and Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, the supreme religious leader of

Sanatan Dharma, the chief saint of Prayagraj, Tikaramafi Ashram Peethadhiswar Swami Harichaitanya Brahmachari, Gayatri Ganga Charitable Sansthan President Paramhans Prabhakar Ji Maharaj, Chairman of Khakchauk Arrangement Committee was not invited Mahanta Das Mahantar. These saints and their disciples did not attend the puja.

Everyone has expressed displeasure over the functioning of the administration. Brahmachari Sridharanand, a disciple of Swami Swaroopananda and in charge of Magh Mela, said that he would have joined the worship if the invitation had come. However, the administration did not consider it necessary to call us. This is arbitrary of administration. Swami Harichaitanya said that the Mela administration did not consider it necessary to give information about Ganga puja. Due to this, they did not participate in worship.

Functions held on Human Rights Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Various programmes were organised by different organisations on the occasion of International Human Rights Day here on Thursday. Under the joint aegis of Sahyog Sanstha, Asha Trust and Lok Samiti, the children of Asha Samajik Vidhyalay along with teenager girls of the village took out a rally against child labour in Adarsh Sansad Gram of the Prime Minister at Nagepur. The rally began from Lok Samiti Ashram and it was terminated at Nandghar. During the rally, the children were raising slogans against child labour and demanding Rights to Education.

Later, a meeting on child rights was organised at Ambedkar Park where children were apprised of their rights. Lok Samiti convenor Nandlal Master said that every

child has the right to health and education but child labour is still a curse in our society. He said that the government has enacted many laws but the problem still remains as the incidents of sexual abuse and violence with children are increasing rapidly. Expressing his concern over the same, he demanded strict action against the culprits involved in such acts.

The programme was mainly attended by Amit, Rambachan, Vidya, Anil Kumar Tiwari, Shyamdas Vishwakarma, Santosh Kumar, Rashmi Verma, Manjita, Madhubala and Panchmukhi. The programme was conducted by Sunil Master while it was presided over by Shyamsunder Master and the vote of thanks was proposed by Shama Bano.

Meanwhile, a national webinar on 'Covid pandemic and human rights' was organ-

ised under the aegis of National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). It was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor of Arunodaya University (Arunachal Pradesh) Prof BN Sharma. In his address, he said that every year since 1948, we organise Human Rights Day on December 10, whose basic objective is to provide an opportunity for freedom, equality and harmony to the people. He said that there is still a lack of awareness among the people about the day, for which volunteers of the NSS should make efforts and organise awareness programmes.

The seminar was chaired by Dr Ashok Shroti, Regional Director of the Union Ministry of Youth Services and Sports. In his address, he said that the significance of the day is that the last person of the society should also get all the funda-

mental rights conferred by the government. Introducing the subject, NSS BHU Coordinator Dr Bala Lakhendra said that human rights protection is essential in the conditions that have arisen all over the world due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Prof Harish Kumar of the Journalism department, Galgotia University, highlighted various aspects of human rights.

Prominent among those who also expressed their views were Ritesh Kumar, Agnivesh Singh, Akash Saxena, Anurag Yadav, Aarti Yadav and Preeti Kumari. Later, in the speech competition, Niharika Shukla stood first, while Vinayak Kumar Jha and Santosh Singh secured second and third places respectively. In the quiz contest, Shivatosh Kumar Singh won the first place, followed by Ruchi Kumari and Niharika Shukla.

90 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The number of COVID-19 cases has crossed the 20k-mark as 90 more new patients have been detected on Thursday, increasing the total number to 20,087. The day also saw three more deaths, increasing the toll to 329. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 66 and 65 of them have been recovered from home isolation while one from a hospital, increasing the number to 16,037 and 2,881 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered

so far is 18,918, leaving 840 active cases. The recovery rate is 94.18 percent, while the mortality rate is 1.63 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 45 positive patients were found out of 2,378 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,57,014 and the results of 2,851 are awaited. Out of them, 4,36,992 were negative, while 20,022 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,78,309.

Earlier, two males aged 80 and 57 from Bhullanpur and DLW respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of four new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,550 including 226 red zones. One green zone has been converted into red zone once again. There are 2,324 green zones with three 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 62 and 37 tests done there respectively were found negative. Besides, two out of 145 tests has been found positive at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, while one out of 85 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar. However, all the 175 tests at Government Women's Hospital, 46 at CHC Shivpur, 42 at Swami Vivekanand Hospital, Bhelupur and 95 at SSH BHU have been found negative.

Ayurvedic & Unani docs take out procession

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The medical practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani methods, associated with the National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) on Thursday took out a procession from the Government Ayurvedic College in Chowkaghat to Azad Park in Lahurabir in protest against the decision of Indian Medical Association (IMA) to disrupt health services to put its protest against the amendment in act which entitles Ayurvedic doctors to conduct surgery.

Recently, the Ayush Ministry, Government of India and Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) had made an amendment in IMCC ACT 1971 and issued notification regarding this making the medical practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani methods entitled to conduct surgery of patients what they had been demanding for decades, the agitated medical practitioners said adding, but the IMA which members are allopathic doctors, has decided to protest the amendment and put its protest against

the notification on Friday to come by disrupting the health services.

We took out the procession to raise their protest against the decision of IMA to disturb health services and also extend the gratitude to the government which met their demand pending for the long time, the agitated medical practitioners said blaming the IMA has been conspiring for the last five-decades to make them out of the healthcare system.

The NIMA is a national level organisation which will not let the IMA to succeed in its anti-Ayurveda and anti-national intention, they said blaming, the Ayurvedic medical method is heritage of nation but the allopathic doctors made the health service a business and maligned the image of doctors in the society. The allopathic doctors have always tried to prove the Ayurvedic and Unani doctors as unauthorised, backward and having little knowledge of medicine, they charged adding, but the government has now recognised their ability in the medical field by making them entitled even to conduct surgery.

They are with the government on this matter and the NIMA will oppose the IMA's protest. Dr OP Singh, Dr MA Azhar, Dr BN Roney and others joined the procession.

BALAK DAS ON INDEFINITE FAST: Seer of Patalpuri Mutt, Ishwargangi Balak Das Maharaj continued his indefinite fast on the second day on Thursday despite the State Minister Dr Neelkanth Tiwari reaching the mutt and urging him from ending the indefinite fast.

It is pointed out that miffed with the Electricity department for issuing faulty electricity bills, Balak Das Maharaj had on Wednesday sat on an indefinite agitation. But on Thursday he turned the agitation into an indefinite fast threatening it will continue till an agitation is launched.

The condition of the seer started deteriorating on Thursday afternoon and after being aware of this the minister Dr Tiwari reached the mutt in Ishwargangi area and tried to pacify him assuring that the matter will be taken seriously and the step will be taken as per

requirement. But despite this the seer continued his indefinite fast.

DR SHIPRA HONoured: In a laurel to the city, an eminent gynecologist of this holy city Dr Shipra Dhar was virtually honoured by the Government of Gujarat and AIWC for her contribution in empowering women. In a virtual programme, Dr Shipra was honoured by the Government of Gujarat and AIWC.

Dr Shipra was honoured for her yeoman service not to take even a single penny on the birth of girl child in her hospital Kashi Medicare, Pahadia and making women empowered by helping through various means. She is also associated with the campaign Beti Bachao Beti Padhao launched by the Government of India. She imparts education to about 50 girls of poor families free of cost so that they could be self-reliant and has opened a school Koshika for the purpose. She and her husband Dr Manoj Kumar Srivastava have opened Anaj Bank to provide food-grain to as many as 40 widows every month.

39 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The recovery rate in the district has exceeded 96 per cent. It is because the number of new corona infections was less than 50 for the third consecutive day. A total of 39 new infections were found on Wednesday, while 6118 people were screened. Apart from this, one person died. About 58

people have become infection-free. This was confirmed by Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer of Corona. He said that with 39 new infections, the total corona patients in the district have increased to 27,081.

Dr Sahai said that so far 26,099 people have become infection-free against the total infected. On Wednesday, 18 people have been discharged from SRN, Beli and private

hospital, while 40 people have completed home isolation.

At present, the number of active cases is 626. There are 97 people admitted in different hospitals. Maximum 60 patients are admitted in SRN Hospital and 17 are under treatment in Beli and 10 in a private hospital.

A 70-year-old man from Jhuni has died after being hit by corona. While the clerk of

Union Bank Muttiganj branch, Principal of GGIC Naini Branch, technician of Railways, technician of UPPCL have been infected. Treatment of the deceased person was going on in SRN Hospital for four days. He was on a ventilator. Prior to this, he also had a heart problem.

After the death, the last rites were performed at the ghat at Phaphamau.

Covid vaccination preparations complete

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Covid vaccination preparations have been completed in the first phase in Prayagraj district. According to the Health department's plan, initially 17,000 people are proposed to be vaccinated. Vaccination will then be done according to the protocol set out in a phased manner. Vaccination will begin at Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital.

The complete list of who will be given the Covid vaccine in the entire district has

been prepared. In the first phase, 17,000 Corona Warriors who are fighting a direct battle with corona will be vaccinated. These include doctors from government and private hospitals, paramedical staff and sanitation workers. Apart from this, people above the age of 50 years will be vaccinated in the first phase itself.

The Health department had started the list from September itself as per the protocol set by the Union Health Ministry to install the

Covid vaccine. This list has been completed and sent to the government in November. According to the Health department, preparations for the second phase and then the third phase have also been completed.

The entire command of the Covid vaccination to be held in the district will be monitored from Beli Hospital. It is because the same hospital is becoming the largest storage house for Covid vaccination. UNICEF and the Health department will be

responsible for vaccine care in this centre.

We had sent the government in our own tenure by preparing a list for the Covid vaccination to be held in the first phase in Prayagraj. Vaccination will be done accordingly.

Vaccination has to take place in several stages. Therefore, vaccination will happen beyond the prescribed protocol, said Dr GS Bajpai, Additional Director Communicable Disease and the then CMO, Prayagraj.

4 unauthorised constructions demolished

ALLAHABAD (PNS): After a gap of a couple of weeks the Prayagraj Development Authority once again initiated the building demolition drive against mafia dons and their close associates on Wednesday, and within two days pulled down four such unauthorised constructions in different areas of the city. On Wednesday the PDA team reached Buxi Modha where a close associate of Atique Ahmed had built two houses illegally. One was on a Waqf land while the other construction was made on the land of another person showing muscle power. The PDA

team, backed by heavy police force reached spot in the afternoon hours with JCB machines, but the residents of the above two buildings were given time to take out their belongings. When this process was completed, the two buildings were pulled down within minutes in the evening. On Thursday the PDA team reached Jhusi area to demolish unauthorised constructions of two history sheeters— Bablu Giri alias Chhuttan Giri and Rishi Bharatiya. In a state of confusion the PDA officials started pulling down the house next to that of Bablu, but the

police intervened immediately and told the officials that the next one was the house of the criminal. After demolishing Bablu's building the PDA team reached the house of Rishi Bharatiya and initiated the process of pulling down the unauthorised construction.

OPEN INTERACTION: Minister of State for Education, Government of India, Sanjay Shamrao Dhore will have an open interaction on 'Transforming Policy laid down New Education Policy-2020 into Practicality at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad' at

Jhalwa campus on December 11. The minister, on his one-day visit, will be on IIIT-A campus and take the stock of progress being made by the institute. Prof P Nagabhushan, Director, IIIT-A will welcome him at administrative block auditorium on December 11 at 10:20 am. Dr Vijayshri Tiwari, Registrar (acting) will throw light on a journey of 'Beyond Twenty by 2020', Prof Shekhar Verma, Dean (IP&RM) on Infrastructure Accomplishments and Prof T Lahiri, Dean (A & R) on academic & research accomplishment of the institute.

Shekhar for more sporting activities in Green Park

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar said the international sports ground Green Park Stadium was not being properly utilised despite massive funds being pumped in for its upkeep and maintenance.

He said that the Green Park must have at least 90 days' sports activities.

He said Kanpur Nagar and its surrounding districts had immense talent and thus to hone cricket skills, the Green Park could be utilised so that it could produce world class cricketers.

The divisional commissioner was interacting with deputy director sports of Green Park Stadium on his visit to the stadium on Thursday. He said it was ironical that this world class stadium was facing utter neglect and except for a month there no activity was witnessed on this green and beautiful stadium.

He said keeping the stadium shut for eleven months tantamount to causing damage to the infrastructure, adding that this neglect had made Green Park a white elephant. He directed the deputy director to work out quick plans to promote sports, especially cricket, on this ground.

Shekhar said the Green Park Stadium had all world class facilities and thus it need to be properly tapped to ensure the maintenance of the existing facilities.



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspecting Green Park Stadium on Thursday.

Pioneer

He suggested that the facilities available at this stadium can be used to promote cricket in youth in Kanpur Nagar and its adjoining areas.

He directed the officials to liaise with all educational institutions, corporate houses , associations, clubs etc. to book events, including matches, in the stadium for optimal cricket promotion.

He also mooted that sufficient funds, through PPP, could be mobilised for better maintenance of the stadium and adding more facilities to it.

The divisional commis-

sioner said the media pavilion of the stadium did not have a lift though many major media houses had suggested to the UPCA and the stadium authorities to install a lift in this pavilion.

On the help sought by the deputy director of sports, Shekhar assured him all possible help even from the KDA and asked the deputy director to submit a proposal with all details so that it could be taken up with the KDA at the earliest.

He said a meeting would soon be convened with UP Cricket Association (UPCA),

district administration, KDA, nagar nigan, sports department an others to plan out things and ensure their execution.

He added that to promote various sports activities in Kanpur division, a divisional sports promotion committee (DSPC) was set up and it had been registered as well and this committee would hold various sports activities at divisional level, including cricket, football, volleyball, badminton, tennis, table tennis, wrestling and awards and cash rewards would also be part of these events.

64 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 64 more coronavirus positive cases on Thursday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 84 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 31,356 cases. He said that 10 patients were discharged from hospital. He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Thursday evening keeping the death toll to 798. The CMO said at present 805 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4469 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Docs to close their establishments for 24 hours today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Medical Association's Kanpur Chapter has decided to keep all medical establishments closed on Friday in protest against the government's move to mix different medicine systems of treatment with allopathy.

It said the medical fraternity of the country would not allow 'mixopathy' and 'khichdification' of the of the traditional medicine systems.

IMA-K secretary Dr Dinesh Sachan said there was no doubt that allopathy was the pride of not only the nation but the entire world and it was true that the faith on allopathic medicines was on account of the quick and concrete results it gave.

He said there was nothing like placebo in allopathy and that was why it had emerged as the best mode of treatment across the world.

He said the medical fraternity strongly condemns the move to introduce a parallel Ayurveda, Naturopathy and Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy and (AYUSH) system.

He said initially the doctors had decided to take to peaceful methods of protest for the rollback of the government decision.

He said the doctors in Kanpur would keep their establishments closed for 24 hours from 6 am on Friday but on humane grounds, they would attend to emergency and COVID-19 cases.

He said the medical fraternity would not allow khichdification of the medicine system with the introduction of mixopathy and if the government remained adamant, the doctors would give further momentum to their agitation.

Contractor robbed of ₹ 4 lakh

KANPUR (PNS): A labour contractor was robbed of ₹4 lakh in broad daylight by bike-borne miscreants near Thumsup chauraha in Dada Nagar under Govind Nagar police station on Thursday morning.

When the contractor raised an alarm, the local residents caught hold of one of the robbers and, after brutally beating him up, handed him over to the police. Police impounded the bike and took the accused into custody.

According to reports, Sanjay Tewari of Shastri Nagar provides factory labourers. To pay their wages on Thursday, he withdrew ₹4 lakh from HDFC Bank and proceeded towards the tea factory on scooter. Suddenly, near an flour mill, bike-borne miscreants knocked him down from behind. After he fell on the ground, the miscreants on another bike snatched his bag containing the cash and escaped.

However, as the shoe of one of the robbers got entangled in the bike, the people present there caught hold of him. He was identified as Ajay Kumar of Darshanpurwa. Police took him to the factory area outpost and impounded his bike. Raids were on to nab his accomplices.

Blind murder case worked out

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Police have worked out the blind murder case of former pradhan.SP Ajay Kumar Singh said that the murder of former pradhan Rajesh Yadav was committed on November 20 in connection with which a case had been lodged against unidentified criminals by his son, Shivpal Yadav. He said that the case was a challenge for the police and it could be worked out with the help of the surveillance team. Three accused had been nabbed and efforts were on to nab others whose names had come to light, he said. According to the police, rivalry in property business was the motive behind the murder. The accused Babu Khan confessed that he along with Akhilesh Dubey had hatched a conspiracy to eliminate the former pradhan and included Kapil Chaubey and Kripa Shankar in it too. Kapil Chaubey made arrangements for shooters and out of ₹6 lakh a sum of ₹2 lakh was paid to them as advance and Kripa Shankar helped in tracing the location of former pradhan. After gathering substantial evidence the police raided the farm house of Babu Khan alias Azam Khan in Phulwaria village from where he along with two others, Kapil Chaubey alias Vinay, a resident of Khamaria under Vindhyachal police station and Kripa Shankar, a resident of Godtutva village, were arrested. The police



recovered a countrymade gun, two cartridges etc from Babu Khan and a countrymade gun, a cartridge and cell phone from Kapil Chaubey. The police team has been rewarded with a cash prize of ₹10,000 for working out the case. Meanwhile the Adalhat police arrested Chhotu, a resident of Baraipur Village, who had assaulted his father, Bachau (65), with an iron rod when he

refused to give him money on December 7 as a result of which the latter had died on the spot. The police lodged an FIR under relevant sections of IPC in this connection and arrested the accused.

PROGRAMME: In the series of awareness programmes under Mission Shakti SHO mahila police station Seema Singh organised a programme at Pt Guptam Pandey Adarsh Inter College under Katra Kotwali on Wednesday. The SHO said that it was the duty of the girls to expose gender-based crimes without any hesitation and the government's drive was to make women self-dependent and confident. Interacting with girls she threw light over helpline numbers and their use in different situations. She said that in the era of information technology they should feel more secure as facilities through helplines were available within minutes. The programme was chaired by principal Shiv Shankar Mishra and the vote of thanks was proposed by college manager Padm Deo Dwivedi.

Rihand ED flags off ash to Dadri

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

NTPC Rihand which has been making efforts one better than the other for utilisation of ash in the past made a new attempt for it on Wednesday. As part of this new effort, Rihand station sent the first batch of ash via BTAP wagon for NTPC Dadri. Executive Director (Rihand) Balaji Iyengar who was the chief guest on the occasion, flagged off the BTAP wagon for NTPC Dadri. It is a new attempt by NTPC Rihand to send ash by train. The ash will be col-



lected at Dadri and sent to different places as per the requirement. On the occasion GM (Maintenance) S Sri Krishna, GM (Operations) AK Chattopadhyay, GM (F&M) M Ramesh, GM (MTP) KC Tripathi, CMO of Dhanwantari Hospital, Dr Renu Saxena, AGM (MGR) Mukul Rai, Additional General Manager (EMG) VK Atri, Additional General

Manager (BMD) Dileep Caiborta, Additional General Manager (HR) SBD Ravi Kumar along with other departmental heads were present. Social distancing was followed on the occasion.

Timing of Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag spl revised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has revised the special trains being run for the convenience of public as per the new timetable. As a result the following special trains will be operated as per the revised time. Therefore, the passengers are requested to know details about the revised timetable of the trains at the time of making reservation or before travelling. 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.

HOWRAH-PRAYAGRAJ RAMBAG SPL: The 02333 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag special train as per the revised time will from December 18 until further notice will depart from Howrah daily at 20.00 hrs, from Bardhaman at 21:12 hrs, from Durgapur at 22:03 hrs, from Asansol at 22.39 hrs, from Chittaranjan at 23:02 hrs, Madhupur at 23:43 hrs, the second day from Jasidih at 00.15 hrs, from Jhajha at 01.22 hrs, from Kiul at 02.00 hrs, from Mokama at 02.31 hrs, from Barh at 02.50 hrs, from Bakhtiyarpur at 03.07 hrs, from Fatuha at 03.24 hrs, from Patna at 04.10 hrs, from Danapur at 04.27 hrs, from Bihta at 04.41 hrs, from Ara at 05.02 hrs, from Bihya at 05.18 hrs, from Raghunathpur at 05.32 hrs, from Dumraon at 05.47 hrs, from Buxar at

06.06 hrs, from Dildarnagar at 06.40 hrs, from Zamania at 06.52 hrs, from Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Jn at 08.35 hrs, from Kashi at 09.16 hrs, from Varanasi at 09.40 hrs, from Manduadih at 09.48 hrs, Gyanpur Road at 10:39 hrs and reach Prayagraj Rambagh at 12.00 hrs. During the return journey the 02334 Prayagraj Rambagh-Howrah special train will from December 19 until further notice depart from Prayagraj Rambag at 15.40 hrs daily, from Gyanpur Road at 16.52 hrs, from Manduadih at 17.43 hrs, from Varanasi at 18.08 hrs, from Kashi at 18.20 hrs, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Jn at 19.00 hrs, Zamania at 19.41 hrs, Dildarnagar at 19.56 hrs, Buxar at 20.27 hrs, Dumraon at 20.40 hrs, Raghunathpur at 20.55 hrs, Bihya at 21:09 hrs, Ara at 21.34 hrs, Bihata at 21.50 hrs, Danapur at 22.27 hrs, from Patna at 22.55 hrs, from Fatuha at 23.17 hrs, from Bakhtiyar at 23.39 hrs, from Barh at 23.53 hrs, from Mokama on the second day at 00.16 hrs, from Kiul at 00.47 hrs, from Jhajha at 02.00 hrs, from Jasidih at 02.37 hrs, from Madhupur at 03.04 hrs, from Chittaranjan at 03.44 hrs, from Asansol at 04.23 hrs, from Durgapur at 04.53 hrs, from Bardhaman at 06.00 hrs and reach Howrah at 07.40 hrs. A total of 19 coaches, including four of general class, nine of sleeper class, three air-conditioned third class, one AC second class and two of SLRD. will be attached in the trains.

