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SMITH FIT TO PLAY  
FIRST TEST

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY DECEMBER 17, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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12 VIVACITY

# Stop talks with others: Sanyukt Kisan Morcha to Govt

Union writes to Govt as farmers' bodies from other States talk with Centre and extend support to farm laws with some amendments

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The union of the farmers protesting at the borders of the national Capital against new farm laws, wrote a letter to the Centre on Wednesday, asking it to stop holding parallel talks with other farmer bodies over the deadlock.

With the Government saying that it is waiting for the reply of the farmers' leaders, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha said there is no question of responding as the farmers' unions had made their stand clear in the last round of meeting with Union Ministers that they want the laws to be repealed.

In the letter to Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Joint Secretary Vivek Aggarwal, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha, which represents farmers' bodies mostly from Punjab, said the Centre should stop defaming the ongoing protests being held at several Delhi border points against the three farm laws.

The letter comes against the backdrop of the Government holding talks with several farmers' organisations from different States who the Centre claimed have extended their support to the new agriculture laws.

Earlier in the day, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that the ongoing farmers' protest at Delhi borders is an "exception" and "limited to one State" and hoped for an early solution as the Government is in talks

with farmer unions.

In the letter, Darshan Pal, farmers' leader has recorded in writing the farmer unions' decision to reject a recent Government proposal of amendments in the new laws.

"In reference to the proposal (dated December 9) and your (Agarwal) letter, we want to inform the Government that farmer organisations held a joint meeting to discuss the proposal on the same day and rejected it," he stated in his letter written in Hindi.

"We had already made our stand clear in previous talks that's why we did not send a written reply earlier," he further stated.

Representatives of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Kisan) from Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday met Tomar and submitted a memorandum with suggestions on the laws and minimum support price (MSP). The Bharatiya Kisan Union (Kisan) has also decided to end for now its protest, which it was holding at district levels in Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, barricades were set up on the Chilla border road, prohibiting vehicular movement from Noida to Delhi, while Delhi to Noida road was open.

Also, traffic was diverted from the Dalit Prerna Sthal, another site of the farmers' protests, to the Delhi-Noida-Direct (DND) flyway in the wake of the situation at the Chilla border.

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Farmers shout slogans during their protest against the new farm laws at Singhu Border in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## SC intends to set up Govt-Kisan panel for resolution

**Forming new committee no solution, say kisan unions**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a notice to the Centre and others on a

batch of petitions seeking removal of farmers camping at several roads near Delhi borders in protest against the three new agri laws.

A bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde, and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian also indicated that the court may form a committee having representatives of the Government and the farmer unions across the

country to resolve the deadlock over the legislations.

In a hearing conducted via video conferencing, the bench directed the petitioners to make protesting farmer unions parties to the pleas and posted the matter for hearing on Thursday. "Your negotiations with protesting farmers have not worked apparently till now," the bench told the Centre.

Meanwhile, protesting

farmer unions on Wednesday said constituting a new panel to break the stalemate on the three new agri laws, as indicated by the Supreme Court, is not a solution as they want a complete withdrawal of the legislations.

They also said the Government should have formed a committee of farmers and others before the laws were enacted by Parliament.

## Sant Baba Ram Singh commits suicide at Delhi border

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A 65-year-old preacher, described as a "sant", committed suicide by shooting himself dead at Singhu Border on Wednesday evening. The deceased has been identified as Baba Ram Singh of Singhra village in Nissing area of Karnal district.

He was admitted to a private hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead. His followers said he was a sant and was on the seat of Gurdwara Sahib Nanaksar Singhra village. His followers had distributed blankets among protesters.

The body of Baba Ram Singh arrived at KCGMC, but the followers (sangat) refused to get his post-mortem conducted. His body is being taken to Nanaksar Gurdwara Singhra, where thousands of followers gathered. Tense situations prevailed on the gurdwara premises. One of the followers said, "Maharaj ji sacrificed for farmers, Modi ji, now listen to the farmers. He left behind a suicide note in Punjabi language."

Baba Ram Singh came to Nanaksar Gurdwara Singhra in 1990 from Nanaksar Gurdwara Jagraon in Punjab.

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## SC expresses displeasure over repeated requests for allowing Salve to argue

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed displeasure over repeated requests that senior lawyer Harish Salve be unmuted and allowed to raise some "legal issue" during the hearing of pleas seeking removal of protesting farmers camping at borders of the national Capital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, that Salve can join the proceedings on Thursday when the pleas would be heard again.

## Day of special joy for kisan, says PM on ₹3,500 crore subsidy for sugar mills

New Delhi: It is a day of "special joy" for crore of farmers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday soon after the government approved a subsidy of ₹3,500 crore to sugar mills for clearing the dues of farmers and asserted that it will also help lakhs of workers associated with these mills. The Government approved the subsidy for the export of 60 lakh tonnes of sugar during the ongoing marketing year 2020-21 as part of its efforts to help them clear outstanding dues to sugarcane farmers.

## 46% of Indians consult doctors online out of Covid fear: Survey

**India ready to take telemedicine to next level, say docs**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fearing Covid-19 infection, more Indians, prefer front-line tools — smartphones — to consult their doctors, instead of meeting them in person.

At least 46 per cent Indians have favoured telemedicine option, as per a survey conducted by online doctor con-

sultation platform — Mount Virtual Hospital — done across metros covering Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Telemedicine entails delivery of health services from a distance using internet and it not only extends the reach of health services but also improves quality of health services besides saving time and money, according to experts.

The survey comes days after the Union Health Ministry said that its

eSanjeevani telemedicine service has recorded 1 million consultations. In the wake of Covid-19 crisis, the Ministry approved the guidelines on telemedicine allowing any registered medical practitioner to treat Covid-19 patients remotely or by using telemedicine tools.

The data was collected from an age-group of 20 to 85 years. The total respondents in the survey were 2,406 which included 1,455 males and around 951 females.

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## FB India chief deposes before House panel

**Quizzed about its alleged reluctance to ban Bajrang Dal**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facebook's India head Ajit Mohan on Wednesday deposed before the Information Technology Parliamentary Committee where he was questioned about a recent report that the social media giant is reluctant to ban the Bajrang Dal due to concerns over the security of its staff.

Mohan deposed before the panel chaired by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. The panel had called him on the issue of the citizens' data safety.

Mohan was accompanied by Shivnath Thukral, the public policy director of Facebook. Congress MP Karti Chidambaram, along with Tharoor, questioned Mohan about a recent Wall Street Journal (WSJ) report on banning the Bajrang Dal on Facebook, sources said.

The WSJ report suggested that despite an internal assessment calling for a ban on the Bajrang Dal, Facebook has not cracked down on the Hindu nationalist group due to financial considerations and concerns over the safety of its

employees.

Replying to queries, Mohan suggested to the panel members that the Facebook fact team consultant has so far not found any such element in the content posted by the Bajrang Dal that is violative of its social media policies. Further quizzing him, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey asked if the Bajrang Dal content was not found to be violative of its social media policies, then why the Facebook did not deny the WSJ report and termed it fake.

Last month, a former Facebook employee made startling revelations before the Delhi Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony about the functioning of the platform and its biases towards politically-connected people. Ex-employee Mark Luckie claimed top managerial posts at Facebook are given to those who have good political affiliations.

Facebook Inc is also facing the legal ire in the United States and it could be forced to sell WhatsApp and Instagram after the US Federal Trade Commission and almost all US States have filed lawsuits against the social media platform, claiming it used a "buy or bury" strategy to kill rivals and keep smaller competitors at bay.

## 1971 victory anniversary: PM lights Swarnim Vijay Mashaal

**Soil from villages of martyrs being brought to National War Memorial**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lit the "Swarnim Vijay Mashaal" from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial here, marking the beginning of the 50th anniversary year celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan in 1971.

In a tweet, Modi said, "On Vijay Diwas we recall the unwavering courage of our armed forces that resulted in a decisive victory for our nation in the 1971 war. On this special Vijay Diwas, had the honour of lighting the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' at the National War Memorial."

