

OPINION 8
COMBAT
CLIMATE CHANGE**WORLD 11**
US CARRIES OUT RARE EXECUTION
DURING PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION**SPORT 14**
ROHIT CLEARS
FITNESS TEST AT NCA

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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BJP plans massive awareness drive on farm laws

Party to hold 100 press conferences, 718 farmers' meetings in various parts of the country to explain 'correct' implications of new farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With agitating farmers reluctant to accept Government's offer on farm laws and intensifying their stir, the BJP has sought to launch a strong counter-awareness campaign to mobilise support for the new agriculture marketing laws with the public and the farmers outside Punjab and Haryana.

The ruling party's vigorous outreach programme in "next few days" would involve 100 press conferences and 718 farmers meeting in as many districts to explain "correct" implications of the three farm laws to the farmers of the country, sources said.

The BJP leaders would organise "kisan sammelans" in rural "chaupals" to convince the farmers that the new farm laws would give them "unrestricted freedom" to sell and "increase" their income by way of contract farming, said sources in the party.

The new Central farm laws have allowed trade and contract in agricultural produce as also removed restrictions on hoarding by amending essential commodities Act. Farmers are demanding that the Government rollback these law which they say would put farmers at the mercy of corporate traders and their profiteering business.

According to BJP leaders, their "awareness campaign" (on the farm laws) which got thwarted on account of coronavirus pandemic, would be expanded and also involve



Farmers gather in large numbers at Singhu Border during their Delhi Chalo protest march against the Centre's new farm laws in New Delhi on Friday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

farmers outside Punjab and Haryana, the States which, they claim, are "mainly feeding" the current stir on the outskirts of Delhi.

Union and State Cabinet Ministers will take part in the intense communication campaign with documents and "point-by-point" allay farmers' apprehensions on the laws as they would also list out Government's "readiness" to amend the sections which may help neutralising their fears on contract farming.

The farmers wing of the RSS — "Bharatiya Kisan Sangh" (BKS) — is too planning to organise a massive farmer outreach and around "Kisan Chaupals" in different parts of the country to showcase the benefits of the farm laws. "The exercise has already begun in right earnest in rural areas," said one of the BKS leaders.

The BKS has asked all its units to "help farmers in procurement and payment" issues across the country.

The BKS while supporting demand for guaranteeing Minimum Support Price to the farmers has not joined the farmers agitation, citing "politicisation" of the protest.

The BJP is attempting to rope in farmers who are inclined to toe a middle-path" in the ongoing protest and be satisfied with the amendments and guaranteeing the MSP and not be with the "extremists" wanting a complete annulment of the three farm laws, sources said.

Protesters to block Delhi-Jaipur highway today

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

On the 16th day of farmers' protest against the three recently introduced farm laws, farmers stayed put at borders across the national Capital. With farmers sitting at borders across the city, the alternative routes to neighboring Haryana and Uttar Pradesh continued to witness long traffic queues during office hours.

"On December 12, the farmers have decided to block the Delhi-Jaipur Highway and if still the law is not rolled back, the farmers on December 14, will stage sit-in protests in front of Deputy Commissioner's (DC) offices across the country and houses of BJP leaders. We will also block Reliance and Adani toll

plazas. There is no programme to stop trains.

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Alternative routes to/from Haryana, UP witness traffic chaos in national Capital

Children ride a bicycle on Delhi-Meerut Expressway during farmers' Delhi Chalo protest against new farm laws at UP side of the Ghazipur Border of New Delhi on Friday

PTI

Don't allow anti-social elements to hijack your stir: Tomar to farmers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Friday cautioned farmers agitating against the three farm laws not to fall prey to false propaganda and not allow anti-social elements to take advantage of their peaceful agitation.

He said some "anti-social elements" are conspiring to spoil the atmosphere of the peasants' movement under the

guise of farmers and appealed the protesters to be vigilant against their platform being misused.

Tagging a media report about posters coming up at farmers' Tikri Border protest site demanding release of some activists arrested under various charges, Tomar said, "Anti-social elements are conspiring to spoil the atmosphere of the peasant movement under the guise of farmers."

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BKUB approaches SC to challenge Constitutional validity of 3 farm laws

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid continuing protests at Delhi borders against the Centre's three new agri laws, farmers' body Bharatiya Kisan Union Bhanu" (BKUB) has moved the Supreme Court seeking to intervene as a party in a pending plea challenging the constitutional validity the legislations.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Justice SA Bobde, on October 12, had issued a notice

to the Centre by agreeing to test the validity of the laws on the pleas filed by RJD lawmaker from Rajya Sabha, Manoj Jha and DMK Rajya Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu, Tiruchi Siva, and one by Rakesh Vaishnav of Chhattisgarh Kisan Congress.

BKUB, through its Mathura-based president Bhanu Pratap Singh, has sought impleadment as a party in the lead petition filed by DMK

lawmaker Tiruchi Siva.

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Bengal Chief Secy, DGP defy MHA's summons

Top officials were called to report on law & order after attack on Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Friday summoned West Bengal's Chief Secretary and DGP on December 14 for an explanation on the law and order situation in the State.

While the two officials refused to turn up saying the matter was being examined by the State Government, TMC launched scathing attack on the Centre for bypassing the State Government.

Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay and Director General of Police Virendra were asked to present before the Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla to explain the law and order situation based on the report of Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's



BJP workers block a road during a protest against the attack on party national president JP Nadda's convoy in West Bengal, in Kolkata on Friday

PTI

on the attack on BJP president JP Nadda's convoy.

In response to the Home Ministry's letter, Chief Secretary wrote back saying his and DGP's presence in Delhi was avoidable as the matter is "already being examined" by the State Government.

He also wrote, "While fur-

ther reports are being obtained and compiled, in the circumstances, I am directed to request you to kindly dispense with the presence of State officials in the meeting, considering the State Government is already addressing this issue with utmost seriousness."

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Nod for SII vaccine's emergency use in India soon after UK's OK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) may get emergency use nod for Covishield in India as soon as the UK's drug regulator gives go ahead to the vaccine, which officials here expect to be before year end.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said at an event

that in the coming weeks vaccination process will kick-start in India as soon as it is approved by the regulatory agency concerned. Sources said SII might take the lead in getting nod.

Dr Harsh Vardhan was speaking at the inter-ministerial meeting on vaccination of South Asia organised by the

World Bank through video conference.

The sources said the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is currently evaluating data, including which dosing regimen is best to use for the Covid vaccine developed by UK's Oxford and AstraZeneca. "The MHRA approval is

Vaccination process to start in India in a few weeks: Harsh

CIPET training centre to be opened in Ayodhya

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a training centre of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering Technology (CIPET) in Ayodhya for providing vocational training to youth for self-employment. For this, 10,030 acre of land will be transferred free of cost to the MSME department in Ganja village of Ayodhya district.

A decision to this effect was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday.

Two vocational training centres of the CIPET have already been established in the state, one Lucknow and the other in Varanasi, and with this decision, the third centre will now come up in Ayodhya. The CIPET offers graduate, post-graduate and diploma courses in plastic engineering and manufacturing technology and is affiliated to the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University.

Continued on Page 11

Protest against surgery by Ayurveda docs

It is an attempt to corrupt healthcare system, say IMA members, doctors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of doctors on Friday held nationwide strike under the banner of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) opposing the Centre's move to allow postgraduate practitioners of Ayurveda to be trained in performing surgical procedures.

The strike involved the withdrawal of non-Covid and non-essential activities from 6 am to 6 pm.

Last month, the Central Council of Indian Medicine — the regulatory body for the study and practice of Ayurveda



in India — amended the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2016, to include the regulation to permit postgraduate students of Ayurveda to receive training and practice of "shalaya" and

"shalakya". Shalya refers to general surgery, shalakya is related to diseases of the ear, nose, throat, head, eye, and orodentistry. The IMA condemned the move, terming the decision as a "deceptive camouflage of mixing the sys-

tems of medicine."

The Ayush Ministry then issued a statement clarifying that the amendment was specific to 58 surgical procedures only. However, the body of medical practitioners said: "It is nothing but a blatant attempt at mixopathy and khichidification of medical education and practice."

On Friday, doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and various other Government-run hospitals in Delhi and the municipality-run Hindu Rao Hospital performed duties while wearing black armbands and ribbons.

Dr R Sharma, national president of the association, said: "Modern medicine is controlled and research-oriented, we are proud of the heritage and richness of Ayurveda but the two shouldn't be mixed."

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China's bid to change LAC cause of tension: MEA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rebutting Chinese claim that India is responsible for tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), New Delhi on Friday hit back and said the situation worsened due to efforts by Beijing to "unilaterally change" the status of the LAC.

These strong comments by External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava came at a media briefing. He was asked about the fresh comments by the Chinese foreign ministry blaming India again for the border situation in eastern Ladakh.

"Our position has been very clear and has been articulated several times in the past. The situation that we have seen since the last six months has been a result of the actions of the Chinese side which has sought to effect a



unilateral change in status along the LAC in eastern Ladakh," he said.

"These actions are in violation of the bilateral agreements and protocol on ensuring peace and tranquility along the LAC in the India-China border areas," Srivastava added.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Thursday blamed India again for the

border standoff in eastern Ladakh. "We have taken note of the Chinese side's statement that it observes 'strictly the agreements between the two sides and is committed to resolving the border issue through dialogue and safeguarding peace and tranquility' in the border areas. We expect that the Chinese side will match its words with

actions," Srivastava said.

Incidentally, the latest war of words between India and China broke out after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said two days back that relations between the two countries are at worst stage in the last 30 to 40 years. He also said ties with China have "significantly damaged".

Striking a strident note in the backdrop of armies of both the countries locked in face-offs at the 1,700 km long LAC in Ladakh, Jaishankar said the ties were "very significantly damaged" because of Beijing's violation of agreements on maintaining peace and tranquility on the LAC.

He admitted the talks at various levels had so far failed to address the basic issue that "agreements are not being observed."

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Govt to project Purvanchal as investment destination

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is all set to project Purvanchal region of the state as an investment destination to foreign companies which are planning to shift their bases from China to other destinations in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Agriculturally rich, the Purvanchal region is known for its cheap labour. If we now concentrate on the skill development of this labour force then instead of choosing Vietnam and Thailand, the foreign companies will choose Purvanchal as their destination for investment," said Additional Chief Secretary (MSME and Export Promotion) Navneet Sehgal while addressing a national webinar-cum-seminar on 'Sustainable Development of Purvanchal' as the lead speaker on Friday.

The webinar was attended by academicians, bureaucrats, political leaders and technocrats.

"The region is rich in resources such as land and water and now we need to focus on further tapping its traditional art and craft which has been practised here since generations," Sehgal said while stressing that the region had the

Bankers' Meet discusses Purvanchal's development

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bankers' Meet was organised at the Samvad Bhawan on the second day of the mega seminar-cum-webinar on 'Sustainable development: issues, strategies and future direction of Purvanchal' at Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, on Friday in which various bank officials, academicians put forth their opinions on the role of banks in the development of Purvanchal. Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna, who was the chief guest, presented the outline of the work done for the development of Purvanchal. He said that

Purvanchal was steadily moving ahead on the path of development. The senior minister stressed upon the banks to make proportional use of Jan Dhan Vikas Nidhi. He also appealed to the banks to arrange for at least Rs 40,000 crore for the development of Purvanchal.

At the beginning of the session, Additional Chief Secretary (Institutional Finance) Sanjeev Mittal said that bankers had an important contribution in the development of Purvanchal. He said that most of the farmers of Purvanchal were small and marginal and they required small funds for agricultural investment. He requested the bankers to give them

loans according to their need on time.

Purvanchal Development Board advisor Saket Mishra said that the development plans should not just be seen on paper.

The Board co-chairman, Prof Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, welcomed the guests.

Convenor of the Bankers' Meet, Prof Uma Shrivastava, Chairman of Purvanchal Bank, DP Grover, Allahabad Bank's AGM Vinoy Kumar, Indian Bank DGM AK Jha, Bank of Baroda GM Brijesh Kumar Singh, SBI Bhopal's Avandira Sinha were among others who were present.

Purvanchal depends on development of local art and craft, skill training, infrastructure development and putting the ODOP programme on fast track," he added.

Sehgal said that the government had launched the ODOP programme with the aim to identify, promote and tap the potential of the traditional products to give a push to 'local to global'.

"We are making the district action plan for each ODOP product that provides details about the product weakness and improvement needed besides any financial support. Through the district export plan, we identify the products that can be exported," he said.

The additional chief secretary said in order to increase the production and maintain the quality of Kala Namak rice in Siddharthnagar, the government had entered into an agreement with the International Rice Institute for opening its centre in Siddharthnagar for hand holding the farmers.

"It has to be remembered that for sustainable development, we have to tap our own resources as dependency on foreign companies is not good," he said.

Revenue records to be updated from Dec 15

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to launch a two-month-long campaign for updating the land records by entering the names of the successors in the revenue records. The campaign will be launched from December 15 and the government has issued detailed guidelines for it.

The district magistrates and divisional commissioner will conduct fortnightly review of the progress of the campaign and they have been directed to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

Chief Secretary RK Tiwari said here on Friday that regular updating the land records was one of the important works of the Revenue department and it was the responsibility of the department to record new successors in land records.

He said the delay in recording the succession not only deprived the rightful owners of their right but also led to litigation and often illegal occupation of land by land mafia and

anti-social elements. He said this also sometimes created a problem for the law and order. The chief secretary said the process of entering the names of the successors and transferring the title of the land in the name of the buyer of a land would be completed by January 31 next year.

He said by February 1, the district magistrate of each district would obtain a certificate from each lekhpal and revenue inspector that no case of succession and name transfer was pending in the village under their charge. He said by February 20 the updated data would be fed on the official website.



NOTICE
I, Suresh Chandra Singh would like to inform the general public that I have lost my original registry allotment paper and possession paper of my plot 2/53, Vishwas Khand-2, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow on dated 08.12.2020. If anyone find it, kindly contact me at 8604626065

NOTICE
I Virandra Kumar Chaudhary father of Rudra Chaudhary have mentioned my and my wife name Sarla Chaudhary in my word's School Records. Her correct name is Sarla Devi and my Correct name is Vijendra Kumar in all documents for all purposes.

NOTICE
I Army no-15700331 A bhabtosh sen S/O sudhir kumar sen to declare that my service record my wife name is shilla sen. Her correct name is shilla das sen in future all porpouse. Bhabatosh sen s/o sudhir kumar sen R/o sukanta nagar post SBC nagar belonia south tirpura -799155

OBITUARY
OBITUARY
NB SUB GOPALA KRISHNAN P
04 MAR 1982 - 25 NOV 2020
ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEHEAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NB SUB GOPALA KRISHNAN P WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 327 FIELD HOSPITAL.
FROM: MAJ GEN NAVEEN AGGARWAL AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

आवश्यकता है
सिद्धि नारायण निगमि कावेज ऑफ एजुकेशन एण्ड टेक्नालाजी
सोनी-रमनाथपुर, हुनमनगंज, प्रयागराज, मो. 09451762033, 09889198472
आवश्यकता है
D.E.I.E.D.(B.T.C.) पाठ्यक्रम हेतु प्रवक्तामण की राष्ट्रीय अक्याक शिक्षा परिषद अधिनियम 2014 के अनुसार अर्हता धारी सुयोग्य अम्त्यगिओं की D.E.I.E.D.(B.T.C.) पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवक्ता कार्यालय अधीनक, कम्प्यूटर अपारेटर, कम्प्यूटर लेव असिस्टेंट एवं मुस्तकालयाक्या पद पर रजिस्टर्ड डाक/सीडी पोस्ट/दस्ती माध्यम से आवेदन दिनांक 07/01/2021 तक आमन्त्रित है। पदों पर चयन हेतु साक्षात्कार दिनांक 10.01.2021 को प्रातः 10 बजे विशालय परिसर में सम्पन्न होगे।
अर्हता, वेतनमान एवं आवास-
राजस्थान अधिनियम 2014/उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य शैक्षिक अनुसंधान प्रशिक्षण विभाग/उपरोक्त सरकार के स्वविधायक योजनानुसार। विस्तृत विवरण हेतु www.sntcollege.in का अवलोकन करें।
प्रबन्धक

Over 20 lakh farmers to get free vegetable seeds

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to promote horticulture, vegetable and fruit farming in the Purvanchal region as it is very effective in doubling the income of farmers of this region, the Yogi Adityanath government will be giving vegetable seeds free of cost to over 20 lakh farmers.

Agriculture and Research Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said that horticulture had immense potential in Purvanchal.

"In this region, while cereals are ready in six months, vegetables take 2-3 months to reap. Farmers should be made aware of such technology so that they can earn maximum income from horticulture," he said.

Shahi, who was speaking in the technical session of the primary sector on the second day of the national webinar-cum-seminar on 'Sustainable Development: Issues, Strategies and Future Direction of Purvanchal' organised under the joint aegis of Planning department and Gorakhpur University on the Gorakhpur University campus on Friday.

The energy minister said that four of the sub-stations to

Farmers to 'produce' electricity

Lucknow (PNS): Farmers will now 'produce' electricity along with crops using alternative or renewable sources of energy as they can set up solar power plants on barren or wastelands and sell the remaining electricity after their consumption to the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation.

UP's Energy Shrikant Sharma said this while chairing the fifth technical session of the manufacturing sector on the second day of the national webinar-cum-seminar on 'Sustainable Development: Issues, Strategies and Future Direction of Purvanchal' organised under the joint aegis of Planning department and Gorakhpur University on the Gorakhpur University campus on Friday.

The energy minister said that four of the sub-stations to

be built to buy power generated by farmers under the PM Kusum Scheme in the field of renewable energy would be installed in Purvanchal.

Apart from this, out of 8,000 solar irrigation pumps of the state, 2,882 have been given to Purvanchal, he added.

"The rapid development of Purvanchal is important for the overall development of the state because without the development of Purvanchal, the development of Uttar Pradesh is incomplete," Sharma said.

"There is a great need for uninterrupted power for sustainable development. In this context, the renewable energy sector currently contributes 6 percent to the energy sector, which the chief minister has targeted to increase to 20 percent by 2021," he said.

The energy minister said that in the past when the transformer developed a snag in the village, the villagers had to make donations to get it fixed but today the dedicated team was activated as soon as it received the information. "On getting connections of more than 20 kilowatts, the executive engineers themselves arrive at the connection taker's place with a box of sweets.

In this session, Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited Chairman Arvind Kumar and Purvanchal Power Distribution Corporation Limited MD Saroj Kumar discussed the departmental plans and achievements.

Environmentalist of West Chester Pennsylvania, senior advisor Dr Rajesh Singh, Climate Change Prof PK Ghosh were also present.

SP dharna on December 14

Lucknow (PNS): The Samajwadi Party has directed its cadre and leaders to stage dharna on December 14 in support of the farmers protesting against the three agriculture laws in the national capital region. SP president Akhilesh Yadav said here on Friday that the kisan yatra organised by the party continued for the fifth consecutive day in various districts without any obstructions on Friday. The SP chief said that numerous Samajwadi Party workers took out kisan yatras in various areas of their districts on foot, bicycles, motorcycles and bullock carts and apart from making the people aware about the party's policies, also assured support to the demands of the farmers.

More Crop' scheme. Such equipment saves water and also increases the production of crops," Shahi said.

Two mango packaging houses have been constructed in Amroha and Varanasi at a cost of Rs 9.90 crore each. During the coronavirus times, about 2,000 quintal mangoes have been exported from this region.

"Dussehri mangoes have been the identity of UP and its quality can further be enhanced. By improving the quality of the 'Gaurjit' mangoes of Gorakhpur and Basti, its exports can be increased and they can give a tough compe-

tion to Alphonso mangoes," he explained.

Additional Chief Secretary (agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi said that most of the lakhs of the migrants who returned during the coronavirus pandemic were from Purvanchal and a majority of them were given work in the agriculture sector.

"New agricultural policies can be formalised by doing a SWAT analysis of the agriculture sector. Ample human resource is available in the sector in Purvanchal besides abundant water and improved road connectivity is our strength," he said.

Clash leaves one dead, five injured in Deoria

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Retired policeman and his henchmen brutally thrashed a 65-year-old man to death with sticks and injured five other family members after the victim objected to digging ground adjacent to the boundary wall of his house.

The clash between the two groups took place in Bagha village of Deoria, police said on Friday.

According to reports, the incident took place on Thursday when Harishankar Gupta objected to his neighbour Ramayan Bari, a retired policeman, digging near his boundary wall.

Police said agitated with the objection, Bari called his henchmen and they attacked Gupta with lathis, injuring him. Five others who tried to rescue Gupta from his attackers were also hurt, police said.

Gupta later succumbed to his injuries soon after he was admitted to hospital along with other injured persons.

Annoyed with the clash and death of a local resident, the people of the locality staged a protest on Mayel-Baratha

road, disrupting traffic for hours on Thursday. They demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

Later senior officers reached the spot and pacified the protesters by assuring stern action against the culprits.

The body was sent for post-mortem. A police force was deployed in the village to avert any untoward incident and senior officers visited the village.

Superintendent of Police Sripati Misra said a case had been lodged against 11 people, out of which four were named and some had been arrested.

Meanwhile in Budaun, two children were killed and two others injured when a sound system installed on a tractor-trolley fell on them in Basai village, police said on Friday.

The incident took place on Thursday night when a 'shobha yatra' was being taken out during which the tractor-trolley rammed into a raised structure outside a house and the box fell on the children dancing before it, police said on Friday.

Four children were injured

and rushed to a hospital where the doctors pronounced a 10-year-old dead, the police said, adding that when three others were sent to Bareilly for treatment, a nine-year-old succumbed to injuries.

SP (Rural) Siddhart Verma said permission was not taken for the 'shobha yatra' and police came to know of it only after the incident.

"Investigations are on and strict action will be taken against those found responsible for it," he said.

In Meerut, a 21-year-old youth, Ajay, resident of Rohta Road under the TP Nagar police station, poured kerosene over his clothes and set himself ablaze to commit suicide on Thursday night.

The family members and local residents rushed to his rescue and somehow doused the fire but by then he had sustained more than 80 percent burns. Ajay was shifted to hospital where he reportedly claimed family problem over which he tried to commit suicide.

The police recorded his statement before a magistrate. Investigations are on.

Priyanka Gandhi to tour UP to strengthen party

Lucknow (PNS): Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is trying to strengthen the party in the rural areas, could launch a large-scale contact campaign from next month. She wants to create an atmosphere in favour of the party through organisation strengthening drive before the panchayat elections, scheduled in the beginning of next year in Uttar Pradesh. Party sources on Friday said that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra could camp in Uttar Pradesh in the second fortnight of January. She will tour the areas division-wise under her contact campaign and apart from holding meetings with the workers and office-bearers of that areas from 10 am to 5 pm to ascertain the grievances of the villagers, she will review the party's situation in the area. Sources said that the Congress general secretary would communicate with the villagers at chaupals in the designated area between 6 pm and 10 pm and have dinner at the house of any common worker or an ordinary villager.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-II JAL SADAN: LAJPAT NAGAR: NEW DELHI-110024

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"				
NIT No. 33/S-II/2020-21 Press Tender				
S. No.	Name of Work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by replacement of old damaged peripheral sewer line by using pipe bursting technology infront of D-Block Jangpura Extension along Railway line under EE(S) II (AC-42 Kasturba Nagar)	Item rate	2020_DJB_197374_3 10.12.2020	24.12.2020 upto 2:00 PM
Further details in this regard can be seen at govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in				SD/ (S.Ghuam Sajjad)
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 252/2020-21				EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW)-II

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda Possession Notice

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Branch : ROSARB, Kanpur

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date
1.	Borrower : M/s Rathil Industries, Address : 562-C, Rail Bazar, Kanpur. Proprietor : Shri Abhishek Rathil S/o Shri Satya Narain Rathil, R/o : 28/123, Sirki Mohal, Kanpur. Guarantor : Smt. Chandrakanta Jain W/o Shri Hari Shankar Jain, R/o : A-73, Chandra Nagar, Lal Bangla, Kanpur. Demand Notice Date : 10-05-2019 • Date of Constructive Possession : 08.12.2020 Description of Immovable Property : Residential plot situated at plot no. 3/23, Block-F, Scheme No. 40, Panki, Kanpur in the Name of Smt. Chandrakanta Jain W/o Shri Hari Shankar Jain. Area : 450 Sq. Yrd, Bounded-North : Plot No. 3/25, South : 40 Ft. Road, East : Plot No. 3/22, West : Plot No. 3/24. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 18,94,300.88 + Intt. +Others Charges
2.	Borrower : M/s Laxmi Narayan Trading Company, Proprietor : Shri Shatrughan Gupta S/o Shri Kedhar Nath Gupta. Office & R/o : Poora Nadiha, Uttaripura, Shanti Nagar, Shivrajpur, Kanpur. Guarantor : (1) Shri Santosh Kumar S/o Shri Kedhar Nath, R/o : 1109, Village Poora, Tehsil Bilhaur, Kanpur Nagar. (2) Smt. Ranjana Gupta W/o Shri Shatrughan Gupta, R/o : Poora Nadiha Road, Uttaripura, Shanti Nagar, Shivrajpur, Kanpur Nagar. Demand Notice Date : 31-07-2020 • Date of Constructive Possession : 10.12.2020 Description of Immovable Property : Land & Building having Plot Part of Arazi No. 1109, Village Poora, Tehsil Bilhaur, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Ranjana Gupta W/o Shri Shatrughan Gupta. Area : 0.0340 Hectare, Bounded-North : Plot of Pradeep Pandey, South : Land of Purchaser, East : Land of Basant Lal Rathore, West : Kachha Rasta 12 Ft. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 45,95,181.11 + Intt. +Others Charges
3.	Borrower : Shree Balaji Enterprises, Address : Arazi No. 368, Khazuri, Bilhaur, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Proprietor : Shri Awdhesh Katiyar S/o Shri Ram Autar Katiyar, R/o : 18/44, Azad Nagar, Bilhaur, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor : Smt. Rajeshwari W/o Shri Ram Autar Katiyar & Smt. Uma Devi W/o Shri Awdhesh Kumar Both R/o : 18/44, Azad Nagar (Ashiq Bag), Bilhaur, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Demand Notice Date : 18-02-2020 • Date of Constructive Possession : 10.12.2020 Description of Immovable Property : (1) Land & Building having Non-Agricultural Land part of bearing gata no. 368 located at Village Khazuri, Tehsil Bilhaur, Distt. Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Uma Devi W/o Shri Awdhesh Kumar. Area : 0.141 Hectare, Bounded-North : Part of Land Gata No. 368 Mi. Owned by Ram Autar, South : Link Road Khazuri Khurd, East : Agriculture Land Gata No. 367, West : Agriculture Land Gata No. 370. Description of Immovable Property : (2) Residential Property situated at 18/44, Azad Nagar (Ashiq Bag), Bilhaur, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. in the name of Smt. Rajeshwari W/o Shri Ram Autar Katiyar. Area : 165.33 Sq. Mtr. Bounded-North : House of Vinod Kumar, South : 10 Ft. Wide Road, East : House of Ramnath Verma, West: House of Girija Shanker Tiwari. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 76,50,365.71 + Intt. +Others Charges
Date : 12-12-2020 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer	

225 more test positive for coronavirus, 252 recover

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 225 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Friday while 252 patients recovered. City's death toll stands at 1,043 while there are 3,141 active cases. The fresh cases included 19 from from Gomtinagar, 22 from Indiranagar, 18 from Alambagh 17 from Chowk, 14 from Rae Bareilly road, 11 from Mahanagar, and 10 each from Aliganj & Talkatora. Across the state, 1,613 persons tested positive, including 32 in Kanpur, 96 in Ghaziabad, 100 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 104 in Varanasi and 146 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,62,722. There were 17 deaths in the state, including four in Varanasi, two each in Lucknow & Rae Bareilly, and one each in Kanpur, Prayagraj, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Maharajganj, Gonda, Hapur & Bijnor, taking the toll to 8,025. Besides, 1,875 patients recovered, taking the number of recoveries to 5,34,224. There are still 20,473 active cases in the state.