Gkp-Shalimar spl to run as per revised timing

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is revising the timings of special trains as per the new timetable. As a result, the following special trains will be run at the revised time.

GKP-SHALIMAR SPL: The 05022 Gorakhpur-Shalimar weekly special train as per the revised timings will from December 14 depart from Gorakhpur at 13.50 hrs every Monday, from Deoria Sadar at 14.42 hrs, Bhatni at 15.09 hrs, from Mau at 16.20 hrs, from Amurrihar at 17.18 hrs, from Varanasi at 18.40 hrs, from Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Jn at 19.35 hrs, from Sasaram at 20.38 hrs, from Gaya at 22.10 hrs, from Koderma at 23.29 hrs, on second day Gomoh at 01.15 hrs, from Purulia at 03.10 hrs, from Tanagar at 05.18 hrs, from Kharagpur at 07.25 hrs and reach Shalimar at 09.30 hrs. During the return journey, the 05021 Shalimar-Gorakhpur weekly special train will December 15 depart from Shalimar every Tuesday at 20.00 hrs, from Kharagpur at 22.10 hrs, on the second day from Tatanagar at 00.05 hrs, from Purulia at 01.47 hrs , from Gomoh at 04.25 hrs, from Koderma at 05.38 hrs, from Gaya at 07.07 hrs, from Sasaram at 08.24 hrs, from Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Jn at 10.30 hrs, from Varanasi at 11.55 hrs, from Amurrihar at 12.34 hrs, from Mau at 13.35 hrs, from Bhatni at 14.52 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 15.18 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 16.30 hrs.

GKP-JAMMU TAWI SPL: The 02587 Gorakhpur-Jammu Tawi weekly special will from December 14 every Monday leave Gorakhpur at 14.20 hrs, Khalilabad at 15:00 hrs, Basti at 15.29 hrs, Gonda Jn at 16.55 hrs, Lucknow at 19.50 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 22.23 hrs, Bareilly (from NR) 23.23 hrs, Moradabad on the second day at 01.05 hrs,

Laksar at 03.00 hrs, Roorkee at 03.21 hrs, Saharanpur at 04.25 hrs, Yamunanagar Jagadhri at 04.53 hrs, Ambala Cantt at 05.49 hrs, Ludhiana Jn at 07.40 hrs, Jalandhar Cantt at 08.40 hrs, Pathankot Cantt at 10.35 hrs, Kathua at 11.06 hrs and will reach Jammu Tawi at 13.00 hrs. During the return journey the 02588 Jammu-Gorakhpur weekly special will from December 19 every Saturday leave Jammu Tawi at 22.45 hrs, Kathua at 23.47 hrs, Pathankot Cantt on the second day at 00.30 hrs, Jalandhar Cantt at 02.25 hrs, Ludhiana at 03.30 hrs, Ambala Cantt at 05.25 hrs, Yamunanagar Jagadhri at 06.09 hrs, Saharanpur at 07.00 hrs, Roorkee at 07.38 hrs, Laksar at 08.00 hrs, Moradabad at 10.13 hrs, Bareilly (from NR) at 11.40 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 12.47 hrs, Lucknow at 15.30 hrs, Gonda Jn at 17:35 hrs, Basti at 18.45 hrs, Khalilabad at 19.18 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 20.30 hrs.

DARBHANGA-AMRITSAR PUJA SPL: The railway administration has decided extend the run of the following puja special trains. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines. CPRO PK Singh said. The 05211 Darbhanga-Amritsar Puja special from December 14 to 31 every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, will leave Darbhanga at 17.20 hrs, Laheria Sarai at 17.29 hrs, Haiaghat at 17.43 hrs, Samastipur at 19.03 hrs, Karpoorigram at 19.13 hrs, Dholi at 19.31 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 20.25 hrs, Motipur at 20.54 hrs, Mehni at 21.07 hrs, Chakia at 21.19 hrs, Pipra at 21.32 hrs, Bapudham Motihari at 21.51 hrs, Sagauli at 22.10 hrs, Bettiah at 22.30 hrs, Chanpatia at 22.47 hrs, Narkatiaganj at 23.08 hrs, Haringanar at 23.35 hrs, the second day Bagaha at 00.13 hrs,

Khadda at 01.27 hrs, Siswa Bazar at 01.44 hrs, Ghughuli at 01.59 hrs, Kaptanganj at 02.25 hrs, Pipraich at 02.48 hrs, Gorakhpur at 03.50 hrs, Basti at 04.52 hrs, Gonda at 06.15 hrs, Burhwal at 07.20 hrs, Sitapur Jn at 10.23 hrs, Sitapur City at 10.55 hrs, Shahjahanpur at 13.03 hrs, Bareilly at 14.10 hrs, Moradabad at 15.55 hrs, Najibabad at 17.15 hrs, Laksar at 18.01 hrs, Saharanpur at 19.15 hrs, Yamunanagar Jagadhri at 19.43 hrs, Ambala Cantt at 21.00 hrs, Rajpura at 21:26 hrs, Sirhind at 21.50 hrs, Dhanadri Kalan at 22.42 hrs , Ludhiana at 23.02 hrs, Phillaur at 23.17 hrs, Phagwara at 23.37 hrs, Jalandhar Cantt. at 23.55 hrs, Jalandhar City at 00.15 hrs, Vyas at 00.49 hrs and reach Amritsar at 01.45 hrs. During the return journey, the 05212 Amritsar-Darbhanga puja special train will from December 16 to January 2, 2021, every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday leave from Amritsar at 19.15 hrs, Vyas at 19.35 hrs, Jalandhar City at 20.18 hrs, Phagwara at 20.38 hrs, Phillaur at 20.58 hrs, Ludhiana at 21.30 hrs, Dhandari Kalan at 21.48 hrs Sirhind at 22:45 hrs and after stopping at Rajpura, Ambala Cantt, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Laksar, Najibabad Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur City, Sitapur Jn, Burhwal, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj, Ghughuli, Siswa Bazar, Khadda, Bagaha, Haringanar, Narkatiaganj, Chanpatia, Bettiah, Sagauli, Bapudham Motihari, Pipra, Chakia, Mehni, Motipur on the third day Muzaffarpur at 00.10 hrs, Dholi at 00.33 hrs, Karpoorigram at 01.00 hrs, Samastipur at 01.55 hrs, Haiaghat at 02.19 hrs, Leharia Sarai at 02.33 hrs and will reach Darbhanga at 02.55 hrs. The structure of this particular train will remain as notified earlier.

Hand hygiene in Covid period stressed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The nodal officer of National Service Scheme and head of hotel and tourism management department of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, Dr Sudhanshu Rai, while addressing the 'Hand Washing Day' on the university campus on Thursday, said in the present times of pandemic it was highly essential to maintain social distancing and good hygienic habits.

He said with the COVID-19 pandemic it became all the more important and necessary to regularly wash hands thoroughly with soap. He said hand washing was not only for people working in laboratories or hospitals but for everybody.

He said WHO, with support of international health partners like UNICEF, UNIDO and many more, had been supporting the governments in raising awareness about the importance of hand hygiene and integrated waste management to reduce risk behaviours among Indian.

He said to influence behavioural change, the WHO developed and disseminated 1,000 metallic hand washing notices to agencies and ministries, departments and agencies.

He said the notices contained the steps for proper hand washing and emphatic orientation that proper hand hygiene prevented coronavirus, cholera and several other diseases.

He said the WHO also

pioneered the development of a community action plan using community chiefs and elders in covering hygiene and sanitation promotion.

He said the COVID-19 outbreak had emphasised the importance of hand washing with soap to reduce the spread of the virus.

Dr Rai said awareness campaigns had been yielding positive results, from governments response to the humanitarian space as well as from professionals whose functional duties overlapped in the health sector such as those at the port services, immigration, and some communities at large.

He said hand hygiene behaviour was one of the most important practices one could follow to avoid falling sick.

He said a recent study released by Water Aid, India revealed that knowledge and practices of hand washing associated with child care tasks were abysmally poor in rural India. He said a survey in four states namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Odisha revealed that general practices of hand washing after defecation and before eating a meal were low in houses having children below five years of age.

He said it was the duty of each and every person to not only wash hands frequently with soap but also ensure that others also followed the same.

Prominent among those present were Dr Vivek Sachan, Dr Varsi Singh and Dr Aparna Katiyar.

CSJMU holds orientation programme

KANPUR (PNS): The orientation and motivation programme for students of CSJM University, Kanpur was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof Neelima Gupta on Thursday. The programme aimed at providing free coaching to students preparing for IAS, PCS, banking entrance examinations.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Neelima Gupta said it was not good for students to change their mission under pressing circumstances.

She stressed on following two types of thoughts 'I can do this' and 'I will do this'. She said students should avoid learning new things.

Prof Gupta said parents

also played the role of 'guru' of students. She asked the officials to inform her about the requirements of students in performing their activities and directed the officials to upload all the relevant information on university's website to enable students to discuss about their subject with her.

Dean (Academic) Prof Sanjay Swarnkar said, "God has provided energy and capacity to each individual to make them achieve their targets.". Registrar Dr Anil Kumar Yadav described the importance of time management and notes preparing. He advised students to properly utilise their time.

Dean of Students Welfare, Prof Anshu Yadav, highlighted

the utility of library and its proper use. Motivational speaker and teacher Atul Kumar spoke about various government jobs and methods to prepare for them. He said the students should write 24 hours' output in their diary before going to bed.

Dr Anupam Yadav stressed on appearing in examinations by evaluating strengths and weaknesses. "Students should appear in exams with proper preparation and should not take it in lighter vein, he added. The proceedings were conducted by Prof Versha Gupta of Academic Development Cell of the university.

Chief Proctor Dr Sandeep Singh, Dr RN Katiyar, Dr Rashi

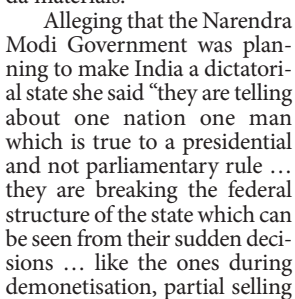
Agarwal, Dr Sidharth Misra, Dr Nisha Sharma, Dr VP Singh, Dr Vishal Chandra and Dr Vivek Sachan were also present.

MBA ADMISSION

The coordinator of STEP-HBTI, Prof Ram Naresh Tripathi said that admissions to MBA STEP-HBTI, affiliated to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, would now be taken directly and those interested could apply for it.

He said as quite a number of seats were lying vacant, it had been decided that students who passed their graduation with 50 per cent marks could directly take admission.

Saying that the Centre was



Elsewhere the ruling TMC on Thursday rolled out a performance chart of the Government indicating that the party was going to polls on development issues. Booklets were released by the ministers in a programme where the government's department wise achievements and schemes have been shown. The booklets would be distributed in all the Assembly constituencies, Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN
CHENNAI

“The DMK’s election manifesto of 2016 assembly election had demanded the implementation of reforms which have been enacted by the Centrenow. How can they make a vault face and ask for

Palaniswamy also welcomed Tuesday's Supreme Court verdict giving green signal for the 277.3 km long Chennai-Krishnagiri-Salem state-of-the-art National Highway project worth Rs 10,000 crore. A number of organisations had approached the apex court challenging the Government's move to go ahead with land acquisition for the eight-lane Greenfield Highway which would bring down the travel time by half.

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Sawant said: "We have come to such a pass that the current ruling dispensation dubs all the opposition leaders and those opposing it as traitors. This is a reflection of the rule of dictatorship prevalent in the country. During the past six years, the ruling party leaders see conspiracy behind each of the protests that takes place in the country".

Tapse said it is absolutely shameful that the agitating farmers have lost their trust in the NDA government which remained "blatantly indifferent" to their plight.

**Office of the Project Manager,
Construction Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam, Gorakhpur**

Letter No. 1108/N-3/76
Date 09/12/2020

Very Short Term E-Tender Notice

On behalf of Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam Online Tender for rate contract are hereby invited by the undersigned for the work of **Collection, Removal and Disposal of weeds, aquatic plants and bushes from Ramgarh Lake by Weed Harvester machine at Gorakhpur**. Interested contractors may view & download tender document (Technical cum financial bid) from 11.12.2020 and upload their tender, duly filled, online on e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 17.12.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. The bid will be opened on 17.12.2020 at 15:30 Hrs in the office of Project Manager, Construction Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam, Gorakhpur.

 **उत्तर प्रदेश पाव**
ट्रॉसमिशन कारपोरेशन
लिमिटेड, निविदा सूचना इस
कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित
कार्य सम्पन्न हेतु अनुमति, दक्ष एवं
जोएफसीओ में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों
से निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है।
जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-टेंडर
वेबसाइट www.etterupr.up.nic.in
पर उपलब्ध है। **अल्पकालीन**
ईटी-112/2020-21 विद्युत 400
कैवी0 पनकी पर घास काटाई
कार्य। **ईटी-113 / विद्युत** पोखरा
खण्ड, प्रथम कानपुर के अधीनस्थ
उपखण्ड अधिकारी सिक्करना कानपुर
के उद्योगों हेतु एक अदद डीजल
मैलिन वाहन, (जीप) चालक सह
09 महीने के लिए सविदा पर रखने
का कार्य। **ईटी-114/2020-21**
विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम व
अन्तर्गत 220 कैवी0 रनियां प
ए0मी0टी0 मीटर एवं 33 कैवी0
सी0टी0मी0टी0 आदि लगाने का
कार्य। **ईटी-115/2020-21** विद्युत
प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132
कैवी0 जैनुपूर पर ए0मी0टी0 मीटर
एवं 33 कैवी0 सी0टी0मी0टी0 आदि
लगाने का कार्य। **ईटी-116/**
2020-21 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम
के अन्तर्गत 132 कैवी0 जैनुपूर
पर वार्षिक अनुसंधान का कार्य।
ईटी-117/2020-21 विद्युत
खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132
कैवी0 आजाद नगर पर वार्षिक
अनुसंधान का कार्य। **ईटी-118/**
2020-21 विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम
के अन्तर्गत 132 कैवी0 जैनुपूर पर

के अन्तर्गत 220 कर्मचारी आरक्षणों पर एचओ व वार्षिक अनुसरण का कार्य।
ईटी-119/2020-21 विद्युत 220 कर्मचारी0119 पनकी के अन्तर्गत इलेक्ट्रीफिकेशन रिले के स्थान पर न्यूमेरिकल रिले की रेटोफिटिंग का कार्य। **ईटी-120/2020-21** विद्युत 120 कर्मचारी प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 131 कर्मचारी00 प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम पर इलेक्ट्रीफिकेशन के स्थान पर न्यूमेरिकल रिले रेटोफिटिंग का कार्य। **ईटी-121/2020-21** विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत 132 कर्मचारी00 प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम पर डिस्टेन्स प्रोटेक्शन रिले बदलन का कार्य। **ईटी-122 / 2020-21** विद्युत 400 कर्मचारी उपसंस्थान खण्ड पनकी कानपुर के अधीनस्थ उपयोग हेतु एक अदर डीजल चलित वाहन (जोपी) चालक सीटिंग 09 महीने के लिए संविदा पर रखने का कार्य।
अल्पकालीन ईटी-111-112 दिनांक 28.12.2020 एवं **ईटी-113/दिनांक 30.12.2020 व ईटी 114 से 117 तक दिनांक 05.01.2021** एवं **ईटी 118 से 122** तक दिनांक 06.01.2021 तक खोली जायेगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता** विद्युत पारेक्षण मण्डल, प्रथम पनकी कानपुर। पत्रांक : 1384, दिनांक 10.12.2020. "राष्ट्र सेवा में बिजली बचायें" उपमोर्ता सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें :- www.uppccl.org

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

His leg was injured due to a jump. Seized nine mm caliber country-made pistols and nine live cartridges from his possession. Constable Girdhari Lal's leg was also injured while catching Sandeep Chauhan.

Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait at Ghazipur Border in New Delhi on Thursday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

"Singhu, At handi, Piau Maniyari & Mangesh pur borders are closed. NH 44 is closed. Please take alternate routes via Lampur, Safiabad, Saboli & Singhu school toll tax borders. Traffic has been diverted from Mukarba & GTK road. Pl avoid Outer Ring Rd , GTK road, NH 44," Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic Outer Range tweeted. The closure of borders has also resulted in heavy traffic on alternative routes. On Wednesday, farmer leaders rejected a government proposal to amend the new agri laws, and announced they would intensify their agitation by blocking the Jaipur-Delhi and the Delhi-Agra expressways by Saturday, and escalating it to a nationwide protest on December 14. This comes after the sixth round of talks between the government and farm union leaders, which was scheduled for Wednesday morning, was cancelled. The farmer leaders have been adamant on their demand to scrap the laws, which they say will lead to dismantling of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism and mandis that ensure earning.

Bharatpur and committed various crime in Bharatpur and Aligarh from there itself. A total of 15 cases have been registered against him in the district including 3 in Delhi Gate police station, 3 in Akbarabad, 1 in Harduagunj.

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After a raid near "Meera Tower" at posh Oshiwara area Andheri in north-west Mumbai, the NCB sleuths seized 16 pockets of cocaine (gross weight 17.6 grams) and drug proceeds amounting to Rs 56,000 and arrested Godambe and Yadav in connection with the seizure.

“He was involved in providing logistic support and shelter to terrorists and aiding transportation of arms, ammunition and explosive materials in Tral and Awantipora areas,” the police said. **IAN S**

While the arrest of Mahakal and seizure of Malana Cream Hash from him and

another drug supplier had come after the revelation made during the custodial interrogation no Anuj Keshwani, one of the accused in the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, the latest arrest has been made in the Bollywood-drug mafia case.

Informed NCB sources said that the agency had for the four months been keeping a close watch on the drug peddling that goes in the western suburbs of Bandra, Khar Juhu, Santacruz and Andheri where most prominent people from

Jammu: Barring a few incidents of violence both in Jammu and Kashmir divisions, the fifth phase of polling during District Development council polls passed off peacefully with over 51 percent voter turnout on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu late Thursday evening, State Election Commissioner KK Sharma said, "Jammu division recorded over 66 per cent voter turnout while Kashmir region witnessed 33.57 per cent voter turnout during the fifth phase of polling across 37 constituencies, 17 in Kashmir and 20 in Jammu region".

The frontier districts of

Rajouri and Poonch recorded the highest voter turnout of 70 percent in Jammu region while Bandipora and Kupwara witnessed over 50 percent polling in Kashmir region followed by Budgam which witnessed over 45 percent polling.

Referring to the sporadic incidents of violence reported from Anantnag and Rajouri, the SEC said, "FIR's were booked by the local police in both the cases to identify the miscreants involved in these incidents". He said, barring few incidents the polling process was completed peacefully across Jammu and Kashmir.

In both the regions,

Centurions led from the front and walked on foot, with help from close family members, to cast their precious vote with an aim to strengthen the grass root democracy in J&k. Women and first timers also participated in large numbers and waited for their turn outside polling stations.

The State Election Commissioner KK Sharma himself posted over half a dozen images of voters, including centurions from Ramban, Kathua, Baramulla and other district headquarters to motivate common voters to participate in the polling process.

In Anantnag a few miscreants attempted to disrupt the

poll process and when media teams arrived on the scene the security personnel, deployed in the Sirigufwara area struggled to restore order and prevent chaotic scenes.

In the melee few media persons alleged they were man-handled by one of the senior district police officers. Their camera equipment was also seized by the police team. In another incident workers belonging to two different political parties clashed outside a polling station in Rajouri.

Some of the workers who were attacked by the workers of a regional party received injuries and rushed to a nearby hospital. **PNS**

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

Rejecting Central Government's proposal, the farmers continued to protest at Ghazipur border (UP Gate). Farmers demanded, "Nothing less than total repeal of the three farm laws, passed by the Central Government in Parliament, is acceptable. They won't move until Centre withdraws these farm laws"

Rakesh Tikait, the national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union said that there would be no compromise on withdrawal of the bill and we are sitting here at border and we will remain seated till any conclusion.

organized in the entire country as protest," said Tikait.

On Thursday afternoon, the farmers became furious when they came to know that the vehicle which had brought fruits for them has been stopped by the police and taken the driver into custody.

The farmers blocked the road at U Gate and raised slogans against the government. Seeing the seriousness of the situation, SP II Gyanendra Singh and Circle Officer (CO) Indirapuram Anshu Jain reached the spot to calm down the situation. Later, the vehicle and its driver were also freed by the police.

Also on Thursday, a delegation of lawyers of Tis Hazari Court, led by Bar Council President Anil Kumar Tomar, reached the farmers' dharna and met them.