The Prime Minister was joined by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the chief of defence staff and tri-service chiefs as he laid wreath and paid homage to the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

Four victory mashaals (flaming torches) will be carried to various parts of India, including to the villages of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi lights flames which are to be carried to different parts of India from National War memorial on the occasion Victory Day in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra awardees of the 1971 war, the Defence Ministry has said.

"Soil from the villages of these awardees and from areas where major battles were fought in 1971 are being brought to the National War Memorial (NWM)," it said.

India celebrates December 16 as Vijay Diwas to commemorate its victory over Pakistan during the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

As December 16 marks the anniversary of the military victory, the nation will celebrate "Swarnim Vijay Varsh" (golden victory year) through several events across the country, and it will continue for a year.

Various commemorative events will be conducted pan-India wherein war veterans will be felicitated, the statement said, adding that band displays, seminars, exhibitions, equipment displays, film festivals, conclaves and adventure activities will also be held.

## State prepares for vaccination

**'2 doses of Covid vaccine to be administered 28 days apart'**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine will be administered within a gap of 28 days under the immunisation programme, DG, Medical Health, Dr DS Negi said. The vaccination of healthcare and frontline workers will be carried out, followed by that of people aged 55 years or above. Negi said the Health department would monitor the entire process in the state from Lucknow. The vaccination and supply of vaccines will be monitored from Lucknow.

He said the vaccination will be

carried out as per schedule because routine immunisation also has to be done. "The Covid-19 vaccination will take place on two specified days in a week and the routine immunisation will also continue as it cannot be stopped," he added. The training of vaccinators will begin on Thursday.

On Wednesday, Health Minister JP Singh inspected the District Immunisation Centre in Aishbagh to take stock of the preparedness. "He was the shown the ice-lined refrigerators which will store the vaccine and the minister was satisfied with the arrangements," a senior health official said.

Meanwhile, director of Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) Dr Tapas Kundu said that the trial of drug umifenovir for prevention and cure of Covid was going on at three medical colleges in the city. It is a

double blind placebo controlled trial, he said.

He said there was some delay because of changed guidelines as mild symptomatic persons and asymptomatic persons were given the option of home isolation and did not need to be hospitalised. He said that a drug would bring hope to the country in the times of pandemic.

"One of our drugs is under clinical trial and two more are entering the clinical trials and the institute is fully behind the trials," he said.

The process technology for umifenovir was done in record time by the institute and it was licensed to a pharma company. The director said that the sequencing of the coronavirus has been completed. "We have carried out the sequencing of 200 samples and will be shortly submitting the same for

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## Pakistan to fence off Gwadar port city to secure Chinese interests

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan has decided to convert Gwadar port city into an open jail by fencing the areas around it. The decision came following a recent visit by the Chinese Defence Minister.

In doing so, Islamabad has adopted an age-old Chinese tactic of securing a region through fencing as even the Great Wall of China was built with a similar intention.

The proposed fencing is modeled on the lines of similar measures by the Chinese government in villages in Tibet and Xinxiang and is aimed at securing the Chinese investments in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that faces threat from Baloch insurgents.

The Chinese Government has fenced many of the villages in Tibet

and converted them into open jails as prior permission is required to get in or out of these villages by the authorities there.

The fenced areas in Gawadar city will be put under curfew when it faces a heightened security threat and the security agencies there will be able to easily clamp curfew and enforce a crackdown against the Balochs. The move to fence the Gwadar will ensure segregation of the port city from other adjoining areas inhabited by the Balochs who often enter the city for various activities, expert tracking the development in the region said.

The Gwadar port city is connected to China via a six-lane highway and a gas pipeline which Beijing apprehends will be hit by the Baloch insurgents.

The Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe has signed an agreement with his Pak to deploy 20,000 personnel of Pakistan's Frontier Corps to secure the highway and the pipeline between the two countries.

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## Pak anti-terrorism squad member killed

New Delhi: Pashtun insurgents on Friday killed a member of a team of the Counter-Terrorism Department of Pakistan and disrobed other members of the unit and released them with the warning not to visit the area again. The incident occurred at Kachai village in Kohat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## CAPSULE

**8 DEAD AS BUS COLLIDES WITH GAS TANKER IN UP**

Sambhal: Eight people died while 21 sustained injuries here on Wednesday morning when an Uttar Pradesh Roadways bus collided with a gas tanker.

**SC REJECTS CHALLENGE TO HC ORDER ON CONVERSION**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea seeking to challenge Allahabad High Court order by which it had held that "conversion just for the purpose of marriage is unacceptable".

**MVA JOLTED AS HC STAYS LAND TRANSFER**

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted an interim stay on transfer of 102 acres of saltpan lands at Kanjurmarg for metro carshed.



# Fashion designers to promote ODOP products

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh's traditional art and handiwork are set to get a major boost with famous designers joining hands with the state government to launch a major promotional drive under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

Professional fashion designers such as Rina Dhaka, Ritu Berry, Manish Malhotra and JJ Balaya will not only give art-based knowledge to the artisans of Uttar Pradesh but also provide them with attractive packaging, branding and marketing of their products. The ODOP scheme encourages Uttar Pradesh's indigenous and specialised products and crafts. Rina Dhaka, renowned as 'The Gaultier of the East', met Additional Chief Secretary (MSME and Export Promotion) Navneet Sehgal and made a similar proposal on her behalf.

"The tie-up with the fashion designers will not only fortify the 'backward

linkage' with the traditional industries but also strengthen the 'forward linkage' value chain as well as going forward," Sehgal said.

The traditional industries and crafts of UP lined up for promotion in the first phase include ethnic fabrics and textiles such as chikan and khadi, home décor, perfumes, carpets, leather products, and handicrafts. Rina, an awardee of the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award and the Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Award, said, "Fashion is an aspiration. From creating products related to lifestyle, comfort and craft to the fact that it is all indigenously produced, there is a genuine need to help the artisan and we are looking for buyers."

Under the ODOP scheme, traditional products include textile products of Ambedkar Nagar, Mau, Etawah and Barabanki, textile printing of Budaun, Kasganj, Shahjahanpur, Chandauli and Bareilly, zari zardozi of Unnao, carpets of Bhadohi, Sonbhadra and Mirzapur, and

ready-made garments of Gautam Buddha Nagar. "There are many garments and handloom products of Hardoi, woollen carpets of Jaunpur, banana fibre of Kushinagar, zari silk sarees of Lalitpur, chikankari and zari zardozi of Lucknow and silk sarees of Varanasi which, with little effort, can dominate the global fashion world," Rina said. She said the ODOP scheme would not only augment the income of the artisans but also improve their socio-economic and living standards

Rina met the craftsmen of zari-zardozi in Unnao on Tuesday to get information about their working style, machines, technology and market.

Sehgal said that work was going on at different levels to provide craftsmen with necessary training in terms of modernity.

"They will also get guidance from renowned designers of the fashion industry, who will not only give a new identity to the art of UP but will also help the craftsmen get a new market," he said.

## CM condoles deaths in Sambhal mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Eight persons were killed while about two dozen others received serious injuries when a Uttar Pradesh Roadways bus collided with a gas tanker in Sambhal district on Wednesday due to reduced visibility because of fog.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the deaths in the accident and directed the local authorities to provide the best possible treatment to the injured.

"A Roadways bus of Aligarh depot collided head-on with a gas tanker on the Agra-Moradabad road on Wednesday. Eight persons, including both the drivers were killed on the spot while 22 others were injured. The number of deaths could go up," Superintendent of Police Chakresh Mishra said on Wednesday.

There were about 42 passengers on the bus when the mishap took place on Agra-Moradabad National Highway

when the bus collided with the gas tanker near Madhaya in village Manakpur in Sambhal police station area. The impact of the collision was so intense that half of the bus was completely damaged while the front of the gas tanker was mangled. Low visibility due to dense fog on the highway is believed to be behind the accident.

The gas-filled tanker was going to Moradabad from Aligarh while the bus was going from Moradabad to Aligarh.

The tanker was trying to overtake a sugarcane laden tractor-trolley when it collided with the bus.

The deceased were identified as Jitendra Kumar (30) of Bijnor, Rohit Rana (25) of Chandausi posted as constable in Dial-112 in Naraura, Bulandshahr, Chhote Singh (45) of Bulandshahr, Anil Kumari (45) of Bahjoi, Saleem (32), driver of the bus hailing from Qwarsi in Aligarh, tanker driver Aslam (35) and Suresh Rajput (45), both from Moradabad, and Om Prakash (55) of Rampur.