Meanwhile, security arrangements are being made at the Covid-19 vaccine storage points and for transport in the



district. According to district immunisation officer MK Singh, the vaccine will be transported to the storage points with the help of district administration. He said the security arrangements are being made to prevent theft at the storage points and during transportation and that's why the help of district administration and police is being sought. Singh said before the vaccination is carried out, slips with information regarding timing and place for vaccination will be sent to homes of beneficiaries. "The beneficiaries will be given certificates of Covid vaccination and messages will also be sent to them on their mobile phones," he

added. On whether Lucknow will be the hub of vaccination for the state, he said they will have a meeting in this regard with the Director General of Medical Health shortly. Singh said the preparations are in full swing. However, he added that he is not aware whether or not the vaccines will be available commercially. President of People's Health Organisation Dr Ishwar Gilada said that two doses of the vaccine would give the immunity for a year. "The government has to decide who to vaccinate first and in which order. For achieving herd immunity, at least 60% of the population must have developed antibodies. If the vaccine is 90% successful, we need to vaccinate 70% of the population. Hopefully before the end of this year, we will have the Covid-19 vaccine in India for healthcare providers and other frontline workers. Once the process of vaccination starts in India, there will be several challenges such as management of cold chains, syringes/needles & vaccinators, adverse effect management clinics and whether or not to vaccinate those already infected," he said.

Samsung to get spl incentives

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to give special incentives to Samsung Display Noida Private Limited for setting up a manufacturing unit of mobile and IT display products. This is the first hi-tech project of South Korea's multi-national major that is being set up in India after relocating from China. With this the country will become third in the world to have such a unit. A decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of the UP Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Friday. Samsung intends to invest Rs 4,825 crore. "This could be made possible by the sustained efforts of the UP government to create an ecosystem in the National Capital Region in sync with the intent of the Centre to develop an export hub in view of the ever-increasing demand of mobile phones and other gadgets in the country and abroad," an official spokesman said. During the last financial year, Samsung, with 2.7 billion dollar of export, was the largest exporter of Uttar Pradesh. It

has set an export target of 50 billion dollars during the next five years. As per the UP Electronics Manufacturing Policy-2017, Samsung will get stamp duty exemption in transfer of land. The state government will have to make financial provision of Rs 250 crore for this project during five years. The company will also receive financial incentive to the tune of Rs 460 crore under the Government of India's scheme for promotion of manufacturing electronic components and semiconductors (SPECS). It is to be mentioned that more than 70 percent of the total display products used in TVs, mobile phones, tablets, watches in the world are manufactured by Samsung in South Korea, Vietnam and China. "The project will provide the state of UP, a global identity of an export hub and will help the state in receiving more foreign direct investment (FDI)," the spokesman said. The Samsung manufacturing unit has been projected to generate direct employment for 510 persons besides giving indirect employment for hundreds.

Dense fog increases chill



An elderly woman sits near a bonfire on a cold evening in Lucknow on Friday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Dense fog enveloped the state capital on Friday morning with the visibility being less than 50 meters at 7 am. The weatherman has forecast similar conditions on Saturday too. Met director JP Gupta said no winds blowing and moisture in the air result-

ed in dense fog. "Dense fog will be there on Saturday as well but the presence of a western disturbance is likely to cause rains in eastern parts of the state," he said. The chill increased as the minimum temperature was recorded at 13.7 degree Celsius, which was four notches below normal. The

maximum temperature settled at 20.1 degree Celsius, which was 5.5 degrees below normal. The forecast for Lucknow is shallow to moderate fog in the morning and mainly clear sky thereafter. The maximum and minimum temperature is likely to be 22 degree Celsius and 13 degree Celsius, respectively.

Two killed, two hurt in separate road mishaps

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two persons were killed and two others injured in separate road mishaps in Lucknow in the last 24 hours. The deceased were identified as Rauf Khan and Bharat Bhushan while one of the injured as Alok Kumar. In the first incident reported from Faizabad road under Chinhat police station on Thursday night, truck driver Rauf Khan, along with assistant Bharat Bhushan, was going to Haryana to unload paddy. Around 11 pm, the truck developed some technical snag opposite Satya Tirath Ashram. Rauf and Bhushan got down from the truck to mend the snag and in the meantime, another truck rammed into their vehicle, leaving the duo injured. The errant drive sped off the scene. Passersby informed police after which Rauf and Bhushan were rushed to the community health centre where Rauf succumbed to injuries. Bhushan was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre where he also succumbed on Friday afternoon. Another truck driver Alok Kumar, a resident of Kanpur, sustained injuries when his vehicle laden with maurang overturned near Smriti Vatika on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. The driver was carrying the material from Hamirpur to Vikas Nagar. Alok was taken to KGMU Trauma Centre with the help of locals and his condition was said to be okay. Meanwhile, a car overturned at Shaheed Path in Gomti Nagar Extension around at 10 pm on Thursday. Eyewitnesses said the driver quietly fled the scene abandoning the vehicle even as traffic remained disrupted for almost three hours. An eyewitness said the driver sustained injuries and he was profusely bleeding. The police said they were trying to ascertain the identity of the person who fled the scene.

SUICIDE

A youth, identified as Ankur Singh (24) of Prem Vihar in Ahmedganj (Thakurganj), was found hanging at his house on Friday. However, no suicide note was recovered from the scene. Elder brother Shiv Sharan told police that Ankur was depressed over being jobless despite much efforts. Unemployment may have forced him to take the extreme step. The police said Ankur was preparing for a competitive examination. He went to his room after having dinner with his family. He was found hanging from the ceiling around 10:30 am.

LDA board postpones e-auction of vacant residential plots

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow Development Authority postponed the proposal for e-auction of vacant residential plots under various schemes and issued directions for its revision. This and several other decisions were taken at the LDA board meeting on Friday. The meeting, presided over by Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar, was attended by DM Abhishek Prakash, who is also the LDA vice-chairman, Municipal Commissioner Ajay Dwivedi and ADM (East) KP Singh. Besides, the board decided that the ownership of parkings will remain with LDA but operations and maintenance will be transferred to Nagar Nigam. The board also issued directions that except for the parkings located in LDA parks, the maintenance and operations of others will be transferred to Nagar Nigam. The board also approved conversion of the use of land in Vinamra Khand and Vishesh Khand under Gomti Nagar Yojana for power sub-station. Regarding the construction of night shelter in Aishbagh industrial area, for which LDA had to procure the construction cost from Nagar Nigam and then transfer the same to it for maintenance, the municipal commissioner apprised the board of the land available at Durgapuri which could be used for the purpose. The board gave directions for survey of the land. The board also approved transfer of nazul land near Koneshwar crossing from the Home department to LDA for construction of multi-level parkings and other commercial activities. The board also gave directions for referring the matter to the state government.



उत्तर प्रदेश के 12 जनपदों में

राजस्व विभाग के अन्तर्गत निर्मित आवासीय/अनावासीय भवनों का लोकार्पण

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा
(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

जनरल (से.नि.) डॉ. वी.के. सिंह राज्यमंत्री, सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग भारत सरकार	स्वामी प्रसाद मौर्य मंत्री, श्रम एवं सेवायोजन व समन्वय उत्तर प्रदेश	सुरेश राणा मंत्री, चीनी उद्योग एवं गन्ना विकास उत्तर प्रदेश	भूपेन्द्र सिंह चौधरी मंत्री, पंचायती राज उत्तर प्रदेश			
राम नरेश अग्निहोत्री मंत्री, आबकारी एवं मद्यनिषेध उत्तर प्रदेश	विजय कुमार कश्यप राज्यमंत्री, राजस्व एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण, उत्तर प्रदेश	हरनाथ सिंह यादव सांसद, राज्यसभा	देवेन्द्र सिंह 'भोले' सांसद, अकबरपुर	प्रदीप चौधरी सांसद, कैराना	धर्मेन्द्र कश्यप सांसद, आंबला	
डॉ. संघमित्रा मौर्या सांसद, बदायूं	रेखा अरुण वर्मा सांसद, धौरहरा	राजवीर सिंह सांसद, एटा	विजय कुमार दूबे सांसद, कुशीनगर	डॉ. राम शंकर कठेरिया सांसद, इटावा	डॉ. जयपाल सिंह 'व्यस्त' सदस्य, विधान परिषद	
प्रतिभा शुक्ला विधायक, अकबरपुर रनिया	सौरभ सिंह 'सोनू' विधायक, कस्ता	राजीव कुमार सिंह विधायक, दातागंज	पं. राधा कृष्ण शर्मा विधायक, बिल्सी	शशांक त्रिवेदी विधायक, महोली	देवेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह विधायक, अमापुर	देवेन्द्र सिंह राजपूत विधायक, कासगंज
ममतेश शाक्य विधायक, पटियाली	रितेश गुप्ता विधायक, नगर मुरादाबाद	पवन केडिया विधायक, हाटा	रमेश चन्द्र दिवाकर विधायक, औरैया	विनोद अग्रवाल महापौर, मुरादाबाद		

दिनांक : 12 दिसम्बर, 2020 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

लोकार्पित होने वाले भवनों का विवरण

अनावासीय <ul style="list-style-type: none">तहसील मैथा, कानुपुर देहाततहसील ऊन, शामलीतहसील दातागंज, बदायूंतहसील महोली, सीतापुरतहसील धिरोर, मैनपुरीतहसील धौलाना, हापुड़तहसील अजीतमल, औरैया	आवासीय <ul style="list-style-type: none">तहसील मितौली, लखीमपुर खीरीतहसील ऊन, शामलीतहसील बिल्सी, बदायूंतहसील सहावर, कासगंजतहसील धौलाना, हापुड़तहसील कप्तानगंज, कुशीनगरतहसील हाटा, कुशीनगरतहसील पडरौना, कुशीनगरतहसील भीटी, अम्बेडकरनगरकलेक्ट्रेट, कासगंज
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अभियोजन कार्यालय एवं ज्येष्ठ अभियोजन, अधिकारी कार्यालय भवन, मालखाना व हवालात, कलेक्ट्रेट मुरादाबाद

राजस्व विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Low-key Xmas celebrations in the offing in city this year

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Christian community in and around Lucknow has decided to keep Christmas celebrations a low-key affair this year in view of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Chancellor and spokesperson, Catholic Diocese of Lucknow, Donald HR De Souza said that the Cathedral compound is big enough but only

200-odd people will be allowed entry at any given point of time during Christmas celebrations. “The countdown to Christmas started on November 29 with the advent season. ‘Advent,’ from the Latin ‘adventus,’ means ‘to come,’ a period of prayerful preparation for three weeks in preparation for Christmas, celebrating the birth of Lord Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. The celebrations have also begun but in a much

sombre way in view of the coronavirus pandemic,” he said. He said the main church in the city, St Joseph’s Cathedral in Hazratganj, will have the holy mass around midnight on December 24, presided over by the Bishop of Lucknow, Gerald John Mathias and other priests.

“In view of the Covid-19 protocols, a limited number of representatives of various communities will participate in the midnight holy mass and also in the divine day services. While the Cathedral compound will be decked up, entry will be limited as per restrictions for various religious activities,” he said. From around 3 pm till 10 pm on Christmas every year, more than one lakh people visit the church and the Marian Grotto (shrine of Mother Mary) to light votive candles. Among other events to be cancelled are Christmas dance-drama, Christmas get-together for prominent civil and religious leaders on December 26.

In his Christmas message, Bishop Gerald Mathias said: “We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. May this Christmas bring us real peace and joy offered by Lord Jesus Christ as it is very much needed in the world today.” He

appealed to the community to return to the spiritual message of Christmas and not to be tempted to commercialise this important holy feast.

Meanwhile, Father Herbert Abel from the Central Methodist Church said they have cancelled their programmes which are meant for senior citizens and young kids for Christmas in view of the coronavirus pandemic. “We celebrate the golden age programme with senior citizens in which we arrange a lunch for them and spend time with them, but this time one cannot invite people as they are above 60 years of age. We also have sports for children which we will not be organising this year since kids are not allowed,” he said. He added that only 100 persons out of the 4,000 members are being called to the Church for the prayer services. We have started a token system and we distribute tokens at 10 am and 11:30 am and for the entire week people come to get these tokens for the services. If the tokens are exhausted, the entry is not allowed,” he said. He added that in the choir which they hold during Christmas, only eight people will stand with social distancing.

5-member task force to work on PM’s suggestions for LU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University Prof AK Rai said on Friday that they have constituted a 5-member task force to implement what Prime Minister Narendra Modi had suggested while speaking at the centennial celebrations. The task force will present its report in three months. The committee is headed by Prof Naveen Khare from Chemistry department.

“We have identified a broad agenda as to what will be the contribution of Lucknow University to the society, to higher education and where we see ourselves in 2047. These things were discussed by the PM while addressing the centenary year programme,” he said. The VC said that the task force has been told that they can always hold workshops for fine-tuning the initiatives that LU is working on before submitting a preliminary report. He said he told the committee that it should be a clear-minded initiative without any prejudices, which means that the panel members should not try to conclude on their own but talk to all stakeholders.

On whether the contribution of the university will only be in the area of education, Rai said there are several ways in which contributions can be made. “We developed our own learning management system and now the government is asking all the state universities to develop a similar system. This is our contribution to transformation of higher education ecosystem. Tomorrow we may sell it since we already have a copyright,” he said, adding that the task force will deliberate on the agenda and come up with a proposal.

While addressing the university virtually on the occasion of its Foundation Day, Modi had said that the celebrations should not be limited to only 100 years but there should be a road map of 25 years when India celebrates 100 years of freedom. He had also said that it should become a part of LU’s attitude that it would contribute to nation-building in a certain way.

6-yr-old kidnapped, for ₹50L ransom

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The 6-year-old son of a businessman was kidnapped in Maharajganj and the kidnappers demanded Rs 50 lakh for the safe release of the boy.

The cops, who initially took the incident lightly, registered a case and formed four teams to safely rescue the minor from the clutches of his kidnappers. The help of the Special Task Force (STF) has been sought to ensure safe release of the boy. According to reports, Krishna Gupta, a resident of gram sabha Banspar Tola Bhunapur under Sadar Kotwali, lodged a report at the local police station, stating that last Wednesday, his 6-year-old son Piyush was playing in the garden of the village from where some people took him away. He said that when they noticed that the

boy was missing, they launched a search for him but could not trace him anywhere.

The local police first took the incident lightly and asked the family to look for the boy themselves even when the family said that some motorcycle-borne miscreants were spotted on the fateful day and they could have kidnapped the boy. The police, however, swung into action when the family received a letter through which they were asked to pay a ransom of Rs 50 lakh for the safe release of the boy. The letter also stated that a person from the village was supporting the kidnappers. Maharajganj SP Pradeep Gupta said that they were seriously investigating all aspects of the kidnapping. “Four teams are already on the job and we will recover the boy safely,” Gupta told media persons.

SCHOOLSCAN

FIRST PRIZE

Two students of City Montessori School, Indraa Nagar Campus — Swastik Tripathi and Amartya Dubey — have won the first prize in an inter-school mathematical activities and quiz competition, ‘Mathematica’, which was organised under the aegis of Allenhouse Public School, Kanpur. Students from several prestigious schools of Uttar Pradesh participated in this competition in which Swastik and Amartya walked away with the first prize by dint of their knowledge of mathematics, creativity and innovating ideas in various mathematical activities. Organisers of the event presented certificates of merit to these two students.



West Godavari bears brunt of mystery illness

IAN5 ■ ELURU (ANDHRA PRADESH)

JP Colony in Andhra Pradesh’s West Godavari district headquarters Eluru bore the brunt of the mysterious illness which shook the State, leaving the colony’s residents in a scared state.

As many as 40 people in this working class neighbourhood collapsed due to the mysterious illness. In all, nearly 600 people suffered sudden convulsions from Saturday to Thursday morning, the majority of whom were treated at the government district hospital in Eluru and some at the government hospital in Vijayawada.

“There is a water tank in our colony. Water is supplied from it. The water comes here from Pampula Cheruvu and that gets supplied. We are wondering if that was the reason we faced this problem,” Manikyam, 40, a resident of the colony, told IANS. He complained that the municipal water used to look green in colour until four days ago but after this illness now it looks okay. “I told my family members to boil the water, maybe that saved us, nobody in our family was struck by the illness, including children,” he said. Manikyam believes that it was water which caused this illness. He cited the cases of a few neighbours who just collapsed. Sattibabu, 45, Manikyam’s neighbour, said

leaders and officials should come to check the quality of the water in canals and pipelines at regular intervals but it is never done.

“Will anybody do these things when a person like me asks? This problem has occurred because of municipal water,” he complained.

Sattibabu questioned the wisdom of attending to a problem after allowing it to crop up. “They should be saved before falling sick. Just imagine how people are living amid the coronavirus. Even during coronavirus no leader came and spoke to us or asked us whether we had food,” said Sattibabu.

Meanwhile, Suribabu, 40, who along with two other family members fell sick, said that he too collapsed. “I just collapsed, what can I say why I fell down. On Saturday, I collapsed at the government hospital, my family members admitted me in the government hospital,” said Suribabu. Suribabu said he suffered epileptic fits and didn’t know what happened to him when the illness struck while visiting his daughters who had fallen prey to the same disease. Suribabu was not alone, two daughters, Lakshmi Pravalika (15) and Deepika (17), were also affected by the illness. However, he expressed satisfaction at the treatment and medicines offered to them by the Government.

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD., OFF LINE TENDER NOTICE.

Following Off line Tenders are invited from the experienced / reputed contractors / agencies for the execution of following works :- For more details Please contact/go through to the notice board of the **Office Executive Engineer, Electricity Trans. Division-II Husainabad Jaunpur. 1. Tender No. 01/ETD-II(J)/2020-21:-** Providing one no. light Diesel vehicle (Jeep) along with driver for a period of 10 months for the use of Executive Engineer Electricity Trans. Division-II Jaunpur. Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS / NEFT duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Ectecy. Transmission Division-II UPP TCL, Husainabad Jaunpur Documents of Tender No. 01 will be purchased upto 15:00 Hrs of 12.01.2021 and completed tender will be accepted upto 17.00 Hrs same day in the office of undersigned and will be opened on 13.01.2021 at 12:00 Hrs. respectively. Please visit our web site www.upptcl.org /Office of the Executive Engineer Electricity Transmission Division-II Jaunpur for details / download and for any other corrections / amendments / modification extension till the date of submission of tender. In case the tender opening date is holiday or undersigned remain out of headquarters the date of submission and opening of tender will stand extended to next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject/divide any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. **Executive Engineer (Trans.) Division-II, Jaunpur. No. 994. Date 09.12.2020. SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION.**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल गोंगडा ई-टेन्डरिंग निविदा सूचना

अनुमोदी पत्रों / टेकदारों से निम्नांकित कार्य का नाम-संज्वाल नैशनल बैंक, खाता सं- हेतु सीकन्ड निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 01/10/2020/100120697, आईएफएससी 21.12.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की कोड-PUNB00181000) आरटीडीजीएस/जाती है। (1) **अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 75 / ईटीडीसी(गोंगडा) /2020-21** : विद्युत निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 132 केटीडी उपकेन्द्र तुलसीपुर पर 33 केटीडी के निर्माण हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा का भाग-2 केबिल ट्रेन्च की सफाई एवं पेन्टिंग सम्बन्धी निषममें दरे दो ईन्गे, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। **घरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि** 21.12.2020 को 15:00 बजे, **निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। (2) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 76 / ईटीडीसी(गोंगडा) /2020-21** : विद्युत निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 132 केटीडी उपकेन्द्र तुलसीपुर पर 33 केटीडी के निर्माण हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा का भाग-2 केबिल ट्रेन्च की सफाई एवं पेन्टिंग सम्बन्धी निषममें दरे दो ईन्गे, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। **घरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि** 21.12.2020 को 15:00 बजे, **निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। (3) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 77 / ईटीडीसी(गोंगडा) /2020-21** : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोंगडा के राशि/निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी कारणवश निविदा खण्ड, गोंगडा के अन्तर्गत 132 केटीडी उपकेन्द्र तुलसीपुर पर 33 केटीडी के निर्माण हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा का भाग-2 केबिल ट्रेन्च की सफाई एवं पेन्टिंग सम्बन्धी निषममें दरे दो ईन्गे, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। **घरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि** 21.12.2020 को 15:00 बजे, **निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। (4) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 78 / ईटीडीसी(गोंगडा) /2020-21** : विद्युत निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 132 केटीडी उपकेन्द्र तुलसीपुर पर 33 केटीडी के निर्माण हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा का भाग-2 केबिल ट्रेन्च की सफाई एवं पेन्टिंग सम्बन्धी निषममें दरे दो ईन्गे, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। **घरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि** 21.12.2020 को 15:00 बजे, **निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। (5) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 79 / ईटीडीसी(गोंगडा) /2020-21** : विद्युत निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 132 केटीडी उपकेन्द्र तुलसीपुर पर 33 केटीडी के निर्माण हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा का भाग-2 केबिल ट्रेन्च की सफाई एवं पेन्टिंग सम्बन्धी निषममें दरे दो ईन्गे, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। **घरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि** 21.12.2020 को 15:00 बजे, **निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। (6) ई-निविदा संख्या 79 / ईटीडीसी(गोंगडा) /2020-21** : विद्युत निविदाये दो भागों में दिनांक 132 केटीडी उपकेन्द्र तुलसीपुर पर 33 केटीडी के निर्माण हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा का भाग-2 केबिल ट्रेन्च की सफाई एवं पेन्टिंग सम्बन्धी निषममें दरे दो ईन्गे, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। **घरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि** 21.12.2020 को 15:00 बजे, **निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 236.00 (कर सहित)। (7) अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 81 / ईटीडीसी(गोंगडा) /2020-21** : विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोंगडा के अन्तर्गत 132 केटीडी उपकेन्द्र तुलसीपुर पर 33 केटीडी के निर्माण हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा का भाग-2 केबिल ट्रेन्च की सफाई एवं पेन्टिंग सम्बन्धी निषममें दरे दो ईन्गे, नही खोली जायेगी। कार्य। **घरोहर राशि रू० 2000.00 निविदा भाग-1 खुलने की तिथि** 21.12.2020 को 15:00 बजे, **निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू० 413.00 (कर सहित)।**

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एवं ई-निविदा हेतु पंजीकृत निर्माताओं या उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि/आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से पारेषण दक्षिण - पूर्व क्षेत्र, प्रयागराज के अन्तर्गत निम्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति हेतु निविदाये दो भागों में उनके समुच्च अंकित तिथि एवं समय तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा के भाग प्रथम एवं भाग द्वितीय, निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय तक उपरोक्त कार्य के ई-प्रोक्वायरमेंट सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड किये जा सकेंगे। निविदा शुल्क एवं घरोहर राशि आरटीडीएस / एनईएफटी के माध्यम से जमा करायी जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय (यदि अवकाश हो तो अगले कार्यदिन में) पर खोली जायेगी। निविदा की वेबसा खुलने की तिथि से 06 माह होनी चाहिए। सरत निविदाये किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार्य नहीं होगी। **ई-निविदा सं-08 / 7030(पाण्डपुर) / 2020-21**, विद्युत रचना इकाई, प्रयागराज में हाइड्रोइलिक एडिड की आपूर्ति। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.01.2021, समय 17:00 बजे। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 13.01.2021, समय 15:00 बजे। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (जी.एस.टी. सहित) रू० 1,180/- (रू० एक हजार एक सौ अस्सी मात्र)। घरोहर राशि रू० 3,500/- (रू० तीन हजार पाँच सौ मात्र)। **ई-निविदा सं-09 / 7030(पाण्डपुर) / 2020-21**, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड राबर्ट्सगंज के निचरगंजीवा 220 केटीडी एटीडीसीएस ओवरा के विचरगाई में कार्य हेतु हाईवोल्टेज फिटिंग्स एवं विभिन्न कनेक्स की आपूर्ति। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 12.01.2021, समय 17:00 बजे। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 13.01.2021, समय 12:00 बजे। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (जी.एस.टी. सहित) रू० 11,800/- (रू० ग्यारह हजार आठ सौ मात्र)। घरोहर राशि रू० 1,00,000/- (रू० एक लाख रुपये मात्र)। निविदा प्राप्त की हॉर्ड कॉपी डाक द्वारा अथवा व्यक्तिगत स्थापक के माध्यम से किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित विवरण/आउटलाइन/संशोधन/विचारोत्प्रेरण हेतु निविदा खुलने की दिनांक तक वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदाओं को बिना स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे। निविदाओं को अ अधिकार मूल्य अभियन्ता (पाण्डपुर) / 57, जार्ज टाउन, प्रयागराज। पत्रांक: 1979, दिनांक 11.12.2020, “प्रद्वहित में कर्जा बचाये”

BMC to deploy 500 teams to administer Covid-19 vaccines in Maha Capital

Mumbai: At least 500 teams of five Trained personnel each will be deployed for administering the COVID-19 vaccine in the city, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said on Friday. The first to get inoculated will be health workers followed by frontline workers, people above the age of 50 and those suffering from comorbidities, it said in a release. The announcement was made by additional municipal commissioner Suresh Kakani in the first meeting of the city task force for vaccine distribution at the BMC headquarters on Friday, the release said. The Maharashtra government last month formed a task force to manage the distribution and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine in the state. A task force was also set up at the city level. The selected beneficiaries of the vaccine will receive a message on their registered mobile numbers, Kakani, who heads the task force, said. **PTI**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Though the DMK leadership T had said on December 3 that it would wait for more details about the spiritual politics to be launched in Tamil Nadu by Rajinikanth, in its first official reaction on Friday, the Dravidian major could not hide its disapproval of the new entity to be launched by the actor. “It is not correct to bring spiritual politics to Tamil Nadu,” said Kanimozhi MP, the step sister of party president M K Stalin while addressing public meetings in Tamil Nadu. She said this was an attempt to divide the State and its people based in caste, creed and religion. But the DMK leader did not elaborate how Rajinikanth would divide the population in the State and which are the communities to be benefitted by the new political party.

Addressing party cadre across the south western districts of the State as part of her election campaign for the 2021 assembly election, Kanimozhi said that Rajinikanth’s political party would impact the prospects of the AIADMK while the DMK and allies would not be impacted at all.

But reports from Anna Arivalayam, the DMK head quarters in Chennai, say that Stalin and other leaders have

pressed the panic button following the announcement by Rajinikanth last Thursday. “Hectic parleys are on between the DMK and the Dr Ramadoss led PMK to rope in the Vanniya caste votes,” said sources in the DMK. The sudden agitation unleashed by the PMK last week demanding 20 per cent reservation for the Vanniya community in government service and educational institutions is being seen as the prelude to the PMK’s move to align with the DMK.

“The PMK is known for its game of flying trapeze and political acrobatics. The party has always jumped from one alliance to another in successive elections and is famous for its consistently inconsistent stances. What I understand is that the DMK leadership may even part with the post of deputy chief minister to the Vanniya community as part of the deal,” said Kolahala Srenivasan, author and political commentator.

Vanathi Srinivasan, BJP leader, said the DMK may have to pay high price for its anti-Hindutwa stance and appeasement of minorities. “Let them appease the minorities and we do not have any issues. But they should not insult and humiliate the Hindus to keep the minorities in good humour,” said Srinivasan.

Pilot programme for socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi scheme beneficiaries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to prepare a profile data, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Friday launched a programme for socio-economic profiling of beneficiaries of PM Street Vendors’ Aatmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme to extend benefits of other government plans to them.