DIRECTOR PRINTING & STATIONERY U.P. PRAYAGRAJ			
NOTICE			
<u>Tender No.-3/M /2020-21 Dated 05.12.2020</u>			
On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh Director Printing & Stationery U.P. Prayagraj invites E-Tender for purchase of machines to be used by Government Presses of Uttar Pradesh as given hereunder:			
Sl. No.	Description	Qty	Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs.
1	Heavy Duty 12 station Gethering machine with heavy duty online 6 clamp perfect binding system with voltage control stabilizer and accessories Warranty/Guarantee : Complete CMC for a period of 5 Years	02	636000.00
2	26"x32" size online digital sheet numbering machine with 4 head attachment with automatic feeder & delivery accessories Warranty/Guarantee : Complete CMC for a period of 5 Years	02	71000.00
3	Heavy Duty Programmable Three Knife Trimmer Machine with Accessories and Safety Devices, accessories Warranty/ Guarantee: Complete CMC for a period of 5 Years	01	51000.00
4	1.5 inch wire Stitching Machine	01	6500.00
5	2 inch wire Stitching Machine	01	6500.00
6	Automatic 6 Clamp perfect Binding Machine with Voltage Control Stabilizer and Accessories	01	41000.00
<p>E-Tenders are invited for the Purchase of machine through E-tendering system from the machine Manufacturers and their authorized dealers. Detailed informations will be available on the website of U.P. Govt E-Tenderers website http://etender.up.nic.in from Dated 12-12-2020. Interested bidders can download print out of E-Bid Tender form and E-Tender Documents from the e-tender website http://etender.up.nic.in On or before last date 26-12-2020 by 17:00 hrs. Bid/Tenders will be down loaded and printout will be taken in presence of Bidder/Tenderer on dated 29-12-2020 at 12:00 hrs.</p>			
<p>UP- 157671 Date 9.12.20 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgovt.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।</p>			

CRPF to re-skill its divyang warriors

Establishes world class centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Setting a noble precedent, the CRPF has established a world class centre to re-skill its Divyang warriors.

‘Never leave our men behind’- CRPF’s belief in this mantra is not just limited to battles, but the esprit de corps entails that CRPF does not leave its men behind in life too, the CRPF said in a statement here.

CRPF’s National Centre For Divyang Empowerment (NCDE)- a centre to skill and re-skill the Divyang Warriors of the force who suffered disability while serving the nation was inaugurated by Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.

The NCDE is located at

CRPF Group Centre Rangareddy, Telangana and is equipped with world class facilities attuned and customized to the needs of the Divyangs. Established in proximity to Hyderabad, the Centre will empower Divyang Warriors of the force who suffered disability while serving the nation. While Divyang Warriors face extreme challenges physically and emotionally, their problems can be mitigated by providing them institutionalised help that will restore pride, self esteem, and confidence, the CRPF said.

The NCDE skills Divyang Warriors for national and international para sports events and then re-skills them with vocational and Information Technology courses so that they can contribute to the organisation with pride and dignity.

In addition to high-tech IT

lab and sports paraphernalia, the Centre has a state-of-the-art gym, an ambiantly pleasant lounge for relaxing and recuperating, sauna and steam treatment infrastructure, physiotherapy room, e-library, recreation zone and meditation space among others.

While the para sport training will prepare the Divyang Warriors for national and international sports competitions, they will also be skilled in the field of Information technology and vocational courses by prestigious institutions like IIIT Hyderabad and BITS among others. This will enable them to serve the nation as Cyber Warriors.

Congratulating the Force for this noble initiative, the Minister in his address said that this centre is a salute to all the Bravehearts who have kept the nation and its citizens before themselves and their

families.

CRPF Director General Dr AP Maheshwari recounted how this initiative got further encouragement when the Union Home Ministry declared 2020 as “Manav Samvedana Varsh” for all CAPFs. The DG assured that the force will continue to work towards the welfare of Divyang Warriors.

The history of CRPF is replete with exemplary bravery and insurmountable courage displayed in its service to the nation. Numerous Bravehearts have made supreme sacrifice and many have suffered serious injuries to pay the price for this glory and success. An indebted nation and a proud force salutes its Bravehearts by providing the Divyang Warriors the appreciation, confidence, and support they need in the form of NCDE, it added.

Mins, BJP leaders condemn attack on Nadda Say it’s attack on democracy, seek action against culprits in WB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leaders and Union Ministers on Thursday condemned the attack on the party chief JP Nadda by alleged TMC supporters in West Bengal, saying it is an attack on democracy and the Mamata Banerjee Government will have to answer to people for this sponsored violence.

They also demanded the strictest possible action against the ‘goons’ who carried out the attack

As the State gears up for the high-stake assembly polls in 2021, violence has dramatically escalated between the TMC and BJP workers with top leaders from both sides engaging in allegations and the counter allegations.

The alleged attack on Nadda is the latest of the violent incidents witnessed by the

State with BJP stepping up its efforts to put Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the mat. Nadda, this week, inaugurated the new BJP election office in Kolkata and nine other offices in the state.

Deploing the assault on Nadda, senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said this attack is a reflection of the declining law and order in the state of West Bengal.

“The attack on the convoy of the BJP national president, should be thoroughly investigated and the responsibility of this incident should be fixed,” Singh said in a series of tweets.

Taking note of the attack, Union Home Minister and former BJP president Amit Shah said the Bengal government will have to answer to the peace-loving people of the state for this sponsored

violence.

“Bengal has descended into an era of tyranny, anarchy and darkness under the Trinamool rule. The manner in which political violence has been institutionalized and brought to the extreme in West Bengal under TMC rule is sad and worrying,” Shah also said in a series of tweets.

Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Piyush Goyal also deplored the attack in a press conference on farm laws dubbed it as an attack on democracy in West Bengal.

“Attack on our national president J P Nadda and senior party leader Kailash Vijayvargiya is a deplorable act. There is a complete breakdown of law and order in West Bengal,” Tomar said.

Attacking the TMC-led government in the state for alleged assault on BJP chief,

Goyal said it is an attack on democracy and attempts have been made to muzzle democratic processes in the state. He demanded the strictest possible action against the ‘goons’ behind the attack.

Nadda’s convoy came under attack allegedly by the TMC supporters when he was on way to Diamond Harbour to address a meeting of party workers, resulting in injury to several leaders including the party general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya.

In a recent party reshuffle, Nadda while retaining Vijayvargiya as in-charge of the state had also appointed BJP IT Cell (social media) head Amit Malviya as the co-in-charge of the West Bengal, recognising the key role of social media in the high-voltage and competitive poll campaigning vis-vis the TMC.

Aged people living in isolation due to Covid at higher risk of dementia

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the Covid-19 pandemic is putting many older adults’ social lives on hold, restricting them within the four walls of house, health experts have cautioned that this is leaving them at a greater risk of loneliness which, in turn, has also been found to increase the chances of developing dementia by as much as 20 per cent. Dementia is incurable disease in which memory, thinking, communication and social abilities deteriorate over the period of time.

The doctors also warned that due to the aging population with which we are faced, dementia is an emerging pandemic in India.

“Evidence shows social isolation has many implications for older adults, including

depression, generalized anxiety disorders, decreased sleep, and functional impairment. In the long run, if the isolation continues chronically, say more than six months, it may accelerate cardiovascular and brain aging and dementia,” said Dr Prasun Chatterjee, Associate Professor, Department of Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi.

However, the families can take this opportunity to revive the age-old connections between the youth and older adults which can have win-win situation for both the generation, said Dr Chatterjee who has also penned a book ‘Health and Wellbeing in Late Life’ which dwells in detail about the old age-related problems including dementia and stroke, cancer to name a few and that



how they can be positively tackled through clinical and non-clinical means.

“During normal times, patients affected by dementia are very vulnerable people and are hugely dependent on family or professional caregivers in their everyday life.

“This Covid-19 pandemic

worsens their vulnerability directly, because of the virus’ morbidity and mortality and, indirectly, because of the lack of social and healthcare support which they depend upon.

The double shock of dementia and Covid-19 pandemics has raised major concerns for people with demen-

tia but also their caregivers,” a study published in Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease Report too has raised concerns about the growing health risk among adults.

Dr Chatterjee suggests that older adults can be encouraged to use digital platforms which will improve their social interactions through intergenerational experience sharing.

He referred to a study which showed that older adults who provided internet-based tutoring to fifth-grade students became comfortable using computers, had improvements in mood, and had an enhanced quality of life from the interactions.

“It would prevent social isolation in the older adults and the youth would be enriched through social connection and

knowledge sharing with older friends,” said Dr Chatterjee who through his NGO Healthy Aging India has been successfully implementing an inter-generational learning model in various states in the country.

According to health experts, as India’s population ages, the number of people with dementia and Alzheimer’s is set to rise to 7.6 million by 2030.

This figure is set to rise to 7.6 million in 2030, according to the Dementia in India Report 2020 published by the Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI). Treatments — including cognitive retraining and medication in the early stages — can help slow the progression of the disorder, but can’t cure it, it said.

CBI arrests postal superintendent in Midnapore for bribe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Superintendent of Post, Contai Division, Midnapore (East), West Bengal for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹1.3 lakh from the complainant.

The arrest comes after the CBI registered a case under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act on a complaint from Postal Assistant, Manglamaro Sub Office, Contai Division, East Midnapore.

“It was alleged that the accused had demanded Rs 1.5 lakh for issuing the relieving

order of the complainant who was on transfer,” the agency said in a statement.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of Rs 1.3 lakh from the complainant.

Searches were conducted at the residence and office premises of the accused, at Midnapore (East) which led to recovery of about Rs.3.62 lakh in cash and incriminating documents, the agency said.

The accused Bikas Kanti Mishra was produced before the Court of Special Judge, CBI, Cases, Kolkata and was remanded to Judicial Custody till December 23.

Suggestion for holding JEE(Main) 4 times in ‘21 being studied

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Thursday said that the suggestion of JEE (Main) 2021 to be held four times in a year is being examined on a positive note and if implemented then such a pattern will begin in the end of February (thereafter in March, April & May-2021) for 3-4 days during each time.

The Education Minister said this while speaking about a host of issues during his virtual interaction with teachers, parents and students across the country on the upcoming competitive and board exams.

Nishank stated that in order to provide flexibility and reduce stress, engineering aspirants may have to appear

one/ two/ three/ four times in JEE (Main) 2021 for admission in the coming academic year.

The Minister stated that the exam will be held once in every month, beginning end of February. The candidate will have option to appear in one/ all months. For ranking of candidate, his/ her best performance will be considered, he informed.

In a question relating to syllabus and dates of NEET, the Minister clarified that the schedule for NEET (UG) 2021 is being finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Medical Commission (NMC). The same would be declared in near future, he said.

Nishank further said that the syllabus for JEE (Main

2021) will remain same as the previous year.

He also mentioned that competitive exams such as NEET and JEE were held successfully and safety of each and every student undertaking the exam was also ensured amidst the Covid pandemic. Speaking on the occasion, Nishank said that the students are the brand ambassadors of the National Education Policy-2020.

He also expressed happiness that a toll free tele-counselling facility for the students was started by the Ministry, providing counselling services to students in India and several countries abroad.

Informing about the Board Examinations of class 10th and class 12th, the Minister said that the consultations with the stake-

holders are in progress for deciding the dates of Board examinations and it will be announced soon based on the feedback from stakeholders.

During the interaction on the safety with students Reopening of Schools for the students appearing for boards, Pokhriyal said that the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has already issued SOP/Guidelines for reopening of schools which deals with health and safety aspects for reopening schools and learning with physical/social distancing and the academic aspects related to the delivery of education. Ministries are constantly in contact with states, he added.

SC to J&K HC: Decide pleas to review of Roshni Act verdict

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to decide on December 21 the pleas seeking review of its verdict scrapping the Roshni Act which conferred proprietary rights to occupants of State land. A bench headed by Justice N V Ramana considered the oral assurance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Jammu and Kashmir administration, that no coercive action will be taken against those petitioners who have approached the top court in the matter as they are not “land grabbers or unauthorised people”.

The bench, also comprising justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose, said that it will hear in January last week

the appeals filed before it challenging the October 9 verdict of the high court.

Mehta apprised the apex court that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has already filed a review petition in the high court and said that the authority is “not against bonafide and common people who are not land grabbers”. The bench said that pendency of appeals before the apex court would not come in the way of the high court in deciding the review petitions pending there.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court had on October 9 declared the Roshni Act “illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable”, and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of land under this law.

The Roshni Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources

SC Bar Association resolves to condemn use of force against protesting farmers

New Delhi: The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association has resolved to condemn the use of force and repressive measures against farmers protesting against the Centre’s new agri laws. The SCBA committee has called upon all concerned to uphold and protect the constitutional right of all citizens to peaceful protest. “The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association has been dismayed to read reports in the media about the use of brute force to break up peaceful protests, where citizens raise their voices against State actions which they believe denigrate their basic rights. “The recent legislation on farm produce, which exclude the jurisdiction of civil courts, followed by use of force to prevent the farmers from holding non violent protests for their rights is a case in point. The farmers have sought to present their views on the legislations which in their opinion infringe their rights,” the committee said in a release.

for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of State land.

ED books 4 for money laundering in collective investment scheme fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four accused persons for alleged money laundering in a case related to collective investment scheme fraud of over Rs 1100 crore by Chennai-based firms.

The ED had initiated investigation under PMLA against Disc Assets Lead India Limited,

Chennai and others based on FIR registered by Economic Offence Wing, Tamil Nadu Police under various Indian Penal Code Sections relating to cheating, criminal conspiracy and criminal breach of trust on the basis of a complaint received from the public.

Disc Assets Lead India Limited, Chennai collected money under various schemes, stating that the customers

would pay a fixed amount every month for a fixed period by the end of which they were promised lands. But the Company defaulted and no lands were allotted.

The SEBI had initiated inquiries against the Company, stating that they were doing business of collective investment scheme for which SEBI’s permission was not taken. Then, the Company in order to



circumvent these SEBI provisions, started collecting money

from the Customers through another Company styled as

Dal Marketing Solutions Limited.

The amount declared to be collected by the Company from the customers was Rs 1,137 crores. But lots of inconsistencies were found between the data submitted by the Directors and the data from the banks.

“Investigations under PMLA revealed that, the amounts collected have been diverted in the form of invest-

ment in various subsidiaries, royalty, donations, land advance, commission etc. to many entities in which their immediate family members /close relatives / employees of DISC were the key managerial personnel,” the agency said in a statement.

Based on the investigations conducted so far, the four key persons were arrested. The arrested accused are

NM Umashankar, CMD of Disc Assets Lead India Limited, N Arunkumar alias N Arun, Director of Disc Assets, V Janarthanan, MD of Disc Assets Lead India and Saravanakumar, Director of Dal Marketing Solutions.

The arrested accused were produced before Sessions Court, Chennai and were remanded to judicial custody for 14 days.

CPCB issues notices to Central, State Depts for not adhering to pollution control rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With no let-up in the pollution level in the national capital, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Thursday issued notices to over half-a-dozen Central and State Government Departments and agencies in NCR-Delhi region for not adhering to rules and regulations related to construction, demolition and disposal of debris.

The CPCB has also cautioned them “to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations relating to building construction, disposal of demolition/debris/waste and dust management, or else the building works will be stopped.”

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar stressed on the need to bring together all agencies to tackle

pollution in Delhi area. “All agencies have to fight pollution in Delhi; only then the people of Delhi will get a little relief. I urge all agencies to ensure strict compliance with construction and demolition waste management rules and effective dust management.”

He also said that pollution level in Delhi is much higher when compared to other metros like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and a few others which has similar number of vehicle and population because of its unique geographical location which results in suspended particles in the environment.

According to an official from the Ministry, a law was enacted by the Centre for the management of building and demolition waste four years ago.

There are also strict rules

for dust management at building sites to prevent pollution.

As many as 50 teams set up to prevent pollution in the National Capital Region found during checking that the rules pertaining to construction projects/words are not allegedly getting followed by several government institutions.

Authorities came across alleged violation of rules at construction sites of Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) projects at Delhi Gate, Moti Bagh, Mandi House, and Tilak Lane. Similarly, CPCB member-secretary Prashant Gargav issued notices pertaining to sites of Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, Delhi Jal Board, DDA, CPWD, DMRC, NHAI and MTNL, and asked them to adhere to rules, said the official.

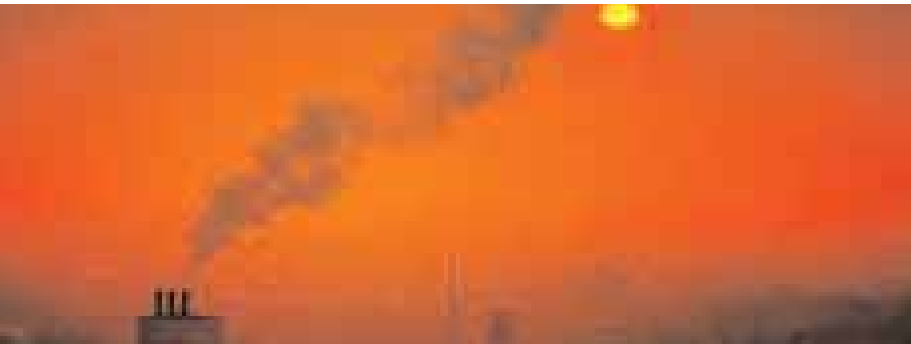
Diabetics in ozone polluted areas prone to lung fibrosis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People with pre-diabetes or diabetes who live in ozone-polluted areas may have an increased risk for developing interstitial lung disease, an irreversible disease also known as pulmonary fibrosis with a high mortality rate, says a study.

Given that India has a high number of diabetics at 77 million while polluted air including ozone has caused more roughly 1.6 million annual deaths in the country, these findings should concern the authorities in the backdrop of Covid-19 crisis. More so, as Covid-19 is a respiratory ailment lungs are the most commonly affected organ.

“Our findings are especially important today as we’re in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, where we have great concern regarding the convergence of health effects from air pollution and SARS-CoV-2 in susceptible populations like people with



diabetes,” said James Wagner, lead author and associate professor for the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation. The study is published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives.

Ozone - a gas often referred to as ‘smog’ - is known to exacerbate certain lung diseases, such as asthma and rhinitis, which are primarily upper airway diseases. However, this is for

the first time, the researchers have suggested an association between high ozone concentrations and adverse health effects in the deep lung, which cause difficulty breathing due to lung restriction and stiffness.

“More than 170,000 people in the U.S. suffer from interstitial lung disease. Furthermore, type 2 diabetes and insulin resistance are recently suggested risk factors for developing pulmonary fibrosis,” said Jack Harkema, University

Distinguished Professor, Albert C. and Lois E. Dehn Endowed Chair in Veterinary Medicine, and director of the Laboratory for Environmental and Toxicologic Pathology and the Mobile Air Research Laboratories at MSU.

In the study, Wagner, Harkema and their collaborators, Robert Tighe and Christina Barkauskas from Duke University’s Department of Medicine, studied healthy mice, mice with mild insulin resistance

and mice with marked insulin resistance.

The study found a direct relationship between insulin resistance levels and the severity of lung inflammation and scarring (fibrosis); diabetes-prone mice were particularly susceptible to inflammation and tissue remodeling caused by repeated ozone exposure.

In this context, experts in India mention an article published in Lung India, the peer-reviewed medical journal of the Indian Chest Society by pulmonologists Dr Zarir F Udhwadia, Dr Parvaiz A Koul, and Dr Luca Righeldi, which has underlined the problem of post-Covid-19 interstitial lung disease (PC-ILD) as the ‘tsunami’ that will follow the ‘earthquake’ (caused by Covid).

“Physicians are likely to encounter potentially hundreds of thousands with post-Covid interstitial lung disease (PC-ILD),” said the authors.

Democracy in name

The PM may have dedicated paeans to the concept while laying the foundation stone for a new Parliament but is his Govt honouring it?



Will a robust Parliament building, in keeping with the needs of the 21st century, also nurture the right spirit of the institution of democracy? Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while laying the foundation stone of a new Parliament building, sounded the right notes, saying the structure would be an amalgamation of the old and new. He consciously threaded the theme of continuity with the past, saying democracy had been inspired by our history, that it was our soul and that it “won’t be long before the world would say that India is the Mother of Democracy.” On the face of it, one could interpret the Prime Minister’s hyperbolic speech as well-meant but

given the crackdown on dissent during his tenure, one cannot help but wonder if his speech was meant to obviate that criticism. Particularly when voices in the establishment have not exactly been supportive of the participatory and accommodative nature of democracy. Or respected the right to dissent, most often equating it with anti-nationalism. Just the other day Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had to step in to neutralise Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant’s observation about the perils of “too much democracy.” At a webinar, the senior official had said it was “tough” to push reforms in India because “we are too much of a democracy,” sounding unfortunately like Chinese observers, who believe that democracy in India is prohibitive. The import of Kant’s remarks was not lost considering the Government is besieged by farmers agitating over new laws that were pushed down their throats, ignoring consultative processes between stakeholders. The farmers are not so much against market economics as they are upset by the lack of explainers on how it would disadvantage them or not vis-a-vis the big food corporations and whether they would have price guarantees, considering the minimum support price (MSP) itself is unremunerative at the moment and would be impacted by open market operations. While the farm laws address the need for structural reform in the agriculture sector, in a pandemic-stressed economy, all that the farmers really want is that while fighting debts, they should not be cheated out or exploited further. Nobody is expecting the Government to be welfarist all the time but everybody is certainly expecting to trust it on its word. That has not happened. The Government could have empathetically hand-held them through the change rather than attributing destructive motives to them or demonising them.