## Deoria to have two more police stations

**Lucknow (PNS):** For maintaining more effective law and order, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has given his nod for setting up two new police stations in Deoria district. This information was shared by the CM Office here on Wednesday through its twitter handle. According to the information, the new police stations are Bariyarpur under Kotwali police station and Madhudih under Rampur Karkhana police station.

**WANTED**

**COMMAND HOSPITAL (CC) LUCKNOW**

Command Hospital (CC) Lucknow invites application from eligible persons for the post of:-

**Dialysis Technician - Two**

Qualification -   Dialysis Diploma Holder/Exp. of 10 years

Age -               18-45 yrs

House Keeper -   **One**

Qualification -   10<sup>th</sup>

Age -               18-45 yrs

Interested candidates should submit their application with Bio data, Photostat copies of certificates and contact address by hand or post addressed to OIC Dialysis Centre Command Hospital (CC) Lucknow Cantt-226002 by 15 Jan 2021 and should report to main Office Command Hospital (CC) for interview on 30 Jan 2021 at 1200 h.

Sd/ Brg/IC Adm & Cdr Tps

## सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पहले मेरा नाम Santosh Khanna था जो अब बदलकर Santosh Kumar Khanna हो गया है। भविष्य में मुझे इसी नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाये। Santosh Kumar Khanna S/o Hira Lal Khanna, 691, Malviya Nagar, Prayagraj.

## NOTICE

I,ex service man no4190383K, RANK L/NK Name Ram Shankar yadav son of Ramdas unit11 Kumaon regiment, am a resident of Munnukheda, post Manak Nagar under Para police station and tehsil and district Lucknow. In Kumaon Regiment Centre's record office by mistake my father's name has been registered as Ramdas Yadav and his date of birth as 01.07.1948 and my mother Rampati's date of birth as 01.07.1951. Whereas in the Aadhaar card and other documents my father's correct name Ramdas and his correct date of birth 30.03.1947 and mother Rampati's correct date of birth 11.05.1949 has been registered. Therefore, the correct name and date of birth of father in the record should be registered.

## आवश्यकता

**ठा0 जय नारायण सिंह हेमोरीयल डिस्ट्री कालेज**  
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विश्वविद्यालय, प्रयागराज

**आवश्यकता है**

**महाविद्यालय में संचालित**

**बी0एड0 पाठ्यक्रम हेतु-प्राचार्य/विभागाध्यक्ष (1 पद), सहा आचार्य (16 पद) योगस्था- 1प्राचार्य/विभागाध्यक्ष (01) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर + 55% एमएड0+विज्ञान (01) यो0-55% एमएड0+अनुयायक विज्ञान संस्थान में विज्ञान कार्य का 15/08 वर्ष का अनुभव । 2. सहा आचार्य - शिक्षा के पर्यवेक्ष (04) यो0-सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों में 55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण+55% एमएड0+उपाधि या 55% एमएड0 (विभागाध्यक्ष)+55% बी0एड0+नेट (विभागाध्यक्ष) 3. सहा आचार्य - निदेशन (02) 4. सहा आचार्य-निर्णय (02) 5. सहा आचार्य- पाठ्य (02) 6. सहा आचार्य-सांख्यिक विज्ञान (02) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण विज्ञान / गणित / भाषा / सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों + 55% एमएड0 / 7. सहा आचार्य- दूर्य कलाएं (02) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण विज्ञान / गणित / भाषा / सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों + 55% एमएड0 8. सहा आचार्य-सांख्यिक एवं शारीरिक विज्ञान (01) यो0- 55% स्नातकोत्तर (एनपीसी0)। 9. सहा आचार्य- निषादन कलाएं (01) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण विज्ञान / गणित / भाषा / सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों + 55% एमएड0 10. पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष (01) यो0-55% अंकों के साथ बी0एड0 उत्तीर्ण।**

वेतनमान एवं सेवा शर्त- एमएसी0टी0ई0/ विश्वविद्यालय/यू.जी.सी. मानकानुसार

नोट-1. सभी सहा आचार्यों की उपरोक्त अर्हता के अतिरिक्त नेट/बीएड000 अतिवारी है।

नोट-2. आवेदन पत्र, 04 फोटो एवं समस्त संलग्नकों की स्वयंमार्गित छायावर्तियों सहित विज्ञापन तिथि से 21 दिनों के अन्दर व्यक्तिगतपत्र के माे पर जीकौलड जग अकाई ई-मेल द्वारा भेजे या जमा करें। साक्षात्कार की सूचना दूरभाष द्वारा दी जायेगी।

प्रबंधक/सचिव- 9452402590, 7704908732, 7704908726 ई-मेल आईडी00- jncilg@gmail.com

## आवश्यकता

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**आवश्यकता है**

**महाविद्यालय में संचालित**

**बी0एड0 पाठ्यक्रम हेतु-प्राचार्य/विभागाध्यक्ष (1 पद), सहा आचार्य (30 पद) योगस्था- 1प्राचार्य/विभागाध्यक्ष (01) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर + 55% एमएड0+विज्ञान (01) यो0-55% एमएड0+अनुयायक विज्ञान संस्थान में विज्ञान कार्य का 15/08 वर्ष का अनुभव । 2. सहा आचार्य - शिक्षा के पर्यवेक्ष (04) यो0-सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों में 55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण+55% एमएड0+उपाधि या 55% एमएड0 (विभागाध्यक्ष)+55% बी0एड0+नेट (विभागाध्यक्ष) 3. सहा आचार्य-निदेशन (04) 4. सहा आचार्य-निर्णय (04) 5. सहा आचार्य- भाषा (04) 6. सहा आचार्य-सांख्यिक विज्ञान (04) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण विज्ञान / गणित / भाषा / सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों + 55% एमएड0 7. सहा आचार्य- दूर्य कलाएं (02) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण ललित कला विषयों में। 8. सहा आचार्य-सांख्यिक एवं शारीरिक विज्ञान (02) यो0- 55% स्नातकोत्तर (एनपीसी0)। 9. सहा आचार्य- निषादन कलाएं (02) यो0-55% स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण सभित / गणित / सामाजिक विज्ञान विषयों + 55% एमएड0 (विभागाध्यक्ष) 10. पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष (01) यो0-55% अंकों के साथ बी0एड0 उत्तीर्ण।**

वेतनमान एवं सेवा शर्त- एमएसी0टी0ई0/ विश्वविद्यालय/यू.जी.सी. मानकानुसार

नोट-1. सभी सहा आचार्यों की उपरोक्त अर्हता के अतिरिक्त नेट/बीएड000 अतिवारी है।

नोट-2. आवेदन पत्र, 04 फोटो एवं समस्त संलग्नकों की स्वयंमार्गित छायावर्तियों सहित विज्ञापन तिथि से 21 दिनों के अन्दर महाविद्यालय के पते पर जीकौलड जग अकाई ई-मेल द्वारा भेजे या जमा करें। साक्षात्कार की सूचना दूरभाष द्वारा दी जायेगी।

प्रबंधक/सचिव- 9452402590, 7704908714 ई-मेल आईडी0- rcpmahavidyalaya@gmail.com

## Asaduddin Owaisi hits out at Mamata Banerjee

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

All India Majlis e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her allegation that the Bharatiya Janata Party was spending crores of rupees to bring AIMIM to the state to sharpen the communal polarisation and divide the Hindu-Muslim votes among themselves.

Owaisi dismissed the charge as "baseless".

"Never was a man born who can buy Asaduddin Owaisi with money. Her allegation is baseless and she is restless. She should worry about her own home as so many of her people are going to the BJP. She has insulted the voters of Bihar and the people who voted for us," Owaisi said here on Wednesday.

Mamata Banerjee made the allegation against Owaisi while addressing a political rally in the poll-bound state on Wednesday.