According to the ministry, a pilot programme will be run in Gaya, Indore, Kakching, Nizamabad, Rajkot, and Varanasi. The Quality Council of India (QCI) has been appointed as implementing partner for the programme. The programme was launched by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary of the ministry of housing and urban affairs on Friday. A complete profile of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their family members will be prepared and based on the data, benefits of the various central schemes would be extended to them. In the first phase, 125 cities have been selected for the programme. The profile will identify potential eligibility of beneficiaries and their family members for select Central Government schemes and facilitate linkages.

More trains to run from Varanasi City station: NER GM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Continuing his inspection for the second continuous day in parts of Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) here on Friday, the NER General Manager (GM) Vinay Kumar Tripathi said that the number of trains would be increased after conversion of Varanasi City into a terminal station. Conducting a thorough inspection of the station, the GM saw the progress of plans to develop the station. He also inspected various development works including new foot over-bridge, new platforms, passenger rest room, dormitory, special room, waiting hall for general passengers and yard remodeling.

Tripathi also reviewed the passengers' amenities available at the station and instructed the concerned officers to expedite the work. He emphasised on increasing railway revenue through reduced utilisation of resources. In an informal chat with presspersons, he denied privatisation of the railway. Later, he, along with Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vijay Kumar Panjiar and divisional officers conducted an in-depth inspection of DEMU shed at Aunrihar and discussed the matters relating to the standards of training provided to the employees there. He was



NER GM VK Tripathi inspecting Varanasi City railway station on Friday

Pioneer

apprised by the officers of the efforts to make the level of training effective and more useful. He directed the DEMU shed officers to reduce power consumption and use the shed to its full potential.

He was also accompanied by ADRM (Infra) Praveen Kumar, ADRM (Operations) SPS Yadav, CMS Dr MS Nabiyl, SDOM Rohit Gupta, SDE (Coordination) Rajeev Agarwal, SDCM Sanjeev

Sharma, SDPO Sameer Paul, SDS & TE Trimbak Tiwari, SDEE Satyendra Yadav, SDME Satyaprakash Srivastava and some other senior officers.

During his inspection here, the delegation of NE Railway Mazdoor Union (NERMU) met the GM under the leadership of divisional president Nagendra Bahadur Singh and handed over a 10-point charter of demands. NERMU members urged the GM to

reconsider the orders of retirement after completion of 55 years of age and 30 years of service, upgradation of medical facilities at Divisional Hospital, fulfillment of vacant posts, rest rooms for TTEs and other running staff, an early training to those passed promotion examinations for guards, construction of well-equipped community building and some matters relating to their allowances and others.

Pvt docs suspend medical service

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The private doctors associated with Indian Medical Association (IMA) suspended medical service of Outdoor Patient Department (OPD) for the 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm on Friday in protest against the notification issued by the Ayush Ministry making the doctors having degree of BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery) entitled to conduct surgery. Meanwhile, the noted Ayurvedic doctor Dr Subhash Srivastava strongly criticised the doctors for going on strike and favoured the notification by saying, the surgery is part of Ayurveda and all the Ayurvedic doctors have its knowledge.

The Ayush Ministry, Government of India and the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) had recently made an amendment in IMCC Act 1971 and issued notification making the Ayurvedic and Unani doctors entitled to conduct surgery. The private doctors opposed the notification and they sus-

pended the medical service of OPD for 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm on the call given by IMA.

They attended the emergency medical services and cases related to COVID-19. They restrained from staging a protest being gathered at a place because of COVID-19.

The allopathic doctors were of the view that the Ayurvedic and Unani doctors have no expertise in conducting surgery and thus it would prove fatal to allow them for making operation of the patients. The government should reconsider its decision and withdraw the notification. They threatened to launch an agitation in protest against the notification if required.

Meanwhile, the Ayurvedic and Unani Doctors hailed the notification and expressed their gratitude to the government for allowing them to conduct surgery which demands they have been making for the long time. They had also taken out a procession on Thursday under the banner of the national Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) to thank

the government for entitling them to conduct surgery and also oppose the decision of IMA to suspend medical service of OPD.

The noted Ayurvedic Doctor Dr Subhash Srivastava said that the surgery is a part of Ayurvedic medical method and it is taught in the syllabus of Ayurveda and added, Maharshi Shushrut has described the method of surgery in his book Shushrut Granth in detail. All the Ayurvedic doctors have proper knowledge of surgery, he said adding, the protest of notification regarding this by private doctors is not right.

POWER EMPLOYEES PROTEST: The power employees on Friday staged a protest at the office of Executive Engineer, Urban Electric Distribution Division-V at Imiliya Ghat in Cantonment area here demanding the appointment of SSOs along with helpers at each power station. They threatened to continue their agitation further if the demand is not met.

As per their earlier decision, the power employees

gathered at the office of the above mentioned engineer and staged a protest under the banner of Vidyut Mazdoor Panchayat, Varanasi.

The office of MD, PVVNL had issued tender regarding the appointment of SSO along with helper at each power station and the Superintendent Engineer, Urban Electricity Distribution Division-II had also directed for the same in November 2019, but despite this, the executive engineers have adopted an attitude of dilly-dallying in appointing the helpers, the employees said blaming, it seems, the EEs have no care of the directives of their seniors.

The employees are making work hard for the progress of the department and ensuring uninterrupted power supply but they have to stage a protest because of the rigid attitude of senior officers, they said threatening, their agitation will continue further if the demand is not met.

Qasim, Jiyut Lal, Ankur Pandey, Tapan Chatterjee, Vikash Kushwaha and others joined the protest.

57 new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 57 more new patients have been detected in the district on Friday, increasing the total number to 20,144. The day also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 331. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 86 and 83 of them have been recovered from home isolation while three from the hospitals, increasing the number to 16,120 and 2,884 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 19,004, leaving 809 active cases. The recovery rate is 94.34 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.64 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer

(CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 37 positive patients were found out of 3,019 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,60,309 and the results of 3,522 are awaited. Out of them, 4,40,205 were negative, while 20,124 positive. The total number of samples collected was 4,81,777. Earlier, three males aged 54,76 and 52 from Chetganj, Chowk and Golagali respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,555 including 225 red zones. Two green zones have been converted

ed into red zones once again. There are 2,330 green zones with eight new ones.

Meanwhile, the Department of Radiodiagnosis and Imaging, IMS BHU, has created a new unit called Interventional Radiology. This has ended a long wait for the people of Purvanchal for such facility which was till now not available. Interventional radiology is a branch of radiology where minimally invasive techniques through a needle are used to perform procedures which till now needed performing big and risky surgeries. Further this enables such treatments to be offered to persons in whom a full-fledged surgery cannot be done due to many

reasons. The new equipment is called digital subtraction angiography. In this equipment advanced online digital image processing is utilised to get exclusive images of human vascular system and other areas where injection of contrast material is done.

The facilities like palliation of jaundice in cancer patients, non-surgical treatment of liver tumors, treatment of hemoptysis/GI bleed/hematuria/post-partum haemorrhage, treatment of infertility, diagnostic angiography etc., will now be made available at reasonable charges at SSH and this would specially benefit the poor and needy population in this region

have to submit a 'No Objection Certificate' signed from their parents.

The format of this will be uploaded on the university website. For the convenience of the students, the Central Library will be opened as per the COVID-19 guidelines so that 300 students can study in two shifts (150 students per shift) every day. Information in this regard will also be uploaded by the Library administration on the university website. Meanwhile, the V-C distributed woolen sweaters among 64 poor students of Lala Lajpat Rai Pathshala at Sundar Bagiya and the function was organised under the auspices of the Dean of Students office.

Meeting discusses reopening of BHU

VARNASI (PNS): A high-level meeting was held in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar to discuss the matters relating to reopening of academic activities in the university in phases. Academic activities have been widely affected due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Though the BHU has taken several steps including speeding up online studies, it has discussed various other aspects relating to the reopening of classes and hostels.

The meeting was also attended by Rector Prof VK Shukla, Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi, Dean of Students Prof

MK Singh, directors of various institutions, deans of faculties, Chief Proctor, Controller of Examinations and others. During the period, the reports of the committees formed at the level of various faculties were discussed about reopening the university in a phased manner. After extensive discussion on various aspects, it was decided that following the COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Central Government for the prevention of pandemic, various institutes, faculties, departments, centres and hostels will be reopened for the upcoming semester examinations for the final year students soon.

It was also agreed that the

semester examinations commencing from January 5 next will be conducted in open book exam mode as per the previously announced academic calendar. As per COVID-19 guidelines issued by the government for opening faculties and hostels, it will take time for health related preparations including cleaning of hostels and library and spraying of medicines which will be completed by the university in minimum time. A schedule will be prepared by various faculties for starting classes which will be uploaded on the university website. After the university opens, students will have to follow COVID-19 standards and students living in hostels will

44 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of corona patients remained below 50 for the fourth consecutive day. On Thursday, 44 new COVID-19 infected have been found, including Unnao's CMO, Bamrauli Airport Manager. With this, one person has died. Whereas, the number

of infection free people remained 22. This was confirmed by Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer of Corona.

Dr Sahai said that on Thursday, 6009 people have been examined. 44 new infected were found in it. With this, the total number of corona patients in the district has increased to 27125. Of them, a

total of 26126 people became infections-free.

On Thursday, home isolation of 14 people has been completed while eight people have been discharged from SRN, Beli and private hospital.

Apart from this, 79 patients are admitted in these three hospitals. The number of active

cases has also decreased with the number of new infected continuously decreasing. On Thursday, the number of active cases is 642 and 563 people are in home isolation.

While the 78-year-old elderly man of Tagore Town died in SRN Hospital. He was already ill. Paralysis affected a part of the body.

‘Projects being completed within stipulated time in Modi Govt’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The development of corona vaccine by scientists and doctors in the last seven months in the country shows that the implementation of projects in the Modi Government is completed within stipulated time. A lot of changes is witnessed in accomplishment of the project since the Modi Government is in power. Earlier completing the project on time was a far dream in the country.

These views were expressed by Sanjay Shamrao Dhore, Minister of State for Education, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India while speaking at a programme held at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Prayagraj on Friday.

He said that earlier it used to take five years to develop the vaccine but the same work has been completed by scientists, doctors and etc within 6-7 months.

During the corona epidemic there was a shortage of

PPE kits in April 2020 which was immediately fulfilled by the government. At that time, ₹5000-6000 were charged for testing, whereas today, it was available for ₹ 400 to 500.

He said that any research work should be resulted in a product in order to focus on welfare for common man. Modi Government has saved crores of rupees by direct transfer of money to beneficiaries account through Adhar card. Usage of Information Technology has helped the government in saving public money as well as curbing corruption too. He said that late Pramod Mahajan, the then Information Technology Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government, used to say that mobile would be with every common man, which seemed impossible at that time. However, today, every person in the country has a mobile. Not only this, more than half the people are using smart phones today.

He praised the IIIT-A for being developed the drone that it would be helpful in disaster management and also in the agricultural sector.

Appreciating the achievements made in the brief 20-year journey of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, he congratulated all those especially Dr Murli Manohar Joshi who contributed in building and shaping of the institute. He particularly praised the IIIT-A for implementing many aspects of the new education policy in advance. In the new education policy, the emphasis has been given to children from childhood on their full personality development.

He also emphasised on the adoption of the programme being run by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for children and ask IIIT-A to consider running such programme. IIIT-A has done commendable work in the direction of adopting multi disciplinary streams for students. He urged all the teachers and officers present there to improve the ranking of the institute. The minister dedicated the institute software-Pragyanam to the nation on the occasion. He also released the institute hand booklet.

Earlier Prof P Nagabhushan, Director wel-

comed the chief guest and informed about the research work being done in the institute.

He said that the new education policy as implemented by the government has already been executed in the institution. He said that the institute has regularised the session even in the global epidemic.

Dr Vijayshri Tiwari, Registrar highlighted the institute's twenty-years journey. She spoke about the academic agreement by the institute. He presented the outline of the MoU made by ISRO. Prof Shekhar Verma apprised the minister regarding infrastructure, planning and resource management at the institute. He informed about solar plant, sewer treatment plant, internet facilities, hostel, high quality laboratories and other facilities like central library, WiFi, start-up center, innovation centre.

Prof T Lihadi, Dean Academic and Research informed the minister about implementing the National Education Policy. Dr Madhavendra Mishra proposed a vote of thanks.

Police showing lacklustre attitude in attaching property of Atique

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The police are now showing lacklustre attitude in attaching the property of mafia Atique Ahmed despite passing of the district magistrate's order. Questions have also been raised on the working style of the police for not seizing the land and house in Jhansi and Kareli. This is the situation when there is a continuous campaign for action against the mafia.

There is three land in the

name of Shaista Parveen, wife of former MP Atique in Katka village under the Jhansi police station. The order was issued by District Magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami in the first week of November to attach them.

Simultaneously, the Jhansi police sought a report. After this, two more plots of Atique, marked in the same village, were ordered to be seized under the Gangster Act. The deadline for attachment of these assets was fixed till

November, but action was not taken despite completion of deadline. At the same time, in the month of October, the District Magistrate ordered attachment of two houses of Atique located in Gausnagar and Kareli Scheme locality of Kareli. But till now the Kareli police could not comply with the order of the District Magistrate. The value of immovable properties of Jhansi and Kareli has also been valued at crores of rupees. However SSP Sarvshresth Tripathi said

action is going on against all gangsters.

Although the police are now showing laxity to take action against Atique, but before this, the mafia has been hit with crores of rupees. Many houses have been demolished like Atique's stately residence in Chakia, office in Karbala, commercial and residential building in Civil Lines.

More than 15 properties have also been attached under Section 141 of the Gangster Act.

Dist admn ignoring PM Modi's call

ABHILASH NARAIN ■ ALLAHABAD

The Prime Minister had made an appeal in his pre-Deepawali address to encourage the local artisan under the Vocal for Local campaign, but the district administration of Prayagraj gave a deaf ear to the call of the PM, and did not allow the North Central Zone Cultural Centre to organise its annual event of Shilp Mela, held every year in the month of December.

This Shilp Mela is organ-

ised in a wide open space of Shilp Haat within the NCZCC premises to promote handicraft and provide an opportunity to the artisan of different states of the country to have public exposure and sell their products.

NCZCC is a wing of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and its director happens to be a class one officer.

The NCZCC Director had moved an application seeking permission of the district

administration under Covid Guidelines on November 9. The letter clearly mentioned that this Union Government body will stick to the guidelines while organising Shilp Mela from December 1 to 10.

Ignoring the request of the NCZCC Director, the district administration did not allow the NCZCC to organise the mela this year showing the threat of Corona. The letter sent to NCZCC Director by the ACM-II suggested that there would be more than 1000 visi-

tors of Shilp Mela per day, while the guidelines permit only 100 persons gathering in the open, so permission could not be granted.

The local residents of Prayagraj had been waiting eagerly for this annual event, and their hopes gained strength when the government made an announcement that Magh Mela would be organised as usual. The mela visitors are quite dejected and are enquiring regularly as to what happened to the Shilp Mela this year.

NCR celebrating Energy Conservation Week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

North Central Railway is celebrating Energy Conservation Week from December 7 to 14, 2020 and Energy Conservation Day is to be observed on December 14.

Agra, Jhansi and Prayagraj divisions of North Central Railway have put up banners, posters, stickers carrying the message of Energy Conservation. Energy Conservation jingle is being played at various stations over North Central Railway. Video clips portraying energy conservation messages are being played at railway stations equipped with digital display arrangement. Beside awareness campaign, energy conservation drive has also been launched with intensive inspections by officers and supervisors of energy conservation measures taken at different work centres of North Central Railway.

Further, on December 14, on the occasion of Energy

Conservation Day, exhibition and webinars will also be organised over North Central Railway to sensitise passengers and railway men and women for energy conservation.

As a part of energy conservation efforts, a total of 11 MWp solar power plant on rooftop of office buildings and other railway establishment has been commissioned. As many as 338 stations, 265 service buildings, all workshops and locomotive sheds and 24958 residential quarters of North Central Railway have been illuminated with 100 per cent LED fittings. 1200 passenger coaches of North Central Railway are already equipped with all LED fittings. To save electricity, 1320 three star and above rated Air Conditioners and 640 energy efficient pumps have been installed in last two years over NCR. Also, more than 14000 energy efficient fans and electronic fan regulators have been provided.

AEROSPACE SAFETY

COUNCIL MEETING HELD: The Central Air Command Annual Aerospace Safety Council meeting for the year was held at Central Air Command (CAC), Bamrauli, Prayagraj on Thursday through video conference. The meeting was chaired by Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar AVSM VM ADC, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command. Air Marshal Manavendra Singh AVSM Vrc VSM, Director General (Inspection & Safety) from Air HQ also participated in the meeting. Air Force personnel from all stations under the Area of Responsibility of Central Air Command attended the meeting. Annual Aerospace Safety Council meetings play a very crucial role in identifying causes for incidents and accidents and putting in place timely corrective actions to preserve our assets and valuable lives.

Towards this aim, during the Council Meeting aspects

pertaining to safe flying operations were brought out. Accidents and incidents caused due various reasons were covered in detail. Aspects related to aviations and maintenance safety was discussed during the meeting. At the end, the meeting was reviewed by the Director General (Inspection & Safety) who expressed satisfaction over the measures being adopted by the Central Air Command in maintaining good Aerospace Safety record. Finally, the meeting concluded with the address by the chairman, Air Marshal Rajesh Kumar AVSM VM ADC, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Central Air Command who brought the importance of contribution of each and every individual involved with flying in ensuring Aerospace Safety thereby not only preserving country's assets and human life about also helping in maintaining a combat edge over our adversaries in time of conflict.



The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspecting the Palika Stadium on Friday

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Kanpur to have a new sports complex: DC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar said a sports complex would be built on engineering, procurement and construction model under the Smart City action plan for 2021. Shekhar, who inspected the Palika Stadium on Friday, said the process of the sports complex project would be launched in the next few days and the first presentation on it would be made by the interested parties by mid-January 2021. He said regular sports activities were important for a healthy society and the local administration must ensure that good facilities for sports

activities were made available to the people at all appropriate places in the city. The divisional commissioner said the Smart City Limited, Kanpur had taken up the project for the construction of the new sports complex, which would come up at the present Palika Stadium in Kanpur Nagar. He said under the new project, a modern basket ball court, new badminton court, swimming pool, gymnasium, sports goods shops, cafeteria, banquet hall and a spacious parking area would be developed in the new sports complex. He said apart from this, there would also be an administrative office block. The divisional commis-

sioner expressed concern over the present state of affairs of the Palika Stadium and directed Kanpur Municipal Commissioner Akshay Tripathi to get the boundary wall of the stadium repaired. He said the cricket viewers' gallery was in a veritable mess and the toilets were in a dilapidated state. He said the entry gate was also be reconstructed under the new project. Shekhar took a round of the entire stadium and took firsthand feedback of its current situation. He directed the municipal commissioner to ensure that the project became "financially self-sustainable and viable" so that the running and maintenance of the new sports com-

plex did not become a burden on the Smart City Limited or Kanpur Nagar Nigam in the coming days. He mooted that to make it financially viable, a banquet hall and a proper sport goods shops should also be constructed. He said for any stadium a proper parking area needs to be developed with separate entry and exit points for the smooth movement of the vehicles. The divisional commissioner also advised the municipal commissioner to create additional space so that the existing four-metre wide road could be further widened to 14 metres in future to facilitate easy moment of traffic in the area.

Mixed response to IMA strike call in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The doctors in the city kept medical establishments closed on Friday on the call of the Indian Medical Association's Kanpur Chapter in protest against the government's move to mix different modes of treatment with allopathic treatment. IMA-K president Dr Neelam Mishra, while addressing the press persons, said the IMA was against "mixopathy and khichdification" of various treatment modes as it was not in the interest of the common man. She said due to the "irrational decision of mixing various medicine systems" there had been a drastic fall in the standards of medical treatment. She appealed to the gov-



The IMA-K members addressing presspersons at the end of the one day work boycott on Friday.

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ernment to roll back this decision in the larger interest of the masses and the medical fraternity. The IMA-K claimed that doctors did not take up non-essential and non-COVID-19 cases as part of their decision to keep their establishments

closed. However, contrary to the IMA-K claim, medical services were being provided at many places in a hush-hush manner. There were reports that some doctors completed their medical rounds by 6:00 am.

Several doctors, who claimed to be of AYUSH field, continued their work in OPDs of the LLR Hospital. They said there was no impact of the strike by the IMA doctors. In fact, there was a mixed response to the IMA strike call in the city. IMA-K secretary Dr Dinesh Sachan said it was not a strike and feigned ignorance over the functioning of parallel OPDs, saying he was busy with his hospital so he had no idea what was the impact of the call to keep medical facilities closed. Prominent among those present at the press conference included Dr VC Rastogi, Dr AK Srivastava, Dr Kalpana Vijayashree, Dr Saleem Ahmed, Dr Brajendra Shukla, Dr Poornima Dixit, Dr Pawan Kaul, Dr Gaurav Dubey, Dr Savita Rastogi and Dr Ramji Khanna.

KDA VC warns project clerks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh reviewed the activities of the sales departments of Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and World Bank and bulk sale on Thursday. When the officials of some zones presented information on different unsigned pro forma, he directed them to submit the same on a common pro forma duly signed by the project clerk and the officer-in-charge. Rakesh Kumar Singh also asked all the project clerks to submit a list of project-wise issues where allottees were still awaiting the registry even after depositing of total cost of their properties. Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh directed them to submit the information received at single window, duly verified by the respective officer. He issued a stern warning



KDA Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh reviewing the activities of sales departments.

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to the lax project clerks and asked them to improve their working, which could be checked during surprise inspection by him of KDA secretary or additional secretary anytime. Vice Chairman Rakesh Kumar Singh also directed them to issue notices to all the defaulters to deposit money

against allotment of house or plot to get the benefit of one time settlement (OTS) scheme. KDA Additional Secretary Gudakesh Sharma, Joint Secretary KK Singh, OSD Alok Kumar Verma, Bhairpal Singh, Executive Engineer Atul Misra, Ashu Mittal, Manoj Upadhyaya, Mukesh Agarwal, RRP Singh, Law Officer Shashi Bhushan Rai and other officers/employees were present.

CMO: Strategy chalked out for vaccination against COVID-19

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said a strategy had been chalked out for vaccination against COVID-19. He said as per the priority list, the vaccine would be administered first to doctors, then to paramedical staff, police, district administration officials and the common man in that serial. He said while administering the vaccine to the common man, priority would be given to senior citizens and critical patients. He said the vaccine was at the threshold and trials were being carried out on a war footing. Dr Mishra said to carry out the vaccination drive successfully, help would be taken from district administration, Kanpur Nagar Nigam, social organisations and gram pradhans. He said it had been decided to divide the district into several zones and verification of each person would be carried out through ration cards and voter ID card. The CMO said the work to maintain the cold chain was in the final stages and nearly on lakh vials would be preserved in the freezers. He said temporary vaccination centres would also be set up at the hospitals affiliated to GSVM Medical College. Dr Mishra added that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had issued fresh guidelines on plasma therapy. He said those who were found to be novel coronavirus positive in the RT-PCR test would be given the therapy between three and seven days and those who come out of the disease would be able to donate their plasma between 10 and 25 days at the most.

24 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 24 more coronavirus positive cases on Friday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 24 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Thursday evening and Friday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 31,380 cases. He said that 18 patients were discharged from hospital. He said two COVID-19 deaths in the city were reported till Friday evening keeping the death toll to 800. The CMO said at present 736 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 3477 samples were sent for testing in the city.

KNN to use QR Code to identify illegal hoardings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar Nigam has decided to locate the illegally put up hoardings in the city with the help of QR Code. The moment the KNN app locates any hoarding which does not have a QR Code in any part of the city, it would be removed. Till now, the hoardings were being checked manually to find out if they were illegal or legal. This has created a flutter in the KNN circles because majority of the hoarding put up in the city are illegal and have been put up with he connivance of insiders. Majority of the advertisement agencies are working hand in glove with the KNN employees and thus nearly 50 per cent of the money goes into the pockets of this syndicate. The KNN had been working out on how to end this racket and if finally opted for QR Code. Now each hoarding authorised by he KNN would have a QR Code which would be easily traceable on mobile phones.

2 more nabbed in ex-pradhan murder case

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Dehat Kotwali police on Thursday arrested two more accused in connection with the former pradhan murder case. During investigation it had come into light that in order to dodge the police the criminals had used SIM card as well as mobile phone for hatching the conspiracy. The case was very challenging for the police but it was worked out with the help of the surveillance team. As per the police, Deep Chand Maurya, son of Ramnarayan Maurya, a resident of Patehra under Madihan police station, ran a mobile phone shop. With the help of Pradeep, son of Manoj, a resident of Godtutva village under Dehat Kotwali police station, the shopkeeper made available the mobile phone as well as the SIM without identification. On Thursday SHO Dehat Kotwali Abhay Singh was tipped off by an informer that the two accused were present at Sirsi turn on Mirzapur-Sonbhadra road under Dehat Kotwali police station. On that information the police raided the place and nabbed them. Two SIM cards along with a mobile phone were recovered from the possession of Deep Chand Maurya. After completing the

necessary legal formalities in this connection the police sent the accused to jail.

SAINIK SAMMELAN ORGANISED: The DM and SP jointly organised a crime meeting and sainik sammelan at Police Lines on Wednesday. In the meeting first of all most



of the grievances of police personnel were redressed on priority and for the rest the officials concerned were directed to them dispose of within the stipulated time-frame. Addressing the meeting the officers directed the cops to keep an eye on the criminals, regularly watch their activities and ensure that they did create any atmosphere of fear in their localities. The SOs were told to take action against mafiosi and evasion of revenue would not be allowed at all. The cops posted in the field were directed to keep patrolling on in their respective areas and if anything was found suspicious it should be informed at the police sta-

tions and action taken accordingly. Emphasising on to strengthening the beat system the SOs were directed to hold regular meetings with the beat staff and get a feedback about the area. The investigating officers were directed to get legal help from the prosecution officers if required but any kind of lapse would not be tolerated. In the meeting all points to control crime were discussed and directives were issued accordingly. The meeting was attended by all ASPs, COs, SOs, all the branch heads of policing, including GRP. Besides, it was also attended by DGC criminal, forest department officials, SPO, reserve inspector Police Lines and the head of radio unit of the district.

DRIVE: Under three-day drive to check illegal mining, overloading and evasion of revenue the enforcement team led by mines officer PK Singh sent 19 vehicles to different police stations. According to the team, the vehicles were found evading the revenue by transporting mining produce without having eMM-11 and ISTP and some were overloaded. Imposing a fine of ₹7.72 lakh the vehicles were sent to police stations. They could be released on the order of DM after depositing the fine.