The less said about the way the farm laws were pushed in Parliament the better. There was no all-party meeting or even talks with the farmers’ representatives. If the passing of the farm Bills by voice vote was any indication, then the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has already become over-confident about subverting parliamentary fairplay and justifying its authoritative weight. Worse, it has even made Parliament a tool in its exercise of power, trampling any opposing view as redundant, even if well-argued. Controversial Bills in this country have always been open for discussion in the House, often moved to relevant parliamentary committees for careful perusal and closing deficiencies. But the use of a voice vote — which is nothing more than a shouting match of who gets heard louder and which is used to pass Bills that are consensual — in pushing the farm Bills changed all that. Though the Bills split the House down the middle, a “friendly” Chair ensured that the voice vote could be resorted to. The Government has enough numbers in the Lok Sabha to override dialogue and even if outnumbered in the Rajya Sabha, it knows it can hijack debate by provoking the Opposition enough and use a voice vote in the resultant din. Or simply take advantage of the latter’s boycott. Clearly, cooption is becoming more the rule than the exception. The dilution of Question Hour during the last Parliament session was another example of the Government limiting the scope for deliberation. It is the only time that allows the Opposition equal standing and allows it to keep a check and balance on the executive. Even Treasury Bench MPs can ask questions of a Minister for better clarity on policies. Dropping it means reducing the relevance of the MP Just for comparison, the House of Commons even has a dedicated slot for “Prime Minister’s Questions”, where the Prime Minister personally answers or explains his Government’s functioning. That is unlikely here. How does all this mean “too much democracy” is, therefore, difficult to understand. Particularly, when the Prime Minister highlights the importance of every decision made in the august portals of Parliament as a building block of democracy. Besides monolithic power has not always guaranteed reforms. The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime before 2014 did manage to push economic reforms and achieve growth indices despite the pulls and pressures of a coalition. The Government should in no way give credence to the theory that democracy decelerates progressive action or is anti-reformist. If anything it is an enabler. And it is only when its value gets eroded that people protest. That’s their last option to be counted and heard. Had the Government talked to all protesters with an open mind, listened to them and not made them believe that its last word was non-negotiable, protests and demonstrations would not have assumed the proportions they have. But perhaps the Government wants a polarity to justify its muscularity. And though it may believe that protesters are being misled by vested interests, the fact is it is disrespecting democracy by assuming that they can’t have a thinking mind of their own.

Public Wi-Fi

Govt approves hotspots across cities and towns but there are concerns about security and data thefts



Accessing Wi-Fi anywhere in the country is expected to be an easy click with the Government giving permission to set up lakhs of public hotspots across the country. The plan includes remote areas and high-density areas in cities. Not only that, information consumption is expected to be easily snackable as connecting to a hotspot has been envisaged to be as easy as opening an app on your smartphone. The network is fairly open as anyone — be it a private individual in a residential area (with a commercial broadband connection), the neighbourhood shop or the vendor — can provide the facility. The Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI) has been conceived to be as revolutionary

as the PCO movement of the 1990s that enabled millions of Indians to make phone calls easily and at virtually no cost. The idea of setting up public Wi-Fi hotspots was recommended by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) a few years ago to boost digital connectivity and encourage self-employment. Of course, data management is a humongous task and the Government has set up a tiered system, with Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) at the top, who will then enlist the Public Data Offices or PDOs (operators). No licence fee will be required for providing broadband internet through public networks.

However, with so much data floating around and being easily accessible, there are undoubtedly questions about security risks, particularly in a country like India, which has millions of internet users. The multi-layered architecture that has been conceived by the Government is intended to filter such cyber threats and misuse of personal information but it is still leaky. Besides telecom companies see no business sense in public Wi-Fi, given the low data rates and security concerns. As it is, social media platforms have been wildly manipulated in this country by vested interests, and increased access to the internet does come with its attendant risks of data-mining and identity thefts. Of course, pandemic-appropriate behaviour now demands that there be increased digitisation and the Government has jumped at the opportunity to consolidate this space. India will soon have 700 million broadband users, which will only swell in years to come. Done with good intentions but is it practical to implement, considering connectivity continues to be denied to Kashmir on grounds of security threats?



JS RAJPUT

At the mid-point of the 20th century, “growth, progress and development” emerged as the key drivers of policy formulations in most developing countries. Developed countries were too keen to offer “ideas, strategies and experts” in such initiatives, mostly for reasons that were no secret to anyone. All of this resulted in the Western psyche being sustained in the former colonies, clandestinely suppressing the emergence of ideas, imagination and endeavour that was rooted to the soil and tradition of knowledge quest in each of these nations. The only encouraging sign is the realisation of this quiet intrusion. So there is an emergence of initiatives that are “rooted to culture and committed to progress.” The most illustrative example is the formulation of the National Policy of Education (NEP), 2020.

In 1937, India had already prepared a well thought out plan on foundational learning or *Buniyadi Talim*. Proposed by Mahatma Gandhi, it was meant to replace the transplanted alien system. It preferred continuity. Its focus on drawing the best out of body, mind and spirit clearly links it to Indian culture and heritage and simultaneously takes note of international requirements and aspirations to ensure that young Indians are not deficient in any context. It is evident in the NEP that next generations have to play a far greater role not only within India but also on the global stage. People are looking towards India to play a great role in humanity’s march towards a world of peace, tranquility and cohesion. Towards this end, every learner must comprehend and internalise the strength of Indian culture and its inherent nature of universality.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals or SDG-17 are the global expression of common concerns being faced by humanity. To be achieved by 2030, these include education as SDG-4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” One of the most challenging and an ambitious goal is the Target 4.7: “By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender



equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.” To achieve this target, and every other contained in SDG-17, India, too, needs an education that acculturates. Even a cursory perusal of the NEP, 2020, would indicate that it comprehensively embraces all of these aspects and has persistent emphasis on acculturating its learners.

It begins a with a comprehensive statement of the eternal goal of education and learning: “Education is fundamental for achieving full potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development.” This policy very clearly acknowledges the emerging role of India on the global stage and, at the same time, recognises the need to transform the existing systems of teaching and learning to ensure that it consistently, and in a dynamic manner, derives its nourishment and enrichment from the very soil of this land. Culture is a dynamic entity and only such cultures, which did not discard the assimilations necessitated by the changing times, have survived. It was very suitably stated by MK Gandhi in *Harjari* of May 9, 1936: “The Indian culture of our times is in the making. Many of us are striving to produce a blend of all the cultures, which seems today in clash with one another. No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.” Accordingly, he had all the respect for European and Western culture, which was suitable in that context but was fully convinced that copying it would be ruinous to India. It would be interesting how Gandhi could foresee the future and write in 1931 that: “I make bold to say that Europeans themselves will have to remodel their outlook if they are not to perish under the

weight of the comforts to which they are becoming slaves.”

Unfortunately, the glamour and glitz of materialistic pursuits gradually took precedence over spiritual quest and have landed the entire humanity in a badly wounded man-nature relationship. India’s destiny lies in its traditional ways of respect for nature, life and its acceptance of every conceivable diversity created by nature, *Ekam Sat Viprah Bahudha Vadanthi* – Truth is one. In such a philosophical comprehension, there could be no place for disrespect to any culture, religion or faith. It was realised by luminaries who could take an unbiased and objective view on India, its culture and the tradition of knowledge quest. Great historian Arnold Toynbee is often quoted for having said that a chapter which had a Western beginning will have to have an Indian ending. This, he found, was necessary to prevent the self-destruction of the human race. Could there be a greater tribute to India and its heritage? Does it not astonish us that now scientists are calculating how long the planet Earth would survive? India has to write the chapter that would bring back the culture of acceptance of and respect for diversity, a tradition it has practised over thousands of years. When Mahatma Gandhi wrote that nature has sufficient resources to meet the need of everyone but not the greed of any one, he was echoing the eternal value of *aparigraha* or non-accumulation. Now the responsibility of India is to realise its global obligation to revive its own culture, live it and let the world learn from it.

Developments in science and technology have reduced physical distances and provided instantaneous global connectivity up to the last man in the line. So demographic variations became inevitable. Poverty,

hunger, violence and terrorism have accentuated human migration. When people move in large numbers, they carry with them their religion, language, culture, traditions and practices. It has deep implications for mutual acceptance of diversity in every aspect of human life. These could lead to widespread differences and even to sporadic violent clashes. What happened recently – as well as in the past – in France is only one of such instances that indicate the gravity of the concern.

Things are particularly tough for nations which had the experience of one culture, one language and one religion. Over the last three decades, it is globally recognised that one of the most prominent challenges before humanity is “learning to live together.” The uninitiated are often amazed to witness the continuity of the Indian tradition of acceptance of diversity – particularly of faiths and religions – and tradition of mutual respect that existed all along, unless it was deliberately distorted and disturbed by external elements. Is it possible to ignore how Emperor Asoka transformed after the Kalinga War and consequent massacre and his acceptance of Buddhism? But it did not impact his reverence for other religions. His rock edicts clearly indicate the importance he attached to the “advancement of the essential doctrine of all sects.” His twelfth rock edict contains an eternal message that is universally applicable even today: “This progress of the essential doctrine takes many forms, but its basis is the control of one’s speech so as not to extol one’s own sect or disparage another’s on unsuitable occasions, or at least to do so mildly on certain occasions. On each occasion one should honour another man’s sect, for by doing so, one increases the influence of one’s own sect and benefits that

of the other man’s, while by doing otherwise, one diminishes the influence of one’s own sect and harms the other man’s.” It’s very clear – if any clarity is needed – that Indians had learnt much ahead of others “to live together.”

At this juncture, human existence is at stake. There are several well-delineated factors – consequences of human follies – responsible for our sufferings. It must be acknowledged and accepted that misinterpreted religion is the easiest refuge of the rogue elements to create dissension. As the inheritors of the legacy of luminaries like Asoka, is it not obligatory on the part of India and Indians to practise this legacy?

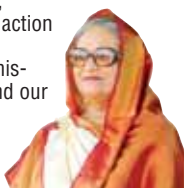
The answer is simple. Each generation has to acquire, internalise and find its own “self-fulfillment” by “living up to its fundamental values afresh.” In his illustrious essay, *Significance and Vitality of Culture*, K.M. Munshi refers to this recapturing of the values of culture by each generation by a “subtle process of reinterpretation, reintegration and adaptation.” In his words, “When the culture is living, the promising young man and woman of the generation receive the impact of its fundamental values. The sensitive and the vigorous among them become each a human laboratory, which purifies the fundamental values relating them afresh to the central idea; stimulates them to meet the needs of the times; reintegrates the subsidiary values with fresh vigour of the new interpretation and shapes the traditions and institutions not only without impairing the strength of the collective will, but by giving it a new edge.” This articulates the challenges before the individual, family, society, education and institutions. They – and hence India – must rise to the occasion.

(The author works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

We need a forceful, dynamic and rapid action plan to limit global greenhouse gas emissions to save us and our planet.

Bangladesh PM
—Sheikh Hasina



I wanted to connect with every individual who did something during these tough times for a common man.

Actor
—Sonu Sood



I haven’t got any work since the last eight months and I am sure there are a lot of people like me out there.

Singer
—Mika Singh



In this decade it has been Virat Kohli who has had the most impact on the matches that India has won.

Legendary batsman
—Sunil Gavaskar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A strong NATO

Sir — It is good for Europe that the NATO is rejuvenating. Earlier, it was a deterrent for the East Bloc backed by the Communist Soviet Union. It is being realised slowly that a strong Europe is a necessity with NATO as a part of it.

Russia’s involvement in the US elections the last time around was a warning sign for that nation. As soon as US President-elect Joe Biden takes office, he must rescind President Donald Trump’s order to withdraw 12,000 troops from Germany. Without costing the US a penny, Biden would dramatically repudiate Trump’s isolationism and throw a wrench into Russian President Vladimir Putin’s divide-and-rule strategy in Europe. Reversing the troop withdrawal would also strengthen NATO, Germany and Chancellor Angela Merkel — whose potential successor will be chosen in mid-January by her Christian Democratic Union — as they battle Putin and home-grown anti-Western populists. NATO membership gives smaller countries a sense of security and the sharing of intelligence among the members prevents terrorism. As it is, the new wave of migrants is posing a great challenge to peace in Europe. A strong

The Govt must heed the farmers’ demands

The unprecedented crisis triggered by the enactment of the three new farm laws without building a consensus has created a volatile situation in the country. The time for delaying tactics and procrastination is over. The Government must rise to the occasion and resolve the issue peacefully. The farmers are fully justified in demanding that they be heard. They are not worried merely about the finer details of the laws like tax for APMCs and tax-free procurement by private players, no guarantee of MSP and bar on approaching civil courts for dispute resolution.

The farmers have a mind of their own and they are aware that corporatisation of agriculture forms the substance of the new farm laws. They are convinced that the underlying objective of the laws is to bring agriculture under the control of corporate behemoths and so have not accepted the Government’s proposals to amend them. The main objection of growers to the farm laws is that they put corporate interests above the agriculturist’s economic interest, way of life, identity and welfare.

The new laws have far-reaching consequences. For instance, they will engender a situation in which the procurement of foodgrains for the PDS will go down drastically. How much the country’s food security relies on the PDS needs no reiteration. The vast majority of the people in India hold farmers in great esteem as they grow food



by the sweat of their brow. Hence, they are now lending their full support to the farmers’ agitation. Thousands of farmers, who are staging a sit-in on national highways contiguous to Delhi with children, the elderly and women braving the cold for almost two weeks, must be saluted. We must extend our moral support to them for resisting the corporate takeover of agriculture. The rising tide of public opinion against the new farm laws should dissuade the Government from relying on its parliamentary majority (the victory in local body elections in Rajasthan has been construed by some central Ministers as endorsement of the farm laws) and the might of the State machinery to have its way.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

NATO means a strong Europe.

Sunil Pradhan
Odisha

A major responsibility

Sir — As the world hurtles towards destruction due to the impact of

climate change on the environment and economies alike, there is some good news on the horizon. Carbon dioxide emissions globally are predicted to fall by seven per cent this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic-linked lockdown and reduced travel and industrial activ-

ities. However, this does not mean that all is well with the world. The planet is still heading for a temperature rise in excess of 3°C in this century, says a report by the United Nations Environment Programme. The *Emission Gap* report, released recently, underlines

that the emissions of the richest one per cent of the global population account for more than twice the combined share of the poorest at 50 per cent. This means that wealthy nations like the US, the EU countries, Australia, New Zealand and others have a bigger responsibility to cut their respective emissions to reach the Paris Agreement goals. It is a good thing that China and India are already doing their bit to lower their emissions. However, it is time that the developed nations understood their responsibility and reduced their impact on the environment.

Ashmit Aaron
Noida

Self-reliant India

Sir — The Centre has approved the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivise the creation of new job opportunities during the COVID recovery phase under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0. This is a praiseworthy and much-needed move towards creating a self-reliant India.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Vaccine sans politics

It is a matter of debate whether our vaccination should be administered by the Govt or made broader with private sector participation



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A fortnight ago, I was approached by the district authorities for a possible volunteer opportunity regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, once it becomes available in 2021. That to my mind is the beginning and perhaps end of an era and a change in mindset for a mass vaccination project, unseen and unattempted in human history. The challenge to provide an effective remedy for nearly one-fifth of the human population on planet Earth, in a country, which can be called a semi-continent. Till now, three companies have approached India's regulatory body for emergency use authorisation of their vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, the Serum Institute of India with Oxford-AstraZeneca and the home-grown Bharat Biotech with an indigenous vaccine in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The Prime Minister has promised a vaccine availability in a few weeks, post regulatory approvals, and also indicated that there are about eight different vaccines under different phases of trial. Finally, the next two months are going to be crucial in India's march towards a multi-trillion dollar economy, as it rapidly adjusts to the changing global and domestic discourse on the shot, while hoping for immunity for a critical mass of the 1.3 billion plus population.

That leads to a relatively young democracy like India, largely administered via 740 local district authorities and municipalities, to a new governance roadmap, where various models of vaccination have to be undertaken before it can be safe and available on demand across a chemist's counter. A crucial aspect of this mass vaccination programme would, therefore, be Centre-State co-ordination, public-private partnership, engagement at the electoral booth level for personnel who work alongside healthcare professionals or vaccinators, a vaccine management central war room, with nodes spread right to the vaccinating spot in a far-flung district. When India went into one of the harshest lockdowns around the globe in March, it was an experience alien to all. Central Government departments, (for the time being we keep aside district and State-level authorities) that were bound by centuries of office protocols that required a physical signature by an authority before a regulation could be implemented, stretched broadband and hardware resources to facilitate seamless shift of work spaces (or laptops) to homes.

India managed four lockdowns, gradually opening up sector after sector, while ensuring a productive and record-breaking agriculture harvest and managing to avert any serious shortage of food and essentials. The mass movement of migrant labourers walking down streets of large cities or along railway tracks was perhaps the only major negative outcome of the pandemic (if we leave out the impact on an already ailing economy and the job losses). Yet, all of these had a common link in the way State Governments were coordinating with an evolving central leadership on all pandemic-related regulations and best practices. Hence, it would be good for the mass vaccination programme to keep the lessons of the lockdown handy. We must keep the hotlines of communication and supervision in top gear to achieve a healthy 2021 for all. Politicisation of the vaccine, making it an election issue for States going to polls in 2021 and spread of misinformation are all lethal for the nation's vaccination goal. Plus, the Government has a wonderful opportunity of clubbing two initiatives of a high voter turnout and booth-level vaccination simultaneously for the five States that have elections looming on the horizon. Of course, it would require thorough coordination between various State and Central agencies, medico-legal backing and out-of-the-box thinking, to provide jobs to election duty personnel and the electorate at the booth level.

Some of the firms who have applied for emergency application approvals in India have also indicated their willingness to make it available for paying private players besides the Government. National vaccination programmes so far have been tightly State-controlled and have proven to be an effective means of preventing once-deadly diseases and viruses. But they have always been used for a certain bracket of the population, never exceeding 30 million in one shot. It is a matter of public policy and debate whether India's vaccination should be tightly-controlled and administered by the Government, or made broader, with private sector participation. Estimates suggest that if the Government, as the largest employer, manages to vaccinate all its employees, and larger private players, including those in the healthcare sector, administer shots to their employees and families, nearly 10-12 million people will get vaccinated quickly. That should leave many dosages for the poor and the elderly who should be in the second order of priority for vaccination. Of course, the question and debate over prioritisation, the cost of the shot, State subsidy vs over the counter market prices, are going to be in the headlines for the coming months. However, the Government should allow the private sector to participate with a light touch regulatory lease (at least for the initial six months) in the biggest vaccination project in human history. As we approach 2021, a new world of emerging opportunities and threats awaits India. A new decade of promise and prosperity for the billions of citizens of Naya Bharat may very well begin with an effective jab.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE AGITATION THAT IS GOING ON IS NOT THAT OF FARMERS. CHINA AND PAKISTAN HAVE A HAND IN IT. MUSLIMS IN THIS COUNTRY WERE INCITED FIRST.

—UNION MINISTER
RAOSAHEB DANVE



IF A MINISTER SAYS THAT CHINA AND PAKISTAN HAVE A HAND IN THE FARMERS' AGITATION, THEN INDIA SHOULD CONDUCT A SURGICAL STRIKE.

—SHIV SENA LEADER
SANJAY RAUT

Reduce 'time poverty'

It is argued that engagement in unpaid domestic and care work is one of the prime reasons for women's low participation in economic activities



BALWANT MEHTA



NIDHI MEHTA

The Coronavirus pandemic is not showing any signs of abating and with the onset of winter, it is, in fact, spreading exponentially in India and globally too. In addition to the public health emergency, the economic and social disruption that the COVID-19 contagion has unleashed upon us threatens the long-term livelihoods and well-being of millions of people around the globe. Ironically, this year marked the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and it was meant to be a groundbreaking one for gender parity. Instead, with the spread of the Coronavirus, even the restricted gains made in the past are being lost.

The pandemic is not just exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities within the workplace, it is also exposing the vulnerabilities in the world's social and economic systems, which are successively amplifying the impact of the outbreak. Across every sector, from health to major industries to services, the multiple impacts of COVID-19 are cascading down on women workers just by virtue of their gender.

According to a recent McKinsey report, globally the job security and employment opportunities of women are 1.9 times more vulnerable to this crisis than that of men. Though women make up 39 per cent of the global employment, they account for 54 per cent of overall job losses. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19, women's participation in employment in India is low and significantly less than that of their male counterparts. Women comprised a meagre 18 per cent of the workforce compared to 52 per cent of men before the pandemic. Even as it plunged nearly 30 per cent in the last 20 years, the COVID-19 crisis further accentuated this fall in the work participation rate of women in the country. McKinsey reported that women account for 23 per cent of the overall job losses recorded after the pandemic hit India.

It is argued that engagement in unpaid domestic and care work is one of the prime reasons for women's low participation in economic activities. Women do an average of 75 per cent of the world's total unpaid care work. This includes nurturing the children, caring for the elderly, looking after the differently-abled and domestic chores like cooking, cleaning, washing clothes and so on.

Women's unpaid domestic work is often invisible but has immense value. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) a whopping 16.4 billion hours are spent by women on unpaid care work daily. This is equivalent to two billion people working eight hours per day, without payment. The actual value of this work amounts to nine per cent of the global GDP, which is equivalent to \$11 trillion. Significantly, women's unpaid work is estimated to be valued at almost 40 per cent of India's GDP.