"We have not started preparations for the West Bengal polls yet the TMC (Trinamool Congress) is trying to defame us after the Bihar polls. We have never compromised with the BJP. But the TMC leader was with the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government and she was a union minister. Besides, the TMC has never criticised the BJP on its role in the Gujarat riots," Owaisi said, adding that this showed how much soft corner Mamata Banerjee had for the BJP.



All India Majlis e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi with Om Prakash Rajbhar of Suheldeo Bhartiya Samaj Party

Talking to media persons here during his day-long visit to Lucknow on Wednesday to meet leaders of some smaller parties, including Om Prakash Rajbhar of Suheldeo Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Owaisi said the TMC was trying to give space to the BJP in West Bengal and this was witnessed during the last Lok Sabha polls in 2019 when the BJP won 18 seats in West Bengal.

"When two political leaders meet, you can guess what the topic of talks will be. I am meeting Om Prakash Rajbhar and will also meet Shivpal Singh Yadav who heads the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia)," Owasi said.

Asked about the AIMIM victory in Bihar, Owaisi said that leaders like Om Prakash Rajbhar and others helped him

win seats in Bihar.

About Uttar Pradesh, Owaisi said that he would make more visits to the state in January and things would begin to formalise later. "We have just started on this journey," he said.

Reacting to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's suggestion to change the name of Hyderabad to Bhayanagar, Owaisi said, "I will not change any name in Uttar Pradesh."

"So far you have only dealt with obedient Mir Jaffers and Sadiqs. You don't like Muslims who think and speak for themselves. You've insulted our voters in Bihar. Remember what happened to parties in Bihar that kept blaming their failures on 'vote cutters. Muslim voters aren't your jagir," Owaisi

## CITYBRIEFS

### CHRISTMAS TREE AND CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

A Christmas tree and candle light service was organised at the Assembly of Believers' Church on Wednesday. The ceremony started with the Christmas carol 'Andhero mein roshni hai', followed by a choir entering the church holding candles and singing 'Light of the world you came down'.

A depiction of Jesus Christ's birth was presented by tiny-tots of the church under the direction of Vartika Kumar. Bishop Shailendra Das was the chief guest on the occasion. Pastor Rajendra Masih shared the Christmas message with the congregation that Jesus Christ's birth was a positive paigam (message) in the midst of this pandemic. A special dance presented by tiny-tots depicted the theme of this Christmas season. A Christmas song was released by the church band 'Ehsaas' and it was released on YouTube channel.

### THE SAM 2020 COMES TO A CLOSE

The 4-day International Sports, Arts and Music Competition (The SAM 2020), organised online by City Montessori School, Jopling Road Campus, came to a close on Wednesday. Winners from Iran, Russia, USA, Greece, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Nepal and various states of India were awarded prizes amidst educational-cultural events at the prize distribution-cum-closing ceremony held online. Students of Bal Bharti Public School (New Delhi) were awarded the first prize in sound symphony competition while those of Little Angels School (Gwalior) Madhya Pradesh stood first in collage competition. Little Angels School (Gwalior) Madhya Pradesh won the first prize in e-expedition while the winners of fireless cooking competition were students of Sunbeam Suncity School, Varanasi.



## Fake spices factory unearthed

**Lucknow (PNS):** In a shocking disclosure, the Hathras police claimed to have unearthed a unit manufacturing spurious and counterfeit spices of local brands using donkey dung and acid.

Surprisingly, the factory, located in Navipur area, was being run by a Hindu outfit leader.

The cops raided the unit after the local residents tipped them off about the unit and also exerted pressure for quick action in the matter.

The unit's owner, Anoop Varshney, who is the mandal sahprabhar of Hindu Yuva Vahini, has been arrested.

Joint magistrate Prem Prakash Meena, under whose supervision the raid was conducted, later said, "We have seized over 300 kg of fake spices being packed in names of some local brands." He added that during the raid, several spurious ingredients used to prepare the fake spices were found, including donkey dung, hay (bhusa), indedi-

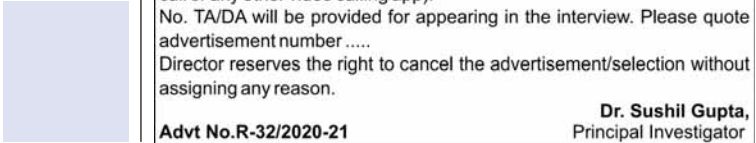
ble colours and drums full of acids. The recovered adulterated spices included coriander powder, red chilli powder, turmeric and spice mix (garam masala).

More than 27 samples have been sent for tests and an FIR will be registered under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 once the lab report comes, Meena said.

Varshney has been remanded to judicial custody under Section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code (arrest to prevent the commission of cognisable offences).

Meena told reporters that Varshney was unable to provide a licence for operating the spice factory at the location where it was being run. He also could not produce the licence of the brands which were being packed.

It is also being checked if the ingredients, prepared in the unit for making spurious spices, were supplied to other units in the city too.



**लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण**

(ISO 9001:2008 एवं ISO 14001:2004 प्रमाणित संस्था)

**प्राधिकरण भवन, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.)**

दूरभाष : 0522-2302586, वेबसाइट : www.ldaonline.in

संख्या: 39/ई-निविदा/ए0अ0/2020-21 दिनांक : 15/12/2020

**-: सामान्य E.O.I. सूचना :-**

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण, लखनऊ क्षेत्रान्तर्गत उत्तरांचल कोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन हेतु पी0पी0पी0 मोड पर डोर टू डोर (सूखे एवं गीले), कूड़ा एकत्रीकरण तथा डमिंग स्थल तक परिवहन एवं प्रोसेसिंग का कार्य सम्पादित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है, जिस हेतु अग्रोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण, लखनऊ द्वारा विशिष्ट श्रेणी के अधीन इस कार्य के इच्छुक/समान कार्य के अनुमती फार्मों से E.O.I. दिनांक 16.12.2020 से 22.12.2020 तक अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक E.O.I. ई-निविदा पद्धति के माध्यम से आमन्त्रित की जाती है, जो दिनांक 23.12.2020 को सायं 4:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। E.O.I. प्रपत्र लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण, लखनऊ की वेबसाइट [www.ldaonline.in](http://www.ldaonline.in) एवं ई-E.O.I. प्रपत्र वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से ऑनलाइन सायं 3:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।

| क्र0 सं0 | कार्य का नाम   | E.O.I. प्रपत्र का मूल्य मय जी.एस.टी. सहित | धरोहर/अग्रिम धनराशि | कार्य अवधि |
|----------|--|---|---------------------|------------|
| 01       | जानकीपुरम विस्तार योजना के सेक्टर-1 से 11 तक तथा जानकीपुरम योजना सेक्टर-जे एवं जे (विस्तार) के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत उत्तरांचल कोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन हेतु पी0पी0पी0 मोड पर प्रतिदिन डोर टू डोर (सूखे एवं गीले) कूड़ा एकत्रीकरण एवं डमिंग स्थल तक प्रोसेसिंग एवं परिवहन का कार्य। | रु० 2,000.00                              | रु०1,00,000.00      | 03 वर्ष    |

**मुख्य अभियन्ता**

**Office of the Superintending Engineer, Prayagraj, Circle, P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.)**

**No.: 8275/10 काम राश0प्र0/2020 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER** Date : 11.12.2020

1. The S.E. Prayagraj Circle, U.P. P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate online bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD in class A and B as the cae may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract

2. **List of Tender invited**

| Sl. No. | Di-strict | Name of Work   | Estimated cost (Rs.in Lacs) | Bid Security (Rs.) | Cost of Bid Documents (Rs.) | Time of completion (Month) | Address of Executive Engineer Executing the work                          | Address of Superintending Engineer                                   | Address of Chief Engineer                                | Address of D.M.       |
|---------|-----------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| 1       | 2         | 3  | 4                           | 5                  | 6                           | 7                          | 8   | 9  | 10   | 10                    |
| 1       |           | छत्तनाम मार्ग से टी.पी. मेमोरियल होते हुए देवनगर कालोनी तक विशेष मरम्मत का कार्य | 83.25                       | 616250.00          | 2000+ 300/- GST             | 03 Month                   | Executive Engineer, Construction Division-4 (Kumbh Mela) P.W.D. Prayagraj | Superintending Engineer, Prayagraj, Circle, P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.) | Cheif Engineer, Prayagraj Zone, P.W.D., Prayagraj (U.P.) | D.M. Prayagraj (U.P.) |

3. Time allowed for completion of each work is as mentioned in column no. 7, including rainy season

4. Website <http://etender.up.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB)

5. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 21-12-2020 to 26-12-2020 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> on or before 12:00 Hours on 26-12-2020. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 27-12-2020 at 02:00 Hours

6. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids After uploading all the information & documents on Prharh shall have to download technical sheet E1, after submitting. Scan copy of technical sheet E1 shall be then upload on e-tender portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> by the bidder. Bidder shall not upload any document other than technical sheet E1 on e-tender portal. If the bidder is uploading any document other than technical sheet E1 on e-tender portal, the document uploaded on e-tender portal shall not be considered for technical evaluation and claim of contractor in this regard shall not be entertained.