Pune-Gorakhpur puja spl timing revised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has revised the timings of puja special trains being run for the convenience of the passengers. The people are requested to obtain information about the revised timetable of trains while making reservation or before travelling in order to avoid inconvenience. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

PUNE-DARBHANGA PUJA SPL: The 01033 Pune-Darbhanga weekly puja special train will from December 2 to 30 depart from Pune at 16.15 hrs every Wednesday, from Daund Chord Line at 17.20 hrs, from Ahmednagar at 18.50 hrs, from Belapur at 19.55 hrs, from Kopergaon at 20.40 hrs, from Manmad at 21.55 hrs, the second day from Bhusaval at 00.20 hrs, from Khandwa at 02.25 hrs, from Itarsi at 05.40 hrs, from Pipariya at 06.45 hrs, from Narsinghpur at 07.50 hrs, from Jabalpur at 09.05 hrs, from Katni at 10.50 hrs, from Satna at 12.25 hrs, from Prayagraj Junction at 16.40 hrs, from Prayagraj Rambag at 16.52 hrs, from Gyanpur Road at 17.57 hrs, from Manduadih at 19.10 hrs, from Varanasi at 19.35 hrs, from Varanasi City at 19.50 hrs, from Aunrihar at 20.32 hrs, from Ghazipur City at 21.15 hrs, from Ballia at 22.57 hrs, on the third day from Chhapra at 01.00 hrs, from Sonpur at 02.14 hrs, from Hajipur at 02.30 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 03.25 hrs, from Samastipur at 05.38 hrs, from Laheria Sarai at 06.21 hrs and reach Darbhanga at 06:21 hrs. During the return journey the 01034 Darbhanga-Pune weekly puja special will from December 4 to January 1, 2021, depart from Darbhanga every Friday at 16.47 hrs, from Laheria Sarai at 16.56 hrs, from Samastipur at 18.10 hrs, from Muzaffarpur at 19.10 hrs, from Hajipur at 20.10 hrs, from Sonpur at 20.22 hrs, from Chhapra at 22.55 hrs, from Ballia at 00.10 hrs on second day, Ghazipur City at 01.21 hrs, Aunrihar at 02.11 hrs, Varanasi City at 03.05 hrs, Varanasi at 03.40 hrs, Manduadih at 03.57 hrs, Gyanpur Road at 05.19 hrs, Prayagraj Rambagh at 06.48 hrs, Prayagraj Jn at 07.37 hrs, Satna at 11.20 hrs, Katni at 12.40 hrs, Jabalpur at 14.10 hrs, Narsinghpur at 15.18 hrs, Pipariya at 15.20 hrs, Itarsi at 17.50 hrs, Khandwa at 20.30 hrs, Bhusaval at 22.25 hrs, on the third day from

Manmad at 01.00 hrs, from Kopergaon at 02.30 hrs, from Belapur at 03.25 hrs, from Ahmednagar at 04.20 hrs, from Daund Chord Line at 05.55 hrs and reach Pune at 07.20 hrs.

PUNE-GORAKHPUR PUJA SPL: The 01115 Pune-Gorakhpur weekly puja special from December 3 to 31 every Thursday leave Pune at 16.15 hrs, from Daund Chord Line at 17.20 hrs, from Kopergaon at 20.40 hrs, from Manmad at 21.55 hrs, from Jalgaon at 23.45 hrs, Bhusaval on the second day at 00.20 hrs, Khandwa at 02.25 hrs, Itarsi at 05.40 hrs, Jabalpur at 09.00 hrs, Katni at 11.00 hrs, Satna at 12.10 hrs, Manikpur at 14.25 hrs, Prayagraj Jn to 16.40 hrs, Varanasi at 19.55 hrs, Mau at 21.51 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 23.20 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 00.55 hrs on the third day. During the return journey the 01116 Gorakhpur-Pune weekly puja special will from December 5 to January 2, 2021, leave Gorakhpur every Saturday at 16.05 hrs, Deoria Sadar at 17.01 hrs, Mau at 18.47 hrs, Varanasi at 21.10 hrs, on the second day Prayagraj Junction at 00.30 hrs, Manikpur at 02.53 hrs, Satna at 03.55 hrs, Katni at 05.25 hrs, Jabalpur at 07.05 hrs, Itarsi at 10.50 hrs, Khandwa at 14.00 hrs, Bhusaval at 15.55 hrs, Jalgaon at 16.25 hrs, Manmad at 18.45 hrs, Kopergaon at 20.20 hrs, Daund Chord Line on the third day at 01:15 hrs and reach Pune at 02.45 hrs.

CANCELLATION: The cancellation and partial cancellation of the following trains due to operational difficulties caused by dense fog and bad weather will be done from December 16 to January 31, 2021, by the railway administration as follows. The CPRO PK Singh said the 02571 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminus (ANVT) special will be cancelled on December, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30 and January 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 and 31, 2021 (every Wednesday and Sunday). The 02572 Anand Vihar Terminus-Gorakhpur special train will remain cancelled on December 17, 21, 24, 28 and 31 and January 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 and February 1, 2021 days (every Monday and Thursday). Meanwhile the 05004 Gorakhpur-Kanpur Anwarganj special will remain partially cancelled from Prayagraj Rambag to Kanpur Anwarganj from December 16 to January 31, 2021. Besides the 05003 Kanpur Anwarganj-Gorakhpur special will from December 16 to January 31 next year remain partially cancelled between Kanpur Anwarganj-Prayagraj Rambag.

Singh assumes charge as DyGM/General of NER

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Krishna Chandra Singh has assumed charge as Deputy General Manager/General of North Eastern Railway (NER) on December 7. Earlier he was working as the Deputy Chief Materials Manager/General in the Stores department of NER headquar-

ters, Gorakhpur, CPRO PK Singh said. Singh joined the Railway service as an officer of the year 2010 batch of Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS). He received his B.Tech degree in the year 2009 from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur. His first appointment was on the post of Assistant Materials Manager of diesel shed, Malda, on the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). After this he worked successfully on the post of

Senior Materials Manager/headquarters, Guwahati. In March 2016 he was posted as secretary to the Principal Chief Materials Manager (PCCM) on NER. He has special interest in music and sports. In addition to playing the flute, he has special interest in swimming. Krishna Chandra Singh has wide experience in railway administration and management. He is equally popular among railway officials and employees.

Meeting of RoDTEP committee held

PNS ■ VARANASI

The government has proposed to replace the MEIS scheme with Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) Scheme and formed a committee chaired by GK Pillai to finalise the rates/benefit to the industries. On Thursday the Department of Finance convened a meeting of high-level RoDTEP Committee through video-conferencing under the presidency of chairman, RoDTEP committee, GK Pillai, in which its members, Gautam Ray and YG Parande, joint secretary, Drawback, Ministry of Finance, Nitesh Sinha, and other senior officials were present. The representatives of some of export promotion councils were also present in it. Chairman, CEPC, Siddh Nath Singh, Executive Director,

CEPC, Sanjay Kumar, prominent member-exporters – Lalit Goel, President, Panipat Exporters Association & M/s Riveria Exports, Panipat, Ashok Gupta, M/s ABC Ltd., Panipat, Atul Anand, M/s Obeteet Pvt. Ltd, Mirzapur, CEPC consultant - NK Chopra, Managing Director, M/s ICCH Global Consulting (P) Ltd. represented the Indian handmade carpet industry in the meeting. Siddh Nath Singh informed the Committee that the Council had already submitted the required data in the prescribed format and also submitted the clarifications sought by the department. He further requested to consider the case of Indian handmade carpet industry sympathetically as it is rural-based cottage industry which is highly labour intensive and mostly unorganised sector as the livelihood of

millions of poor artisans was directly connected with the industry. Singh requested that the RoDTEP rate should be higher than the present MEIS rates to improve the present industry scenario. GK Pillai said they knew the Indian handmade carpet industry and inquired about the condition of road in Bhadohi-Mirzapur-Varanasi carpet belt. Siddh Nath Singh said there were some improvements and hopefully the remaining work will be completed shortly. As per the RoDTEP Committee officials, they were likely to submit its final report by February next year therefore, it is expected that MEIS Scheme will be further extended till March 31 2021. They said they were examining all the data submitted by councils and if required, they will take further inputs before finalising the rates.

India in no way responsible for climate change: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that climate change isn't an overnight phenomenon, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Tuesday said India is in no way responsible for it still it is taking steps to cut down emissions as a responsible country. Javadekar was speaking on the eve of the fifth year of Paris Climate Agreement

"Climate change isn't an overnight phenomenon, it takes 100 years for a change and India is in no way responsible for this climate change. Historically, the USA has 25 per cent of all emissions, Europe has 22 per cent whereas China has 13 per cent and India, only 3 per cent. We are in no way responsible for this climate change," said the Minister.

But as a responsible participant in world affairs, the country chose to take part in combat-

ing climate change, he said. "Our emission intensity was to be reduced by 33-35 per cent as per the Paris Climate Agreement. We achieved 21 per cent of this and aim to achieve the remainder in 10 years," said Javadekar while addressing the media here. On December 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the global climate summit on its fifth anniversary, Javadekar said adding that India was one of the few countries, which have complied to the Paris Accord. "Our Nationally Determined Contribution will lead to less than 2 degree rise in temperature," he added.

"According to the Climate Transparency Report 2020, India is the only Group of 20 country to meet its commitments," the minister claimed.

"The recent report by the United Nations Environment Plan also says that India's emis-

sions grew 1.4 per cent in 2019, much lower than average of 3.3 per cent per annum over last decade."The Paris Agreement aims to hold the rise in average global temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, and preferably 1.5C -- a threshold beyond which climate impacts are projected to sharply intensify.

For the implementation of the targets under the Paris pact on climate crisis, the Environment Ministry, a few days ago, set up a high-level ministerial panel. The purpose of AIPA [Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement] is to generate a coordinated response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris pact including its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), a senior official said.

4 yrs imprisonment for Customs Spdt, Havaladar in graft case

New Delhi (PNS): The CBI on Friday said it has secured from the Special Judge for CBI Cases, Bangalore four years imprisonment besides fines for the then Superintendent of Customs and a Havaladar of the department in a graft case. While the then Superintendent of Customs Srinivas Prasad to undergo four years simple Imprisonment with fine of Rs 30,000 and Hawaldar Lourdu Prabhu then Hawaldar to undergo a similar imprisonment with fine of Rs.15,000 in a bribery case. The CBI had registered a case on October 13, 2015 against Prasad and Lourdu Prabhu, both posted in the office of Commissioner of Customs, Devanahalli, Bangalore. It was alleged that both accused had demanded and accepted bribe of Rs 50,000 from a passenger for release of his baggage containing laptops brought by him from Singapore. Both the accused were arrested.

‘A race is on to have strategic bases in IOR’

Says CDS Bipin Rawat amid escalation of Chinese maritime presence in region

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As China is flexing its military muscle in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said on Friday a race is on among nations to have strategic bases in the region. Given the importance of the zone, more than 120 warships of extra-regional forces are now there to back various missions, he said.

His observations came in the backdrop of India playing a crucial role in the field of maritime domain in the strategically important Indian Ocean region. Moreover, it has bolstered relations with all the littoral states located on the rim of the region.

China started increasing its military prowess in the Indian Ocean region since 2008 by

deploying its warships for anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden. As of now, there are three to four Chinese warships in the region.

In this background, Rawat said here in an online conference there has been a "race for strategic places and bases" in the Indian Ocean Region which is only going to gain momentum in times to come.

An increasing number of countries are focusing on the IOR considering its geo-strategic importance. "At present, there are over 120 warships of extra-regional forces deployed in the Indian Ocean region in support of various missions. Till now the region, by and large, remained peaceful," Rawat said at the Global Security Summit.

The Indian Ocean, considered the backyard of the Indian Navy, is critical for India's strategic interests. China has been making concerted efforts to increase its presence in the region.

Referring to India's aspirations to become a major global power, he said the country will have to achieve it despite living in a "tough neighbourhood" and in an "increasingly

contested" region.

"We are witnessing a race for strategic places and bases in the Indian Ocean Region which is only going to gain momentum in times to come. Based on challenges we face as a rising regional power, we require structured long-term planning for capability building and capability development of our defence forces.

"In our quest to build a stronger India, we need a peaceful and stable security environment. We need to maintain our strategic autonomy and cooperative relations underscored by strong regional linkages," he said.

Referring to the evolving geo-political scenario, the CDS said China's "economic and military rise coupled with competition increased its influence and attracted a great deal of interest. Rawat said the world appears to be on the brink of a new era as new centres of power and alliances based on geo-politics are emerging putting pressure on the Bretton Woods institutions. He said the Indo-Pacific region in general and the Indian Ocean region in particular will remain vital for trans-

sit and world trade. "Today, we are facing increasing security challenges, and to my mind, the best guarantor of peace and stability is to have dissuasive deterrence. For a nation like India, the security of land borders remained our primary concern," he said.

"Therefore, there is a need to develop integrated structures to ensure modernisation programmes to be undertaken by our armed forces based on careful assessment of the nature of threats and challenges," he added. He also said most of the countries in the Indian Ocean region are seeking to reap the economic dividends through improved connectivity and harnessing blue economy for which infrastructure is a prerequisite.

Residents' powers and extra-regional power have shown a renewed interest in investing in infrastructure development in these countries to maintain and increase geopolitical influence, Rawat said. He said governance and security are under constant threat of being undermined by non-state actors and also naval competition among the states.

Desi mRNA vaccine candidate approved for human clinical trials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate, developed by Gennova, Pune, has received approval from drug regulators to initiate Phase I/2 human clinical trials, the Department of Biotechnology said on Friday.

The novel mRNA vaccine candidate, HGCO19, is supported with seed grant under the Ind-CEPI mission of the Department of Biotechnology. The mRNA vaccines do not use the conventional model to produce immune response. Instead, they carry the molecular instructions to make the protein in the body through a synthetic RNA of the virus.

The host body uses this to produce the viral protein that is recognised, thereby, making the body mount an immune response against the disease.

"Such vaccines are expected to be highly efficacious because



of their inherent capability of being translatable into the protein structure inside the cell cytoplasm.

Additionally, mRNA vaccines are fully synthetic and do not require a host for growth, e.g., eggs or bacteria.

"Therefore, they can be quickly manufactured in an inexpensive manner under cGMP conditions to ensure their "availability" and "access-

ibility" for mass vaccination on a sustainable basis," said a statement by the DBT.

Gennova, in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation, Seattle, USA, has worked together to develop an mRNA vaccine candidate. HGCO19 has already demonstrated safety, immunogenicity, neutralization antibody activity in animals, said the statement.

SC refuses to hear plea seeking Lokpal monitored investigation into criminal-political nexus

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking a Lokpal-monitored investigation into the "criminal-political nexus" as flagged in the 1993 Vohra Committee report, saying the prayers "are all utopian".

The top court said that petition must serve the purpose and it does not encourage petitions which are for publicity.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy asked the petitioner advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay to withdraw his plea and granted liberty to make a representation to law commission.

At the outset, senior advocate Anupam Lal Das, appearing for Upadhyay, said that the petition relates to the issue of unholy nexus of criminal, politicians and bureaucrats.

The bench said that over



two decades have gone by since the report was filed.

Das replied that they have been taking baby steps and today, there is a Lokpal but it do not have the wherewithal and has no investigation wing. The bench said, "Look at your prayers. They are all Utopian. It is like a utopian situation. It's like I hope our country will be at the top in the world. You should write a book on it, don't" file a petition on this."

Justice Kaul said, "I don't encourage such petitions which are for publicity. The petition must serve the purpose".

Das then told the top court that he will withdraw the petition but liberty may be granted to approach law commission. The bench allowed the petitioner to withdraw and granted the liberty to approach law commission.

Upadhyay through his PIL has prayed for appropriate direction for Lokpal Monitored Investigation of the criminal political nexus, as referred by the Vohra Committee.

Former Union Home Secretary N N Vohra headed the committee formed to study the problem of criminalisation of politics and the nexus between criminals, politicians and bureaucrats in India. The report was submitted in October 1993. **PTI**

Scientists develop inhalation delivery system for vaccines curing respiratory diseases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what could lead to new therapeutics for respiratory diseases like COVID-19, scientists have developed an inhalation delivery system for vaccines which generates potent immune responses in mice and non-human primates, without causing lung damage.

The findings, published in the journal Med, suggests that a safe and effective lung delivery system could be developed for vaccines and therapeutics against pathogens such as the novel coronavirus.

"This translational strategy potentially enables more effective delivery of therapeutics or vaccines while reducing the chance of toxic side effects," said study co-author Wadih Arap from Rutgers Cancer Institute in the US.

According to the researchers, this mode of vaccine delivery has many advantages over other routes, particularly for the development of vaccines against respiratory infections as the therapeutics arrive directly at the site of the infection. Inhalation-based vaccination is needle free and minimally invasive, they said adding that it is especially attractive for administering multiple doses.

The researchers said this method improves bioavailability and also reduces potential side effects by achieving a rapid onset of action.

The scientists believe lung delivery could protect against airborne pathogens that cause diseases such as tuberculosis, influenza, Ebola, measles, and COVID-19. However, they said this approach has not been adopted widely, partly because the underlying physiological mechanisms remain largely unknown. They said answering this question is critical for designing a general lung delivery system for widespread use.

नगर विकास सहकारी बैंक लि०					
पंजीकृत कार्यालय—162, रेलवे गंज, हरदोई—241001					
कब्जा नोटिस (अचल सम्पत्तियों के लिए)					
सेक्स्युरिटाइजेशन एण्ड रिकॉस्ट्रक्शन ऑफ फाइनेन्सियल एसेट्स एण्ड इनफोर्समेंट आफ सिक्युरिटी इंड्रेस्ट एक्ट 2002 की धारा 13 (12) के साथ पठित सेक्स्योरिटी इन्ड्रेस्ट (इनफोर्समेंट) नियमावली 2002 के नियम 8 एवं 9 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुये खातों के सामने उल्लिखित तिथियों को बैंक के प्राधिकृत अधिकारी द्वारा डिमांड नोटिस जारी किया गया, जिनमें कहा गया था कि उक्त नोटिस के 60 दिन के भीतर बकाया राशि को चुकता कर दें। ऋणी/गारन्टर द्वारा बकाया राशि चुकता न कर सकने पर एतद्वारा ऋणी/गारन्टर एवं आम जनता को सूचित किया जाता है कि अधोहस्ताक्षरी ने खाते के सामने उल्लिखित तिथियों से उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 13 (4) के साथ नियम 8 एवं 9 के अन्तर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुये नीचे उल्लिखित सम्पत्ति पर प्रतीकात्मक कब्जा कर लिया है। ऋणी/गारन्टर को विशेष रूप से एवं आम जनता को एतद्वारा सावधान किया जाता है कि इस सम्पत्तियों का किसी भी प्रकार से संयंवहार न करें। सम्पत्तियों के सम्बन्ध में किया गया कोई भी संयंवहार नगर विकास सहकारी बैंक लि० को देय राशि व उस पर देय ब्याज व अन्य व्यय प्रभार के शर्तों के अधीन होगा।					
सम्पत्तियों का विवरण जिस पर प्रतीकात्मक कब्जा किया गया है।					
क्र. सं.	ऋणी का नाम एवं पता	सम्पत्ति का मालिक	बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण	मौग नोटिस की तिथि तथा बकाया राशि (रु.)	कब्जा तिथि
1.	ओमप्रकाश सैनी पुत्र रवं गंगा प्रसाद ठाकुरगंज, नैमिषारण्य तह० मिश्रिख जिला— सीतापुर	ओमप्रकाश सैनी पुत्र रवं गंगा प्रसाद ठाकुरगंज, नैमिषारण्य तह० मिश्रिख जिला— सीतापुर	मूमि सं० 00155,702 खा/0.2060 हे० का 1/4 भाग स्थित ठाकुर नगर परगना— औरंगाबाद तह० मिश्रिख, जिला— सीतापुर	02.07.2020 रु० 1,69,985.00 दिनांक 31.3.2020 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
2.	गंगा आश्रम महाविद्यालय ग्रा० वीरपाल सिंह पुत्र श्री कृष्ण पाल ग्रा० व पो० सदरपुर तह० बिलग्राम जिला— हरदोई।	गंगा आश्रम महाविद्यालय ग्रा० वीरपाल सिंह पुत्र श्री कृष्ण पाल ग्रा० व पो० सदरपुर तह० बिलग्राम जिला— हरदोई।	मूमि सं. 00091,1591/0.1975 हे०. 1593 खा /0.0700, हे०. 1594/0.0800, हे०. 1596/0.0500, हे०. 0.1597/0.1900, हे०.1598 खा/0.0575 हे०. 1599/0.0500, हे०. 1601 खा/0.0450 हे० 1602/0.1825, हे० 1603/0.2150, हे०. 1614/0.1500, हे०.1615/0.0900, हे०. 1616/0.0400, हे०. 1617/0.3225, हे०. 1618/0.1200, हे०.1619/0.0350, हे०.1620/0.3425, हे०.1621/0.0500, हे०. 1622/0.0400, हे०. 1623/0.1000, हे०. 1624/0.0400, हे०. 1633/0.1000, हे०. 1636/0.0380 हे०. स्थित तेरवाकुल्ली, परगना—कछन्दक तह. बिलग्राम जिला—हरदोई।	02.07.2020 रु० 12,15,970.00 दिनांक 01.04.2015 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
3.	राजकुमार पुत्र श्री परमेश्वर दीन ग्राम—पडरालखनपुर पो०—माधौ गंज तह० बिलग्राम जिला— हरदोई।	गंगा आश्रम महाविद्यालय ग्रा० मेहदीघाट पुल तेरवाकुल्ली, परगना— कछन्दक तह० बिलग्राम जिला—हरदोई।	मूमि सं. 00091,1591/0.1975 हे०. 1593खा/0.0700, हे०. 1594/0.0800, हे०. 1596/0.0500, हे०. 1597/0.1900, हे०. 1598 खा/0.0575 हे०. 1599/0.0500, हे०. 1601 खा/0.0450 हे०. 1602/0.1825, हे०. 1603/0.2150, हे०. 1614/0.1500, हे०.1615/0.0900, हे०. 1616/0.0400, हे०. 1617/0.3225, हे०. 1618/0.1200, हे०. 1619/0.0350, हे०. 1620/0.3425, हे०. 1621/0.0500, हे०. 1622/0.0400, हे०. 1623/0.1000, हे०. 1624/0.0400, हे०. 1633/0.1000, हे०. 1636/0.0380 हे०. स्थित तेरवाकुल्ली, परगना— कछन्दक तह. बिलग्राम जिला—हरदोई।	02.07.2020 रु० 1,11,538.00 दिनांक 31.03.2011 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
4.	बृजेश कुमार पुत्र श्री सोनेलाल ग्राम व पो० सदरपुर बिलग्राम, जिला हरदोई	गंगा आश्रम महाविद्यालय ग्रा० मेहदीघाट पुल तेरवाकुल्ली, परगना—कछन्दक तह. बिलग्राम जिला—हरदोई।	मूमि सं. 000091,1591/0.1975 हे०. 1593 खा /0.0700, हे०. 1594/0.0800, हे०. 1596/0.0500, हे०. 1597/0.1900, हे०. 1598 खा/0.0575 हे०.1599/0.0500, हे०. 1601 खा/0.0450 हे०. 1602/0.1825, हे०. 1603/0.2150, हे०. 1614/0.1500, हे०. 1615/0.0900, हे०. 1616/0.0400, हे०. 1617/0.3225, हे०. 1618/0.1200, हे०. 1619/0.0350, हे०. 1620/0.3425, हे०. 1621/0.0500, हे०. 1622/0.0400, हे०. 1623/0.1000, हे०. 1624/0.0400, हे०. 1633/0.1000, हे०. 1636/0.0380 हे०. स्थित तेरवाकुल्ली, परगना— कछन्दक तह० बिलग्राम जिला—हरदोई।	02.07.2020 रु० 1,66,115.00 दिनांक 31.03.2013 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
5.	अंशु त्रिपाठी पुत्र श्री अशोक त्रिपाठी 82, गंगारामपुर, मल्लावाँ, तह. बिलग्राम, जिला—हरदोई।	श्री अशोक त्रिपाठी पुत्र श्री जयवर्तत्रिपाठी 82, गंगारामपुर, मल्लावाँ, तह. बिलग्राम, जिला—हरदोई।	प्लाट पार्स नं० 201/3 अथवा 92.94 वर्ग मीटर स्थिति भवानीनगर बाहर नगरपालिका परगना—मल्लावाँ, तह० बिलग्राम जिला—हरदोई एवं मूमि एरिया 18.60 वर्ग मीटर स्थिति गंगारामपुर अन्वर मेहदीघाट रोड, मल्लावाँ, तह. बिलग्राम जिला— हरदोई।	02.07.2020 रु० 4,60,912.00 दिनांक 31.03.2019 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
6	श्रीमती आशा सिंह पत्नी ब्रजेश कुमार सिंह निवासी—ग्रा० व पो० परसोला जिला हरदोई	श्रीमती आशा सिंह पत्नी ब्रजेश कुमार सिंह निवासी— ग्रा० व पो० परसोला जिला हरदोई एवं ब्रजेश कुमार सिंह पुत्र श्री भोदे सिंह निवासी— ग्रा० व पो० परसोला जिला हरदोई	मूमि सं 587, 588, 289 एरिया 121.50 वर्ग मीटर स्थित अहमदपुर रौनी, परगना—कन्नौज तह० व जिला— कन्नौज। एवं आवासीय मूमि सं० 163 एरिया 162 वर्ग मीटर स्थित —नसरपुर परगना— कन्नौज तह० व जिला— कन्नौज।	02.07.2020 रु० 9,50,426.00 दिनांक 30.09.2018 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
7	अक्वेष वर्मा पुत्र श्री केदार नाथ, 400 सविल लान्ड, हरदोई	रामगोपाल कन्नौजिया पुत्र श्री छेदा लाल गा. गोसवा पो. मल्लावाँ तह. बिलग्राम— हरदोई।	मूमि सं. 590,591,594, एरिया 1091.68 वर्ग मीटर स्थित— नसरपुर परगना— कन्नौज तह० व जिला— कन्नौज।	02.07.2020 रु० 20,93,030.00 दिनांक 31.03.2020 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
8	प्रदीप कुमार पुत्र श्री बाबू सिंह निवासी—300 ऊँचा थोक, साण्डी रोड हरदोई	प्रदीप कुमार पुत्र श्री बाबू सिंह निवासी—300 ऊँचा थोक, साण्डी रोड हरदोई	आवासीय मूमि सं० 2839 का हिस्सा 220.07 वर्गमी० स्थित— हरदोई देहात नजदीक पिहानी रोड, परगना— बंगर, जिला— हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 12,15,488.00 दिनांक 31.03.2018 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
9	प्रशान्त कुमार अवस्थी पुत्र श्री कुलदीप कुमार अवस्थी निवासी— मन्सूरनगर, तह० शाहाबाद हरदोई	प्रशान्त कुमार अवस्थी पुत्र श्री कुलदीप कुमार अवस्थी निवासी— मन्सूरनगर, तह. शाहाबाद हरदोई	मूमि सं० 370 एरिया 167.28 वर्गमी० स्थित अनंग बेहदा परगना—गोपामऊ, हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 1,57,538.00 दिनांक 30.12.2017 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
10	प्रेम कमल मिश्रा पुत्र श्री महिपाल मिश्रा 08 महात्मागान्धी मार्ग पुराना बोर्डिंग हाउस, हरदोई	प्रेम कमल मिश्रा पुत्र श्री महिपाल मिश्रा 08 महात्मागान्धी मार्ग पुराना बोर्डिंग हाउस, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 00275 गाटा सं० 914/1408फ/ 1.1380 हे०. स्थित— ग्रा० टोडरपुर सोमई, शाहाबाद, हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 1,93,439.00 दिनांक 31.03.2020 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
11	रफीक अहमद पुत्र मौला निवासी ग्रा० व पो० अहिरोरी हरदोई	1.हरिकिंशोर पुत्र श्री मिही लाल निवासी— ग्रा० व पो० अहिरोरी हरदोई। 2.मो० इरफान पुत्र श्री अस्फाक हुसैन ग्रा० व पो० राधौपुर बिलग्राम,जिला— हरदोई	1. मूमि सं० 972/1890 वर्गमी० स्थित ग्रा० व पो० अहिरोरी परगना— गोपामऊ हरदोई। 2. मूमि सं० 361,362/2380 वर्ग फिट स्थित ग्रा० व पो० अहिरोरी हरदोई।	02.07.2020 रु० 2,33,877.00 दिनांक 31.12.2012 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
12	नीलकमल सिंह यादव पुत्र श्री पट्टे लाल यादव ग्रा० फुकुहा पो० हरिहरपुर हरदोई	श्रीमती आशा मिश्रा पत्नी राजेश कुमार मिश्रा 166 हरदेवगंज, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 494 / 1 2500 वर्ग फिट स्थित नानकगंज ग्रंट, परगना— गोपामऊ तह० व जिला— हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 2,07,376.00 दिनांक 31.03.2017 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
13	देवेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह पुत्र श्री बाबू खॉं 149/1 ऊँचा थोक साण्डी रोड, हरदोई	प्रदीप कुमार पुत्र श्री बाबू सिंह 300, ऊँचा थोक साण्डी रोड, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 2893 का प्लट एरिया 220.07 वर्ग मी० स्थित हरदोई देहात, निकट पिहानी रोड परगना—बंगर जिला— हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 5,54,673.00 दिनांक 31.03.2018 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
14	दीपेन्द्र कुमार सिंह पुत्र श्री जगमोहन सिंह निवासी— 292 ऊँचा थोक साण्डी रोड, हरदोई	मानु प्रताप सिंह पुत्र श्री भीम सिंह निवासी— चित्तर पुरवा तह० व जिला— हरदोई	मूमि की खाता सं० 1202 एरिया प्लाट 55.76 वर्ग मी० स्थित मो० ऊँचा थोक, अन्वर नगर पालिका परगना, तह० व जिला— हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 3,28,000.00 दिनांक 31.03.2016 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
15	श्रीमती सफीकुन्निसा पत्नी रफीक अहमद ग्रा० व पो० अहिरोरी जिला— हरदोई।	बाबूराम पुत्र श्री द्वारिका ग्रा० व पो०—अहिरोरी जिला— हरदोई	प्लाट एरिया 843.33 वर्ग मीटर स्थित ग्रा० व पो०—अहिरोरी , परगना— गोपामऊ तह० व जिला—हरदोई	17.09.2020 रु० 3,10,908.00 दिनांक 31.12.2012 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
16	स्वयं प्रकाश पुत्र श्री गंगा प्रसाद 158, बंशी बिहार बालागंजचुंगी, हरदोई	1.विशाल कुमार सैनी पुत्र स्व स्वयं प्रकाश निवासी—158, बंशी बिहार बालागंजचुंगी, हरदोई। 2.अभिषेक सैनी पुत्र स्व स्वयं प्रकाश निवासी—158,बंशी बिहार बालागंजचुंगी, हरदोई। 3.नमृता सैनी पुत्री स्व स्वयं प्रकाश निवासी—158,बंशी बिहार बालागंजचुंगी, हरदोई। 4. श्रीमती राधा देवी पत्नी स्व स्वयं प्रकाश निवासी—158, बंशी बिहार बालागंजचुंगी, हरदोई।	मूमि सं० 00155,702 खा/0.2060 हे० का 1/4 भाग स्थित ठाकुर नगर परगना— औरंगाबाद तह० मिश्रिख, जिला— सीतापुर प्लाट सं० 158 'ए' 1750 वर्ग फिट एवं 162, 639 वर्ग मी० खसरा नं भिनजुल्ला 810 व 811 स्थित बररखा हुसैनबाडी, लखनऊ	02.07.2020 रु० 41,28,625.00 दिनांक 29.05.2010 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
17	मौ वैष्णो बिल्डिंग मेटेरियल प्रोप० अवधेश कुमार पुत्र श्री कृष्ण ग्रा० नमृत्ति, पो० अटवा अली मर्दानपुर बिलग्राम, हरदोई	मौ वैष्णो बिल्डिंग मेटेरियल प्रोप. अवधेश कुमार पुत्र श्री कृष्ण ग्रा० नमृत्ति, पो० अटवा अली मर्दानपुर,बिलग्राम, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 171/0.3920 ह० मे 3/32 भाग स्थित सहजिना, माधौगंज तह. बिलग्राम, हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 4,98,966.00 दिनांक 31.03.2017 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
18	जतिन्द्र कुमार पुत्र श्री राम गोपाल कन्नौजिया ग्रा० व पो० गोस्वा मल्लावाँ, बिलग्राम, हरदोई	जतिन्द्र कुमार पुत्र श्री राम गोपाल कन्नौजिया ग्रा० व पो० गोस्वा मल्लावाँ,बिलग्राम, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 587,588,589/141.39 वर्ग मी० स्थित नगरपालिका के बाहर मौजा — नसरपुर परगना— कन्नौज तह० कन्नौज, जिला— कन्नौज।	02.07.2020 रु० 12,66,430.00 दिनांक 31.03.2017 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
19	रामखेलावन पुत्र श्री चुन्नी लाल ग्रा० प्रतापपुर पो० उगपुर बेनीगंज हरदोई	रामखेलावन पुत्र श्री चुन्नी लाल ग्रा० प्रतापपुर पो० उगपुर बेनीगंज हरदोई	1.मूमि सं० 01253 686/0.1010 हे०. 681/0.5440 हे० 293/0.1390 हे०. 294 ख/0.0760 हे०. 2050 ख /0.1850 हे०. स्थित पो० नगावा परगना— संडीला तह० संडीला, जिला—हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 1,79,915.00 दिनांक 31.03.2020 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
20	सुरेश यादव पुत्र श्री लादुराम यादव मो. नवाबगंज पो. सांडी बिलग्राम, हरदोई	सुरेश यादव पुत्र श्री लादुराम यादव मो. नवाबगंज पो. सांडीबिलग्राम, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 385/71.09 वर्ग मी० स्थित बेहदा चौद नगरपालिका के बाहर परगना— गोपामऊजिला—हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 1,49,862.00 दिनांक 31.03.2018 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
21	सरल कुमार वर्मा पुत्र श्री रामेश्वर प्रसाद वर्मा, नघेदा पूर्वी आवास विकास कालोनी भाग—3, हरदोई	सरल कुमार वर्मा पुत्र श्री रामेश्वर प्रसाद वर्मा, नघेदा पूर्वी आवास विकास कालोनी भाग—3, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 268का 1/2 भाग 82.71 वर्ग मी० स्थित नघेदा नगरपालिका के बाहर परगना— गोपामऊ, जिला—हरदोई।	02.07.2020 रु० 1,07,640.00 दिनांक 30.09.2018 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
22	यदुनाथ प्रसाद पुत्र श्री मुन्शी लाल ग्रा०—95 रसूलपुर गोवा पो० चचरापुर बिलग्राम, हरदोई	यदुनाथ प्रसाद पुत्र श्री मुन्शी लाल ग्रा०—95 रसूलपुर गोवा पो० चचरापुर बिलग्राम, हरदोई	मूमि सं० 00063 खसरा सं० 255 का प्लाट एरिया 0.7410है स्थित रसूलपुर गोवा पो० चचरापुर परगना— सांडी बिलग्राम हरदोई	02.07.2020 रु० 1,19,430.00 दिनांक 30.09.2014 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
23	उदय प्रताप सिंह पुत्र श्री रामनरेश सिंह ग्रा०रानीखेडा पो. व नार्थी यत्र खा., सवायजपुर	उदय प्रताप सिंह पुत्र श्री रामनरेश सिंह ग्रा० रानीखेडा पो० बर्नाथी चत्रखा, सवायजपुर	हार्वेस्टर, मशीन Model सं. डी ए डब्लू 931 वाहन सं यू पी 30 ए ए 0921	02.07.2020 रु० 3,87,730.00 दिनांक 31.03.2019 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
24	सबरना पत्नी श्री जल्ला रा. करवान्दाली पो० भडावल हरदोई	सबरना पत्नी श्री जल्ला ग्रा० करवान्दाली पो० भडावल हरदोई	मूमि सं० 422/1110 वर्ग फिट का प्लाट एरिया स्थितिधियर महोत्तिया नगरपालिका के बाहर परगना गोपामऊजिला—हरदोई।	02.07.2020 रु० 1,91,577.00 दिनांक 31.03.2020 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
25	सरदार पटेल महाविद्यालय प्रबंधक— विषय बहादुर सिंह पुत्र श्री शिवराम सिंह ग्रा० भवानीखेण, मजरा— सिधुवल, पो०— गौसगंज जिला— हरदोई	सरदार पटेल महाविद्यालय प्रबंधक— विषय बहादुर सिंह पुत्र श्री शिवराम सिंह ग्रा० भवानीखेण, मजरा— सिधुवल, पो०— गौसगंज जिला— हरदोई	मूमि सं. 000089,1420 फ/128/1/1 00660 हे०. एवं 00090, 1384फ/123मि/0.1770 हे०. एवं 00091, 1384 फ/124/1 0.2780 हे०. स्थित ग्रा० भवानीखेण, अन्वर नगर पालिका, परगना—मल्लावाँ, तह. बिलग्राम जिला— हरदोई	14.08.2020 रु० 11,68,598.00 दिनांक 31.03.2020 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
26	रघुनाथ पुत्र श्री गौरी रा० तेंदुआ, पो. मल्लावाँ जिला— हरदोई	रघुनाथ पुत्र श्री गौरी रा० तेंदुआ, पो. मल्लावाँ जिला— हरदोई	मूमि सं० 00516/1378 खा/0.3970 हे० स्थित ग्रा० तेंदुआ, पो० मल्लावाँ जिला—हरदोई।	02.12.2020 रु० 1,35,046.00 दिनांक 31.03.2020 से ब्याज	08.12.2020
दिनांक : 11.12.2020		स्थान : हरदोई		प्राधिकृत अधिकारी	