Globally, more people are at home than ever, due to the pandemic-related social distancing measures that have been put in place. As a result of the emerging new norms of work from home, online education, the lack of domestic workers, the need to perform unpaid domestic chores has increased significantly. In India, owing to the existing gender-based division of labour and social norms, the time spent on unpaid activities by career women and home-makers alike has increased disproportionately.

“THE STRONG MESSAGE EMERGING IS THAT POLICYMAKERS AND EMPLOYERS NEED TO ACT FAST TO REDUCE 'TIME POVERTY' AMONG WOMEN AND PUSH FOR GREATER GENDER EQUALITY IN THE LABOUR MARKET. THIS INCLUDES REDUCING THE GENDER IMBALANCE AT WORK THROUGH BETTER RECOGNITION, PLUS REBALANCING UNPAID WORK AND CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN DIGITAL INCLUSION”



These activities are time-consuming and physically tiring, and subject to "time poverty", leaving little or no time in the day to undertake all the activities one is required to perform or desires to undertake, like education, job or leisure. In particular, the growing demands of unpaid work and a looming recession are increasingly reducing opportunities to participate in productive economic activities. Therefore, the implications of "time poverty" for women, in particular, are immense, because they are associated with the double burden of paid and unpaid work. Even though this "time poverty" is a global phenomenon, the problem is even starker in India as many of these unpaid activities simply cannot be outsourced because market substitutes or State provisions do not exist in adequate measure.

COVID-19 and time poverty: The time use survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2019 confirms a persistent pattern of "time poverty" suffered by women in India. The NSSO survey showed that women spent 84 per cent of their working hours on unpaid activities, while men spent 80 per cent of their working hours on paid work. Conversely, men spent a longer time in employment-related activities (459 minutes per day) than women (333 minutes per day). As per the UN Women global survey findings, since the spread of the Coronavirus, 28 per cent of women and 16 per cent of men say the intensity of their unpaid domestic work has gone up. The COVID-19 global crisis has exposed the fact that the world's economies and our daily lives are made possible by the unpaid care work of women, which is often invisible and under-appreciated. The UN Women survey, that was conducted in

16 countries, reveals that before the pandemic, the average time spent on childcare by women was approximately 223 minutes per day. But since the crisis began, they spend approximately 266 minutes per day, with Indian women spending the maximum time in childcare among those surveyed from the other nations. Similarly, several estimates reveal that the pandemic has disproportionately increased women's "time poverty" by up to 30 per cent in India.

Additionally, surveys conducted by Action-Aid (Delhi), Azim Premji University (Bengaluru) and the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST, Delhi) confirm that women were the hardest hit by the pandemic as a significant proportion of them lost their jobs and incomes. They also reported an increase in unpaid work at home and growing demands for domestic work, childcare and care of the elderly.

About 66 per cent of the working women surveyed in Delhi by the ISST reported an increase in household chores and 36 per cent stated an increased burden of child and elderly care work during the pandemic. They also said that closure of schools and day-care centres had put an additional burden on them. Plus, with most of the household members staying at home, it resulted in an increase in the volume of household work.

A Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) survey revealed that around 39 per cent of women lost their jobs during the ongoing pandemic due to several reasons, including an increasing demand for unpaid domestic work put on them by their families.

The way forward: It is argued that most people who are time-poor are also income-starved and suffer from multiple deprivations. Therefore, the strong

message emerging is that policymakers and employers need to act fast to reduce "time poverty" among women and push for greater gender equality in the labour market. This includes reducing the gender imbalance at work through better recognition, plus rebalancing unpaid work and closing the gender gap in digital inclusion. This is especially important as remote work or work from home have become more prominent during the pandemic.

This flexibility of work allows women to combine their domestic duties and employment responsibilities seamlessly. Furthermore, such flexibility needs to be extended not only to women, but also to men to facilitate their contribution in the unpaid domestic work. More efforts are needed in this direction by engaging citizens and launching public campaigns to promote equitable distribution of care and domestic chores between men and women.

Since the pandemic, the Government of India has introduced many relief packages and schemes to get the economy and livelihoods of people back on track. India's economic recovery must lead to a more equal world that is more resilient to future crises. Fiscal stimulus packages and emergency measures to address public health gaps have been put in place by the Centre to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic. It is vital that the national response places the inclusion of women, their representation, rights and economic outcomes at the centre if it is to have the necessary impact. But more than anything else, this gender gap at the workplace can only be closed by changing mindsets.

(Nidhi is Director at The Vision, Delhi and Balwant is Senior Faculty at IHD, Delhi)

Remembering the syncretic roots of AMU

Syed Ahmad Khan believed that Indian nationalism was secular and was based on a synthesis of Hindu and Muslim cultures



MJ WARSI

The British rule brought about a number of changes in Indian society along with the spread of modern education. This awareness about the world at large generated a feeling of nationalism in Indians, irrespective of their religion. These nationalistic feelings found expression through political, socio-cultural and religious processes and activities. Enlightened individuals belonging to all religions generated consciousness in society and particularly in their respective communities.

As a result of this, several social,

religious, cultural and political movements and organisations emerged in India in the latter part of the 19th century. These movements were mostly led by Hindu and Muslim leaders in their respective communities. Syed Ahmad Khan influenced Indian society significantly with his ideology and philosophy. His supreme interest was the intellectual development of the people through modern and scientific education. He succeeded to a great extent in making the people understand its importance, become economically independent and lead a life of dignity.

Khan believed that Indian nationalism was secular and was based on a synthesis of the Hindu and Muslim cultures. He stood firm for the amalgamation of the knowledge systems of the East and the West. He always talked about his belief and philosophy, such as democracy, nationalism, the relationship between Islam and Hinduism, between the Hindus and

the Muslims and their attitude towards the British.

Khalique Ahmad Nizami in his work, *Secular Tradition at Aligarh Muslim University*, clearly mentioned that the Revolt of 1857 was the greatest event in Syed Ahmad Khan's life, which shaped and guided his personality. The main victims of the revolt were the Muslims and their lives and properties were destroyed. So he wanted to revive their social and economic conditions through modern education. And for its propagation, he founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College at Aligarh.

The college was both an institution and a movement. It popularised scientific education among Indians. The doors of the institution were kept open to all from the very beginning, irrespective of their religion, caste, class, colour and creed. They lived together in harmony on the campus and from the very beginning, the college was truly representative of the country's multi-

racial, multi-religious and multi-lingual character. This tradition of a harmonious, cooperative living further contributed to the development of a broad, universal, cosmopolitan and secular attitude in the institution.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said, "Sir Syed was an ardent reformer and he wanted to reconcile modern scientific thought with religion by rationalistic interpretations and not by attacking basic belief. He was anxious to push new education. He was in no way communally separatist. Repeatedly he emphasised that religious differences should have no political and national significance."

While delivering a commemorative speech, Professor Tariq Mansoor, Vice-Chancellor of the historic Aligarh Muslim University, said, "The movement started by Syed Ahmad Khan, commonly known as the Aligarh Movement, heralded the era of intellectual and cultural renaissance of the people of India in gen-

eral and Indian Muslims in particular. The Aligarh Movement led to the foundation of the MAO College in 1877 and its elevation to the Aligarh Muslim University in 1920."

Stressing on the secular atmosphere that prevailed at the MAO College, SK Bhatnagar in his book, titled *History of the MAO College*, said, "The college remained a model of secularism almost till the end. The Hindu and Muslim students fraternised with one another and lived in peace and devoted to their common *alma mater*. The Hindus competed with the Muslims for all college honours — academic, social and sports, on terms of equality. They secured admission, received prizes and medals solely on merit. They lived as comfortably in the boarding house as the Muslims and fully participated in the life of the college."

In the eyes of Syed Ahmad Khan, there was no difference between Hindus and Muslims. They were one. Not only this, from the very inception of the college, he gave

higher posts to non-Muslims. Some of the distinguished non-Muslim teachers who served the college during the period were Ram Shankar Misra, Sardar Ranjan Roy, Bhawani Chander Chakraborty, Piyaresh Lal, Brij Mohan Lal, Munshi Bansidhar, Gobindra Prasad and Binodi Lal.

Syed Ahmad Khan's educational caravan reached everywhere, including all the continents of the world. His message of Hindu-Muslim unity and his educational movement inspired and encouraged people to establish institutions of learning for imparting modern and scientific education.

It seems that his educational mission and the message of Hindu-Muslim unity is more relevant in the India of today than ever before. A Syed Ahmad Khan is born but once in centuries. We would do well to imbibe his values.

(The writer is Chairperson, Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University.)



FOREIGN EYE



CORRECT PAST WRONGS

A small one-off levy on wealth would be a much fairer way of paying for the COVID recession. But in Britain taxes work far more than does idle wealth, a situation both unfair and economically damaging. Yet politicians of both main parties have long lacked the stomach to right this wrong. The current crisis is a good time to right past wrongs. (The Guardian editorial)

India's recovery faster than expected

ADB cuts contraction projection to 8% for FY21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8 per cent contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9 per cent degrowth estimated earlier, on the back of faster than expected recovery.

Observing that the economy has begun to normalise, the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement said the second quarter contraction at 7.5 per cent was better than expected.

The economy contracted by 23.9 per cent in June quarter of the current fiscal on account of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

“The GDP forecast for FY2020 is upgraded from 9.0 per cent contraction to 8.0 per cent, with GDP in H2 probably

restored to its size a year earlier. The growth projection for FY2021 is kept at 8.0 per cent,” it said.

Highlighting that India is recovering more rapidly than expected, the report said the earlier South Asia forecast of 6.8 per cent contraction is upgraded to (-)6.1 per cent in line with an improved projection for India.

Growth will return in 2021-22, at 7.2 per cent in South Asia and 8 per cent in India, it added.

Earlier this month, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the economy is recuperating faster than anticipated and growth rate is likely to turn positive in the second half of the current financial year.

In the year as whole, the economy is likely to contract by 7.5 per cent, which is an improvement over Reserve Bank's previous projection of 9.5

per cent contraction, Das had said while unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy review.

Observing that the prospects of growth have brightened with the progress on the vaccine front, Das said, the economy was likely to record a growth of 0.1 per cent in Q3 and 0.7 per cent in Q4.

With regard to inflation, ADO said, it is expected to ease in the coming months, and the 4 per cent update projection for 2021-22 is maintained.

In India, supply chain disruption brought food inflation to an average of 9.1 per cent in the first 7 months of 2020-21, pushing headline inflation to 6.9 per cent in the same period, it said.

As a result, ADO revised India's inflation from 4.5 per cent to 5.8 per cent for the current fiscal.

Centre asks 5 States to identify for auction at least 5 mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances: Joshi

New Delhi (PTI): The Centre on Thursday said it has asked five states Gujarat, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to identify for auction at least five mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances.

To boost investment, the Centre has provided the auction of mineral blocks with pre-embedded clearances for mining projects, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said during a webinar on 'Strategic Importance of Mining'.

“We have requested the states of Gujarat, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to identify at least five mineral blocks for auction with pre-embedded clearances. I have requested five (states) but if any state comes forward and offers for pre-embedded clearances, the Government of India is open for that,” the minister said.

The move will ensure that mining activity continues without hindrance. The minister further said that in the mining sector many reforms are in

pipeline.

“Very shortly most investment and industrial friendly mining reforms are going to come out,” he said. The reforms, he stressed, will bring a major change in the mining sector and will result in the growth of economy and creation of job.

Stating that infrastructure will become identity of modern India, the minister said that to operate coal transport facilities, 39 first mile connectivity projects at an expenditure of Rs 18,000 crore are in various stages of implementation.

Coal PSUs, he said, have an investment plan of almost Rs 2.5 lakh crore by 2030.

Also, Joshi said by 2022 there will be a new Parliament building with all technological facilities “so that Parliament can be also made paperless”.

“This Parliament building is almost ...100 years old and many innovations have been taken place from time to time. But to cater to the need of today's requirement, (we) needed a new Parliament building,” he said.

Benchmarks slip from record highs on profit-booking; FMCG stocks stand tall

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex snapped its five-session winning run to close 144 points lower on Thursday as investors pocketed gains in bank and IT counters after the recent rally.

A weakening rupee and lacklustre global markets further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened lower and stayed in the negative territory throughout the session to end at 45,959.88, down 143.62 points or 0.31 per cent.

The broader NSE Nifty ended its seven-day record-setting spree to close 50.80 points or 0.38 per cent lower at 13,478.30.

UltraTech Cement was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, tumbling 3.27 per cent, in line with other cement stocks after fair trade regulator CCI initiated a probe against cement companies for alleged anti-competitive behaviour.

M&M, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and Reliance Industries were the other laggards, shedding up to 2.50 per cent.

On the other hand, FMCG counters led the gainers' chart, with Nestle India spurring 4.17 per cent, ITC 3.58 per cent and HUL rising 2.61 per cent.

Other winners included

Rupee logs 1st loss in three days, slips 9 paise against USD

Mumbai (PTI): The rupee snapped its two-day winning streak to close 9 paise lower at 73.66 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, tracking muted domestic equities and a rebound in the American currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.68 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.62 and a low of 73.77. The local unit finally closed at 73.66 against the American currency, registering a fall of 9 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee had strengthened by another 3 paise to mark its seven-week high of 73.57 against the US dollar.

Gold declines ₹534; silver tanks ₹628

New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices declined ₹534 to ₹48,652 per 10 gram on Thursday in the national capital in line with lower global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹49,186 per 10 gram. Silver also dipped ₹628 to ₹62,711 per kg, from ₹63,339 per kg in the previous trade.

Kotak Bank, L&T, Tata Steel and ONGC, climbing up to 1.13 per cent.

Asian markets skidded while European bourses held steady ahead of ECB's policy decision, while investors also monitored the UK-EU Brexit talks.

“After five days of bullish rally, the domestic market reversed along with Asian peers, backed by weak global markets, triggering profit booking across major sectors. PSU Banks, small and midcaps which were so positive recent-

ly were also under bearish attack...”

“A sell-off was seen in the US tech stocks which led to a correction in the US market as the stimulus package talks dragged. Markets being at the highest level, any unfavourable events, domestic or global, can result in temporary profit booking. However, we believe that the market is optimistic enough to continue the rally post a required consolidation,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

5G to offer viable biz model; hope it will be introduced in Indian market soon: Trai Secy

New Delhi (PTI): The fifth-generation technology promises sufficient India-specific use cases along with viable and

affordable business models, Trai Secretary said on Thursday while expressing hope that 5G will be introduced in the Indian

market very soon.

On the issue of spectrum pricing, which has time and again been flagged by players

as expensive, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Secretary SK Gupta emphasised that the regulator

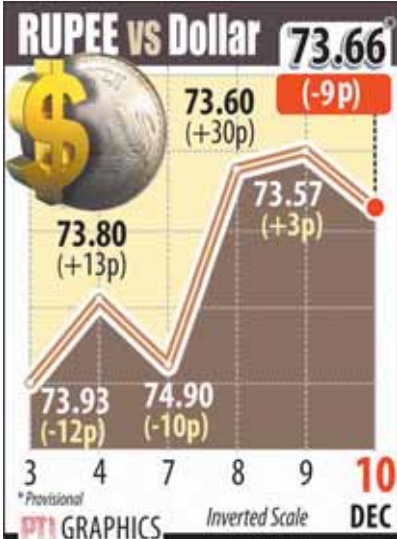
has made all-out efforts to ensure that price of radiowaves is “reasonable and market-friendly”.

BSE 500

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	13488.50	13503.55	13399.30	13478.30	-50.80	
NESTLEIND	17607.00	18404.00	17562.20	18300.00	730.85	
ITC	206.65	213.65	203.15	213.15	7.75	
BRITANNIA	3627.10	3747.00	3624.00	3741.00	113.90	
HINDUNILVR	2290.00	2357.90	2275.05	2347.00	54.80	
ADANIPORTS	463.90	474.10	457.00	471.80	7.90	
KOTAKBANK	1990.00	1919.90	1859.85	1905.00	21.45	
HDFCLIFE	656.10	661.00	645.65	660.00	7.40	
BPCL	395.10	401.50	387.10	399.00	3.85	
TATASTEEL	608.00	614.00	593.50	614.00	4.65	
LT	1182.00	1193.70	1175.00	1189.30	8.30	
HINDALCO	239.80	245.50	238.00	242.50	1.50	
ONGC	91.00	92.20	88.70	91.55	0.35	
BHARTIARTL	501.50	508.75	494.10	504.70	1.65	
ASIANPAINT	2515.95	2552.00	2501.00	2530.00	7.70	
BAJAJFINSV	9016.05	9074.00	8939.00	9033.70	23.05	
MARUTI	7760.00	7850.00	7710.70	7727.90	18.65	
DIVISLAB	3724.90	3763.00	3706.75	3730.00	4.60	
JSWSTEEL	362.00	366.45	356.30	362.25	0.40	
COALINDIA	135.20	135.45	132.80	134.80	0.10	
HERRMOTOCO	3180.00	3207.75	3166.00	3200.05	2.35	
CPIA	763.00	767.70	755.10	762.10	-0.30	
HCITECH	870.55	877.80	865.00	869.50	-1.05	
SPIN	269.00	271.00	265.55	270.00	-0.35	
POWERGRID	199.00	195.40	191.50	192.45	-0.25	
DRREDDY	5058.00	5086.40	5015.00	5050.00	-6.90	
TITAN	1428.00	1445.00	1415.55	1423.00	-3.15	
SBIIFE	86.00	862.90	855.00	855.95	-2.05	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3306.20	3319.95	3327.05	3325.00	-11.55	
TECHN	920.00	932.60	917.10	926.00	-3.40	
INFY	1157.40	1171.65	1110.00	1168.00	-7.20	
HDFC	2300.00	2303.00	2267.00	2289.80	-16.90	
SUNPHARMA	5750.00	5745.00	5610.00	5650.00	-45.55	
BAJFINANCE	4850.00	4860.00	4785.00	4803.00	-41.15	
NTPC	96.40	99.35	96.50	97.45	-0.85	
WIPRO	358.20	358.00	352.75	356.30	-3.20	
TCS	2818.00	2827.30	2780.25	2784.00	-26.00	
RELIANCE	2021.60	2028.50	2001.00	2008.00	-18.95	
ICICIBANK	518.00	514.40	498.75	506.30	-5.20	
GRASIM	922.00	924.80	905.55	908.45	-11.80	
AXISBANK	624.50	632.45	620.35	625.80	-8.30	
INDUSINDBK	917.95	927.60	905.00	916.00	-12.50	
HDFCBANK	1398.00	1402.00	1375.75	1387.00	-20.20	
IOC	93.90	93.90	91.15	92.45	-1.50	
EICHERMOT	2258.00	2258.00	2487.10	2496.50	-50.75	
GAIL	127.75	123.45	119.35	120.00	-2.50	
M&M	745.00	754.95	731.05	736.70	-18.30	
TATAMOTORS	182.00	182.70	176.40	177.95	-4.75	
SHREECEM	2420.70	2449.95	2368.40	2374.20	-680.50	
ULTRACEMCO	3099.00	5119.00	4950.00	4974.00	-170.80	
UPL	478.00	479.00	416.10	437.00	-55.60	

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	31680.00	31877.45	31423.15	31850.65	128.45	
NAUKRI	4373.00	4624.00	4353.35	4602.80	219.45	
BANDHANBNK	399.95	413.40	395.55	415.00	15.05	
GODREJCP	706.00	734.00	699.30	729.65	24.70	
PGHIL	1090.00	1180.00	1085.60	1127.00	368.80	
TATACONSUM	562.00	584.70	560.20	583.00	17.50	
DLF	213.35	219.50	207.65	218.00	5.80	
DABUR	502.00	515.00	502.00	514.70	12.55	
PIDILITIND	1619.35	1657.95	1612.80	1652.50	31.95	
ABBOTINDIA	15399.00	15699.95	15250.00	15689.00	289.65	
MCDWELL	583.05	595.75	579.50	594.10	10.30	
ICICIPRULI	487.45	499.00	484.85	490.05	8.15	
MARICO	400.40	405.45	394.15	404.05	5.65	
BANKBARODA	64.95	66.80	62.90	66.30	0.70	
HDFCAMC	2813.00	2848.00	2756.00	2839.90	27.95	
AUROPHARMA	889.00	907.50	888.80	896.45	8.25	
COPAL	157.00	159.00	155.10	158.20	14.60	
NMDC	107.05	108.20	104.10	107.80	0.75	
BIOCON	452.45	457.50	446.85	453.75	2.80	
ADANTRANS	425.00	435.95	415.00	429.05	2.50	
HAVELLS	820.00	835.40	819.00	828.05	4.20	
ALKEM	2914.85	2929.00	2855.80	2920.00	13.45	
INDIGO	1740.20	1750.00	1722.00	1739.50	7.35	
BERGEPAINT	680.10	682.50	672.80	679.90	1.55	
CADILAHC	468.60	475.45	464.00	468.60	0.65	
DMAT	2690.00	2673.50	2575.85	2604.00	-1.30	
UBL	1137.00	1148.00	1114.45	1138.75	-1.20	
CONCOR	405.60	406.00	392.05	403.00	-0.45	
ICICIGI	1453.15	1458.05	1425.60	1451.00	-2.40	
ITI	327.00	329.00	321.70	325.85	-6.90	
TORNTPHARM	2640.00	2693.65	2625.05	2649.50	-5.90	
IGL	485.00	488.45	479.00	481.55	-1.60	
BAJAJHLNG	3060.00	3068.95	3033.75	3059.85	-10.10	
OFSS	3166.00	3166.00	3086.35	3140.00	-19.10	
MUTHOOTFIN	1190.45	1195.05	1159.00	1182.60	-7.85	
LUPIN	954.00	959.05	935.55	943.70	-6.90	
PETRONET	256.70	258.20	250.65	255.30	-2.40	
INFRATEL	242.00	248.35	240.50	244.00	-2.40	
PIRE	1473.95	1473.95	1421.00	1450.00	-16.20	
GCL	144.90	147.50	140.00	143.45	-1.60	
ACC	1629.00	1649.95	1618.25	1636.00	-20.60	
HINDPETRO	219.00	219.00	212.60	215.55	-2.75	
HINDZINC	243.15	244.00	236.10	239.55	-3.60	
AMBUJACEM	250.70	251.00	245.20	248.75	-4.10	
MOTHERSUMI	157.95	158.15	153.60	155.05	-2.65	
SBICARD	844.50	844.50	827.15	830.00	-15.60	
SIEMENS	1570.60	1571.50	1525.00	1535.00	-29.95	
BOSCHILT	13411.00	13460.00	13127.65	13227.00	-282.35	
PNB	39.40	39.40	38.10	38.45	-0.95	
ADANAGREEN	1064.70	1067.00	1030.00	1049.90	-35.20	
PFC	117.00	117.20	111.30	114.50	-3.90	