7. The prospective Bidders have to upload all the basic information and required documents on Prharh as per Go No 879/N 23-7-2020 dated 25-08-2020 (212) and 2(3) given in Prharh in detail. If a bidder does not upload information and document on Prharh technical evaluation of the tender shall not be done and the bidder will be responsible for that and the Contractor will be considered as NON-Responsive.

(Ashok Kumar Dwivedi)  
Superintending Engineer  
Prayagraj Circle, U.P. P. W.D. Prayagraj

U.P.: 157871, Date : 15.12.2020  
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।



# Lawyer’s son shoots self

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Son of an advocate shot himself at his house in Thakurganj police station area on Wednesday. The 18-year-old boy, identified as Ravi Pratap Singh of Sardar Nagar locality in Thakurganj, was a first-year student of BCom. His father Ramesh Kumar Singh is a practicing lawyer.

Around noon, Ravi was all alone in a room when he picked the licensed revolver of his father and shot himself in the head. Family members rushed to the scene hearing the gunshot and took a profusely bleeding Ravi to KGMU Trauma Centre where he was declared brought dead. A team of police reached the scene and collected details related to the incident. The police could not find any substantial reason due to which the teen ended his life. Sources in police said he was mentally upset over some issue for the last few days. The body was sent for autopsy and further probe was underway.

Meanwhile, a 16-year-old

## Man, son attacked inside office

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two youths attacked a man with a knife after barging into his office in Hussainganj on Tuesday. They also attacked his son also on being challenged. The police initially tried to hide facts related to the incident but disclosed details to mediapersons after one of the accused was arrested on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Gopal and Vinod, both of Purana Qila locality in the area, barged into the office of Lavkush Mishra of the same locality.

boy ended his life at the house of his maternal uncle in Gudamba on Wednesday. The teen, identified as Karan of Masauli in Barabanki, was staying in the house of his maternal uncle Ashish Kumar of Behta locality in Gudamba for the last six months. The police said Karan was suffering from some

“Without any provocation, the duo attacked Lavkush with an intention to kill him. My son Harsh rushed to his rescue and he was also attacked. The duo also threatened to my husband and son before fleeing the scene,” Lavkush’s wife Geeta Mishra alleged. She later lodged a complaint following which a case was registered under different sections of IPC, including attempt to murder. The police tried to cover up facts related to the incident to save themselves the ire of senior officers but launched a man-

hunt for the accused.

On Wednesday, the police arrested Gopal from near Prerna Kendra in the locality. Later, the police made public details related to the incident and arrest of the accused. Meanwhile, an undertrial undergoing treatment at Balrampur Hospital died on Wednesday. Reports said the man, identified as Heeral Lal (85) of Barabanki, was sent to jail in 2001 after he was named in a murder case. He took ill around 20 days back and died on Wednesday.

peeped inside the room and found Karan hanging from the ceiling. The police said Karan was hanging from the ceiling with a bedsheet tied around his neck. Karan’s parents were informed about the incident and the body was sent for autopsy. Karan was a student of class XII and his father is a farmer.

## 2 henchmen of Mukhtar’s close aide nabbed



**Lucknow (PNS):** Two henchmen of a close aide of Mukhtar Ansari were nabbed on Wednesday in connection with a case registered against them. The accused were identified as Ritik Singh aka Tiger of Siwan in Bihar and Shivam Pandey aka DJ of Madaion. Both the accused had thrashed a tent house owner, Vivek Singh of Faizullahganj asking the victim to give them Rs 10,000 for bail surety bond of their mentor Abhishek Singh aka Babu, who is cooling heels in jail these days. Abhishek is said to be a close aide of Mukhtar Ansari. The attackers had made Vivek spit and lick at the house of Abhishek Singh two days back.

### TIGRESS IPSHITA NO MORE



Female tigress Ipshita died at Lucknow zoo on Wednesday. Director RK Singh said the tigress died due to old age. He said she was brought from Nandankanan Zoo of Odisha in 2007 when she was six. “Looking into her age and condition, she was transferred to the zoo hospital on December 3, 2018 and since then she was in the hospital itself,” Singh said.

Pioneer

## 206 more test Covid +ve, 232 recover



**Lucknow (PNS):** As many as 206 persons tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow on Wednesday while 232 patients recovered. There are 2,816 active cases in the district. A senior official at the CMO office said those who tested positive included 18 from Gomtinagar, 17 each from Indiranagar & Rae Bareilly road, 15 from Mahanagar, 12 each from Cantt & Jankipuram, 11 from Ashiyana, and 10 each from Mahanagar & Vikasnagar.

Across the state, 1,277 persons tested positive, including 52 in Kanpur, 73 in Ghaziabad, 39 in Gautam Buddh Nagar, 69 in Varanasi and 67 in Meerut, taking the UP case tally to 5,69,263. There were 16 deaths in the state, including four in Lucknow, three in Meerut, two each in Kanpur & Prayagraj, and one each in Varanasi, Aligarh, Amroha, Baghpat & Shravasti, taking the toll to 8,118. Besides, 1,765 patients recovered, taking the number of recoveries to 5,43,344.

# Seven tech institutes to establish incubators

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government, under the Atmanirbhar campaign, has directed seven technical institutes to establish incubators.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) and the other institutions have already established Kalam Innovation and Start-up Centre which invites innovative ideas from the students and in the last three years, the centre has received over 2,700 ideas. Out of these, 62 ideas have been selected and the AKTU provides an incentive of Rs 1,200 to students for making prototypes of their innovative products.

In July this year, the Yogi Adityanath government had announced the Uttar Pradesh Start-up Policy 2020. The policy aims at setting up 100 incubators in UP, at least one in every district, and developing an ecosystem to set up at least 10,000 start-ups. The state government said the policy would help in turning the youth from job seekers to job providers.

The aim of the policy is to make Uttar Pradesh among the top three states in the start-up sector in the country and set up

**The start-up policy is expected to create direct employment opportunities for 50,000 people and indirect employment for one lakh people in the state**

India’s biggest start-up incubator in Lucknow. According to the government statement, the start-up policy is expected to create direct employment opportunities for 50,000 people and indirect employment for one lakh people in the state.

As a result of the policy, students of several technical institutions have developed innovative products and some companies are now going to launch many of the innovative products developed by the students of the AKTU and other institutions in the market. The students will also be given a share in the profit. The AKTU is also proving to be an important link in the Atmanirbhar campaign of the UP government as it is also organising competitions among the students to encourage them to come up with innovative

ideas and products.

In these competitions, the students share their suggestions and also present their prototypes and till now, over a dozen such prototypes business models have been created by the students. Shubham Kumar, a student of Veera College of Engineering and Management, Bijnor, has developed a wheel spray pump machine which will be helpful to the farmers. Based on the principle of kinetic energy, farmers can spray fertilisers and water on their crops with the help of this machine, saving both time and effort. A company has taken up the innovative idea of this student and will soon launch this idea in the market in the form of a machine. Similarly, Shivam Yadav, a student of Dronacharya Group of Institutions, Greater Noida, has built a smart helmet with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). The GPS based helmet has an in-built sensor and in case of an accident, the helmet will immediately send a message to the nearest police station, hospital and family members. This product has also been picked up by a company which will soon start the production of this helmet.