Mission Bengal

The pre-poll discourse in the State is rarely ideological but about intimidatory heft. Both the TMC and BJP can't ignore it



The BJP's desperation to succeed in Mission Bengal by toppling its arch-enemy and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee and the latter's spirited fight to hold on to her turf, if only to challenge the BJP's formulaic invasion of Opposition-ruled States, will inevitably spill over into clashes and violence. The latest flashpoint was around an attack on the convoy of party president JP Nadda, with the BJP blaming TMC cadres and the latter claiming it was staged to implicate them. In the process, both camps are caught in issuing threats and counter-threats that in no way tests the capability of each in ensuring good governance or the promised land. While the BJP's hunger to chase its electoral goal and the concomitant rhetoric and war cry are understandable, does it have to plummet to the depths of threatening counter-violence? Or is it a ruse to build a case for total breakdown of law and order and ensure a high-security election for the Assembly, which would be, by implication, one conducted under Central scrutiny? That's what is apparent with Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar sending a report to the Centre, saying the security arrangement was inadequate for Nadda's convoy and asking Mamata to watch out as the State was not her fiefdom. That's what State BJP chief Dilip Ghosh recklessly seemed to suggest a few days ago with his crass remark that those opposing a fair verdict or intimidating voters would find themselves either with broken bones or at the crematorium. As for the TMC, it has been hardened by the politics of violence and agitations. Coercion, violence or booth management, which the Left parties in Bengal had perfected into what is called "scientific rigging", became part of a machinery that no party in Bengal has been immune to but that in no way could effect a tidal change. One must remember that Mamata uprooted the Left giants operating within that hostile system. She stood up to them but having arrived, built her political stock on her personal charisma, cause-based activism and grassroots connect. The BJP itself, while promising change, has been charged with getting men from Bihar and Jharkhand into Bengal for "electoral management."

Each political party has institutionalised muscle power and mischief-making recruits have been changing camps according to the trade winds. Crossovers in Bengal politics are rarely ideological but solely about intimidatory heft. Sadly, that has set the terms of the discourse instead of issues, becoming an obnoxious scare tactic for every voter, decided or undecided, that they should weigh in with the strongest side. Little wonder then that the BJP has allowed rabble-raising ways of its State leaders to negate Mamata's stature, considering she still has an emotional hold on the people. This is why BJP is having to work the ground despite a favourable tide in the Lok Sabha polls. And by claiming victimhood in a "reign of terror" early on in the campaign, it is justifying the need for violence as defence as part of its propaganda. For its house is not quite in order. That's why Home Minister Amit Shah has made Bengal his focus. He has to take care of internal dissension between the original BJP cadres and TMC rebel imports over the quantum of importance that each should get. While the original party workers are gung-ho about a Centrist push to the campaign, the turncoats are wary of Bengal's anti-Right ethos and are not being able to commit to the party's hegemonic planks. The BJP is pitching its campaign on the TMC's "politicisation of institutions", particularly the police, but that is yet to cut ice given the record of its own autocratic methods in States it already governs. Its minority appeasement plank against Mamata or her COVID management have been blunted by the Bengal leader's new-found maturity in matters religious, her smooth conduct of the Durga puja and arresting the pandemic spiral better than the projected scenarios. Besides, after years of nurturing and solidifying its vote base in North Bengal, and investing its lot with the Gorkhaland movement, the BJP's key man and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader Bimal Gurung jumped ship and declared support to Mamata. With such hurdles cropping up just six months before the elections, Shah, therefore, has come down to mathematical certainty like working on consolidating the tribal and Dalit vote in the State. And he is chipping away the Trinamool's strengths, like weaning away Suwendu Adhikari and other disgruntled leaders who are not happy with Mamata's blind reliance on her nephew Abhishek Banerjee and election strategy advisor Prashant Kishor. Shah had poached Mukul Roy, closest to Mamata at one time, to get a sense of her winning strategy. Now he has Adhikari, a popular grassroots leader, an organiser and mobiliser for issues like Nandigram. Both are not exactly clean, with ED cases against them, but the BJP is willing to manipulate their weakness to its own strength. The party is desperate about Bengal for more than one reason. First, it sees it as a liberal and intellectual outpost that has been its ideological polarity, and having made inroads in the last Lok Sabha election, it now wants the glory of a conquest. Second, along with Odisha, Bengal has been a vanguard of the East that has held out against its juggernaut. Third, the BJP wants to prove that poll arithmetic can override cultural opposition to it. Of course, Mamata is used to taking several punches and emerging stronger in the end. And instead of getting increasingly caught up in a reactive game with the BJP, she is now focussing on her "doorstep" appeal, launching new and highlighting existing welfarist schemes. In fact, only she can break the vicious cycle of violence, drive home the message of development and hold the BJP to account on its real specific plans for "poriborton." As for the BJP, it needs an equally charismatic face. Will cricket icon Sourav Ganguly agree to be Shah's man for the job?

Year of the pandemic

2020 is that in more ways than one, it appears, as dictionaries unanimously vote for word of the year



While there might be some lingering doubts about *Time* magazine's selection of US President-elect Joseph R Biden and his Vice-President Kamala Harris as "Persons of the Year," we, along with many others, feel that the "people of the year" are the front-line medical workers risking their lives for the sake of others. But there is little doubt about the "word of the year," which both Dictionary.Com and Merriam-Webster have awarded to the "pandemic." And that is appropriate because how many people used or knew of that term unless they were Hollywood screen writers until the Coronavirus upended everyone's lives in 2020? Even as the news of advancement in the trial of vaccines brings some cheer across the world, we are still far away from vanquishing the virus that has permanently changed the lives of us all. And there is no guarantee that "vaccination" will be the word of the year in 2021. We are still a long way from having a significant number of people being vaccinated against the virus for it to be effective among a large population and the world has learnt a lesson about the need for hygiene in all our lives.

But how else will 2020 be remembered decades from today? Will we talk about this being the year where "social distancing" became the norm and online education really took off? Or will we remember 2020 as the year that several social constructs broke down once and for all and set the ball rolling on the path to revolution across many nations? Will 2020 be the year where we reset everything altogether, everything becomes "Before Pandemic" (BP) and "After Pandemic" (AP)? We will have to wait and watch but make no mistake, 2020 will be the most memorable year of our lives even if it was a year in which we all did almost nothing. Of course, it allowed us buffer time to re-orient ourselves, evolve and survive in new contexts and circumstances. Maybe 2021 will offer us some hope and we can break out of the thesaurus and learn some new words for hope and expectations. It can't be this bad again next year? Or can it?



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Every year, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) releases an *Emissions Gap Report* showing the difference between estimated current greenhouse gas emission levels and the target prescribed by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change signed on December 12, 2015. The latter calls for holding the increase in global average temperature in this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial-revolution level, and for trying to limit it to 1.5 degree Celsius above it.

Each report not only dwells on the gap but provides a comprehensive account of the situation and developments on the environment front during the year, what needs to be done to combat climate change, and the prospects ahead for the world. The current report, 11th in the series titled *Emissions Gap Report 2020*, released on December 9, 2020, presents, like its predecessors, an alarming picture. It says that the year 2020 is likely to be the warmest on record, with wildfires, droughts, storms and glacier-melting intensifying.

If one were to identify its most terrifying prognosis, it would be that the world is hurtling towards a temperature increase of over 3 degrees Celsius by the end of this century. And this would be despite a predicted fall of 7 per cent in carbon dioxide emissions as a result of the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The decline, however, would translate to only 0.01 degree reduction in global warming by 2050, because the emissions would rise again — and become even higher — as economies bounce back.

What all this means begins to become clear on recalling that according to the *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* (The Special Report), released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on October 7, 2018, the adverse effects of climate change would not be reduced even if the increase is limited to 1.5 degree Celsius. Sea levels will continue to rise beyond 2100, threatening coastal ecosystems and infrastructure. Flooding, drought and extreme weather events will wreak havoc around the world. Many species will continue to be driven towards extinction and marine ecosystems could face "irreversible loss." What is particularly alarming, this level, according to the report, is likely to be reached sometime between 2030

opinion08

Combat climate change

The long haul ahead to bridging the emissions gap doesn't present a rosy picture but there are encouraging signs, too



“
ABOVE 2 DEGREES OF GLOBAL WARMING, THERE COULD BE AN INCREASE OF 100 MILLION OR MORE OF THE POPULATION AT RISK OF HUNGER... WE NEED TO ACT QUICKLY
”

National Geographic of August 8, 2019, already, more than 10 per cent of the world's population remained undernourished. It quoted Cynthia Rozenzweig, Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC's *Special Report on Climate Change and Land*, and a climatologist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, as saying that extreme weather events had already increased in size and intensity, and are playing a role in food price spikes.

It cited the examples of extensive spring floods in the US Midwest in 2019 leading to very late planting of corn and soy crops, reducing their potential yields. It also mentioned drought playing havoc with rice crops in Thailand and Indonesia and sugarcane and oilseeds produces in India in 2019 when record-breaking heat waves in Europe were feared to be causing a 13 per cent decline in French wine production. Apart from under-nourishment and hunger, food short-

ages could lead to an increase in cross-border migration, which is having an unfortunate impact on politics in North America and Europe.

The question arises: What are the chances of averting the dismal future that seems to face the world? There are some glimmers of hope. The *Emissions Gap Report 2020* says that the predicted emission rates could be reduced by around 25 per cent if Governments commit to a path of "green recovery" from the pandemic's disaster. This would give the world a fighting chance to keep global warming down to 2 degrees Celsius by the end of this century. Treading this path would require the provision or direct support to zero-emissions technologies and infrastructure, reducing fossil fuel subsidies, promoting measures like afforestation and avoiding deforestation. Trees are most important as they reduce the presence of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by absorbing it.

Agricultural practices and global food supply systems account for one-third of the global carbon emissions. It is, therefore, important to orient them towards reducing carbon emissions. For example, steps like the draining of wetlands to make room for cultivation - as has happened in Indonesia and Malaysia to create palm oil plantations - should be avoided as that would release into the air the huge amounts of carbon dioxide gas trapped in these water bodies. Further, the *Special Report on Climate Change and Land* calls for institutional changes like providing farmers with better access to credit in developing countries and giving them stronger property rights. It further advocated utilisation of the skills and knowledge of indigenous and local peo-

ple to devise agricultural practices aimed at promoting biodiversity conservation and combating desertification and land degradation.

Along with agriculture, the *Emissions Gap Report 2020* emphasises the need for shipping and aviation industries, which account for five per cent of global emissions, to combine energy efficiency with a rapid transition away from fossil fuels.

Around two-thirds of global emissions being linked to private households, changes in consumption and behaviour patterns are required. Cycling, car-sharing, and more energy-efficient housing needs to be promoted. Travel by rail rather than air is recommended for short journeys. The wealthy, particularly, need to make significant changes in their lifestyles as the richest 1 per cent of the world's population accounts for more than twice the combined share of the poorest 50 per cent. There is a special need to avoid food loss and wastage.

There are some encouraging signs. While President Donald Trump of the US walked out of the Paris Agreement and derided the idea of climate change, President-elect Joe Biden has not only decided to rejoin but has set a target for net-zero emissions no later than 2050. According to the *Emissions Gap Report 2020*, some 126 countries, covering 51 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, have so far, adopted, announced or are considering, a net zero pledge by 2050.

Nevertheless, optimism needs to be kept on a tight leash. Between promise and performance, and resolve and result, falls more than a shadow. In this case, the shadow will darken the future of the entire world.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer)

SOUNDBITE

This distinguished group of public servants will bring the highest level of experience, compassion, and integrity to bear.



US President-elect
—Joe Biden

They are alleging lawlessness in Bengal. I want to ask whether you are unable to go out in the streets.



West Bengal CM
—Mamata Banerjee

If we say the Holocaust happened with Jews in World War II, I don't think that (battle of Bhima Koregaon) was anything less.



Actor
—Arjun Rampal

During the lockdown, when we were stuck at home, we used to meet daily over video conferencing and do our physical training activities.



India U-16 head coach
—Bibiano Fernandes

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NPPA quiet on profits

Sir — Generic medicines are considered an economical substitute for branded drugs. But I was shocked to notice heavy trade margins in generic medicines at the wholesale market in Delhi's Bhagirathi Palace.

A box of 20 strips of 10 tablets each of Vogliboz-0.3, marketed by Knoll Healthcare Pvt Ltd, with the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of ₹100 each (box MRP ₹2,000), was available with the distributor at ₹300. It means a whopping 567 per cent profit for the retailer.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) should immediately direct generic drug marketers to reduce the printed MRP to not above the net total trade margins of 20-25 per cent. The high trade margins create room for bribery since governments are the biggest purchasers of generic medicines for their hospitals and dispensaries.

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

Never give up

Sir — Before Independence, six major famines from 1870 to 1943 ravaged the country and completely crippled its health and economy. But India showed courage and pos-

New Parliament building: What's the need?

The "ground-breaking ceremony" for an imposing new Parliament building seemed incongruous when the country is going through an unprecedented difficult patch mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. The occasion was cheerless in the face of farmers intensifying their agitation for repealing the new farm laws.

The *bhoomi puja* with chants from Hindu scriptures seemed a display of the predominance of one religion. The multi-faith prayer that followed was consoling and there was no reading from the Constitution. President Ram Nath Kovind was conspicuous by his absence which was perhaps just what the Prime Minister needed to enjoy the limelight. The Central Vista Project (CVP), sprawling along the heart of the city and costing a few thousands of crores, validates the proposition that politics is too often concerned only with the personal vanities of politicians.

There is no justification for giving precedence to a sprawl of structures to house Parliament rather than providing housing for all the homeless, especially when the 93-year-old existing structure has not yet outlived its usefulness. A city where the destitute sleep on pavements can-

itivity and didn't depend on other countries for survival. The success of the Green Revolution helped develop a strong nation.

Times have changed and today we are able to provide food security to the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It is a historic fruit of unity, hard work and dedication of a multi-cultural nation. The



not boast of a four-storey triangular-shaped building — however much its grandeur — in good conscience. The "temple of democracy" should sit easy with the reality of life for most citizens.

What the Supreme Court's red light to any construction or demolition and felling of trees in the demarcated plot of land will translate into is far from clear. Cutting down trees for erecting a plethora of concrete structures does not advance the causes of conservation or curbing pollution.

G. David Milton
Maruthancode

Government should build bridges with our farmers for continued food security.

Sunil Chilwal
Haldwani

Get back on track

Sir — The farmers agitating for two weeks against the new agricultural laws have threatened to block railway tracks and highways to the

NCR if their demands are not heeded. It is quite serious.

The Centre has admitted that the laws have been made for traders. If agriculture is a State subject, the Centre has no right to make laws on it without consulting them. Thousands of farmers have been protesting at various border points to the Capital. They feel that the new laws are aimed at

benefitting corporates close to the Government by weakening the *mandi* system. As the situation turns increasingly explosive, the Centre will be responsible for any incidents that take place over the coming days.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Middle order mess

Sir — Even though India won the T-20 series against Australia by 2-1, the middle-order problem continues to cast a shadow over the team. Since the openers are a bit shaky, we need to depend on the middle order to prop up the scoring.

Trustworthy players like Manish Pandey and Shreyas Iyer, in terrific form in IPL, failed to do justice to the job at hand. With many all-rounders, the Indian team could try the pinch hitter policy in the middle order. Even an attacking Rishabh Pant capitulated and the team was depending on Pandya in the end. When he failed, we lost the final match and the series. This mess has to be sorted before the T-20 World Cup.

C.K. Ramanath Iyer
Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Reap the gains of a downtrend

Investors who want to build a good portfolio over the long term, should use opportunities like the present one, to invest in the financial markets



PREM PRAKASH

The Coronavirus pandemic has stalled international trade and created heightened volatility in the financial markets. It has impacted many businesses and the finances of individuals. People are revisiting their financial plans in order to sustain their savings for as long as possible. Those who have been playing the financial markets for long, know that such downturns are a great opportunity to rebalance their investment portfolios. Many research houses have come up with data points on how the recovery of the markets has been, post a catastrophic event that has sent the markets into a tailspin. In most of the cases it has been found that after a downward trend, the markets get back to their original level within two years. Hence, investors who are not looking to time the market and want to build a good portfolio over the long term, should use opportunities like the present one, to invest in the financial markets and reap benefits.

Many investment firms have gone the extra mile to support their stakeholders during these uncertain times. Webinars were conducted on financial health that focussed on effective fiscal management during the lockdown and the turbulent phase that the economy is going through. These firms facilitated a goal-based approach, risk profile analysis and rebalancing of strategies which helped the millennials with their future investment plans by tailoring them to their specific requirements.

A plunge in March, followed by a gradual recovery, has created a volatile situation in the financial markets that has lured many people to dabble in the stock market. At the same time, many existing investors who barely traded, have now started doing so. Retail participation saw a record high, while many inactive clients re-entered the market and there was a sharp rise in the number of new clients in the industry. Despite volatility, many investors were able to generate good returns with the help of financial advisors who adopted various strategies, the most popular being buying at the dip and multi-asset class investing. Buying at the dip is a market timing strategy and more often than not, investors do not get the timing right. The potential problem with this approach is that you may end up catching a falling knife. Investors should choose companies that fundamentally have good businesses and sufficient cash flows to withstand a potential downturn. It is beneficial to create a well-diversified portfolio by investing in multiple asset classes that give a balanced risk exposure over various macroeconomic conditions.

For investors focussed on companies with sustainable competitive advantages and long-term secular trends, it's important to prioritise a far-horizon investment outlook over knee-jerk modifications. While investors who focus on short-term stock market momentum may have rebalanced portfolios during the period, staying the course can potentially be beneficial. Sticking to a long-term investing strategy can serve as a guiding principle through swings on a monthly or quarterly basis. Research companies guide investors with rebalancing techniques as they tend to improve risk-adjusted returns over time, as long as it doesn't generate excessive tax and transaction costs by reducing portfolio sensitivity to the timing of volatile markets. It also gels with the markets' natural tendency to revert to the mean. Many a time, people do not understand and focus on rebalancing, however, this is one of the most important steps to get a consistent return. Rebalancing the portfolio normalises it for one's age, revised objectives, current market conditions and so on. For instance, if one has invested ₹1 crore with 70 per cent in equity and 30 per cent in debt and after a sudden fall in the market, the portfolio composition shifts to 60 per cent equity and 40 per cent debt, it is the right time to shift some amount from debt to equity, which will bring the portfolio composition back to 70:30. This way, one will always benefit from any market condition and the portfolio, too, will be aligned with long-term objectives.