HERITFC	76.35	78.60	74.70	77.35	CAPPL	520.00	523.00	505.00	507.15	MAHLEFE	293.00	344.80	293.00	337.20
HERITFOOD	328.95	328.95	305.20	307.50	WESTLIFE	422.00	430.70	418.00	428.35	KEI	434.95	434.95	418.00	425.25
POLY	175.10	178.85	172.80	173.75	REDINGTON	133.05	137.65	132.60	132.95	KANSAINER	558.25	558.90	551.95	555.70
CUBICAB	103.00	104.15	101.20	103.05	IOB	11.70	11.70	11.09	11.38	GHCL	20.02	20.02	19.40	19.75
RAMCOCEM	825.60	867.60	825.60	832.65	JAICORPLTD	97.20	97.20	93.70	94.85	MAHLOG	390.05	395.00	379.00	390.95
ALKEIM	2912.00	2928.35	2820.40	2918.25	CEATLTD	1180.70	1180.70	1152.05	1155.85	SUPRAJIT	200.05	201.95	194.90	198.55
SYNGENE	600.00	617.55	592.60	598.25	GUJALKALI	340.00	356.95	336.20	351.70	GALAXYSTYR	1908.05	1925.00	1895.05	1915.55
EIDPARRY	331.05	343.75	328.10	339.50	DCBBANK	114.00	115.00	114.00	112.75	SOMANYSCEFA	312.95	312.95	300.00	304.70
ECLERX	81.01	816.05	786.65	799.95	SUNTECK	325.25	328.00	316.40	323.85	SFL	1699.55	1730.00	1670.00	1702.85
GODFREYPHLP	1026.25	1034.35	993.95	1019.25	JAMNAAUTO	55.45	56.20	53.00	55.50	VAIBHAVGBL	2120.00	2120.00	2090.00	2118.95
LTTS	186.00	1883.45	1813.05	1848.25	IDFC	40.10	40.10	39.00	39.15	JSL	68.00	68.00	64.85	66.05
ASHOKA	95.85	95.85	90.30	92.55	SIS	442.20	454.00	434.15	441.30	NAVNETEDUL	91.95	91.95	84.00	89.05
ELTICORP	154.00	154.00	148.20	151.30	VRLOG	203.70	206.00	194.00	203.85	SHIRRAMCIT	1097.55	1104.65	1071.00	1071.90
TKEMENT	2040.00	2041.75	1970.60	1978.15	APLAPOLLO	3796.00	3807.00	3730.00	374.75	GLAXO	1556.20	1556.25	1548.15	1550.20
TV18BRDCST	32.00	32.00	30.75	30.85	BIRLACORPNP	757.90	762.45	743.00	746.90	MINDANO	398.55	398.55	386.80	388.30
AMBER	2332.00	2393.95	2287.80	2333.45	VIPIND	378.50	378.50	362.65	367.00	ORIENTCEM	79.80	79.80	76.60	77.50
FSL	36.00	78.55	74.15	75.00	TAKE	40.10	46.90	44.50	46.00	GRSE	200.00	200.70	196.00	196.50
NOCIL	143.30	144.30	141.70	142.15	THYROCARE	1026.70	1026.70	1006.70	1016.05	MAHSCOOTER	3600.00	3650.00	3545.00	3627.65
TINDIA	823.50	881.85	804.50	845.35	INVI	130.00	130.60	128.00	129.05	GDL	114.80	117.95	113.00	114.90
IEX	217.10	223.30	214.75	221.90	NATFELNOR	2560.00	2595.00	2546.50	2554.85	CHOLAHLDNG	524.00	541.00	512.95	525.30
RALLIS	289.90	291.60	284.70	285.65	GRAVESSCOT	86.70	86.70	82.70	84.20	IFILWAM	1022.90	1067.40	1022.90	1053.55
NATOPHARM	965.90	970.50	940.60	959.45	MIDHANI	20.30	20.30	19.64	19.875	GILLETTE	5898.95	5898.95	5697.55	5789.50
GODREJAGRO	525.90	534.00	521.00	524.50	OFSS	3165.35	3165.35	3084.90	3135.30	CSBANK	235.00	235.00	225.00	225.95
EQUITAS	73.25	73.25	70.00	70.70	TATACOFFEE	111.05	111.75	109.15	110.50	PGHH	10868.85	11376.20	10850.00	11151.00
ALLCARGO	132.70	141.00	128.10	139.20	JKTYRE	85.00	85.00	80.40	81.70	VSTIND	3899.50	4004.00	3812.55	3875.55
METROPOLIS	1987.00	200.00	1952.00	1968.95	TATACOMM	1040.40	1068.00	1027.60	1032.65	PINHOUSING	375.50	379.00	372.90	375.45
SWANENERGY	135.80	136.70	132.15	132.75	TATAMETALI	577.00	591.25	576.10	588.30	SCHEINDE	86.00	88.00	86.00	87.15
HSCIL	42.90	43.05	41.80	42.15	MMTCL	20.40	21.90	19.75	21.15	MHANCHIDIE	159.90	159.90	152.00	154.80
UJIVAN	290.00	290.00	275.10	282.10	RITES	271.95	271.95	260.85	262.75	TVTODAY	211.00	219.45	210.00	213.90
NIACL	128.00	135.00	122.85	129.40	ASTRAL	1418.00	1462.00	1411.10	1448.75	THERMAX	923.00	926.05	906.80	910.45
EDELWEISS	76.00	76.45	73.05	73.70	FINEORG	2520.00	2559.65	2520.00	2539.95	FLUOROCEM	576.85	581.15	566.70	576.90
CESC	634.00	634.00	618.15	619.10	BLUEDART	3945.00	3945.00	3848.10	3864.05	NH	394.00	394.00	377.95	385.95
PAGIND	24101.00	24464.10	24101.00	24238.20	UFLEX	391.00	391.00	380.90	386.00	HIMATSEIDE	135.75	137.15	131.15	135.55
SUDARSH	494.00	496.90	479.25	487.00	SUNDRMFST	520.00	539.00	520.00	524.15	ERIS	535.00	537.50	525.90	527.95
MPHASIS	3312.00	3323.10	3304.25	3306.50	QUESS	494.25	494.30	476.55	481.55	TNPL	118.00	118.00	112.00	115.55
STLTECH	169.55	169.65	162.40	165.50	BALMLAWRIE	117.30	117.30	114.15	114.50	ORIENTELEC	222.65	222.65	215.00	218.60
OIL	105.70	106.00	104.05	104.90	CARERATING	52.00	530.00	507.55	523.80	BRIGADE	229.20	233.70	226.00	229.95
BALRAMCHIN	166.05	170.00	160.75	168.85	DCLAL	162.00	163.50	156.15	156.35	DBCORP	88.00	88.00	84.00	86.45
UJIVANSFB	39.10	39.45	37.10	39.00	GICRE	145.00	148.00	140.15	144.80	AKZOINDIA	2214.55	2226.70	2190.00	2209.65
RBTC	136.90	137.30	133.60	136.10	VARRCO	402.50	421.40	401.75	405.55	STARCEMENT	94.00	95.75	92.55	93.85
MAHABANK	15.55	15.55	14.36	14.66	AVANTI	530.00	533.00	521.05	527.15	VTIL	968.90	980.45	950.55	964.80
GMCLDIT	51.80	51.80	49.75	50.60	INDIAMART	5299.70	5310.05	5151.50	5296.65	LUXIND	1602.80	1602.95	1540.30	1559.60
HINDCOPPER	46.65	46.65	44.00	44.65	HONAUT	31069.05	31073.50	30740.00	30800.50	SCHAEFFLER	4255.00	4359.80	4255.00	4351.90
CANFINHOME	482.85	482.85	466.20	468.25	ADVZENMYS	346.00	354.00	340.10	343.45					
DALBHARAT	1065.60	1068.25	1029.75	1037.30	FINCANCES	352.00	354.80	340.20	348.10					
CENTURYTEXT	395.00	395.00	378.85	386.40	RADICO	457.00	464.00	453.50	458.55					
AJANTHAFARM	1698.00	1724.40	1676.05	1684.65	MOIL	143.80	143.80	139.35	140.90					
BOMDYEING	74.50	75.05	72.25	72.95	YBL	906.25	914.55	896.05	910.65					
HATHWAY	36.25	36.40	33.50	34.00	JINDALSAF	734.5	736.0	712.25	723.35					
COFORGE	2545.00	2545.00	2458.00	2482.95	INTELLECT	287.75	287.90	281.00	283.00					
SPARC	194.85	194.85	185.90	190.90	JKPAPER	104.00	104.00	104.00	101.30					
RELAXO	727.00	744.50	722.00	740.65	GOEORILTY	533.00	533.00	517.00	522.80					
ZYDUSWELL	1920.00	1938.45	1875.00	1895.40	BAJAJELEC	625.00	627.20	613.55	618.55					
IFIL	105.00	114.45	105.00	111.40	JSWENERGY	65.10	65.95	64.05	65.15					
ABFL	162.00	162.00	156.70	159.10	PARAGMILK	118.00	119.25	114.40	115.75					
LAJALJCON	201.95	201.95	197.00	199.60	CARBORUNIV	372.00	383.00	363.40	378.70					
LALPATHLAB	2150.25	2206.20	2150.25	2177.00	JMFINANCIL	84.90	84.90	81.15	83.95					
HINDZINC	234.00	243.85	236.00	239.40	MASFIN	971.10	1053.00	991.10	1002.90					
HUDCO	40.00	40.30	38.45	39.30	FINCON	89.80	89.70	87.30	87.90					
PIIND	2375.00	2375.00	2303.30	2316.50	IRCOLEXIND	658.00	658.00	638.10	640.70					
SONATSOFTW	352.70	355.00	343.30	350.10	PRSMJOHNSN	86.00	88.00	83.95	85.65	LAXMIMACH	4541.00	4541.00	4452.00	4465.00
JUSTDIAL	618.00	625.65	607.00	610.85	KERC	366.00	373.70	366.00	370.45	JBCHEPHARM	994.55	1005.30	990.25	1001.15
SYMPHONY	907.30	912.75	895.20	909.30	JKLAKSHMI	345.50	350.05	343.50	344.35	JCHAC	2266.95	2277.70	2211.00	2220.90
VMART	237.90	2381.15	2250.00	2271.70	NESCO	551.00	551.00	541.05	543.80	TASTYBIT	1177.00	1177.00	1080.00	10956.35
BDL	346.70	346.70	334.50	340.85	WALKERCORP	5229.00	5235.00	5159.00	5197.95	EPL	256.10	262.80	256.10	260.10
TVSRICHAK	178.00	1798.40	1695.00	1777.30	BEYSUPIND	68.20	68.20	65.85	67.20	WABCOINDIA	5718.00	5740.70	5644.50	5686.20
VENKYS	1078.20	1711.45	1674.00	1685.25	NLCINDIA	54.60	54.75	53.10	53.90	INDOSTAR	352.00	352.00	333.85	335.15
TATAINVEST	1015.10	1019.75	995.00	1002.30	SAPANDANA	715.80	747.00	705.00	729.95	ASTERDM	161.30	163.30	160.35	160.15
VINATORIGA	1156.00	1162.55	1141.00	1142.20	EIHOTEL	102.80	102.80	99.15	100.15	GRINDWELL	652.60	683.00	652.60	679.50
KPITTECH	113.00	113.00	104.85	106.10	KSB	591.95	604.00	591.95	597.20	SHANKARA	352.90	353.80	345.70	346.55
GSPIL	233.80	235.00	227.00	232.70	IRB	117.30	118.10	115.70	116.00	OMAXE	86.90	88.20	78.20	83.90
FORTIS	144.00	148.95	141.85	148.10	FDC	365.00	365.00	346.05	347.35	TCIEP	90.00	921.00	890.10	903.30
AGSILGOS	256.10	256.20	245.50	251.80	GET&D	118.20	118.35	112.10	116.10	MAHESAMLES	303.25	303.25	299.80	294.80
DBL	407.20	407.20	390.85	394.10	GAFBIFRES	2175.00	2224.05	2175.00	2195.30	SOLARINDS	1045.00	1045.00	1029.45	1031.70
BEML	750.35	759.55	736.05	747.35	BLUESTARCO	788.00	801.30	776.50	795.85	ORIENTREF	221.20	224.25	214.00	217.70
KAJARIACER	62.20	662.20	650.50	656.20	MRPL	35.00	35.00	33.55	34.25	TIMKEN	1160.00	1160.00	1130.05	1136.95
ZENSARTECH	253.10	261.50	248.25	251.35	POWERINDIA	1214.95	1261.00	1175.00	1239.55	NILKAMAL	1426.65	1426.65	1400.00	1412.70
AARTINDI	1253.15	1253.15	1202.55	1212.50	CRISIL	1979.90	1987.10	1930.40	1942.25	CERA	3262.70	3262.80	3193.10	3226.80
J&KBANK	25.80	25.80	23.25	24.37	SKFNHIDA	1668.45	1670.25	1641.00	1646.60	GULFOILUB	766.50	765.50	755.00	762.70
ABBOTINDIA	15390.65	15700.00	15302.35	15589.20	GPPL	93.20	93.20	90.10	91.35	ESOLINDIA	1446.35	1518.80	1438.30	1503.75
WSWOLAR	264.5													

All 50 US states and DC certify their poll results

Washington: With West Virginia certifying its presidential election results, all 50 US states and the District of Columbia have now certified the outcome of the November 3 presidential polls, according to a media report on Thursday.

President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, is projected to win 306 electoral votes, and incumbent President Donald Trump is set to win 232. It takes 270 electoral votes of the 538 available to become president.

West Virginia became the final US state to certify its presidential election results on Wednesday, according to CNN's tally. West Virginia formally declared that President Trump, a Republican, is entitled to the state's five electoral votes.

On Monday, the 538-member Electoral College will meet to take forward the election process.

The US president is not chosen directly by the voters,

but what is known as the Electoral College. In this process, the states elect the President and Vice President.

Each US state is allotted a different number of electoral votes, based on how many representatives it has in the House, plus its two senators. While California has the maximum electoral votes with 55, Texas is second with 38 electoral votes.

The states' certifications come as Trump, who has not conceded defeat, has baselessly claimed that the election was rigged and sowed doubt about the outcome of one of the most divisive presidential races.

Dozens of lawsuits filed by the Trump campaign challenging the results have been dismissed at the state and federal levels across the country since the election.

Though Trump initially did not allow the transition

process to start, he finally relented on November 23. The Biden team now have access to additional office space inside the agencies and the ability to use federal resources for background checks on Biden's White House staff appointments and Cabinet picks.

Each American state has different processes for certifying results, and some states certified their slate of presidential electors separately from state and local election results, according to the CNN report.

The next major step in the Electoral College process is the meeting of the electors, who are required by law to convene on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, which this year is December 14.

The electors' votes are later transmitted to officials and counted in a joint session of Congress on January 6. **PTI**

US B-52H bombers fly to West Asia in mission to deter Iran

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In a new show of military might, two American bomber aircraft took off from the United States and flew over a swath of the Middle East on Thursday, sending what US officials said was a direct message of deterrence to Iran.

The flight of the two massive B-52H Stratofortress bombers over the region, the second such mission in less than a month, was designed to underscore America's continuing commitment to the Middle East even as President Donald Trump's administration withdraws thousands of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The long-range heavy bombers, which are capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear weapons, are a formidable sight and are flown less frequently in the Middle East than smaller combat air-

craft, such as American fighter jets. Adversaries often complain about bomber flights in their region, deeming them a provocative show of force.

"The ability to fly strategic bombers halfway across the world in a non-stop mission and to rapidly integrate them with multiple regional partners demonstrates our close working relationships and our shared commitment to regional security and stability," Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top US Commander for the Middle East, said in a statement.

The troop cuts coupled with the impending departure of the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group in the Gulf have fuelled allies' concerns that the US is abandoning the region. Those worries are compounded by fears that Iran may strike out at the US or allies in retaliation for the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Thai activists urge UN to help repeal royal defamation laws



People dance to live music during a pro-democracy rally on Thursday

AP

Bangkok: Pro-democracy demonstrators in Bangkok marked United Nations Human Rights Day on Thursday with rallies calling for the abolition of Thailand's strict royal defamation law, which was recently revived to prosecute more than 20 of the protest movement's leaders.

Somyot Pueksakasemsuk, one of the leaders, submitted a letter to the United Nations on Thursday urging it to pressure the Thai government to stop using Article 112 of the Thai Criminal Code, which forbids defamation of key members of the monarchy. Somyot, a former

magazine editor, was previously imprisoned for seven years for publishing articles deemed to violate the lese majeste law.

"Article 112 is an outdated law that no other countries have endorsed. It prevents people from expressing their opinion freely and the government has used it to destroy its opponents," Somyot said.

Somyot said the pro-democracy group will send representatives to a UN Human rights conference in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2021. Thursday's protests also coincided with Thailand's

Constitution Day, a national holiday marking the country's adoption of its first constitution in 1932, which meant that many offices in the city were closed. The demonstrations drew significantly smaller crowds than other recent rallies, which have attracted tens of thousands of participants.

Ahead of Thursday's protests, government security officials erected barricades using shipping containers and barbed wire, and police were deployed to prevent any possible move toward Chitralada Palace, the residence of King Maha Vajiralongkorn. **AP**



Members of a Turkish forces commando brigade take part in a military parade attended by Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, in Baku, Azerbaijan on Thursday

AP

Azerbaijan stages parade to mark Nagorno-Karabakh peace deal

Moscow: A military parade was held on Thursday in the Azerbaijani capital in celebration of the peace deal with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh that saw Azerbaijan reclaim much of the separatist region along with surrounding areas.

The agreement took force exactly a month ago and put an end to six weeks of fierce fighting between the two ex-Soviet nations over Nagorno-Karabakh.

It was seen as a major victory in Azerbaijan, but prompted mass protests in Armenia, with opposition supporters

demanding the ouster of the country's prime minister over his handling of the conflict.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994. That war left Nagorno-Karabakh itself and substantial surrounding territory in Armenian hands.

More than 3,000 people took part in the parade on Thursday, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended the event. Turkey strongly backed Azerbaijan during the con-

flict, which it used to expand its clout in the region.

A Turkish commando brigade took part in the parade in which Turkish drones were also put on display. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev thanked Turkey for its support in his speech.

"From the first hours of the war, we felt the support of Turkey," Aliyev said.

"This is an example of our unity, our brotherhood." The Azerbaijani president said the country was able to "restore historical justice" and blamed Armenia for starting the fighting. **AP**

Pak PM dares Opposition to table no-confidence motion in Parl to oust him

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has dared the Opposition alliance to table a no-confidence motion in Parliament to oust him, as he criticised its call to lawmakers for mass resignations to force him to call snap polls.

Khan said he did not back-track from holding a national dialogue to steer the country out of multiple crises. An 11-party Opposition alliance announced on Tuesday that their lawmakers will resign en masse by the end of this month from Parliament to paralyse the government and force Prime Minister Khan to call snap polls. The decision was taken after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 Opposition parties formed in September this year to overthrow Prime Minister

Khan said he did not backtrack from holding a national dialogue to steer the country out of multiple crises

Khan's government, held a marathon meeting in Islamabad. Khan said the Constitutional way to send a Government packing is to table a no-confidence motion in Parliament. "If the Opposition wants to move a no-confidence motion, they should come and do so in the assemblies," he said. He also criticised the PDM's call for en masse resignations. **PTI**

US set to execute 1st of 5 inmates before Biden inauguration

AP ■ CHICAGO

The Trump administration is planning an unprecedented five more federal executions before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, starting with a Texas street-gang member set to be put to death Thursday for his role in the 1999 slayings of an Iowa religious couple whose bodies he

burned in the trunk of their car.

Brandon Bernard was 18 when he and four other teenagers abducted and robbed Todd and Stacie Bagley on their way from a Sunday service in Killeen, Texas. He would be the ninth federal inmate put to death since July, when President Donald Trump ended a 17-year hiatus in federal executions.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) took a jibe at the Centre, saying it is indeed historical that the "head servant" is doing ground worship of the new Parliament when the peasants are fighting for their rights.