Smritika War Memorial was in resplendent glory on Wednesday when the brave soldiers of the three services of armed forces, who gave the nation its biggest military victory on December 16, 1971, were remembered and honoured. The day began with a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial. Chief of Staff (COS), Central Command, Lt Gen MU Nair, accompanied by officers and soldiers of Lucknow Garrison, paid rich floral tributes and laid wreaths at the memorial amidst soul-stirring patriotic tunes played by the military band.

Pioneer

## Centre gives nod to mega leather cluster

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Central government has given the green signal for the Mega Leather Cluster project to be established in Kanpur.

The project, spread in 235 acres, will come up in Ramaipur village of Kanpur Nagar. The project entails investment of Rs 5,850 crore and it is likely to create 50,000 jobs. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is likely to lay the foundation stone of the project soon. The land for the Mega Leather Cluster project in Kanpur Nagar has already been

acquired and the detailed project report was sent to the Union Commerce Ministry for approval. With the Mega Leather Cluster at Kanpur; UP will become the first state in the country to establish a leather park. The work on the project is likely to commence soon.


The leather park is likely to generate indirect employment for 1.5 lakh people. More than 150 tanneries will be located there. Leather-made shoes, purses, jackets and other world-class products will be manufactured in this cluster.


To keep a check on pollution, the leather park will be equipped with an effluent treatment plant. For setting up units in the park, industrial plots ranging from 4,000 square metres to 10,000 square metres will be provided to the investors. A world-class system for exporting leather products will also be established in the park. Official sources said the leather park would give a new identity to the industrial city of Kanpur Nagar that had a pre-dominant position in the leather industry.

## 2 minor boys flee relative’s house, recovered

**Lucknow (PNS):** Two minor boys escaped from the house of their relative in Sushant Golf City as they had to go to Mumbai to become rich. The police worked on the case and recovered the duo from Shahjahanpur railway station on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. They told the police that they stealthily picked up Rs 2,000, belts and wallets which their relatives used to sell. On Tuesday night, the mother of one of the boys, who belongs to Assam, lodged a missing report. She told the police that she, along with her son (10) and brother (11), visited her relative Prashant’s house in SGC police station area. Both the boys were playing outside the house in the afternoon and went missing in the evening. The family tried to search for them and later sought police help. On the instructions of Commissioner of Police DK Thakur, six teams were formed to locate the boys. Shopping malls, railway and bus stations, tempo stands and other crowded places were searched, but in vain. In the meantime, a police team was tipped off that both the boys had boarded a tempo for Charbagh. The Lucknow police alerted the GRP and RPF. Around 2 am, the police got a message from Shahjahanpur GRP/RPF and the boys were later brought back to the city.

One of the boys told the police that he planned to visit Mumbai via Delhi. He said he stole the money and other stuff from the house. The duo said they were planning to sell the purses and belts in New Delhi to earn money and then visit Mumbai for job and become rich.

| <div>  <div> <b>INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK</b> </div> </div> <div>Azamgarh Branch : Pt. Deen Dyal Chowk, Civil Lines, Azamgarh - 276001</div>   |   |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)  |   |   |   |                           |
| Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, the undersigned, being the authorised officer of Indian Overseas Bank, using the powers conferred on him under Section 13(2), according to the Rule 8 (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of Security Interest had notified the following borrower and guarantors by issuing demand notice for the amount and interest mentioned in front of their name to repay the amount and interest mentioned in front of their name within 60 days. Since, the borrower failed to repay the amount, henceforth, the borrower/ guarantors and common public are notified that the undersigned has possessed the following described mortgaged property, under Section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Act 2002. The borrower/ guarantor and common public are henceforth specially cautioned not to deal with these properties and if anybody deals with these properties, then he will be liable to the amount mentioned in front of the following account of Indian Overseas Bank. |   |   |   |                           |
| Sl No.  | Name & Address of Borrower/ Mortgagor and Guarantors  | Date of Notice and Amount   | Details of Immovable Property   | Date of Possession Notice |
| 1   | M/S Ambey Industries (Prop. Mrs. Anita Mishra W/o Anurag Mishra) Ishakpur, Near Junaidganj, Hafizpur, Azamgarh.   | Demand Notice Date 22.07.2020<br>Outstanding Amount 1,15,52,060/- + Intt. & Other Charges w.e.f. 08.07.2020 | All that part and parcel of the property consisting of plot no. 182, at village Isahakpur, Tappa - Athaisi, Pr. Nizamabad, Tehsil - Sadar, Distt. - Azamgarh being landed property with certain construction thereon, with surrounding in the name of <b>Smt. Anita Mishra W/o Anuraj Mishra</b> consisting an area of <b>1818 sq. fts.</b> <b>Bounded by : North :</b> Land of Hardeo, <b>South :</b> Land of Smt. Satti@Satiya, <b>East :</b> Land of <b>Smt. Shashi Kiran Singh</b> and <b>Smt. Gesmati Rai</b> , <b>West :</b> Chak Road. | 11.12.2020                |
| 2   | M/S Mohammad Mobile Cottage (Prop. Mehtab Ahmad) Bhagwati Shah Katra Chowk Azamgarh (Hereinafter referred as borrowers) and Guranor/mortgagor I. Mrs. Shahjahan Begam W/o Asfaq Ahmad 2. Mr. Asfaq Ahmad Mohalla - Farash tola, ward no. 1, Tehsil - Sadar, District - Azamgarh | Demand Notice Date 22.07.2020<br>Outstanding Amount 1,56,065.90/- + Intt. & Other Charges w.e.f. 22.07.2020 | All that part and parcel of Land & Residential Building at mohalla Farash Tola, Ward No.1 Tehsil Sadar District - Azamgarh. The Area of the plot is 015 links (60.75 Sq. meter). The said property is in the name of Smt. Sahjan Begam W/o Mr. Asfaq Ahmad. <b>Bounded by : North :</b> Municipal Lane to Bagh Meer Petu, <b>South :</b> House of Ashafaque Ahmad, <b>East :</b> Land and Building of Shahid <b>West :</b> House of Ashafaque Ahmad.  | 11.12.2020                |
| Date : 16.12.2020      Place : Azamgarh      Authorised Officer, <b>Indian Overseas Bank</b>  |   |   |   |                           |



## Samajik Adhikarita Shivar

**Distribution of Aids and Assistive Devices**  
**Free of cost to 2186 Divyangjan and Senior Citizens**  
**under ADIP & Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**

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

**Presided over by**  
**Jai Pratap Singh**  
Minister of Health,  
Government of Uttar Pradesh

● **Guests of Honour** ●

**Satish Dwivedi**  
Minister of Basic Education,  
Government of Uttar Pradesh

**Jagdambika Pal**  
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha),  
Dumariaganj

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 | Time: 11:00 A.M**  
**Venue: Lohia Kala Bhawan, Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh**  
**(Through Video Conferencing)**

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

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


**Empowerment through Samajik Adhikarita Shivar**

♦ **9333 Camps held covering all the States/UTs**

♦ **Aids and assistive devices distributed to more than 16.98 lakh Divyangjan**

♦ **3020 Cochlear Implant surgeries conducted**

♦ **19443 motorized tricycles distributed**



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

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dapp-381171/300992021





APEDA Chairman Dr M Angamuthu flagging off trucks carrying rice being exported to Doha from Varanasi on Wednesday

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## APEDA chairman flags off rice to Doha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chairman of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr M Angamuthu, along with Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal, flagged off three trucks carrying Black Rice and other variety of rice to Doha (Qatar) from here on Wednesday. A big consignment of 532 metric tonnes would be exported to Doha. He flagged off the rice from Harahua Ring Road crossing near Sindhora Road underpass. With this, yet another chapter of exports of farm products from the region especially this city has been added in the field of growth of agriculture.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr M Angamuthu said that continuous efforts are being made to export farm products from Varanasi and other adjoining districts and this initiative would not only

improve cultivation in the region but also help the farmers increase their income. He informed that the rice will first go to Gujarat from here and then from the port the same would be shipped to Qatar. He said that along with the farm and horticultural products, flowers would also be exported abroad.