Investors have been encouraged by improvements in manufacturing and metals, better-than-expected second-quarter earnings, hopes of a potential vaccine and extremely low interest rates. Mostly, investors seem to be looking past the pandemic to the recovery expected in 2021. Due to the expectations of an additional US Government stimulus, the ongoing global recovery and an expected rebound in cyclical sectors, the world is likely to see a V-shaped economic rebound. If the RBI continues the low interest rate regime for the next one year or so, the yields on Fixed Deposits and other fixed income instruments are going to be very low. Plus, if we include the impact of income tax the returns from these instruments are not going to beat inflation and one is going to get a negative real rate of return. All these put together, provide a great opportunity for investors to participate in the markets and build a portfolio with a long-term objective.

As the overall structure of the market remains positive, participation by retail investors will increase consistently. With economic activity recovering fast, more upgrades in earnings cannot be ruled out. Strong global markets in the future can keep the liquidity abundant in the system, thus providing support to the overall market.

(The writer is CEO, CapitalVia Global Research Limited.)

WHAT CAN BE MORE BEAUTIFUL, SACRED THAN HAVING A NEW PARLIAMENT INSPIRE US WHEN INDIA CELEBRATES 75TH YEAR OF FREEDOM.
—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



WHAT WILL BE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL (THAN THE NEW PARLIAMENT) WILL BE AN INDIA WITH NO HUNGRY STOMACHS.
—AIMM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWAISI

Checks and balances needed

There is a requirement to have a re-look into the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance



CHITTARVU RAGHU

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh (UP) recently promulgated an Ordinance called the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020. It has been promulgated to provide for prohibition of unlawful conversions from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement, by any fraudulent means or by marriage. The emphasis in the Ordinance is on the prohibition of "unlawful conversion." A conversion is considered unlawful if it is due to allurement, coercion and so on and also by marriage. An "unlawful conversion" is defined as one that is not in accordance with the law of the land.

According to the new law, a wo/man intending to convert to another religion needs to inform the District Magistrate or Additional District Magistrate at least 60 days in advance and give a declaration that the decision is free from any pressure or allurement and is being done by one's free choice. Yet, another declaration needs to be submitted within 60 days once the conversion takes place. Only then will the person be able to attain a confirmation certificate that the conversion is lawful. The District Magistrate's Office has to exhibit a copy of the declarations on the notice board of the office till the date of confirmation of conversion.

However, the UP Ordinance is silent with regard to the nature of the law governing conversions. It does not provide any explanation and contemplates that whoever is involved in the said unlawful conversion shall be punished with an imprisonment of not less than one year, which may extend to five years. The accused person is also liable to pay a fine. Though the punishment is one year to five years, the Ordinance makes the offence cognisable and non-bailable and triable by the court of sessions.

Generally, in criminal cases the burden of proof lies with the prosecution but the Ordinance imposes this burden upon the person who allegedly caused the conversion. And wherever the conversion has been facilitated by any other person, the burden of proof is on them too. It also contemplates that any marriage, which was entered into for the sole purpose of unlawful conversion by a man of one religion with a woman of another religion or *vice-versa*, either by converting himself/herself before or after marriage or by converting the wo/man before or after marriage, shall be declared void by the family court.

In case, the couple is in an area where the family court is not established, the civil court having jurisdiction in the area can try the case and declare the marriage null and void. There need not be any independent adjudication with regard to a declaration of any marriage as void as per any other law. However, the fact remains that unless a nexus is established between a marriage and unlawful conversion, Section six of the Ordinance, which contemplates marriage to be declared as void by the courts, is not applicable.

The meaning of conversion by marriage is also not explained in the Ordinance and it contemplates conversion by marriage per-se unlawful. Generally two persons belonging to different faiths can get married under the provisions of Special Marriage Act. However, in some cases unless there is a conversion and both, the bride and the bridegroom belong to the same faith, the marriage would not be performed. Conversion would be a prerequisite

“THE ORDINANCE COMES INTO PLAY WHEN A CONVERSION OCCURS DUE TO THE FACTORS LIKE ALLUREMENT, COERCION AND SO ON. IT IS INOPERATIVE WHILE EXERCISING FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE POLICE ARE EQUIPPED SUFFICIENTLY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THESE ASPECTS OR NOT SO AS TO COME TO A CONCLUSION THAT THE CHOICE OF CONVERSION HAS BEEN MADE FREELY WITHOUT ANY OTHER FACTORS”



site in such cases. It cannot be said that it is a conversion by marriage. The Ordinance also contemplates that once the person who intends to change his/her religion has made the declaration before the District Magistrate, an inquiry would be conducted by the police with regard to "such an intention of a person to convert." The report of the police would be a major factor in deciding whether a person can change their religion or not. It would also be instrumental in concluding whether the conversion is illegal and thus, void.

The Ordinance also contemplates a post-conversion procedure. It states that a converted individual shall send a declaration to the District Magistrate and appear for 21 days thereafter before him/her till the objections, if any, received are decided by the District Magistrate. It also contemplates that if the procedure is not followed the conversion becomes illegal and void.

Though the Ordinance protects people from getting converted due to allurement, coercion and so on, there is a scope for abusing the provisions by relying upon the police enquiry report. The Ordinance is silent with regard to the action of the District Magistrate *vis-a-vis* the police inquiry report. There is a requirement to have a re-look into the provisions of the Ordinance for the purpose of incorporating necessary checks and balances instead of placing more reliance upon a police enquiry report.

However, the UP Government's anti-conversion move is not unique. In the past too, several States in the country have passed what are referred to as Freedom of Religion Acts or "anti-conversion laws". These are mostly State-level laws that are aimed to regulate involuntary religious conversions. Odisha was the first State to pass such a law in 1967

and the most recent legislation was passed in Jharkhand and Uttarakhand in 2017. Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh passed their "Freedom of Religion Act" in 2000, 2003 and 2006 respectively. Taking a cue from the others, Rajasthan too passed a similar Bill in 2006. Arunachal Pradesh had already enacted one in 1979 and in 2002 Tamil Nadu passed the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Forceful Conversion Act. The Supreme Court in the Reverend. Stanislaus Vs. State of Madhya Pradesh case upheld the provisions of the Madhya Pradesh and Orissa Act. Significantly, Madhya Pradesh enacted the Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantraya Adhinayam Act way back in 1968 and Odisha enacted the Orissa Freedom of Religion Act in 1967.

The provisions of both the Acts relating to prohibition of forcible conversion and punishment were challenged before the respective High Courts and were carried to the Apex Court. The Supreme Court had held that the freedom of religion enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution is not guaranteed in respect of one religion only but covers all religions alike and it can be properly enjoyed by a person if s/he exercises her/his right in a manner commensurate with freedom of persons following other religions. It was further held that freedom for one is freedom for the other, in equal measure, and there can therefore be no such thing as a fundamental right to convert any person to one's own religion. The Apex Court upheld the provisions which prohibit forceful conversion in the background of maintenance of "public order." The Supreme Court also held that if an attempt is made to raise communal passions, e.g. on the ground that someone has been "forcibly" converted to another religion, it would

in all probability, give rise to apprehension of breach of public order, affecting the community at large. However, the present Ordinance incorporates a new concept of conversion by marriage. It presumes that every religious conversion is illegal unless the procedure that has been laid down is followed. The term "love jihad" has not been referred to in the Ordinance and its perusal shows that the same is applicable to all religions. The word "allurement" has been defined widely, which may ultimately be a playing field for the police during its enquiry.

Article 25 of the Constitution of India contemplates that all people are equally entitled to freedom of conscience, the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion. It means that the Constitution guarantees the right to practice, propagate a religion and in the process a person may impress upon the other to get converted or herself/himself change their religion.

The Ordinance comes into play when such a conversion occurs due to the factors like allurement, coercion and so on. It is inoperative while exercising freedom of conscience. The question is whether the police are equipped sufficiently to conduct an enquiry into these aspects or not, so as to come to a conclusion that the choice of conversion has been made freely without any other factors. There would be a possibility of abuse of processes and filing of criminal cases against those persons who propagate their faith, on the ground that they have instigated the thought of conversion in a person. However, a mere thought of conversion to another religion cannot be made an offence unless it manifests into action.

(The writer is an Advocate in the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Courts)

The return of strongmen in politics

Like the authoritarians of the Cold War, the current leaders are thought to provide assertive leadership that is protecting their nations from malevolent forces



NADEEM PARACHA

In London, during a 2011 international media conference organised by the British Council, I was approached by a group of Indian journalists who were curious to know my views on Pakistan's former dictator and "strongman" General Pervez Musharraf. I must clarify that the term "strongman" was used by them, despite the fact that Musharraf had been forced to resign in 2008. This wasn't the first time I had come across Indians praising Musharraf as a strongman. So on the last day of the conference, I asked one of them to explain to me their fascination with Musharraf.

"They want their own strong-

man, which they never had," he chuckled. "But why would they want one when democratically-elected men and women in your country have done rather well compared to all the strongmen that have ruled Pakistan?" I asked.

He replied by saying that India's new middle-classes felt that their country's political system is corrupt and weak and unable to defend its Hindu majority from brazen attacks from Pakistan.

This left me scratching my head: "But India's economy has been outperforming that of Pakistan's for years now, and India has a much better image abroad," I smiled. "No, boss," he replied, "what is the use of a good economy or image if they can't stop attacks on our pride and people." He almost sounded melancholic.

Three years later, India elected the unabashed nationalist, Narendra Modi as its Prime Minister. India's own "strongman." The term "strongmen" (in politics) is rooted in the largely mythical exploits of ancient monarchs who "ruled like benevolent kings but with an iron fist." It's

an expression of a political masculinity driven by fearlessness, fairness, ambition and mental and physical strength. However, the more immediate roots of the term lie in the ways certain authoritarian rulers and dictators came to power and conducted matters of the State and Government during the Cold War (1945-1990).

In a March 11, 2019 essay in *Foreign Policy*, the American political scientist Erica Frantz writes that the size of autocratic regimes peaked in the 1970s, when 75 per cent of the governments in the world were authoritarian. They were said to be ruled by "strongmen." The term had a negative connotation when used by political scientists, but it was actually celebrated by those for whom it was being used. Some of these "strongmen" were romanticised through State propaganda as men who were boldly protecting their societies from malevolent forces that were out to usurp a country's resources, progress, pride and existence.

After the collapse of the Cold War in 1990, it was widely believed

that in the defeat and absence of the Soviet Union and because of the triumph of capitalism, a liberal democracy would rapidly proliferate in former dictatorships. The era of "strongmen" was understood to be over. Nevertheless, after 1990, the term "strongmen" did recede, and many countries adopted democracy, in one form or the other. But the term returned with a bang after 2010, mainly on the wings of two democracies gradually sliding into autocracies.

Russia was a "hybrid democracy" and like most post-Cold War hybrid regimes, never fully developed into the kind of liberal democracy that most analysts believed it would eventually evolve into. More striking was the case of Turkey which, after decades of military interventions, did manage to make a successful transition with the 2003 election of Recep Erdogan as the Prime Minister and the rapid erosion of the political influence of Turkey's military. However, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Erdogan soon discovered that an authoritarian set-up can last longer

behind a facade of liberal democracy, compared to the bygone nature of dictatorship, which was openly antagonistic towards democracy. Their "success" in this respect did not go unnoticed. After 2014, a wave began to sweep across various regions in which democratically-elected men started to use similar tactics, putting themselves at the centre of an authoritarian set-up but giving it a veneer of democracy. They all became the new "strongmen."

More alarmingly, this not only happened in hybrid set-ups in former dictatorships (such as Pakistan, for example) but also in developed democracies in various European countries and in India and the US.

According to a detailed study on the "new strongmen" published in the journal, *Political Research Exchange*, the current breed of "strongmen" share similar characteristics with the authoritarians of the Cold War. The only difference is, unlike their Cold War contemporaries, the new ones come to power through a democratic process. But they mould, turn and twist demo-

cratic institutions and tools to formulate an autocratic set-up.

The study defines the personalities of authoritarians as dark traits which include, "narcissism (grandiosity, ego-reinforcement behaviour, tendency to seek attention and admiration), subclinical psychopathy (lack of remorse, insensitivity, impulsivity) and Machiavellianism (tendency to use manipulation and strategic behaviours)." They embody a push for a centralisation of executive power, hierarchical governance, muscular treatment of opponents and the media, and the promotion of nationalism. The study further states that the electoral attraction for the new authoritarians is because of disillusionment with established democratic models. However, a May 10, 2018 report by the *International Association for Political Science Studies* (IAPSS) posits that "a combination of uncertainty with the false perception of an escalating threat has led to an increase in calls for strong leaders." It adds that societies are now more vulnerable and under the influence of authoritarians that

provide simple answers — often fallacies — to the complex issues of today's world.

The report argues that, psychologically, new autocratic regimes use old authoritarian tactics of inducing anxiety in the polity about fears that may be exaggerated, or non-existent. For example, returning to my conversation with the Indian journalist in London, the Modi regime's "manly" anti-Pakistan bent and actions against ideas such as "love jihad" may be a carry-over from a decades-old Hindu middle-class anxiety. According to the German historian Markus Daechsel, in the early 20th century, there was a feeling among Hindu nationalists that the Hindus lacked militant virtues. Daechsel writes that it was widely believed by the Hindu middle-classes that "Muslims had a higher birth rate than Hindus because of their unrestrained sexuality."

Is it possible then that those middle-class Indians who were looking for a "strongman" had also this embedded in their psyches? Perhaps.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

India's Oct industrial production grows by 3.5%



PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial activity accelerated in October with a rise of over 3.5 per cent in factory output on a year-on-year basis, official data showed on Thursday.

ous year.
"For the month of October 2020, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 128.5," the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.
"The Indices of Industrial Production for the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors for the month of October 2020 stand at 98, 130.7 and 162.2 respectively."
The IIP had been in the negative territory from April to August FY21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown to curb its spread.Among major segments, manufacturing production grew by 3.5 per cent from (-) 5.7 per cent reported for the corresponding month of

Govt cautiously optimistic on economy; will continue to take steps to push growth: DEA Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is cautiously optimistic on the economic front and will continue to take measures to push growth, Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Friday. Addressing Ficci's

Annual Convention, he said the second quarter GDP number was much better than market expectations and it will further improve in the second half of the current fiscal. The economy contracted by 7.5 per cent in the second quarter, as against 23.9 per

cent degrowth in the first quarter of this fiscal on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. "So we are positive. We are cautiously optimistic on the economic front. And we are hoping that our third and fourth quarter will be far better than the second quarter.

On the other hand, the production of infrastructure or construction goods grew by 7.8 per cent and consumer durables by 17.6 per cent. The sub-segment of consumer non-durables showed a growth of 7.5 per cent.

L&T emerges as lowest bidder in multiple projects

New Delhi:Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has emerged as the lowest bidder in multiple infrastructure projects, including ONGC, Nuclear Power Corporation and Chennai Metro Rail.On the ONGC NLRNC project, sources said L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering, a wholly owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro Limited has emerged as the lowest bidder for ONGC's New Living Quarters & Revamp at NQ Complex Project, after the state controlled Indian oil giant opened the financial bids submitted by the 2 bidders.The scope involves the engineering, procurement, and construction of a living quarters platform for 120 people which will be required to be installed on a separate jacket and bridge-linked with the nearby NQO platform. IANS

'Recovery from pandemic to take some time'

KUSHAN MITRAN ■ NEW DELHI

“We are being very careful in forecasting sales for 2021”, Tae-Jin Park, Executive Director and Chief Sales Officer, Kia Motors says quite honestly. One might find that surprising as the Korean company has made a big splash in the Indian market, their Seltos and Sonet SUV’s and Carnival MPV all are best-sellers. Data released by the Society of Indian Automobile

Manufacturers (SIAM) showed that Kia’s sales more than doubled in India to 89,010 units between April and November 2020, despite the first few months of the financial year being lost thanks to the pandemic. Park’s cautiousness however has some merit, “The festive season has been good, but we have to see how the rest of the economy is doing before forecasting for 2021.” That said, Park said that Kia

is not slowing down or postponing any plans for 2021. “The Indian market is very important for Kia Motors. We believe we have changed the expectations of Indian customers with more happiness and enjoyment from our products and we are offering Indian motorists a new experience.” Asked about trends for future products, Park said that consumers wanted “more connectivity, more high-end features as

well as more safety from their cars.” He also expects market changes as more people choose personal transportation options. Kia Motors which is a leading sponsor of global sporting events, Kia sponsors FIFA, the Europa League and Australian Open tennis and has Rafael Nadal among their brand ambassadors is also looking at good opportunities for Sports Marketing in India, Park told *The Pioneer*.

Markets perch near all-time highs; bank, FMCG stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices resumed their climb on Friday after a day's pause as bank, energy and FMCG stocks saw robust buying amid persistent foreign fund inflows. Subdued global markets and a flat rupee capped the gains, analysts said. After touching its all-time intra-day high of 46,309.63, the 30-share BSE Sensex dipped into the negative zone in late-afternoon trade. However, it staged a comeback to end 139.13 points or 0.30% higher at 46,099.01, just shy of its closing record.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty rose 35.55 points or 0.26% to 13,513.85. It hit a lifetime high of 13,579.35 during the session.

ONGC topped the Sensex gainers' chart, rallying 5.68%, followed by NTPC, Tata Steel, ITC, ICICI Bank, Titan, Bajaj Auto and SBI.

On the other hand, Axis Bank, M&M, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finserv and Infosys were among the laggards, skidding up to 2.19%.

During the week, the Sensex vaulted 1,019.46 points or 2.26%, while the Nifty surged 255.30 points or 1.92%.

World stocks wobbled as

prospects of a no-deal Brexit and uncertainty over US stimulus talks sapped risk appetite. Market opened well, but in between it lost all the gains and turned negative. Fortunately, it made a good attempt to bounce back and closed marginally above. Gains made in sectors like energy, FMCG and metals were countered by selling in Pharma and IT stocks. "This muted momentum was due to a weak global trend. Despite European Central Bank announcing an increase in the stimulus package, European markets fell as it was weighed by increasing chance of a no-deal Brexit, rising virus cases and moderate usages of the announced stimulus plan

₹ ENDS NEARLY FLAT

The Indian rupee ended almost flat at 73.64, up 2 paise, against the American currency on Friday as dollar buying by banks weighed on the domestic currency. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.65 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.56 and a low of 73.71.

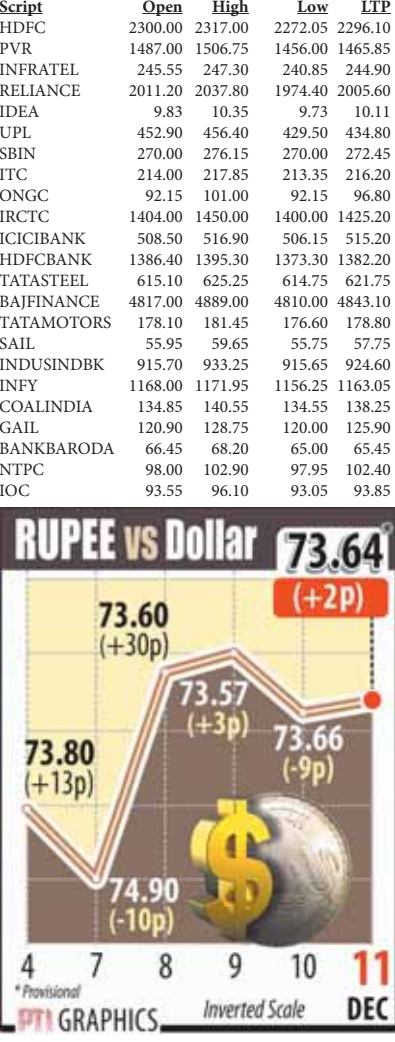
NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	13512.30	13579.35	13402.85	13513.85	35.55
ONGC	92.60	104.40	92.60	96.65	5.00
NATPC	97.90	102.90	97.65	102.15	5.00
GAIL	120.10	128.80	120.05	126.10	6.05
COALINDIA	134.70	140.70	134.50	138.30	3.45
TATASTEEL	614.90	625.45	614.25	621.90	11.80
ICICIBANK	509.25	516.90	506.10	515.85	8.55
TITAN	1427.50	1449.85	1423.00	1447.60	23.40
IOC	93.55	96.10	93.55	93.95	1.50
ITC	214.45	217.95	213.35	216.00	3.30
SBI	270.05	276.25	270.05	272.50	2.95
ULTRACEMCO	5005.00	5038.65	4956.00	5011.00	46.70
BAJFINANCE	4805.00	4889.00	4805.00	4837.00	42.20
KOTAKBANK	1893.50	1928.70	1893.50	1919.65	16.35
BAJAJ-AUTO	3295.60	3337.15	3285.55	3317.65	26.80
HINDUNILVR	2366.25	2385.00	2333.00	2368.95	18.50
INDUSINDBK	916.75	933.35	915.10	923.90	7.15
HDFCLIFE	668.35	668.35	652.25	663.00	3.55
HDFC	2307.00	2317.70	2272.00	2297.00	7.90
TATAMOTORS	1779.5	181.45	176.50	178.20	0.60
SUNPHARMA	567.90	572.95	562.00	567.05	1.85
POWERGRID	194.00	195.25	192.15	193.25	0.50
HINDALCO	244.25	248.00	240.95	243.05	0.35
IT	1188.00	1216.80	1182.00	1194.15	1.10
NESTLEIND	18300.00	18460.00	18200.00	18354.70	2.00
BHARTIARTL	508.50	508.50	497.30	505.10	-0.05
SHREECEM	23780.00	23958.00	23585.05	23750.00	-8.10
ITC	2792.70	2807.70	2764.55	2782.00	-2.30
HCLTECH	871.00	881.80	855.20	865.15	-1.60
BRITANNIA	3746.85	3777.00	3710.30	3752.80	-6.95
INFY	1139.70	1171.95	1155.25	1165.20	-2.55
MARUTI	7779.95	7795.70	7700.00	7715.20	-20.80
HDFCBANK	1390.05	1395.00	1373.00	1382.05	-3.80
ASIANPAINT	2516.00	2536.90	2495.00	2518.00	-8.05
GRASIM	909.90	916.65	901.00	906.30	-3.20
RELIANCE	2013.00	2038.00	1974.25	1999.40	-7.60
BAJAJFINSV	9067.00	9139.00	8951.00	8989.05	-39.80
HEROMOTOCO	3200.00	3239.50	3169.00	3175.00	-19.30
WIPRO	357.40	360.00	352.35	355.30	-2.40
BPCL	401.00	407.40	392.00	396.20	-3.10
DREDDY	5055.10	5084.05	4984.80	5013.00	-40.10
SBIIFE	860.90	862.80	849.40	849.00	-7.05
TECHM	922.00	931.00	916.45	919.20	-8.10
CIPLA	764.00	766.10	753.00	756.00	-6.75
UPL	456.00	456.85	429.20	434.00	-3.95
JSWSTEEL	364.60	366.70	357.60	359.95	-3.25
EICHERMOT	2492.65	2507.95	2451.85	2465.00	-27.65
M&M	738.90	746.70	722.10	728.00	-8.15
ADANIEXPORTS	471.75	475.00	462.70	465.00	-6.00
DIVISLAB	3730.00	3740.00	3622.40	3649.85	-82.40
AXISBANK	626.35	631.65	608.35	612.40	-14.65

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	31922.40	32066.20	31602.20	31928.80	78.15
PNB	38.60	41.40	38.60	40.65	2.25
ABBOTINDIA	1579.90	1625.50	1570.00	1608.00	511.70
NMDC	108.25	113.75	108.10	110.95	3.15
DMART	2647.00	2715.00	2632.00	2696.00	73.95
PETRONET	255.40	263.25	254.00	261.25	6.35
MARICO	409.50	416.25	406.20	414.15	10.00
BANDHANBNK	41.75	42.70	41.45	42.45	9.55
PFC	115.00	119.10	114.60	117.00	2.45
UBL	1141.00	1176.00	1116.05	1158.00	20.20
PGHI	11198.00	11398.75	11157.80	11355.00	157.55
ICICI	1458.05	1476.40	1437.10	1469.00	19.25
HINDPZCO	216.00	223.00	214.80	218.05	2.50
HINDCINT	240.95	249.40	240.25	241.15	1.45
BAJAJHLING	3029.15	3129.00	3025.25	3064.00	15.25
ITI	3278.75	3295.00	3241.90	3265.00	13.60
IGL	481.70	486.95	478.00	483.10	1.40
ADANIGREEN	990.05	1005.00	985.00	1008.15	1.45
BIOCON	45.00	45.60	44.50	45.45	0.55
ICICIPRULI	496.95	503.10	490.35	497.00	0.45
HDFCAMC	2839.15	2888.00	2780.00	2841.00	1.85
MCDOWELLN	597.90	602.75	586.10	593.00	0.00
DABUR	517.35	519.50	508.80	513.95	-0.45
SIEMENS	1544.65	1547.70	1518.55	1535.40	-1.60
OFSS	3154.95	3154.95	3111.05	3130.00	-3.30
GODREJCP	735.80	739.40	716.55	727.55	-1.00
MOTHERSUMI	156.05	156.80	152.00	154.35	-0.30
INFRATEL	24.40	24.70	24.00	24.20	-0.55
HAVELLS	829.60	841.45	821.20	825.20	-2.20
LUPIN	945.00	950.00	928.55	940.00	-3.10
DLF	218.35	221.00	218.20	217.05	-0.85
TORNTHPHARM	2648.00	2655.00	2620.00	2641.10	-10.60
CONCOR	406.00	409.40	396.00	400.35	-1.90
GREAPAINTE	679.50	682.35	670.75	676.20	-3.35
INDIGO	1742.00	1748.95	1699.20	1727.00	-9.35
AUROPHARMA	900.00	903.50	889.20	894.00	-5.00
AMBUJACEM	249.50	250.00	243.75	246.70	-1.60
BOSCHUL	13280.00	13401.00	13050.00	13120.00	-88.20
COPIAL	1582.00	1598.00	1560.50	1574.30	-11.05
CADILAHC	479.95	479.95	461.00	466.00	-3.55
AIKEM	2918.40	2939.00	2885.50	2896.00	-22.30
TATACONSUM	584.80	589.35	570.55	575.00	-4.90
PIDILITIND	1658.40	1667.85	1630.10	1634.00	-17.35
MUTHOOTFIN	1191.10	1199.70	1169.00	1172.00	-12.70
GICRE	144.10	146.60	140.85	142.25	-1.70
ACC	1642.70	1659.95	1605.00	1613.05	-19.60
ANANDTRANS	432.40	432.40	416.40	424.80	-5.45
SBCARD	834.50	849.40	818.30	820.00	-11.75
BANKBARODA	66.35	68.25	65.00	65.35	-1.00
PEL	1474.00	1474.00	1426.20	1430.10	-23.90
NAUKRI	495.00	473.90	447.10	451.50	-75.85

BSE 500



Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
HDPC	2300.00	2317.00	2272.05	2296.10
PVR	1487.00	1506.75	1456.00	1465.85
INFRADEL	245.55	247.30	240.85	244.90
RELIANCE	2011.20	2037.80	1974.40	2005.60
IDEA	9.83	10.35	9.73	10.11
UPL	452.90	456.40	429.50	434.80
SBI	270.00	276.15	270.00	272.45
ITC	214.00	217.85	213.35	216.20
ONGC	92.15	101.00	92.15	96.80
IRCTC	1404.00	1450.00	1400.00	1425.20
ICICIBANK	545.00	516.90	506.15	515.20
HDFCBANK	1386.40	1395.30	1373.30	1382.20
TATASTEEL	615.10	625.25	614.75	621.75
BAJFINANCE	4817.00	4889.00	4810.00	4843.10
TATAMOTORS	178.10	181.45	176.60	178.80
SAIL	55.95	59.65	55.75	57.75
INDUSINDBK	915.70	933.25	915.65	924.60
INFY	1168.00	1171.95	1156.25	1163.05
COALINDIA	134.85	140.75	134.55	138.25
GAIL	120.90	128.75	120.00	125.90
BANKBARODA	66.45	68.20	65.00	65.05
ITPC	98.00	102.90	97.95	102.40
NATPC	93.55	96.10	93.05	93.85

BHARTIARTL	508.00	508.25	497.10	504.05
DLF	401.00	407.20	392.10	397.25
AXISBANK	627.10	631.55	608.55	613.30
HINDUNILVR	2362.10	2384.40	2332.50	2373.00
SPIKEJET	103.15	107.90	100.60	106.15
KOTAKBANK	1894.00	1928.00	1894.00	1920.65
VEDL	145.00	147.60	142.40	146.50
LI	1191.00	1216.55	1182.00	1194.35
CANBK	122.50	127.90	122.50	125.25
DLF	219.10	221.50	212.75	218.75
ASHOKLEY	95.00	96.00	93.50	94.10
BANDHANBNK	417.40	430.25	415.05	423.30
APOLLOTYRE	181.50	194.65	181.50	192.80
BAJAJFINSV	9026.00	9137.40	8951.35	8985.10
HCLTECH	871.85	881.50	855.20	861.50
PNB	38.80	41.35	38.80	40.45
HDFCLIFE	663.15	668.00	655.10	664.45
BPCL	35.60	36.95	35.45	35.95
HINDALCO	242.70	247.90	240.95	243.55
TATAPOWER	73.45	74.10	72.90	72

Hundreds of GOP members sign onto Texas-led election lawsuit

Houston: The Texas lawsuit asking the US Supreme Court to invalidate President-elect Joe Biden's victory has quickly become a conservative litmus test, as 106 members of Congress and multiple state attorneys general signed onto the case even as some have predicted it will fail.