"It is historical. The peasants are fighting for their right on the streets in severe cold, water splashes and police sticks on them. And the 'head-servant' is doing the ground worship of the new Parliament of Rs 971 crores," the AAP tweeted. Former civil servants are among those who have severely criticised the Modi Government for not cutting down on "luxuries" like the Central Vista project amid the coronavirus crisis.

GOVT HAS OPEN...

"Still, we have already made provision in the Act that agreement under these laws will only be between processors and farmers' produce. There is no provision for any lease or agreement over farmers' land," the Agriculture Minister added.

Tomar also said the entire country has witnessed that Swaminathan Commission report came in 2006, the recommendation about MSP at 1.5 times cost of production remained pending till Modi government implemented it.

"Law provides that if farmer and processor enter into an agreement and the type of crops is such that some infrastructure has to be set up on the farmer's land, then the processor will dismantle his infrastructure from thereafter the agreement concludes," the Agriculture Minister said.

"If the processor doesn't do

it, then the owner of that infrastructure will be the farmer himself. This has been provided in the law," Tomar added.

Highlighting the steps taken by the Modi Government to improve farmers' financial health, the Minister said an allocation of Rs 75,000 crore has been made for just PM Kisan initiative under which farmers get Rs 6,000 per year of direct income support. "Besides, Rs one Lakh crore Agri Infrastructure has been set up for the development of farm gate infrastructure. Neem coated urea scheme was introduced by Modi Govt. for reduced use of chemicals and improved soil health," he said.

At the same media briefing, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said there were some concerns that farmers will be forced to sell their produce in the private market. "This is completely erroneous, there is absolutely no provision in the law which brings an element of compulsion on any farmer," Goyal added.

IN VEILED ATTACK...

"The concepts of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' 'the whole world is one family' and 'sarve bhavantu sukhinah' 'all be at peace' are the core of the Indian civilisation. Therefore, inclusivity, equality and openness are the principles underlining this concept," he said.

The Defence Minister also called for sustained efforts to address the threats of bio-terrorism, transnational trafficking and pandemics, and emphasised on building capacity to address shared security challenges.

"Our composition is another

pillar of our strength as it includes defence ministries of 18 key countries that are major stakeholders in the regional security dynamic," he said.

Rajnath also underlined the need for confronting the challenges emerging from the coronavirus pandemic. Warning that the "disruptive effect of the pandemic is still unfolding," he said Covid-19 has changed the world and left us many hurdles to overcome. The challenge is, therefore, to make sure that the world economy moves on the path of recovery and when it does gather steam, to ensure that the recovery leaves no one behind, he added.

The inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi in 2010. The defence ministers then had agreed on five areas of practical cooperation to pursue under the new mechanism, including maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping operations.

PAWAR MAY HEAD...

And with the loss of Ahmed Patel and resentment in Congress from senior leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Anand Sharma and many more, Congress leaders too believe the need to bring on board an astute politician like Pawar to take and make decisions. The speculation gained further ground after Pawar led the delegation of Opposition leaders when they met the president Ram Nath Kovind regarding farmer protests on Wednesday, despite Rahul Gandhi being present.

Sonia Gandhi has been the chairperson of the UPA since

2004. In 2004, the Congress had formed a Government in coalition with Left parties under the prime ministership of Manmohan Singh. Currently, there are 12 member parties in the UPA including the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF).

NADDA'S CONVOY...

Locals said the attack came from a TMC rally which was initially led by district leaders like Saukat Mollah and Sonali Guha, an MLA.

Soon after the attack, Nadda came out all guns blazing against the Chief Minister and his party saying, "This attack on the convoy has only strengthened my resolve and I will visit all the districts and all the 294 Assembly segments and hold rallies there."

"What I saw, is the highlights of the anarchy prevailing under in Mamata raj... We were able to reach here because of the blessings of Maa Durga. TMC workers left no stones unturned to stop or finish us. This is not a democracy but 'goondaraj'," he said.

Nadda had on Wednesday questioned the State's law and order situation after been black-flagged by a group of people in Kolkata protesting against the farm laws on Thursday. "There is no law and order in Bengal... Is this the kind of the democracy we have in Bengal... It seems the law and order has completely collapsed in the State," he said, vowing to decimate the ruling party in the coming elections.

Hours later Abhishek Banerjee who was addressing a

rally at Arambagh in Hooghly some 60 miles away said the Trinamool had nothing to do with the attack adding "it was a sudden expression of popular anger against the BJP leaders," and apparently setting the tone and tenor of a future police investigation. The BJP leadership had come to Bengal to spread hatred "if they really have the courage why do not they publish their report card showing their performance in the past six years of their rule."

Soon a police release said that the Nadda had reached safely at the venue at Diamond Harbour. "Nothing happened to his convoy. Few bystanders at Debipur, Falta PS, Diamond Harbour PD, sporadically and suddenly three stones towards vehicles trailing long behind his convoy. Everyone is safe and the situation is peaceful. The matter is being investigated to find out actual happenings." Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar who said that incident took place despite his alerting the Chief Secretary and DGP about possible untoward incidents later tweeted tagging the Chief Minister, "Concerned at alarming reports of anarchy and lawlessness @MamataOfficial indicating ruling party harms on rampage at BJP President Convoy and political police @WBPolice in support. This happening in spite of my alerts to CS & DGP early morning indicated the collapse of law & order."

Talking about the attackers he said, "Am sure they have immunity and protection of political police with administrative extension of political outfit. As a constitutional head I share my shame with you as it is on account of your acts of omission and commission."

TrendSlazer

Salman poses with 'Mother earth'

Actor **SALMAN KHAN** has shared a picture from his farm on social media on Instagram.

In the image, the actor is seen working with a handpick axe in his farm.

"Mother earth," Salman captioned the image, which currently has over 1.4 million likes on the photo-sharing web-site.

He is currently seen hosting the 14th season of Bigg Boss on television.

His last big screen outing was in the third installment of *Dabangg*, where he was seen reprising the role of Chulbul Pandey.



'Durgamati has stretched me as an actor. Physically, it was a tough film to pull off because of the

genre and also my role. As an actor, I want to sink my teeth into all the genres and horror thriller was definitely on the top of my list. I wanted to see for myself if I can be good in horror and I think I have pleasantly surprised myself.'

—Bhumi Pednekar

Actor **SARA ALI KHAN** is gearing up for the release of her forthcoming *Coolie No. 1*. Revealing her signature flair at quirky poetry, the actor calls co-actor **Varun Dhawan** her mate and dancing with him her fate.

Sara posted a string of pictures on Instagram. The pictures seem to be stills from the song *Husnn Hai Suhaana* from the forthcoming film.

Alongside the image, she wrote: "Varun Dhawan is my mate. Dancing with him was my fate. *Abhi gaana aa gaya*, so why wait? Watch it soon, don't be late!"



Gwyneth's love for acting 'wore off'

Actor **GWYNETH PALTROW** says she was in her mid-twenties when she realised she did not love acting that much.

The realisation came soon after she won an Oscar for *Shakespeare In Love*.

"I felt like, now who am I supposed to be? What am I, what am I driving towards?" she said during an appearance on *Quarantined With Bruce*.

Now 45, Paltrow said that "part of the shine of acting wore off" due to the "intense public scrutiny" of being a young actor in Hollywood.



END OF AN OLD WORLD GRACE

Dressed in a blue ripped jeans, a striped shirt with a black shawl casually draped across his shoulders, contemporary dancer **ASTAD DEBOO** wore his hair in a buzz cut that January afternoon at the Triveni Terrace Café, where we caught him candid. The air that he exuded belied the years that he had clocked having been born in the same year as our country. His eyes lightened up often and his hands moved in tandem with his words. His brain felt agile. He meandered frequently from a question to expound a point but came back to where he had begun through a number of examples. The world woke up to his demise yesterday. Here are the excerpts of our conversation with the maestro, who had pushed boundaries in pursuance of his art and continued to experiment till his last breath. By **SAIMI SATTAR**

You were born in the same year as India, 1947. How have you seen it change?

Yes. When I came back to India to introduce a new dance form, there was a lot of resentment in government cultural institutions, Ministry of Culture, and even from classical gurus. Not that people themselves weren't receptive to my experimental workshops. They were afraid that their gurus would get upset. It was my determination and perseverance that kept me going. I am grateful to the media as they spoke about my work.

But yes, the peer criticism was still around. A very established dancer once said that even when you stage one show in a year, people talk about it but they won't talk about the 30 to 40 shows we do in a year. But the reason was due to the kind of work they did and the dance form that they practiced. Though I have studied Kathakand Kathakali, I do not take an entire *tukda* from the Indian classical style in my work. I just use the technique. While often what they were doing was yet another interpretation of Krishna or Shiva. In the beginning, the audience was limited to writers or musicians. Slowly, the word got around. The best form of publicity is word-of-mouth. Everybody went happy while I stuck to my guns. In those early days, I spent six months here and six overseas.

Earlier, I was a solo dancer and very energetic. But now I do slower movements and it is more difficult to be in sync with the music than when the movement is faster.

What kept you going despite the fact that the institutions and the established artistes were not accepting?

Those days, it was hard and frustrating to be accepted as a liberal artiste but I had the support and blessings of my parents. I could come back to a happy home and that was a big blessing. Even today, many boys find it hard to rationalise their choice as performers. My father, on the other hand, said, 'I am sorry we do not have enough connections to help you out.' Had it been an unhappy home, I would not have been able to handle the rejections I faced constantly.

How do collaborations further your journey?

A collaboration needs to blend. There needs to be some amount of respect and understanding between the collaborating partners. We should be on the same plane.

When you are working, you want the working environment to be stress free. Otherwise, one is not able to create. When I collaborate with somebody, there is a spark and I am able to do things which I have never tried before. You need someone to trigger that change or extend that boundary. I worked with a great artist, Bahauddin Dagar. We were discussing something and he said, 'Your performance'. And I immediately pointed out, 'It is not my show but ours. You are not accompanying me. We are working together to create something good.'

How difficult it was to perfect the Jose Limon technique and the way it seems to defy gravity? How difficult was it to perfect, especially when you are using it in conjunction with the Martha Graham technique?

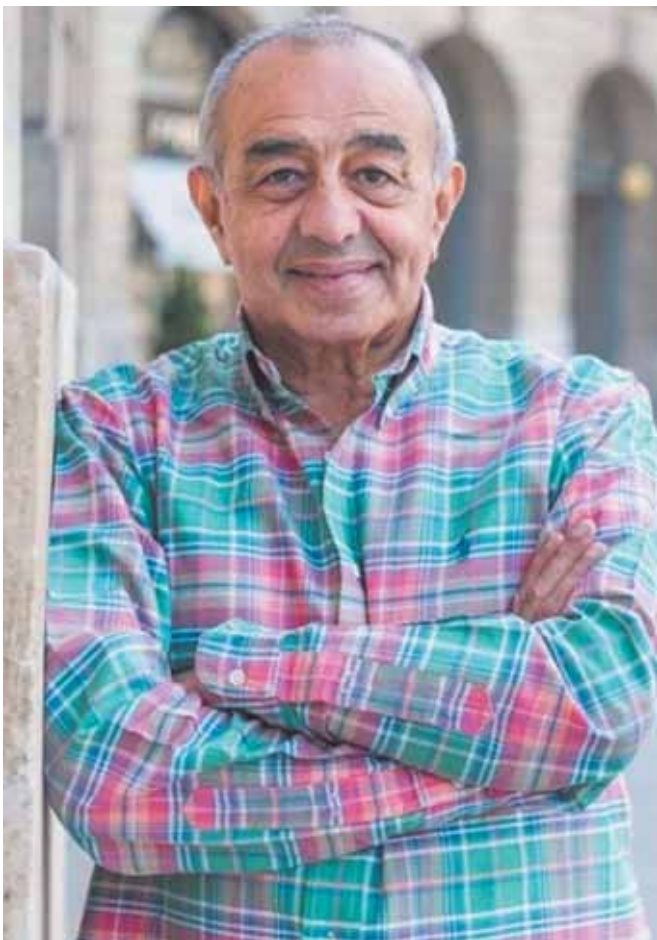
I took these classes when I was already 24. When you are young, your body is supple. I imbibed only those things which my body could accept. So I cannot claim perfection in these dance forms. But yes, all that experience of how these schools' practitioners worked with their bodies and their breath control influenced me deeply. This was a whole new teaching process. I studied many dance forms and ended up using a lot of Balinese movements in my work. People also see the influence of Japanese Butoh dance in my work. All this experience enriched me as an individual.

Mukhabhinay is an important part of your dance technique and that is something which is clearly Indian in origin...

Mukhabhinay is something that is ingrained in me. Don't forget that I learnt Kathak and Kathakali for 16 years so it comes naturally. I use it a lot but not all the time.

You hitchhiked to the US. What made you do that? How have your travels contributed to your art?

I had studied Indian classical dance, beginning with Kathak. And then my father put the brakes on my lessons. But he had let a boy, and that too a Parsi one, take dancing lessons in the first place. Destiny called again when I watched an American dance company perform in the city. A new dimension opened up where dancers performed as a collective using a defined space. Nothing like that existed in India and my father



didn't have the means to invest in my passion. But I was fired by a spirit of adventure and just set off. I left the country in 1969 on a cargo ship with goats, sheep and other workers who would get off at Dubai or Bahrain. Eventually, the voyage ended at Khorramshahr in Iran. I hitchhiked across Europe as it was a part of the youth culture then. Nobody thought anything about travelling with strangers.

I also travelled to Canada and Japan. Monuments and places that I had just read about came to life for me. I travelled the world and explored different cultures for approximately eight years instead. I just hitchhiked, studied, absorbed and learnt. I went to Australia and New Zealand on a cheap budget. These travels have ensured that I look at each day as a gift where I meet more people. I stayed in a youth hostel picking up tips to survive. Recently, a friend's daughter told me that she was so much in awe of my experiences. But now many young people are doing it though in a much different form. It is more hiking rather than hitchhiking.

'I TRAVELLED THE WORLD AND EXPLORED DIFFERENT CULTURES FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT YEARS. I JUST HITCHHIKED, STUDIED, ABSORBED AND LEARNT. I WENT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON A CHEAP BUDGET. THESE TRAVELS HAVE ENSURED THAT I LOOK AT EACH DAY AS A GIFT WHERE I MEET MORE PEOPLE'

Is that why you connect to young people from varied backgrounds? You've also worked with hearing-impaired children and those from the Salaam Baalak Trust...

Yes, I worked with children of the Salaam Baalak Trust and the drummers of Manipur. And here I can point out a difference. When travelling on shows, the Manipur dancers wait for me to take them out while the ones from the trust are survivors and they have the instinct to explore.

I have worked with the deaf after I came across a friend who was working with a deaf theatre company in Kolkata. I was not trained to work with them but learnt on the job. After a three-week workshop, it was possible to create an entire experience with them able to express themselves. I learnt so much from them like lip-reading and sign language. I use myself as a catalyst and then mentor and nurture them. They became confident and were role models.

Earlier, the ones from the Trust performed on Bollywood songs and were applauded. After working with me, they got recognition as people came up to speak with them and applauded them. They were excited because there was a sense of achievement as they saw their photos in the newspapers as well. I am not doing this for my glorification but rather to demonstrate what can be done with hard work and perseverance.

While dancers half your age follow the set patterns, you keep extending your boundaries... What keeps you young?

(Guffaws) I still, by God's grace, can dance at my age and the response, which one gets from the public is an incentive. And I personally feel that I still can so why should I stop? I keep pushing myself physically and creatively. I have been working for 14 years in Manipur. Earlier, it was with the martial artists and now it is with the drummers. The performance that is put up now is all very organic while keeping their tradition intact. I do feel tradition is very important and it gives you grounding. When you have a strong foundation, then you can grow and are open to absorbing and looking at things with an eye that is impartial. *Lekin chahat honi chahiye* (But you should have the desire). Otherwise you are wasting your time and also that of the person who wants you to be a part of the

project.

Your choice of venues have been eclectic to say the least, for instance, The Great Wall of China, amid artefacts in a museum and more...

People are used to watching a performance in a theatre. But when I select a space, it has to speak to me. For example, at Triveni, I will have people sitting on the stage while the performance takes place on the steps. But some performances work better in an enclosed environment.

With the advent of digital, how do you see performing arts changing?

Overseas, there is a lot of audio-visual work happening in production. But I feel when you come to see a performance, you want to do just that.

How much of practice did it take to mould yourself like dough during *Chewing Gum*?

I am very impressed that you've done your homework. A lot of time people come to me and say, *Bataiye aap kya kar rahein hain* (What are you doing)? It was a stretch fabric that I used. It was a small box and I sat inside it. The way children chew gum and take it out, that's the way it was performed. It was a short interlude. People still ask me if I do it.

Can artistes afford to be political, especially through their work?

Yes. The four quotes of Mahatma Gandhi that I have used for my present work reflect it. When I started, the protests against CAA had not picked up but now they are so much more relevant. The first quote is, 'It is very easy to be a part of the crowd. It takes courage to stand alone.' And that is what citizens have done, the way they have rallied together.

The second one is, 'I have been very disappointed with educated people and how they have reacted.' While Mahatma Gandhi was talking about how educated people did not shun khadi, today, it is a reference to people who are saying, 'I am pro-CAA,' which is disappointing. When I attended protest rallies or put up a status on Facebook, someone told me, 'I wouldn't be affected so I shouldn't react.' But I am looking at the larger picture. Earlier, all of us lived, worked, spoke and stood up for each other. Why not, now?

Had to redo script of *Coolie No. 1*: David

The film of the 1990s, *Coolie No. 1* has been revamped with a modern-day twist. Director David Dhawan shares his thought and experience behind re-making the film with Varun Dhawan and Sara Ali Khan.

"It's my film that I made 25 years ago and the thought of a remake had never come. I had to do something with Varun, and I was thinking what to do. When I asked Varun if he liked this film, he saw it and didn't answer. He later got a little convinced as it was a very difficult film for him because we have one of the best actor playing the lead role — Govinda — and there's no comparison. At the same time, Vashu ji said let's do a remake of the film. And that was also the first film that Vashu and I had done. So that's how the idea came about," he says.

Talking about the script, the director says, "When I started to work on the film/ script, I had to redo everything."

The makers have also released peppy tracks back to back, first *Teri*



Bhabhi followed by *Husn Hai Suhana*, which have made it to everyone's party playlists once again.

Adding onto the Christmas cheer, Amazon Prime Video brings the World Premiere of Dhawan's 45th film.

The film is produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh. It also stars Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, Javed Jaffrey and Johnny Lever.

On other front, Varun recently tested positive for COVID-19.



Splitsvilla X3, with an exotic location, drama, fun, romance, and spice. And to top it all, the charming duo Rannvijay Singha and Sunny Leone will be back as hosts for the seventh time over and up the ante with the virtual auditions.

Rannvijay said, "This year has been a complete roller coaster for us. While safety

is of prime importance, there's no way the entertainment quotient can spiral down. This is one show which lets you explore the possibilities of love and relationships in the most candid way and the online auditions is sure to add up to the fun. Digital is the new normal and we're here to kickstart the season in a different yet fresh avatar. Looking forward to fans pouring in their love for the show."

Sunny Leone said, "Every season, the journey of Splitsvilla unfolds in a refreshingly different way for me. Not only do I meet new people, I get to experience and work around newer themes and formats. This year is no different, despite the challenges. With digital becoming the way of life, the live auditions are a first for me and I am really excited to be a part of this format. The auditions are sure to double up the fun and I'm looking forward to interact with some interesting people in the process."

(The virtual auditions will be held on December 12 & 13 and then December 19 & 20 on the official MTV pages on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and VOOT.)



Define the future

Every adversity has a silver lining. For COVID, it's the consciousness about healthy diets that has emerged among people. Chef Karann Talwar talks about the forthcoming trends in the food industry post-pandemic

As the world grapples with the massive impact of the global pandemic, daily interactions with the external world — retail and other public spaces, restaurants, offices, educational institutions, and even with each other has been effectively reoriented to prioritise personal hygiene and public safety. No one can predict how events will unfold in the foreseeable future. As a result, our sensibilities are moving towards and causing major changes in how the food industry is expected to function. Industry stakeholders are, hence, gearing up for the new normal. Following the new health guidelines, countries around the world have started to implement a number of policy measures to curb the spread of the disease. And there are certain

new trends that are likely to gain ground in the post-COVID era. These are:

Omnichannel eating

In the wake of the pandemic, people have adopted a new approach towards the food they cherish. Consumers now eat whatever they please — whenever and wherever they want to. Conventional hospitality has taken a backseat as people become adept at and continue to hone their own culinary skills staying at home. They aren't beholden to the services of restaurants if they feel like having a burger or pizza. They know they can turn to their own kitchen for the purpose. Rise of home-based cooking is scaling up the use of available meal kits or starters and healthier ingredients, resulting in new gourmet



Sustainability and Vegan Foods

With the pandemic taking the world by storm, vegan food picked up steam amongst many. People became more conscious about the food that they eat, wanting to consume things that were grown in a sustainable way — without harming animals and earth at large. Consequently, the market for 'vegan-only' brands is growing by leaps and bounds. Many SMEs have also arisen in the product space across the nation promoting plant-based products, foods and more.

Less intake of sugar

The pandemic upended our lifestyles completely. In order to deal with the accompanying stress, rising uncertainty, inconsistent routines and lower activity levels, many gravitated towards comfort food, leading to unhealthy lifestyles. As a result, most of them are now re-engineering their diets to reduce the intake of sugar, in turn augmenting the demand for sugar substitutes and new technologies in sugar reduction landscape.