Deepak Agrawal informed that farmers are also being trained by the APEDA and Horticulture department so that the farmer can produce their agro products as per the standards of export. He said that through the initiative not only the exports of our farm products are being increased but it is also helping the farmers to get fair and high prices of their crops in the international markets. He assured that in the coming days, more effective efforts would be made towards the achievement of the Prime Minister's goal of doubling the income of farmers.

‘This Varanasi region

would be emerged as a major hub for agricultural exports and food processing in the coming years,’ he said, informing that during the last two-three years new varieties of Black Rice are being produced by the farmers in Chandauli district. ‘To provide good value to farmers, their produce is being exported abroad through APEDA,’ he said, expressing hope that in the coming years huge quantities of vegetables and mangoes will be exported abroad. ‘Kashi will be made a very big hub of export in the coming time so that the produce of the farmers of Purvanchal (eastern UP), including the surrounding districts, can be sent abroad. By this, the farmers would get fair price of their produce which would help in doubling their income.

Agrawal also informed that soon the standard level pack house will be ready in Varanasi with the cooperation of Central and state governments and then the farmers

will not have to send their items to Lucknow for standard grading and packaging. According to him, a small entire store has also started at the airport and negotiations are going on with the Airport Authority so that a small pack house can be built at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur here soon. He said that not only Black Rice and other rice varieties but also mango and green chillies are being exported from the region continuously. Even before this, the Banarasi Langda mangoes were exported and certainly according to the intention of the PM, a lot of efforts are being made to double the income of farmers by 2022.

Meanwhile, Regional Incharge Dr CB Singh has informed that APEDA office is also going to be opened in Varanasi and it will be inaugurated by APEDA Chairman on Thursday at Horticulture department compound in front of Circuit House.

## 63 new Covid cases in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 63 more new patients have been detected in the district on Wednesday, increasing the total number to 20,437. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 338. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 109 and out of them, 105 have been recovered from home isolation while four discharged from the hospitals, increasing the number to 16,632 and 2,890 respectively. The total number of patients

who have been recovered so far is 19,522, leaving 577 active cases. The recovery rate is 95.52 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.65 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 36 positive patients were found out of 2,619 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,74,943 and the results of 2,871 are awaited. Out of them, 4,54,533 were negative while 20,410 positive. The total number of samples

collected was 4,96,160. Earlier, a female aged 75 from Sikraul succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of three new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,583 including 215 red zones. One green zone has been converted into a red zone again. There are 2,368 green zones with eight new ones.

On the instructions of the District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, mass/group antigen tests continued

to be conducted at Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) and Manduadith railway but all 87 and 42 tests conducted there respectively have been found negative.

Besides, all the 155 tests have been found negative at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura apart from 125 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar, 130 at Government Women's Hospital, 39 at CHC Shivpur, 72 at Swami Vivekanand Hospital, Bhelupur and 111 at SSH BHU.

## IS-BHU celebrates Institute Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Institute Day was celebrated by Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University (IS-BHU) here on Wednesday. The Institute Day lecture was delivered by Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The function was presided over by Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar, Vice-chancellor, BHU. Prof Ashutosh Sharma talked about the future challenges in research and development. He also emphasised on the importance of self-dependence (Atamirbharta), self confidence, and introspection to carry out better work in respective fields.

Prof M Joshi, Dean, IS-BHU welcomed the guests on behalf of the institute and Prof AK Tripathi, Director, highlighted the achievements of the institute during the last one year. He also announced the name of faculty members from IS-BHU and felicitated them, whose work has been cited in world's top 2 %. Faculty members who got fellowships and teacher's awards from various academies were also felicitated by the Institute of Science.

Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar announced the name of two prestigious rotating professor awards. The first Prof CNR Rao rotating Professor Award was given to Prof MS Singh from Chemistry department, while the other Shri Sant Sanganageria Award was given to Prof Anchal Srivastava from Physics department. The



Institute Day being held at IS-BHU in Varanasi on Wednesday

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donors of these two awards, Prof CNR Rao and Sant Sanganageria also expressed their views on the Foundation Day. The ceremony was concluded by the presidential remarks of Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar and vote of thanks was proposed by Prof JK Roy, Head, Department of Zoology.

**NAND GHAR PROJECT LAUNCHED IN UP:** Aiming at improving health and nutritional outcomes for women and children, the Nand Ghar Project has been launched in UP under which the Nand Ghars are to be established in Varanasi under the first phase. The implementing agency Anil Agarwal Foundation (AAF) will set up Nand Ghars over the next 12 months and it has joined hands with Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation for the purpose.

Studies have shown that more than 90 per cent of the children enrolled with Nand Ghars are found in the healthy category, with zero slippage into malnutrition. And with an aim to improve health and nutritional outcomes for women and children the Nand Ghar Project has been launched in UP which is to be implemented in Varanasi and Amethi under the first phase. The Nand Ghar is a joint collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Child Development, where we hope to transform the entire landscape of the aanganwadi ecosystem with focus on nutrition.

‘We would be jointly developing 500 Nand Ghars in UP

with focus on improving health and nutritional outcomes for women and children. Nand Ghar is a joint collaboration with Ministry of Women & Child Development, where we hope to transform the entire landscape of the aanganwadi ecosystem with focus on nutrition,’ Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal informed adding, the Nand Ghar aims to change the lives of 8 crore women and 2 crore children at the grassroot level, he added.

The collaboration between the two organisations will involve the implementation of best practices of Nand Ghar infrastructure and amenities along with BMGF's system strength to improve the health and nutrition outcomes.

## National Law University to be established in Prayagraj: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was on a hectic tour to Prayagraj where he attended a good number of programmes including the advocates function ‘Pradesh Adhivakta Samagam-2020’ organised jointly by the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh and the High Court Bar Association at KP College ground, Magh Mela meeting, Smart City equipment handing over at Police Lines, and meeting with BJP leaders and workers.

During advocates function the Chief Minister announced that land released from the clutches of mafia dons, will be utilised to provide houses to the lawyers, journalists, teachers, and poor on ‘no profit-no loss’ basis. The programme was attended besides others by the former Governor of West Bengal and senior advocate Keshri Nath Tripathi, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, ministers Brijesh Pathak, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Siddharth Nath Singh, and party leaders.

While addressing the lawyers the Chief Minister



said that the proposed National Law University will soon be established in Prayagraj, and the law students and the whole legal fraternity will be benefitted when the university starts functioning. He assured that the state government is totally committed to look into the problems of the lawyers, who serve the nation.

Uttar Pradesh has set an

example in Covid control, Yogi said, and his statement was backed by data and reports.

For making Uttar Pradesh self dependent the Chief Minister said that ‘one district-one product’ project will convert the dreams into reality. He informed that the Government has released funds for different judiciary related works, and ₹ 600 crore

has especially been released for buildings, parking and chambers in Prayagraj.

The Chief Minister monitored the progress of Magh Mela preparations and turned tough on the lethargic attitude of the officials.

Later Yogi Adityanath made available different modern equipment to the police at the Police Lines, for the Smart City development project.

## NCR GM flags off first LHB coach after periodic overhauling

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager, North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhry flagged off first LHB coach no. 163441 (General Class) after Periodic Overhauling (POH) at Coach Midlife Rehabilitation (CMLR) workshop Jhansi. Besides trip attention on washing lines, LHB coaches require major maintenance inputs at every 18, 36 and 72 months of operation which are termed as Shop Schedule-I (SS-I), Shop Schedule-II (SS-II) and Shop Schedule-III (SS-III) or POH.

PCME NCR Kundan Kumar welcomed General Manager, PHODs and DRMs in this virtual flagging off function organised through video conferencing. On this occasion a brief presentation was made by CWM CMLR Deepak Nigam covering initiatives taken by Jhansi workshop for POH/SS-III schedule of LHB coaches and supply of overhauled bogies to coaching depots. Substantial reduction of approximately 30 days in transit time shall be achieved by undertaking POH of LHB coaches at CMLR Jhansi as compared to foreign railway workshops. Moreover, coach turned out from Jhansi work-

shop shall also be equipped with superior passenger amenities for pleasant journey experience. Apart from prescribed maintenance activities for LHB coaches, improved passenger amenities like superior PU painting of coaches; fitment of RO based water purifier on both ends of coach; complete renewal of seats and berths; provision of improved stainless-steel fittings; provision of LED lights, energy efficient fans and extra mobile charging points inside coach; improvement in bio toilets etc. are also being done during POH attention by Jhansi workshop.