The last-gasp bid to subvert the results of the Nov 3 election is demonstrating President Donald Trump's enduring political power even as his term is set to end. And even though most of the signatories are far-right conservatives who come from deep red districts, the filing meant that roughly one-quarter of the US House believes the Supreme Court should set aside election results.

Seventeen Republican attorneys general are backing the unprecedented case that Trump is calling "the big one" despite the fact that the president and his allies have lost dozens of times in courts across



the country and have no evidence of widespread fraud.

And in a filing Thursday, the Congressional Republicans claimed "unconstitutional irregularities" have "cast doubt" on the 2020 outcome and "the integrity of the American system of elections."

To be clear, there has been no evidence of widespread fraud and Trump has been seeking to subvert the will of the voters. Election law experts

think the lawsuit will never last.

"The Supreme Court is not going to overturn the election in the Texas case, as the President has told them to do," tweeted Rick Hasen, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine. "But we are in bad shape as a country that 17 states could support this shameful, anti-American filing" by Texas and its attorney general, Ken Paxton, he said.

The lawsuit filed against

Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin repeats false, disproven, and unsubstantiated accusations about the voting in four states that went for Trump's Democratic challenger.

The case demands that the high court invalidate the states' 62 total Electoral College votes. That's an unprecedented remedy in American history: setting aside the votes of tens of millions of people, under the baseless claim the Republican incumbent lost a chance at a second term due to widespread fraud.

Two days after Paxton sued, 17 states filed a motion supporting the lawsuit, and on Thursday six of those states asked to join the case themselves. Trump has acted to join the case, tweeting Thursday that "the Supreme Court has a chance to save our Country from the greatest Election abuse in the history of the United States."

Hours later, Trump held a meeting at the White House, scheduled before the suit was filed, with a dozen Republican attorneys general, including Paxton and several others who are backing the effort.

Still, some of the top state Republican prosecutors urging the Supreme Court to hear the case have acknowledged that the effort is a long shot and are seeking to distance themselves from Trump's baseless allegations of fraud.

North Dakota's Wayne Stenehjem, among the 17 attorneys general supporting the case, said North Dakota is not alleging voter fraud in the four states at issue.

"We're careful on that," said Stenehjem, who noted that his office has received thousands of calls and emails from constituents asking the state to support the suit. "But it's worth it for the Supreme Court to weigh in and settle it once and for all," he said. **AP**

Obama reunion? Biden fills Cabinet with former White House leaders

Washington: President-elect Joe Biden is getting the old gang back together.

Increasingly deep into the process of selecting Cabinet members and other senior staff, the incoming Biden administration has a distinctly Obama feel.

There's Denis McDonough, former President Barack Obama's chief of staff who Biden announced on Thursday would be nominated as the secretary of veterans affairs.

Susan Rice, Obama's former national security adviser, was named the director of Biden's White House Domestic Policy Council.

That's on top of Biden already tapping Obama's agriculture secretary, Tom Vilsack, to head the department once

again, former Secretary of State John Kerry to serve as special envoy on climate and Kerry's Obama-era deputy Antony Blinken to lead the State Department.

Jeff Zients, who did stints as acting Office of Management and Budget director and a top economic adviser in the Obama White House, will return as Biden's coronavirus response coordinator.

With the exception of President Donald Trump, a political outsider when he was elected in 2016, recent new presidents have relied heavily on pools of talent that had cut their teeth in their parties' previous administrations to fill out their own government.

But Biden, who is assuming the presidency in the midst of

the worst public health crisis in a century and a flagging economy, is putting a greater premium on past experience and, as a result, has gone frequently back to the Obama well as he fills out his government.

"Many of the folks who are returning are returning because they believe in public service and know that after four turbulent and destructive years and a brutal pandemic, this is a particularly important time to serve," said David Axelrod, who served as a senior adviser to Obama.

"Their experience is valuable. Their values and outlooks are consonant with (Biden's). The challenge is to look forward and not back and innovate beyond what's simply been broken." **AP**

US carries out rare execution during presidential transition

Terre Haute (US): The Trump administration Thursday carried out its ninth federal execution of the year in what has been a first series of executions during a presidential lame-duck period in 130 years, putting to death a Texas street-gang member in the slayings of a religious couple from Iowa more than two decades ago.

Four more federal executions, including one Friday, are planned in the weeks before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. One was carried out in late November.

The case of Brandon Bernard, who received a lethal injection of phenobarbital at a US prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, was a rare execution of a person who was in his teens when his crime was committed.

Several high-profile figures, including reality TV star Kim Kardashian West, had appealed to President Donald Trump to commute Bernard's sentence to life in prison.

With witnesses looking on from behind a glass barrier separating them from a pale-green death chamber, the 40-year-old Bernard was pronounced dead



at 9:27 pm Eastern time. He directed his last words to the family of the couple he played a role in killing, speaking with striking calm for someone who knew he was about to die. "I'm sorry," he said, lifting his head and looking at witness-room windows. "That's the only words that I can say that completely capture how I feel now and how I felt that day." As he spoke, he showed no outward signs of fear or distress, speaking lucidly and naturally. He spoke for more than three minutes, saying he had been waiting for this chance to say he was sorry — not only to the victims' family, but also for the pain he caused his own family. **AP**

Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai charged under national security law

Hong Kong: Hong Kong pro-democracy activist and media tycoon Jimmy Lai has been charged under the city's national security law, amid a widening crackdown on dissent, according to local media reports. Lai, who founded the Apple Daily tabloid, was charged on suspicion of colluding with foreign forces and endangering national security, local broadcaster TVB reported Friday. He is the most high-profile person to be charged under the law since it was implemented in June.

Police said in a statement that they arrested a 73-year-old man under the national security law, but did not name him.



Lai was arrested under the national security law in August. He and two executives of Next Digital, the company that operates the Apple Daily newspaper, were later charged for fraud over accusations that they violated lease terms on office space the company. He was denied bail earlier this month. **AP**

UN backs Afghan peace talks in resolution, Russia votes no

United Nations: The UN General Assembly approved a resolution over Russian objections Thursday commending progress in peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban while urging stepped-up efforts to tackle terrorist attacks by the Taliban, al-Qaida, the Islamic State extremist group and their affiliates.

The vote in the 193-member world body was 130 in favour, Russia against, and China, Pakistan and Belarus abstaining.

Fifty-nine countries did not vote.

The 15-page resolution titled "The Situation in Afghanistan" covers a wide range of issues including peace

and reconciliation, democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights, counter-narcotics, social and economic development and regional cooperation.

While welcoming progress in the intra-Afghan talks, including the December 2 agreement on rules of procedure for negotiations, the resolution "condemns the high rate of continued violence."

It says this "is contributing to an unacceptable number of casualties" and calls for an immediate cessation of violence and strongly encourages the Afghan government and the Taliban "to pursue confidence-building measures and to reduce violence."

The resolution reiterates the General Assembly's "serious concern" about the security situation in Afghanistan and stresses the need to continue to address the threat to the country's stability from violence committed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as al-Qaida, Islamic State, their affiliates "and other terrorist and criminal groups."

Afghanistan's UN ambassador, Adela Raz, expressed regret that despite her government's strong support for the resolution it wasn't adopted by consensus, saying the measure reflects "developments that are taking place on the ground and particularly the progress in the peace process." **AP**

Turkey rejects EU decision to widen curbs

Ankara: Turkey on Friday called on the European Union to act as an 'honest mediator' in its dispute with EU members Greece and Cyprus over the exploration of gas reserves in the Mediterranean, after European leaders approved expanding sanctions against Ankara.

The leaders said early Friday that Turkey — which is a candidate to join although its membership talks are blocked — has "engaged in unilateral actions and provocations and escalated its rhetoric against the EU." This was despite the fact that they had offered trade and other incentives to Turkey to halt its activities during their last summit in October, they said.

The leaders tasked EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell with drawing up a report on the state of EU-Turkey political, economic and trade relations and to suggest how to proceed, including on widening sanctions. Borrell was asked to submit the report to the leaders by the time they hold a summit in March. Turkey's Foreign Ministry slammed the EU decision, saying Ankara rejects the 27-member groups' "biased and unlawful attitude."

Around the Globe

Juba (South Sudan): One country in South Sudan is likely in famine and tens of thousands of people in five other countries are on the brink of starvation, according to a new report by international food security experts. Nowhere in the world has been in famine since one was declared nearly four years ago in South Sudan's Unity state as civil war raged. Now western Pibor county is feared to have reached that crisis level, the result of massive flooding and deadly violence that has prevented access to aid.

Kabul: Optimism among Afghans regarding the country's peace process has decreased significantly in the past few months amid a spike in violence, according to a survey released Friday. The Institute of War and Peace Studies found optimism had dropped to 57 per cent when the survey was conducted from September 29 to October 18. That's down from 86 per cent of those surveyed according to the previous assessment conducted over the summer and released in August.

Buffalo: Convicted former movie producer Harvey Weinstein is expected to appear briefly via video from a New York prison as part of legal efforts to send him to California to face sexual assault charges. The extradition proceeding, originally scheduled for August, likely will be postponed again, this time until April 9.

Leidschendam (Netherlands): A UN-backed tribunal sentenced a member of the Hezbollah militant group to life imprisonment Friday for his involvement in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. The defendant, Salim Ayyash, has never been arrested and was not in court at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon for Friday's sentencing hearing.

Taipei: A leading pro-China cable news channel prepared to halt its broadcast operations at midnight Friday after Taiwan's government refused to renew its license, citing accuracy issues. The National Communications Commission cited repeated violations of rules on accurate reporting in rejecting CTTV's license renewal.

BENGAL CHIEF SECY...

The Chief Secretary further wrote, "We had indeed made elaborate arrangements for security coverage of the protectees... The West Bengal police had provided a bullet-proof car and a pilot to Nadda, which was in addition to the escort (vehicle by State, personnel by CRPF) and PSOs (Personal Security Officers) he is entitled to as a Z-category protectee. "Reminding how not only Nadda — who had traversed the entire route safely — was provided with a bullet proof vehicle and pilot cars but also the Government had deputed 4 ASPs, 8 DSPs 70 SIs and ASIs, 145 constables, 350 civic police volunteers and 40 RAF personnel."

This was in addition to the security arrangements made by the Central Government. Chief Secretary's report to the Centre came in tandem with a scathing attack by Trinamool politicians on the Centre. Condemning the Home Ministry's "unconstitutional behaviour" senior Trinamool Congress functionaries, including Minister Subroto Mukherjee and MP Kalyan Banerjee, described the summons as "unprecedented in a federal form of Government" because "the Centre has no authority to call State officials like this bypassing the State Government," particularly because "law and order is purely a State subject."

Mukherjee went a step further and said, "Bengal and Mamata Banerjee will not be cowed down by such threats issued by the Centre ... we in the Trinamool Congress have seen many such brow-beatings and threats earlier and are ready to face them."

The Centre's summons to the officers came after Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar submitted an adverse report to Home Minister Amit Shah about the "deteriorating law and order" in the State. He wrote how "at 8.30 am I had had alerted the Chief Secretary ... and he wrote me back" saying he was "alerted and had sensitized the DGP" about the matter." He

later told the media how "the events that happened on December 11 were most unfortunate. They are a slur on our democratic fabric. As a Governor, it is my duty to uphold the Indian Constitution..."

Referring to Mamata's statement passing the blame of the entire incident on the BJP leadership he said, "I take a very serious note of the statement that emanated from the Chief Minister. How can a responsible Chief Minister believing in rule of law, believing in Constitution, talked the way she did. I tweeted, I urge the CM, madam please reflect."

Meanwhile, the State police had lodged three cases in the Thursday's incident. While a first FIR was filed against BJP leader Rakesh Singh for instigating the crowd two other complaints were registered against "unknown people." The Governor's report following the violence in Diamond Harbour, the Lok Sabha constituency of Banerjee's nephew Abhishek, gives a detailed analysis of the law and order situation in West Bengal and the State Government's response to political violence and other crimes, the officials said. Cars of several party leaders, including that of BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and West Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh were also damaged in the attack.

CIPET TRAINING...

In another decision, the state government has decided to set up 13 medical colleges so that all the major districts have one medical college. These medical colleges will be set up in Kanpur Dehat, Chandauli, Lakhimpur Khiri, Bulandshahar, Sonbhadra, Pilibhit, Auraiya, Lalitpur, Kushinagar, Gonda, Sultanpur, Bijnor and Kaushambi.

"These state-run medical colleges would be set up under the Centre's establishment of new medical colleges scheme and attached to existing district/referral hospitals schemes. The cabinet approved Rs 288.70 crore for this, a government

and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted 17 to 4 with 1 abstention to recommend the vaccine developed by American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech to combat the disease that has

THURSDAY'S VOTE DOES NOT MEAN THE VACCINE WILL BE AUTHORISED IMMEDIATELY, US MEDIA REPORTED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spokesman said. The state cabinet also approved a proposal of the Health department to give employment to doctors under specialised category through state service selection commission. The spokesman said that at present there were 19,011 sanctioned posts of doctors out of which 8,431 were posts of specialists.

"Out of these sanctioned posts of specialist doctors, only 2,922 are filled, which is close to 35 percent of the total posts. The cabinet felt that this was because at present there was a provision for direct employment of only MBBS doctors, while there was no provision for direct employment of specialist doctors despite having 8,431 sanctioned posts for them," he said. The cabinet approved change in guidelines so that specialised doctors could be appointed directly. The cabinet also approved a proposal to increase the area of Ayodhya Industrial Area by incorporating 164 revenue villages of Ayodhya district, 63 revenue villages of Gonda and 126 revenue villages of Bast districts. The government also approved construction of Chaudhry Charan Singh Kawad Marg passing through Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Ghaziabad districts. This will be constructed on the right side of the Gang canal at a cost of Rs 62,874 lakh.

PROTESTERS TO BLOCK...

The number of farmers coming here is increasing day to day," said Balbir Singh Rajewal, Bharatiya Kisan Union, while addressing media on Friday. The Singhu, Tikri, Ghazipur, Auchandi, Safiabad, Piao Maniyari, and Saboli and Chilla border remained closed for traffic movement. "Jhatikara border is open only for two wheelers and pedestrian movement," Delhi Traffic Police (DTP) tweeted.

Farmers from different States have been camping at Delhi's Singhu and Tikri are on border for the last 16 days while farmers on Ghazipur and

Chilla (Delhi-Noida) border points are campaigning for the last 11 days to demand a repeal of the farm laws enacted in September. In a series of tweets, the Delhi Traffic Police said Tikri and Dhansa borders are closed for traffic movement, while Jhatikara border is open only for two-wheelers and pedestrians.

Meanwhile, two senior Delhi Police officers heading security arrangements at Singhu have tested positive for Covid-19 and both the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) rank officials are in isolation.

Those travelling to neighbouring Haryana can take routes via Jharoda (only single carriageway), Daurala, Kapashera, Badasarai, Rajokri NH 8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundaheha borders, the police said.

"Singhu, Auchandi, Piao 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," the DTP tweeted.

However, due to protests at the Chilla border one carriage-way of the Noida-Delhi Link Road has been closed, while the other side (Delhi to Noida) remains open for movement.

Scores of protesters belonging to the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Bhanu) stayed put at the Chilla border, while those of BKU (Lok Shakti) continued to camp at the Dalit Prerna Sthal. "One carriage-way of the Noida-Delhi Link Road is open. People can come from Delhi to Noida, but the traffic movement on the other side continues to remain closed due to the stir," a Noida Traffic Police official said. "Commuters travelling to and fro Delhi can use the alternative Kalindi Kunj and the DND routes to avoid inconvenience," he added.

Meanwhile, at the Singhu and Tikri border, piles of garbage have been lying on

there. The farmers are cleaning the area by themselves while waiting for the little help from the authorities in keeping the site clean.

CHINA'S BID TO...

The Chinese have given five "differing explanations" for violating the agreements by bringing tens of thousands of soldiers to the LAC in Ladakh sector, a development that has "profoundly disturbed" the relationship, he said in an online conversation with the Australian think tank Lowy Institute.

The exchange of words between the two countries came at a time when the armies of India and China are locked in a tense border standoff in eastern Ladakh since early May. Both sides have held multiple rounds of military and diplomatic talks. However, no breakthrough has been achieved yet.

Srivastava said the two sides have continued to maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels. "It is our expectation that the further discussions will help both sides to achieve an agreement on a mutually acceptable solution for ensuring complete disengagement in all friction points along the LAC in the Western sector and full restoration of peace and tranquility as early as possible," he said.

PROTEST AGAINST...

He further said that allowing Ayurveda postgraduates to perform surgery is a "blatant attempt" to "corrupt" the healthcare system of the country. "It takes years and years to become a doctor. With mixopaths what are we heading for? It's a failure when nations compromise with health," said Dr Sharma. He stated that the IMA is not against "any sort of pathy", but the mixing up of disciplines. "We are not against any sort of pathy be it Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy. We are proud of our national heritage and richness but let it coexist with modern medicine. All we demand is not to mix the disciplines. It will also mean the

end of pure Ayurveda," he added.

The Resident Doctors' Association of AIIMS Delhi urged the Government to retract the notification of the move. "This step will not only encourage already rampant quackery, but also undermine the safety of public," it said in a statement. The IMA said the agitation is likely to intensify in the coming weeks if the Government doesn't take back the notification.

DON'T ALLOW...

The Minister said the Centre hasn't yet received any reply from farmers' unions on the proposals to consider in place of their demand for a repeal of the three farm laws and that he got to know about their rejection of the suggestions through media. Tomar said that the Government has given consent to the demands of amendments that they (the farmers) are looking for.

He also asked the farmers not to allow elements trying to take advantage of their agitation as he referred to reports showing farmers holding posters demanding the release of Delhi riots accused Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Khalid Saifi and others.

BKUB APPROACHES...

The three laws -- Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 -- took effect from September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind's assent. "These Acts are illegal and arbitrary, because, these Acts would pave way for cartelization and commercialization of the agriculture products and if allow to stand, we are going to completely ruin our country as the corporates can, with one stroke, export our agriculture products without any regulation, and may even result in famines," the farmers' body said in its plea filed through

lawyer A P Singh. The laws are "unconstitutional, anti-farmer" because, as per them, the farmers' position would become "vulnerable" before corporate giants and the greed of multinational companies, it said. "These laws would dismantle the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) system intended to insure fair prices for farm products," it said. These laws were passed "hastily without having an adequate discussion" and a bare reading of the provisions would indicate that their implementation in current form will be disastrous and pave the way for exploitation of farmers, it said. The Agriculture produce market committee had been acting as a "protective shield around farmers" and due to the new laws, "the market would ultimately fall to the corporate greed of multinational companies," it said. The plea said that till date, farmer leaders and the nominees of the Central government have held talks six times but "no fruitful purpose" has been served till now, it said. Earlier, the top court had agreed to test the constitutional validity of these laws without acceding to the interim pleas of some of the petitioners that the operation of the statutes be stayed for the time being.

RJD leader Jha, who filed the plea through lawyer Fauzia Shakil, had said the laws would expose marginal farmers to the exploits of big corporates. Jha had said: "The impugned legislations corporatise agriculture and ushers in an unregulated and exploitative regime. A farmer would not have the knowledge to negotiate the best terms with a private company. DMK MP Siva also raised similar issues against the farm laws and said they "are prima facie unconstitutional, illegal and arbitrary." He contended that the Acts are anti-farmer, brought out during the COVID-19 pandemic to benefit few corporations who are close to the corridors of power. The plea of Congress Lok Sabha MP from Kerala, TN Prathapan has not been listed so far for the hearing in the court.



SANYA MALHOTRA

I think dance is really a good exercise but at the same time it's very important to do some sort of strength training with that because dance is just cardio. At the end of the day you also want to build muscles and not lose out on them. Also, it's very important to eat right, so that everything goes hand-in-hand when it comes to fitness.



ANKIT TIWARI

As a creative person, I need to get inspired. With so much negativity around, it was difficult to do so and I was hardly able to work on music. But it's not like I won't be able to compose songs ever. I wish this month passes by soon and I don't get to hear any bad news. I want to focus on myself, positive things, my music and studio.



POOJA GOR

Last year when we were shooting for the virus sequence, we did not see COVID coming. We never thought that we'd live our real life in real and shoot our last sequence in such times. Well, it was definitely a challenge to shoot amidst the pandemic, but I am happy that the health and safety protocols were strictly followed.



ATUL KULKARNI

My best memory of the film *Gul Makai* was when I actually met Malala Yousafzai's father in London. When we saw the film, he was sitting right next to me. Those were some of the precious couple of hours for me because I portrayed the person sitting next to me. He loved it and invited me to his house.



CHRIS EVANS

Working with Pixar is a dream come true. I've been a massive fan of their films since the very beginning. My team could barely contain their excitement when they told me that Pixar had a pitch for me.

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

Narrator
CHRIS PACKMAN
says that the series, *Primates*, revolving around the species, captures the intimate moments of animal life, which are otherwise inaccessible to common people.
By TEAM VIVA

Primates are social animals. They can be fearsome but they can be equally emotional, thoughtful and caring. Focussing on this group of animals, which fascinates and captivates us more than any other — Gavin Boyland's *Primates* is his next step in natural history storytelling. Narrator Chris Packman shares his anecdotes and tales between the species. Excerpts:

What made you say yes to the series?
I've known Gavin Boyland, the series producer, for some time. He has made some really intelligent, imaginative series and pushing the boat out to make them as creative as possible. He made a previous series about big cats and I stayed in touch with him whilst he was doing that. I loved the series so when he told me he was doing *Primates*, I was interested.
Primates, I feel, is beautifully shot. Often, when we're watching blue-chip TV, we use our technology to follow those intimate moments of animal life, which otherwise would be inaccessible but we're driven principally by our interest in the behaviour, the ecology, the physiology. But here, they've found a collection of camera people who have shot it so that we can immerse ourselves in the animals' environment with beautiful photography as well as learning all those new and exciting aspects of their ecology and so forth.
The second reason was that I like to learn new things. If I'm watching a TV pro-



gramme and I find myself already knowing 50-60 per cent of it, it's boring. I don't want to just see new things, I want to learn new things, and I've learned a lot watching this programme because the science is up-to-date, and that's hard work getting up-to-date science.
Lastly, if you ask people about primates, they'll talk about apes and monkeys. They'll talk particularly about gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans and so on — the big flashy 't-shirt' animals as I call them — are things that people easily engage with. I like the way the series covers the whole breadth of the primate family. They've got everything including the lemurs, the slow loris, the bush babies, spider monkeys and the gibbons to mention a few. There's a great breadth there that I think will open people's eyes to this real-

ly important group of animals which are, as programme three tells us, critically endangered in many cases.
What are the most surprising stories in the series?
There are a number of surprising stories and the first one pops up in our first programme. I think we've all grown up with the idea that male silverback gorillas are all about being big and immensely strong and it's that that would give them their fitness in their social groups. But what we've learnt through new observations and science is that male gorillas' fitness, in terms of how often they can reproduce successfully, has nothing to do directly with their size but with how they respond to the need of their youth, effectively how cuddly they are. It's fantastic!



I love it when we turn stories on their head and we completely transpose what we think about something into something new. And we can do it with authority because the science says it's true and is therefore trustworthy.
The other things I've enjoyed are the intimacies and the subtle bits of animal behaviour. The tool use is always interesting. I suppose we empathise with the cognitive abilities of these animals. A lot of the time when we're watching them, we realise through their actions that they are really smart.
The last story that I really liked was the one of the orangutans up the trees where they were learning to climb, and the carers were learning to climb because here you have got two species learning at the same time. The humans have learned that their

previous practices weren't massively efficient and now the primates are learning through their changes. This sort of cooperation is fantastic.

Why do you think a series like *Primates* is important?
I think that we can use animals we engage with instantaneously and easily as a medium to getting people to engage with things which they don't perhaps necessarily have the ability for.
Gorillas, chimps and orangutans are easy-ins. Everyone loves them and knows that they are endangered and threatened. We all know that they are intelligent and humans share a lot of genes with them and a lot of similarities in terms of our species. Once you get people watching them, we can take them somewhere new and that's what we do with the series. It's not just about those big 't-shirt' animals but it's about the entire breadth of the primate group, including some small species, that people may not have even heard of. And yet we can show people how important, smart and fascinating they are.

What do you think will be viewers' takeaways from the series?
A deepened affection for this group of animals, which is easy to love. I think people need to see that they are valuable not just because they are interesting but also because they play important roles in the ecosystem that we're highly dependent upon. It is a pretty forthright plea for people to assist the conservation of these animals. Without that, we'll lose a lot of them very quickly. And when we start losing species in masses, we're making ourselves vulnerable.
We are still part of the ecosystem on planet Earth and if it collapses due to inappropriate human actions, unfortunately, we will collapse too. It is in our best interest to do that. I'm really hoping that people will love primates even more and contribute in some way to wildlife conservation.

A last thought on primates in the wild and their future...
I'd say they are a remarkable group of animals. I'm still learning more things each day. They are a very beautiful species, which is so similar to us and hence, makes it easier to engage with them.
But the big trouble from their point of view is down to us. I think this is a series which has to leave us with one or two questions about ourselves. We are a primate and a part of this group of species. The way we behave at this point in time will determine all of our collective future.
(The series premieres on December 14 at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

JUKEBOX 30 MINUTES

A timeless rhythm

On the 12th anniversary of *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, music composers SALIM-SULAIMAN recall what went into the making of its album



Actors Shah Rukh Khan and Anushka Sharma starrer *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi*, directed by Aditya Chopra, was a blockbuster. The film celebrated the individuality of a man and a woman, hailing from different circumstances, who end up falling in love with each other after their sudden arranged marriage.
It had a music album, composed by composers Salim and Sulaiman Merchant. On the 12th anniversary of the film, the duo

reveals how SRK made the songs timeless and how the *mukhda* of a song was actually an Aditya's tune.
On the creative vision for the song, Sulaiman says, "The film was well written, conceived with exact places and spots for songs and the brief was very simple. Raj and Suri (both played by SRK) were to have their own distinct identities through music. Suri being the traditional husband and Raj, the urban hero. The music had to be simple

melodies that even the most basic person would be able to sing and get the feeling of comfort and love when you hear them."
Salim adds, "Composing music for the film was a huge opportunity. We had worked with Adi as a producer on *Chak De India* and *Aaja Nachley* but working with him as a director was special. We wanted this album to be most memorable for us and the audience but more importantly, I wanted the music to work for the film."
Speaking about the USP of the music album, Salim says, "Even though the songs were made for different situations in the story, they had a common thread. They belonged to the same world and were very reflective of the characters. The importance of the Golden Temple in the story and the song added quality."
Sulaiman adds, "I think the simplicity of the songs with traditional melodies and production of music to have cutting edge, yet familiar sound, was the USP."
A lesser known fact is that the *mukhda* of the song *Haule Haule Ho Jayega Pyaar* was apparently Aditya's tune. Sulaiman reveals, "The song's lyrics actually came from the scene that Adi had written and it ended with the dialogue *Taani partner, haule haule ho jayega pyaar*. Adi kept humming a kind of rough tune to these lyrics and it sounded good, even in its rough basic form. So we decided to develop it further with Jaideep (Sahni). We decided to keep the melody as simple as possible."
Shah Rukh is considered the king of romance and Salim says the superstar's lip-syncing to the songs made them even more special. "SRK brings joy to every song. *RNB* was special because all the songs are chartbusters and SRK is a big reason for that. He truly celebrates every song on screen and makes them timeless," he adds.