Every adversity has a silver lining to it. For COVID-19, it's the consciousness that has emerged amongst people about switching to healthy diets and living an environmentally sustainable life. Indoor indulgent gourmet experience will be the new norm. And this trend is expected to only rise further.

(The writer is Managing Director and the Gastronomie Chef, Kitchen Kraft Luxury Catering.)

attention it truly deserves, not just on weekends but every day. There's a whole new bunch of innovative products catering to people for what they eat in the morning. With newer and healthier options available, it has become easier to work from home as well as stay healthy.

Snacking Through the Day

With life getting busier by the day, people are slowly doing away with the standard 3-meal-a-day routine. Instead, people have now developed a habit of either eating small meals at regular intervals or snacking throughout the day. This gives them the much-needed breaks in between work. Also, many have switched to nibbling on healthy and nutritious snacks rather than savoury items that they used to eat earlier.

experiences.

Immunity boosting food

As the pandemic dug its claws deeper, raw turmeric was picked up, gut health became important, variety of cakes were baked and Dalgona was stirred. But a greater buzz was created by foods meant for boosting health, one of the many favourable outcomes of COVID-19. Reports show that almost 31 per cent consumers are purchasing more items with health benefits, and 50 per cent indicated a preference for foods and beverages that contain nourishing ingredients for strengthening immunity.

Lip-Smacking Breakfast

As more people work from home, the most vital meal of the day — breakfast — is getting the

An essential ingredient

As baking season ramps up, here's a primer on vanilla extracts, pastes and powders, including single-origin vanillas, which have specific uses depending on where they come from

I used to take vanilla for granted.

Then, I was making chocolate chip cookies one day and ran out of vanilla extract. So I left it out. It was like leaving salt out of the recipe. The cookies lacked the round, full flavors they usually had. I realized vanilla was the foundation of all my favorite baked goods.

Vanilla is an essential ingredient like salt, and its usual supporting role is to enhance and bring out the featured flavour. Whether it's part of the supporting cast or the star, however, it is important to use the best quality vanilla you can find.

As baking season ramps up, here's a primer on vanilla extracts, pastes and powders, including single-origin vanillas, which have specific uses depending on where they come from.

Although the word 'vanilla' can carry a 'plain Jane' vibe, vanilla is anything but plain. Cultivating and growing vanilla beans is complex, and vanilla is the second most expensive spice after saffron. But you use so little of it per recipe that the cost of even the highest-quality vanilla in a batch of cookies, say, is nominal, and a small price to pay for maximizing flavor.

Vanilla planifolia originated in Mexico and was brought to Madagascar, Indonesia, Uganda and Tahiti, among other places. Today, Madagascar produces the most vanilla beans, and is likely the origin of the vanilla product in your pantry. Making extracts, paste and powder out of the fruit of an orchid is a time- and labor-intensive proposition.

Until recently, I didn't realize how many vanilla options there were. Nielsen Massey, for instance, makes five single-origin extracts, and I wondered if I could taste a difference among them.

Vanilla tastings are generally done by making vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. To save time, however, I decided to taste the vanilla varieties dropped on a white sugar cube instead. And I really could taste the differences.

With the help of Nielsen, I have created a primer here on vanilla and the five single-origins that I tasted. The good news about the paste and powder is you can substitute them 1 for 1. Meaning, if your recipe calls for 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, you can opt for 1 teaspoon of either paste or powder instead.

For everyday cooking and baking, choose your favorite single-origin vanilla, or opt for



the pure vanilla extract.

PURE VANILLA EXTRACT

The pantry staple, it's made from a blend of different origins. Different brands have different blends. Vanilla extract generally has a small amount of sugar in it, in addition to alcohol. The sugar keeps the vanilla suspended in the liquid. You can buy No Sugar Added Vanilla Extract, but it must be shaken before use.

SINGLE-ORIGIN VANILLAS

These, Nielsen says, "shine in their distinct ways, such as high-heat application for Indonesian, chocolate dishes for Ugandan, etc." Varieties include:

Madagascar Bourbon: Deep, smooth, creamy flavor. This is what most people associate with the flavor of vanilla. Best choice for a multi-purpose vanilla.

Mexican: The OG vanilla, spicy, works well with warm autumn spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice. This is the vanilla to pair with fall flavors. Has an affinity to chocolate as well.

Ugandan: Similar to Madagascar vanilla in that it is creamy and sweet, but it has a chocolate note and is good in caramel and citrus dishes.

Indonesian: Indonesia is the second largest grower in the world, and the vanilla has a unique flavor profile that is woody and earthy, with natural smoky notes. It retains its flavor in high heat and is a good choice for a grilling marinade, as well as cookies like biscotti

which are baked twice.

Tahitian: Comes from a slightly different vanilla orchid called the Vanilla tahitensis, and only grows in tropical Tahiti. It is uniquely fruity and floral, and the beans are shorter. This vanilla is delicate and cannot withstand heat well. It has a cherry fruit note and is best in fruit-based desserts, or added to ice cream, cream anglaise and non-cook desserts.

VANILLA BEAN PASTE

Available as a blend and as a single-origin from Madagascar, vanilla bean paste delivers the same flavor and adds the look of the vanilla bean, which is especially appealing in ice cream, cream brulee and other desserts. Beth Nielsen, vice president of culinary for the company, also brushes it on mild fish before grilling. The sugar in the paste caramelizes during cooking and creates a simple glaze.

VANILLA POWDER

The Nielsen-Massey powder is made by encapsulating vanilla extract in a cornstarch base, which dissolves when blended with any wet product. It is sugar- and alcohol-free. It is best used in any dry applications or when you want the taste of vanilla but not the tint of vanilla extract, as in a white cake or white buttercream. I also use it in spice rubs (recipe below) made of dried ingredients, for grilled fruit recipes, for instance. There are other vanilla powders in the marketplace that are ground beans and dark brown in color. —AP

R E C I P E S



PLUM CAKE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Flour: 500 gm
- Butter: 300 gm
- Eggs: 6 gm
- Brown sugar: 300 gm
- Garam masala: 20 gm
- Soaked fruits: 520 gm
- Milk: 120 gm
- Baking powder: 12 gm

METHOD

- Preheat the oven at a temperature of 145 degree celsius.
- Scale the flour, baking powder, spices and mix together.
- Start by mixing the butter and sugar together in the mixer until it looks pale and fluffy.
- Gradually add the eggs and the milk.
- Add in the dry ingredients and soaked fruits and mix well.
- Line the bottom of the cake ring with aluminum foil. Put 800 gm of the plum cake mix and bake at 145 degree celsius for 35 minutes.

Courtesy: Culinary Head Amit Kumar, L'Opéra.



GRILLED FISH

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fish: 160 gm
- Garlic: 20 gm
- Thyme: 6 gm
- Olive oil: 20 ml
- Broccoli: 60 gm
- Asparagus: 30 gm
- Red capsicum: 20 gm
- Mash potato: 100 gm
- Parsley: 6 gm
- Cooking cream: 50 ml
- Salt to taste

THE BRAMBLE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Monkey 47: 45 ml
- Schwarzwald Dry Gin: 25 ml
- Lemon Juice: 15 ml
- Sugar Syrup: 7.5 ml
- Creme de Mure/Creme de Cassis /black currant syrup



METHOD

- Add the Monkey 47 Schwarzwald Dry Gin, lemon juice and sugar syrup into a rocks glass.
- Then add crushed ice. Mix well. Add more crushed ice.
- Float the creme de mure/ cassis/ syrup on top and garnish with fresh blackberries.

Courtesy: Pernod Ricard India.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

WHAT YOU NEED

- Boiling water: 150g
- Rum: 170 gm
- Black currants: 240 gm
- Black raisins: 185 gm
- Sultanas: 185 gm
- Prunes: 150 gm
- Figs: 200 gm
- Brown Sugar: 50 gm
- Red Cherries: 150 gm
- Butter: 250 gm
- Brown Sugar: 300 gm
- Chocolate: 100 gm
- Vanilla extract: 10 gm
- Chopped dates: 150 gm
- Flour: 320 gm
- Cocoa Powder: 20 gm
- Eggs: 180 gm
- Baking Powder: 2 gm



- Cinnamon Powder: 2.5 gm
- Garam Masala: 2.5 gm
- Cardamom Powder: 3 gm

Thyme: 6 gm

METHOD

- Take a fillet and marinate garlic, thyme, salt black pepper and olive oil. Leave it for an hour.

On the other side we have to make mashed potatoes. For that boil potatoes perfectly and then strain it.

Take a saucepan, add oil, garlic, thyme and cook. Then add mashed potatoes, milk and leave it to thicken for four

to five minutes.

On the other side, make sauté vegetable. Blanch broccoli and asparagus.

In a non stick pan heat up oil, add thyme, capsicum and broccoli.

For Sauce

Take a pan, put some garlic, caper and add cream, salt-pepper, parsley and butter. When the sauce is ready, add lemon juice. Then serve it with mash potatoes.

Courtesy: Himanshu Dhondiyal from Sixth Emperica.

figs, brown sugar and rum in a mixing bowl. Stir well to mix, cover and leave for 24 hours to soak.

- After 24 hours, mix the flour, dates, cocoa powder, baking powder, butter, spices and eggs along with the soaked fruit mixture in a large mixing bowl.

- Grease pudding mould with butter. Pour the pudding mixture into the moulds.
- Bake in a double boiler at 140 degree celsius for 60 minutes.

- Once the pudding is cooked, remove from the pan and set aside to cool.

- Cover with cling wrap to keep it soft.

Courtesy: Culinary Head Amit Kumar, L'Opéra.

'Oz depth will be tested in Warner's absence'

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India's nemesis Steve Smith feels that Australian team's batting depth would be hugely tested in absence of injured opener David Warner in the first Test in Adelaide, starting December 17.

The hosts will likely have a new look opening combination in Joe Burns and Marcus Harris following injuries to Warner (groin) and in-form young gun Will Pucovski (concussion).

"Our depth is obviously going to be tested with Davey (Warner) out and few potentially new players coming in. It will test us out no doubt against a good Indian outfit," Smith said in a virtual news conference.

"They beat us out here last time and they're a very good side. It's gonna be a great series and whoever's up there and whoever's in the team hopefully we will do our job and can have a successful summer."

Smith rated the Indian bowling attack highly even though he felt that it's not the "strongest" without senior pro Ishan Sharma, who has been ruled out of the four-match series because of a side strain he sustained during the IPL.

"They are a good (bowling) line-up. They're pretty experi-



Australian batsman Steve Smith and David Warner

AP/File Picture

enced now... Mohd Shami has played a lot of cricket, Bumrah has played a reasonable amount of cricket and a quality bowler.

"In the spin department, whichever spinner they use be it Ashwin, Jadeja or Kuldeep, they've all played a fair bit of cricket now.

"The quicks perhaps haven't played quite as much, whoever they go with them but they're all good bowlers. We're gonna have to be at our best as a batting group this summer, if we're gonna beat them."

On Ishant's absence, he said: "Ishant Sharma is probably a big loss for them at the start, if he's not available... He's obviously played a lot of cricket. Maybe without him, it may not be the strongest. I'm sure they would like him to play."

The series will see Smith's face-off with Indian pace spearhead Bumrah for the first time in longer formats and he said the key against his awkward action is to be watchful all the time.

"I'm not doing anything specific. I think his skill set won't probably change too much. We know how he bowls, he's got a good pace.

"He's got that awkward action, very different to a lot of people. So you've got to be pretty watchful all the time.

Indian skipper Virat Kohli will take paternity leave after the Pink Ball Test to be with his actor wife who is expecting their first child in January.

Asked whether it will be a big advantage for the Aussies, Smith said it's a big loss for India but he credited Kohli for the decision. "No doubt it's a big loss for India, Virat is a world class player. But look, you have got to give some credits to him."

"I know how much he would love to have played here but he's also a human being, and he's got a life outside of cricket and a family that's starting. So credit to him for wanting to be there for the birth of his first child. "We know how much he loves playing here in Australia, how good he is. But like I said, a lot of credits go to him for wanting to go back there."

30K FOR BOXING DAY TEST

The iconic Boxing Day Test between India and Australia is set to be played in front of 30,000 fans per day after the Victorian government eased crowd restrictions on Thursday.

The Boxing Day Test scheduled to be played from December 26 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was earlier restricted to 25 per cent of the total capacity crowd a day.

Madrid clubs find way to advance Real beat M'gladbach to reach last 16; Atleti also progress

AFF ■ MADRID/PARIS

Karim Benzema sent Real Madrid through to the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday alongside their rivals Atletico, while Neymar scored a hat-trick as Paris Saint-Germain beat Istanbul Basaksehir in a match that had been delayed for 24 hours over a racism row.

Real are Europe's most decorated club with 13 European Cups but they needed to beat Borussia Moenchengladbach in Madrid to be sure of making it through the group stage of the Champions League for a 24th straight year.

Benzema was their hero, easing the pressure on coach Zinedine Zidane with two fine back-post headers in the first half securing a 2-0 win in a game played behind closed doors at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium.

The Frenchman also hit the bar in the second half and in the end it was a result that suited both teams, with a 0-0 draw between Inter Milan and Shakhtar Donetsk allowing Real to top Group B and Gladbach, former European Cup runners-up, to go through as runners-up.

Players from the German club gathered around smartphones and laptops after full time in Madrid to follow events in Milan, where a winner for either team would have knocked Gladbach out. They celebrated wildly when their qualification was confirmed.

INTER FAIL AGAIN

Shakhtar go into the Europa League while Inter finish bottom of their group, failing to reach the last 16 for a third season running.

Meanwhile Atletico needed to beat Red Bull Salzburg in Austria to qualify as runners-up in Group A behind Bayern Munich, and did so



PSG and Basaksehir players take knee in support of Black Lives Matter campaign before the start of Champions League group H match on Wednesday

AP

with Mario Hermoso and Yannick Carrasco scoring in a 2-0 victory.

Salzburg now go into the Europa League while reigning European champions Bayern completed the group stage unbeaten as Niklas Sule and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting gave them a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow.

ATALANTA THROUGH

The other team to clinch qualification on Wednesday was Atalanta, whose 1-0 win away to Ajax secured second place in Group D behind Liverpool and a last-16 spot for the second year running.

Luis Muriel scored a late winner for Atalanta in Amsterdam after Ryan Gravenberch was sent off for the hosts, who drop into the Europa League.

Already through, Liverpool were able to give a chance to several younger players in their 1-1 draw with Midtjylland in Denmark, where Mohamed Salah put the 2019 winners ahead early on but Alexander Scholz's penalty gave the hosts an

NEYMAR HAT-TRICK

PSG had wrapped up their qualification for the last 16 on Tuesday thanks to Manchester United's defeat at RB Leipzig, despite their own game being suspended after an unprecedented walkout.

With a new set of officials, the game restarted in the 14th minute on Wednesday and an irresistible Neymar scored a hat-trick while also winning a penalty converted by Kylian Mbappe.

That was Mbappe's first Champions League goal in 12 months, and he scored again later on after Mehmet Topal pulled one back. With their 5-1 victory, PSG go through as group winners.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City made it five wins and a draw in Group D as they eased to a 3-0 victory against Marseille with Ferran Torres and Sergio Aguero getting second-half goals before an Alvaro Gonzalez own goal.

Also already qualified, Porto beat Olympiakos 2-0 in Piraeus courtesy of Otavio's early penalty and a Matheus Uribe goal.

The draw for the last 16 is on Monday.



Ahmedabad to host D/N Test against England

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

International cricket will return to India after a coronavirus-forced break with the marquee series against England in February-March next year and the itinerary unveiled on Thursday features a Day/Night Pink Ball Test at the reconstructed Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Apart from the day-nighter starting February 24, Ahmedabad will also host the fourth and final Test and five T20Is, the BCCI stated unveiling the 52-day tour's detailed schedule.

The two other venues that have been allotted matches as

per BCCI's rotational policy are Chennai, which will be the venue for the first two Test matches (starting February 5), and Pune that will host the three ODIs (March 23 to 28).

"Chennai will also host the second Test while the newly built Sardar Patel Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad will host the remaining two Test matches," stated a press release from the BCCI.

"Motera, the largest cricket stadium in the world, boasts of state of the art facilities and a seating capacity of 110,000...The iconic Test will be followed by the 5-match T20I series, which will also be held in Ahmedabad," it added.

ENGLAND'S TOUR OF INDIA

TEST SERIES

1st Test: 5-9 Feb (Chennai)
2nd Test: 13-17 Feb (Chennai)
3rd Test: 24-28 Feb (Ahmedabad) (D/N)
4th Test: 4-8 March (Ahmedabad)

T20Is

1st T20I: 12 March (Ahmedabad)
2nd T20I: 14 March (Ahmedabad)
3rd T20I: 16 March (Ahmedabad)
4th T20I: 18 March (Ahmedabad)
5th T20I: 20 March (Ahmedabad)

ODIs

1st ODI: 23 March (Pune)
2nd ODI: 26 March (Pune)
3rd ODI: 28 March (Pune)

England team will finish its two World Test Championship engagements in Sri Lanka (Jan 14-18, Jan 22-26) and fly from Colombo to Chennai on Jan 27.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Thursday announced Motera as the venue for the day/night Test during the Gujarat Cricket Association's Indoor Academy inauguration.

The match will be India's second pink ball Test at home after the Bangladesh game at the Eden Gardens last year.

The last leg of the tour will feature ODIs and all three matches will be held in Pune.

Since the England team will be travelling from one bio-bubble to another, it would be

allowed to train during its week-long soft quarantine in Chennai.

There are no practice matches scheduled as of now and it is understood that since England would have already played two Tests in Sri Lanka, they won't require a warm-up game after landing in Chennai.

The Indian squad members are likely to be given a week's break after they are back from Australia and would again undergo RT-PCR Tests before they enter the bio-bubble in Chennai.

It is understood that a successful hosting of England series would pave the way for a good IPL at home after it had to be taken to UAE this year.

Who says Bassists aren't cool

GAVIN PACHECO gave up his job in an IT major to follow his passion and he hasn't regretted it since



Why would you quit a job as a Human Resources manager in an Indian IT major to take up a career as a musician? "Well, if you are not being honest to either your job or your passion, you are short changing both," Gavin Pacheco says. He quit his job a decade ago and has had no regrets since. Describing himself as a 'freelance musician', Gavin has played the bass guitar in several prominent independent bands in India including Faridkot, Desi Roots, The Limited Experience and Gone Fishing and has had a blast doing that. "Nothing beats the experience of playing music in front of a crowd and seeing the audience happy," he says.

So how did he get into music? "People assume that just because I'm Goan I have a musical heritage, and yes, I do. My father played the saxophone. While my introduction to music was through Gospel music, but I'd say, like most kids my age, when I was a teenager I listened to rock music including Guns 'N Roses, Metallica, Van Halen and the like." Yet, many of the bands Gavin plays for, and where he often collaborates in the arranging of music as well as writing the songs, take a lot of inspiration from Indian music and sounds.

Bands such as Desi Roots where the lyrics are in Hindi help the music reach out to a wider audience and have given Gavin and his bands the opportunity to play at concerts and corporate shows across the length and breadth of the country. "My father would have loved it if I got into an IIT. Of course, that didn't happen but I can proudly say that I have played at every IIT."

College shows are the best in his opinion. "And when the audience is singing the chorus along with the band, it is an exhilarating feeling." Sometimes things can take a surprising turn. "We got noticed by a major global clothing brand after one of our shows and they liked our music so much that they took us on as brand ambassadors. This was during demonetisation and things were tough for musicians, so that was really cool", Pacheco continues.

PEOPLE ASSUME THAT JUST BECAUSE I'M GOAN I HAVE A MUSICAL HERITAGE, AND YES, I DO. MY FATHER PLAYED THE SAXOPHONE. WHILE MY INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC WAS THROUGH GOSPEL MUSIC, BUT I'D SAY, LIKE MOST KIDS MY AGE, WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER I LISTENED TO ROCK MUSIC INCLUDING GUNS 'N ROSES, METALLICA, VAN HALEN AND THE LIKE



Gavin's father, Tony Pacheco never did carry on with the saxophone professionally and pursued a career as a very popular teacher at Delhi's St.Columba's school. Gavin is now following in his father's footsteps by becoming a teacher. But not a traditional school teacher rather Gavin became an entrepreneur by establishing 'Your Academy of Music' (YAM) in Gurugram Sector-50, where he teaches the guitar to the next generation of kids. "In fact, we get to learn a lot from these kids. Of course, we become aware of the current trends and sounds in music. And I teach the kids through the bands and artists they listen to rather than shoving things down their throat, or things they may not like. And it is amazing getting to meet these kids every day."



Unfortunately for many musicians, 2020 has been a major bump on road, rather a long and loud feedback noise on the amplifiers. There are few opportunities for live performances, the bread and butter

for most musicians, not just in India but across the world. "Well, let's hope the vaccine gets music back as well as live classes but teaching kids has helped me retain some sanity."

And what about the Kia Sonet and the seven-speaker BOSE audio system in the car? "Well, first, the Intelligent Manual Transmission is a brilliant idea and the sound quality is just amazing for a car at this price. As a musician or anyone who loves listening to music, having a good audio system on a car is a very important thing and we all know the quality of BOSE audio and after hearing this, I would even consider purchasing a car like the Sonet."

Little wonder then that the Kia Sonet is among the best cars launched in 2020. The year might have been a difficult one for many people but on India's roads we have a new champion. It comes loaded with amazing new technology and features that are not found even in cars three times the price forget the ones in its own segment. ■