CELEB TALK 15 MINUTES

Mountains are calling: Amit

On International Mountain Day recently, actor Amit Sadh revealed that he has always been a child of the rugged heights.
The actor shared a photograph on his verified Instagram account where he is seen sitting in front of a mountain. "I've always been a child of the mountains. There's an instant connect which is difficult to express in words. No matter where I'm, working or shooting, the mountains keep calling me and every time I go back to them, it's never enough. I can't even explain about the people I've met in the mountains. They're just glorious. You'll seldom meet people who're so humble, welcoming and make you feel at home all the time," Amit wrote.
He added, "Whenever I have been low and lost in life, I go to the mountains and like a mother puts a child in a cradle, they replenish, renew and give me a new purpose and I come back stronger. It might be #InternationalMountainDay one day but the desire to be in the lap of nature, to protect its pristine environment is always deeply ingrained in my heart. Let us all become a child of the mountains."
A closer look into the actor's Instagram account reveals deeply that the actor is extremely fond of mountains. He had shared a photograph from the same mountain on October 13 this year and wrote: "Home. Peace. In sync with thought and action."



'Whenever I have been low and lost in life, I go to the mountains and like a mother puts a child in a cradle, they replenish, renew and give me a purpose to be stronger'
Another photograph shared on August 24 has the caption: "The mountains are calling. That time of the year when my heart wishes to be in Ladakh. Somewhere in Spiti, near Losar." Amit is gearing up for the release of his forthcoming web-series *Zidd*. The series casts Amit as Major Deependra Singh Sengar, a Special Forces Officer who was a Kargil hero.
Directed by Vishal Mangalorkar, the film also features Amrita Puri and Sushant Singh. It is slated to release on January 22, 2021.
—IANS

CAUSE 60 MINUTES

PAGES OF RESONANCE

The English translation of Akkitham: A Pictorial Autobiography, based on Jnanpith Award-winning poet and philosopher Achuthan Namboothiri, by BHASKARAMENON KRISHNAKUMAR retells his poems and sheds light on his life with a remarkable sensitivity, says Uma Nair

Mahakavi Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, Jnanpith Award-winning poet and philosopher from Kerala is the subject of the hard cover book — *Akkitham: A Pictorial Autobiography* by Akkitham. The book has been culled and created entirely from the author's writings, interviews and private conversations and is a wellspring of wit, words and worth. The text has been constructed and translated into English by Bhaskaramenon Krishnakumar, alias Atmaraman, who has been associated with poet Akkitham Namboothiri for over four decades.

Well, to sit and savour the book's verbal and visual islands of thought, poetry and prose is akin to a few hours of reverie through some rivetting pages of resonance.

From scribbling on temple walls to becoming the Nation's poet

To unravel the power of a passionate poet's palette is no easy task but the translated tomb of poet Namboothiri's life is a journey that threads the tendrils of tide and time.

One recalls artist Akkitham Narayanan (Paris dweller), stating that his elder brother Namboothiri started dabbling in poetry very early in life by scribbling on temple walls. He studied Sanskrit, music and astrology in school and never finished college but became the founding father of modernist poetry in Malayalam in Kerala. Namboothiri has nearly four dozen works to his credit. Among them are anthologies of poems, stories, dramas, and essays and this book delves into his life with zest and reverence.

The narrative in this book flows like the river Pamba. It tells the vers-



es and small stories with a remarkable sensitivity. The English translation shows how his poems are a spatial, immersive experience, in which we glimpse waves of permanence and impermanence. His awards — the Jnanpith (2019), Kendra Sahitya Akademi (1973), Vayalar (1972), Ezhuthachan (2016) and Kerala Sahitya Akademi (1972) — are a legion of the power and strength of the vernacular. They touch the tip of the iceberg of his intellectual integrity. In the many stories, we sense the examples of subjugation and release, of celebration and solitude, the fabric of fear and freedom — that can skim the depths of a visual narrative, at once stretching it sideways and pulling it together into a vortex of coherent emotions distilled in the essence of minimalist moods. His number of awards tell us about his love for literature and the lexicon of language.

Drawings by son Vasudevan
In an entwined history of penmanship of verse and verve, it is

Namboothiri's son and former professor Vasuevan Akkitham who creates the illustrations for the book as pen and ink vignettes. Vasudevan creates idyllic landscapes of the backwaters of Kerala with canoes and coconut palms as well as lush portraits of his father and the feminine pillars in his family.

If an old lamp is a whisper of ritual and the relic of the past, it is the stealth of combining lithe strokes of hatching, stippling and languorous lines of depth that make a winsome coupling. He strengthens and corrects some of the finer lines with brusquer penwork so as to recreate the Mallapuram magic while giving hints of a subtle state of being one with nature like his esteemed father. Vasudevan says he kept his reflections simple and realistic, nostalgic in tone as he created compositions and narratives that had lucid expressionistic forms.

Expressive & emotive
Akkitham's life story is also the story of the Namboothiri renaissance, at which he was a major play-

er. Writers, social activists and politicians abound in this book. While Akkitham wanted the feudal social order to go, he was also disenchanted with communism and his youthful dalliance came to an end. The book narrates the deep philosophical objections and the intensely personal reasons of his disenchantment.

One of Akkitham's deeply philosophical poems has been illustrated by Narayanan. Several translations of Akkitham's Malayalam poems have been included—in part or full. One recalls the famed lines of one of his poems — *Ninne Konnavar Konnu Poove/ Thannude Thanne Mokshathe* (Those who killed you, flower/ Killed their own salvation) — as a shining example.

For Namboothiri, even the most abstract happenings retained expressive, emotive content. For him, nature embodied an active and deeply unfinished expression. And in the paradoxes of life's enigmas, he wove peace and calm and finetuned his poetic cadences into the circle of life through the silent slivers of notations that sprang from the penumbra of spiritual and cosmic realms.

"A poet of rare integrity, a creator of many works, all considered as classics, Akkitham's poetry reflects unfathomable compassion, imprints of Indian philosophical and moral values. They are a bridge between traditionality and modernity, delves deep into human emotions in a fast changing social space," read a statement by the Jnanpith jury board last year.

For all those who love poetry and the art of the written word, this book must find a place on your shelf, for art is long and life is short.
Photo: Vasudevan Akkitham Studio

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES



Actor Ranveer Singh is the first young star to register a 300-crore blockbuster *Padmaavat* to his credit. In spite of being an outsider has made his place in the Indian cinema. Recently, the actor marked a decade in films as his debut film *Band Baaja Baraat* celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The actor has showcased his talent through a diverse range of genres and characters. Be it the lovable rake Bittoo Sharma from *Band Baaja Baraat*, the intensely brooding thief with a golden heart in *Lootera*, the fiery Romeo who takes on the world in *Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela*, the valiant and majestic Peshwa Bajirao in the magnum opus *Bajirao Mastani*, the cool, suave but complicated Kabir Mehta of *Dil Dhadakne Do*, the eccentric and menacing evil king Alauddin Khilji in *Padmaavat*, the corrupt cop who pledges redemption in *Simmba* and Murad, the vulnerable yet powerful voice of the streets of India in *Gully Boy*, Ranveer has set himself apart with his performative range. On the 10th year of his journey, the actor opens up about his most memorable milestones, his dreams and aspirations, the rejections he faced for years before his explosive debut and the legacy that he wants to leave behind.

December 10 will mark your 10 years. Looking back, which moments from these years would you consider the biggest career milestone and why?
Well, the biggest milestone

Dare to dream

Actor RANVEER SINGH completes a decade in the film industry. He recalls his memorable milestones, dreams, aspirations and the rejections he faced before his debut, creating the legacy he wants to leave behind

g-as-a-creative person, a performer and a public figure. With every passing year and film I have learnt something more about the craft, more about myself and tried to-

Advani, to name a few. Tell us about the uncertain times and how you kept your eyes on the prize.

My period of struggle was not easy at all. There was recession going on at that time, the film business was not very prolific, people were making fewer films. Therefore, opportunities for actors were far less than what it is today. We didn't have these web and OTT platforms. Hence, good opportunities were hard to come by. For three to four years, I was just groping in the dark, attempting various avenues, trying to get a break, trying to get a foot in the door, doing the rounds of various offices with my portfolio looking for work and not knowing whether it will ever happen at all. It was

very farfetched for someone in my position to think that I'd get a premier opportunity as a performer to act as a lead in Hindi films. It was a million to one shot but I took it. With the love, blessings, sacrifices and support of my amazing parents, I mustered up the fortitude to keep going. I was hungry and sometimes foolish but also very persistent. I was 21 when I started trying and at 24 it happened for me in spectacular fashion. Those tales are memoir-worthy for sure. I almost debuted in a side role in *Patila House*. I did some small budget films that Anurag (Kashyap) was directly/indirectly affiliated with. Anurag Sir and Nikhil Sir are probably as astounded as I am about how things started and how they are going.

Looking back, did you ever think you will achieve this level of success in a decade?

Not at all. Right from the very Friday of my debut, the kind of things that have happened to me, the beats of my career, it is all beyond my wildest imagination. I could not even dream of the things

that have happened to me, with me and around me. I can't claim to have had the vision to dream up something like this. *Maine socha tha ki kuch na kuch ho jayega, lekin aisa hoga, yeh kabhi nahi socha tha.* They say you should dare to dream big but I couldn't have dreamt this big myself. So, if I stop to think and take stock of how things have transpired and where am I today, it feels absolutely unreal to me.

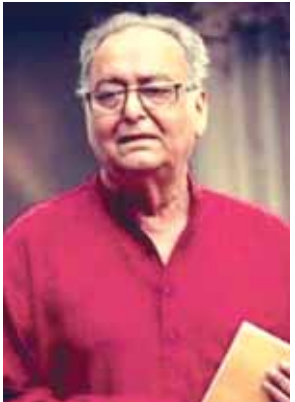
Are you someone who thinks too much about your legacy? If so, what do you want Ranveer's legacy to be in the history of Indian cinema?

Yes, every day I am working towards leaving behind a legacy, a filmography that I can be proud of. I want to make a significant contribution to the arts and inspire other artists, the way my senior artists have inspired me. We all wish to be remembered in history. I want to be remembered as a thorough entertainer, a versatile actor, someone whose body of work constitutes some of the best cinema of our country. These are tall ambitions but I am putting in work every single day to hopefully have a fulfilling run at the films and make my country proud in my field. If I distill my ambitions further, I would say that I just want to entertain people, that's all. I would like to alleviate the agony of existence by offering people some cathartic relief. My calling is to be an entertainer and I believe that god is guiding me as I fulfill my destiny and answer my calling.

Soumitra Chattopadhyay — Shatterjee to anglicised India — answers to the term 'phenomenon' as absolutely as few actors do, for the sheer ease with which he defied the cliches of image. His stardom was sensational, and yet born out of realism. He was the mascot of the peerless Satyajit Ray's oeuvre, having worked with the maestro in 14 films, and yet he scored with the same assuredness in works of contemporary commercial powerhouses as Ajoy Kar and Tarun Mazumdar. He is the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2012) and Padma Bhushan (2004) recipient who was also honoured with the Legion d'Honneur (2018) in France for his contribution to world cinema.

Soumitra he had some-

thing for everyone. He was not just Satyajit Ray's Apu. Beyond such a nuanced portrayal, he could also simply become Ray's Feluda and reach out to every audience — from eight to 80. Ray was looking for his adult Apu in *Apur Sansar*,



Films and beyond

SOUMITRA CHATTOPADHYAY's roles tell us why he came to be known as Bangla cinema's Alt superstar



final part of the Apu trilogy that started with *Pather Panchali*. A friend introduced Soumitra to the master filmmaker who promptly declared the budding actor looked too old to be Apu, a college student according to his script.



Soumitra would eventually bag the role opposite Sharmila Tagore, of course, and the rest is history.

Soumitra's cinematic fate is overwhelmingly dictated by the great cinema of Satyajit Ray, so much so the maestro's filmography through his most important phase outlines the actor's career graph. Soumitra made his debut with *Apur Sansar* (1959) and, over the next three decades, would work in Ray projects as *Devi* (1960), *Teen Kanya* (1961), *Abhijan* (1962), *Charulata* (1964), *Kapurush* (1964), *Mahapurush* (1965), *Aranyer*

Din Ratri (1969), *Ashani Sanket* (1973), *Sonar Kella* (1974), *Joy Baba Felunath* (1978), *Hirak Rajar Deshe* (1980), *Ghare Baire* (1984), *Ganashatru* (1989) and *Shakha Proshakha* (1990). Consider a few other diversely prolific filmmakers beyond Ray who worked with Soumitra, and you get the picture. Mrinal Sen, another global icon of Bangla cinema of the era, directed Soumitra for the first time in *Punascha* (1961), and then again returned to collaborate with the actor in *Pratinidhi* (1964), *Akash Kusum* (1965), and *Mahaprithibi* (1991). The iconic Tapan Sinha directed him in projects as *Kshudhita Pashan* (1960), *Jhinder Bandi* (1961), *Atanka* (1984) and *Antardhan* (1992).

Mainstream titans of his era loved working with the affable Soumitra, too. Asit Sen directed him in *Swayambara* (1961) and *Swaralipi* (1961), while Ajoy Kar made *Otol Joler Ahoban* (1962), *Saat Pake Baandha* (1963), *Barnali* (1963), *Kaanch Kata Heere* (1965) and *Parineeta* (1969). Tarun Mazumdar directed the actor over the years in *Ektuku Baasha* (1965), *Sansar Simante* (1975), *Ganadevata* (1978), *Agomon* (1988) and *Path O Prasad* (1991).

Most of his directors have often spoken about the insatiable passion he had for his craft. It was something that ensured he would stay busy as ever till his last days, essaying character roles with the same enthusiasm with which he executed starring roles in his

heydays. His 300-plus film career probably can be explained by his highly adaptable quality as an actor. He was at home working with new-age Bengali filmmakers as Atanu Ghosh (*Mayurakshi*), Suman Ghosh (*Podokkhep*, *Peace Haven*, *Dwando*, *Basu Paribar*), Partha Chakraborty (*Samantara*) and Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee (*Posto*).

He moved outside Bengal into the Bollywood industry twice. In 1986, he acted opposite Roopa Ganguly in the Hindi short film *Nirupama*, based on Rabindranath Tagore's story *Dena Paona*. He also bagged a role in the 2002 release, *Hindustani Sipahi*, based on Utpal Dutta's renowned Bangla play *Pherari Fauj*.

—IANS

Bumrah puts India ahead after batting collapse

Jasprit hits maiden FC fifty as India’s bowling was in a fine form on day 1 of D/N warm-up game against Australia A but the same can’t be said about their batting

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah headlined the opening day’s play with a maiden first-class fifty and a couple of wickets in an impressive all-round effort to put India in the driver’s seat against Australia A in the pink ball warm-up game on Friday.

With his unbeaten 55 off 57 balls, Bumrah was the top-scorer for the visitors, who folded for a disappointing 194 in 48.3 overs at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The Indians, however, came back strongly with the ball to bundle out Australia for 108 at stumps as 20 wickets fell on a curtailed day on which almost an hour was lost due to heavy rain.

India’s four-pronged pace attack did well to intimidate Australian youngsters with short-pitched stuff as Mohammed Shami and Navdeep Saini got three wickets apiece.

On a day when the recognised batsmen struggled to put runs on the board, Bumrah, who came into the game with a Test batting average of 2.9, produced a stellar performance with the willow, smashing the ball six times to the fence and twice over it.

The 27-year-old, known for his wily bowling, reached his half-century in style, hooking a bouncer by all-rounder Will Sutherland for a huge six over the deep square-leg fence.

Bumrah and fellow pacer Mohammed Siraj stitched a valuable 71-run partnership for the 10th wicket before the Indian innings ended with a semblance of respect.

Pleasantly surprised with his batting heroics, Bumrah’s teammates got up, clapped and gave him a guard of honour when he walked back into the dressing room.

Earlier, after skipper Ajinkya Rahane opted to bat, Prithvi Shaw (40) and Shubman Gill (43) — both 21-year-old batsmen with bright futures — showed enough



Jasprit Bumrah plays shot during his unbeaten 55-run innings against Australia A on first day of pink ball warm-up game at Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday

BCCI/Twitter

Australia A vs India
Live from 9:00am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

Green substituted after nasty blow on head

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia Test hopeful all-rounder Cameron Green suffered a concussion while bowling after a rasping straight drive from Jasprit Bumrah struck him on the head during the warm-up game against India on Friday.

Bowling his second spell of the day, the 21-year-old was unable to react in time when Bumrah’s full blooded drive slipped through his palms and struck on the right side of the head.

The all-rounder immediately went down and non-striker Mohammed Siraj rushed to check on him.

After being examined for a couple of minutes by the medical team, the all-rounder was back on his feet as he walked off the field for further assessment. Batsman Patrick Rowe was named his concussion substitute.

“Cameron sustained a mild concussion while bowling for Australia A. This is Cameron’s first



Australia A bowler Cameron Green reacts after he was hit on head during day 1 of India’s pink ball warm-up game at Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday

crickey.com.au/Twitter

concussion. He has returned to the team hotel and will not play the remaining two days of the tour match,” Cricket Australia’s team doctor, Pip Inge was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. “We will continue to monitor him and provide an update on his condition in due course,” Inge added.

Green is primed for a Test debut after scoring an unbeaten 125 for Australia A in their first practice match, which ended in a draw on Tuesday.

In the second game he returned with figures of 1/20 in the 6.1 overs, taking the crucial wicket of Shubman Gill.

Vihari were also dismissed early. But the most distraught will be the duo of Shaw and Gill, both getting out after promising so much with their dazzling strokes and positive approach.

The Australians bowled out India for a low score but they wouldn’t be too happy with the way their batting panned out during the day’s play.

While Joe Burns was sent back by a fine Bumrah delivery that moved away just enough to take the beleaguered opener’s edge, what will worry them most is the injury to Test hopeful Cameron Green. All-rounder Green, who had scored a hundred in the first warm-up game, suffered a concussion while bowling after a rasping straight drive from Bumrah struck him on the head.

Bumrah (2/33) and Shami (3/29) bowled a terrific opening

spell and beat the outside edge of Marcus Harris and Nic Maddinson a number of times before rain intervened.

On resumption, Harris hit a boundary straightaway after he found the gap between cover and point.

Shami was rewarded for his perseverance as he picked up the wickets of Harris and Ben McDermott, a hint swing and seam movement aiding him.

Siraj (1/26) then had Maddinson to leave the home team reeling at 52 for four. Shami made it 56 for five when he had Sean Abbott caught behind.

Jack Wildermuth went for a cut against Bumrah but ended up getting an outside before Navdeep Saini (3/19) sent back Will Sutherland, Alex Carey and Mitchel Swepson, coming in as second change.

Rohit clears fitness test

NEW DELHI: Senior India batsman Rohit Sharma on Friday cleared an eagerly-watched fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and will leave for Australia on December 14, three days before the start of the marquee Test series against the world’s number one team. Rohit had sustained a hamstring injury during the IPL, which led to him missing the white-ball leg of the ongoing tour. He is also out of reckoning for the first two Tests but can now be there for the last two games. “Rohit has cleared the fitness Test and will soon be flying out to Australia,” a senior BCCI official told PTI.

PTI

SINGLES

STOKES OPTS OUT, ARCHER RESTED FOR SL TESTS

LONDON: Star all-rounder Ben Stokes, who is currently grieving the loss of his father, and pacer Jofra Archer were left out of the 16-member England squad for the upcoming two-Test series against Sri Lanka. However, both Stokes and Archer are expected to be back for the high-octane series against India beginning in February. Veteran keeper-batsman Jonny Bairstow also features in the squad which also has Jos Buttler and Ben Foakes in its ranks. Essex youngster Dan Lawrence is the only rookie face in the squad and has been included after he garnered the experience of playing 74 first-class games.

DE KOCK TO LEAD SA AGAINST SRI LANKA

JOHANNESBURG: Wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock was named South African Test team captain for the upcoming two-match series against Sri Lanka. The 16-member squad includes rookie opener Sarel Erwee, wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne and medium-pacer Glenton Stuurman, the trio receiving their maiden call-ups. Eight months after South Africa’s director of cricket, Graeme Smith had ruled him out, limited over skipper De Kock was handed the reins of the Test squad for the 2020-21 season on a temporary basis with a permanent captain to be announced in the coming months.

NICHOLLS’ 117 STEADIES NZ ON DAY 1

WELLINGTON: New Zealand’s Henry Nicholls rode his luck to post a crucial century as the hosts, weakened by the loss of Kane Williamson, survived a shaky start to reach 294/6 on day one of the second Test against the West Indies on Friday. 29-year old Nicholls survived multiple dropped catches at Basin Reserve as he snapped a 21-month string of low scores with his sixth Test century. At stumps, he was 117 not out with Kyle Jamieson on one. From being on the ropes at 78/3, Nicholls said Kiwis now considered 400 would be “a good result”.

CLARKE BACKS CUMMINS TO SUCCEED PAINE

SYDNEY: Former Aussie skipper Michael Clarke is hopeful of pace spearhead Pat Cummins succeeding Tim Paine as the country’s Test leader when the veteran’s reign comes to an end. With the 36-year-old Paine reaching the fag end of his career, a fresh captaincy discussion has started. While there have been calls to reinstate Steve Smith as skipper, Clarke believes Cummins, who was recently appointed the sole vice-captain after previously sharing the role with Travis Head, should be handed the top job when it is time. “Patty’s ready for it. I love that they’ve given him the full-time vice-captaincy,” Clarke told AAP. “Hopefully he gets an opportunity along the way to captain in certain games, whether it be Australia A or whether it be a tour game, whatever it is, which I’m sure he will,” he added.

SOCIEDAD SQUEEZE THROUGH EUROPA K/O

NAPLES: Real Sociedad snatched qualification for the last 32 of the Europa League in the final seconds on Thursday after Willian Jose’s late leveller in a 1-1 draw at Napoli and AZ Alkmaar’s shock 2-1 defeat at Rijeka allowed the Spanish side to progress. Young Boys, Molde, Wolfsburg and Maccabi Tel-Aviv rounded off the group stage by making Monday’s draw in Nyon, where they join the 18 already-qualified teams and will be met by eight drop-outs from the Champions League. Napoli finish top of the group on 11 points, two ahead of Sociedad in second who end the group stage a further point ahead of Alkmaar.

Agencies

BORN TO BE A MUSICIAN

NILADRI CHAKRAVARTY might sing for his supper, but he is pretty good at it



I’ve been surrounded with music all my life,” says Niladri Chakravarty, frontman of the Delhi-based band ‘The Limited Experience’ and adds that he has actually been listening to music since the time he was in his mother’s womb. But even after he came into this world, he credits his family for ensuring that music ran in his blood as he was introduced to a vast array from traditional Rabindra Sangeet to funk.

“My list of musical influences is very large. I’ve heard music from the 1930s right up to today’s music from a multitude of genres all of which have inspired me and developed my ear,” Chakravarty says. He writes his own lyrics and composes his own songs today as he certainly takes his role as a frontman seriously.

He promptly starts playing some classic tracks by The Beatles on the Sonet’s BOSE audio system. “I love the Fab Four. Even today the music they wrote is so inspirational,” he says adding, “Song writing in the 1960’s was special.” A lot of other classic musicians continue to be an inspiration for this 20-something. Not just acts like The Police, Eric Clapton, Pink Floyd, John Mayer, The Doors, Fleetwood Mac but also more modern acts like Canadian band Tame Impala hold his interest.

Currently the lead vocalist for Delhi-based band, The Limited Experience, Chakravarty has been singing for years. He started his first band while he was still in school at the age of 16. Yet, he has no formal training. “I am a self-taught guitar and

IT IS AMAZING FUN TEACHING CHILDREN MUSIC BECAUSE IF THEY LIKE IT, YOU GET TO OPEN UP THEIR WORLD WITH AMAZING NEW SOUNDS AND YOU ALSO GET TO LEARN FROM THEM. BEING A MUSICIAN IS ALWAYS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE



piano player.” He began playing the piano at the age of nine and the guitar at 15. Yet, today he finds himself teaching young children both guitar and vocals at a couple of music schools in Delhi and Gurugram. “It is amazing fun teaching children music because if they like it, you get to open up their world with amazing new sounds and you also get to learn from them. Being a musician is always a learning experience,” he says.

While 2020 has been a rather grim year for many, musicians like Chakravarty have been particularly hard hit thanks to the lack of concerts (or ‘gigs’ as they like to call them). “That has been a bummer, but I’ve been busy going to the gym, after all one has to stay fit, and also been improving my musical abilities. I am really hoping that we start to play at concerts again soon. The experience of playing at college concerts is really something else for an up-and-coming musician but I also like playing at small, intimate gigs at some bars where you can



really get close to the audience.” But he, like many other musicians, is hoping that the news of an impending vaccine

means that The Limited Experience and other bands can perform in front of large audiences soon enough.

Chakravarty may not sound like it but he is a bundle of energy literally bouncing off the walls and very excited about driving the Sonet. “This is an amazing car,” he says while accelerating the turbocharged 120PS engine down Gurugram’s Sunset Boulevard. “This is a fun car to drive and what an amazing audio this BOSE system is. I’m in the market for a car, and this Sonet, I think, ticks all the boxes. Honestly, for a vehicle in its class, I’m simply amazed at the features it offers. I mean ventilated seats? Wow!”

The class-leading BOSE audio system, available on the top-specification variants of the Kia Sonet, features seven speakers, one each on every door, two tweeters on the A-pillar and a subwoofer in the boot, giving a proper surround sound feeling. The Sonet’s 10.26-inch infotainment system screen is also class leading and thanks to multiple inputs allows drivers and passengers to play music from Apple CarPlay and Android Auto as well as over

Bluetooth and directly from the USB. If the car is stationary you can also play videos on the screen.

And why wouldn’t it? The Kia Sonet comes with a choice of engines, unlike vehicles from most other carmakers. You have the Smartstream 1.2 litre petrol with 83PS as well as the 1.0 litre turbocharged petrol engine that Chakravarty drove with 120PS. There is also a diesel option, a refined 1.5 CRDi engine that produces 100PS in the manual and a first-in-segment diesel automatic variant with 115PS. Just like Chakravarty listens to music from a variety of genres to improve his musical abilities, the Sonet offers its customers a host of options to ensure that they can choose what is best for them.

And while 2020 has been a difficult time for many folks, the Kia Sonet ensures that if you are a musician or just a music fan, you can listen to top-quality music through a top-quality sound system in India’s best-selling subcompact Sports Utility Vehicle. ■