General Manager congratulated officials from Jhansi workshop and HQ for achieving this important milestone and announced a group cash award for this commendable work by Jhansi workshop. Speaking on this occasion Chaudhry said that workshop should provide brass or nanoparticle coating on frequent touch points of coach to make these surfaces more resistant to virus and other infections. He

also instructed that ergonomically designed workstations should be provided for improved productivity and less fatigue to workshop employees.

Later safety in train operation, loading performance and works required for 160 Kmph speed raising on trunk routes of North Central Railway were reviewed. GM instructed that all laid down rules and guidelines for shunting, unloading of wagons, closing and securing of wagon doors etc. be followed without any exception. On the front of loading GM emphasised on early finalisation of station to station (STS) concessional rates proposal which have extremely useful in increasing originating freight loading on North Central Railway. Works required for 160 kmph speed raising on the two trunk routes of NCR were also reviewed. General Manager advised concerned departments to monitor work progress closely and instructed divisions to expedite provision of thick web switches.

## 86 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Prayagraj city reported a total of 86 cases of coronavirus late on Tuesday night. The number of new corona infected exceeded over 80 after a long gap. With this, one person died. However, 42 people have become infection free. Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer of Corona confirmed this.

CMO Dr Prabhakhar Rai said that the total number of corona patients in the district has reached 27,351 after findings of 86 new infected on Tuesday. Out of them 26,453 people have become infection-free. Nine people have been discharged from SRN and Beli

Hospital of the 86 people, while 33 people have completed home isolation. On Tuesday, corona test of 6,277 people have been conducted. Among those infected, 98 patients are admitted to SRN, Beli and private hospitals whereas, 418 people are in home isolation. The total number of people who died due to corona has increased to 363.

Meanwhile, four people have turned out to be corona positive in Doaba within the last 24 hours of the Kuashambi district. With this, the number of active patients suffering from Covid has increased to 23 in the district. Teams of the Health department have start-

ed arranging for the treatment of all the infected as well as marking the people exposed to them.

Surveillance officer Dr Yash Agarwal said that like everyday, on Tuesday, a camp was conducted on the camp across the district and 969 suspects were tested. During this period, four people have come positive in the report from various media. Three of those infected include those from the Nevada region. In this way, 2,230 people have been positive in the district so far. Although, 2,180 patients of the total have also been cured.

Meanwhile, a middle-aged man died in suspicious condi-

tion on Monday night in the municipality Bharwari under the Kokhraj police station. After information arrived, the police took the dead body into its custody and sent it for post-mortem.

Municipal Bharwari resident Shivnareesh alias Boltu Kanaujia used to take care of the family after truck driving. Son Akhilesh told that on Monday evening, father Shivnareesh, after coming home, told about a chest pain problem.

He was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. He died during treatment at the hospital in the night.

## Plan to administer Ivermectin dose to Kalpwasis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Over 20,000 Kalpwasis are likely to camp on the Magh Mela ground next year. Apart from making them undergo a COVID-19 test every week during their stay, Health department officials have also mooted a plan to administer prophylactic active dose of Ivermectin to Kalpwasis coming to Magh Mela next year.

Additional Chief Medical Officer and nodal officer Rishi Sahai said, ‘The Health department has mooted a plan to administer a prophylactic active dose of Ivermectin to all Kalpwasis. A prophylactic dose would also be administered to

frontline workers assigned duties on the Mela campus. The doses will be administered to Kalpwasis on the first, seventh and 30th day of the month.’

‘Apart from bringing a negative RT-PCR test report along with them to get an entry to the Mela ground, they will also undergo a COVID-19 test every week during their month-long stay. Officials would be preparing a health card of each kalpwasi to track their health.’ Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (Prayagraj) Dr Prabhakhar Rai said that at least 10 to 15 health surveillance teams would be deployed in each sector of the Mela ground to track the health of Kalpwasis and other seers staying on the Mela ground. ‘Medical teams

equipped with a thermal scanner and sanitisers would be stationed at all entry points of the venue,’ he added.

‘Kalpwasis would also be submitting an undertaking that they agree to be sent to a quarantine or isolation centre in the city, if they test positive for Covid-19,’ the officials added. The Health department will also set up five booths for collection of swab samples in the five sectors of the Magh Mela ground. The mela will start from January 14 next year. The state government had recently assured seers and saints associated with Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP) that the Magh Mela would be organised despite the pandemic but under strict

implementation of COVID-19 safety guidelines.

**INAUGURATED:** Maj Gen Ravindra Singh, SM General Officer Commanding, Red Eagle Division inaugurated a Vijayanta Tank in the premises of Army Public School, Old Cantt, Prayagraj to commemorate the occasion of victory in 1971 India - Pakistan War. The tank was dedicated to the memory of the martyrs of the Red Eagle Division who had participated in the 1971 War & earned laurels for the nation.

The General is himself a participant of the Kargil War, having been awarded a Sena Medal for Gallantry for actions during the Battle of Tiger Hill.





Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar, visits LLR Hospital vaccine storage centre on Wednesday

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# Shekhar inspects Covid vaccine storage centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar carried out an inspection of the LLR Hospital's COVID-19 vaccine storage centre on Wednesday to get first hand report of the facilities arranged to maintain the cold chain.

He said the storage of COVID-19 vaccine was a big challenge and a big responsibility and hoped that the GSVM Medical College would prove its worth on the task assigned to it.

The divisional commissioner appealed to the people

that more people need to volunteer themselves for the vaccine's trial. He praised the role of GSVM Medical College in contribution towards the research work.

Verifying the documents required for the clinical trial protocol, he asked the doctors to make every effort to ensure that the vaccine trial was carried out carefully and by strictly maintaining the cold chain.

He then visited the deep freeze section and took stock of the backup and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the medical college authorities.

GSVM Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal said the medical college was the first state medical college to have done outstanding work not only in treating but controlling death of COVID-19 patients as well.

He said this was possible on account of the dedicated work of the doctors, paramedics and other staff concerned.

He said as the medical college wanted more and more people to volunteer for the COVID-19 vaccine trial, those keen to volunteer could call on the mobile numbers 8090609630 and 8707574418 at

the earliest.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Dr Rajneesh Dube, while holding a virtual meeting with the GSVM Medical College officials on Wednesday said as there was a gradual decline in COVID-19 cases, it had been decided to take up all the pending complicated surgeries at the earliest.

He said now the LLR Hospital should take up elective surgeries and other major surgeries.

Dube said the OPD services should be extended in government and private hospitals as well.

# Mandhana-Shuklaganj road to be widened to four lanes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar on Wednesday directed the PWD executive engineer to immediately prepare a feasibility report for the widening of Mandhana-Shuklaganj road to four lanes.

He also directed Bridge Corporation General Manager Rakesh Singh to ensure that an overbridge was constructed at the Saraiyya crossing as it had become essential for the smooth traffic movement. He said any hurdle that came in the construction of the overbridge must be removed at the earliest.

The divisional commissioner was addressing a meeting at Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority on Wednesday.

He said the major hurdles retarding the pace of industrial development in the district had to be removed at all costs.

Shekhar said the proposed leather mega cluster and Itra Park that were to be set up in Senpuram Para village and Kannauj had to be interchanged at the earliest. He asked UPSIDA Chief Executive Officer Mayur Maheshwari to put up the proposal in this regard without any further delay.

Maheshwari informed the

divisional commissioner that the Rooma Industrial Area and the Panki Industrial Area Site 5 had to be transferred to the Kanpur Nagar Nigam.

Shekhar asked the officials of UPSIDA and KNN to work out an amicable solution and end all hurdles that retarded the pace of development in the district.

The Kanpur municipal commissioner informed the divisional commissioner that to prevent sewer overflowing and waterlogging in Panki and Rooma, water drainage system had to be set up on a war footing.

The divisional commissioner also sought a proposal

for transferring the land of gram samaj to UPSIDA for the Itra Park.

He then directed that possession of the allotted land to the allottees should be done peacefully at Dibiyaipur, Auraiya.

He said the work had to be done on a war footing and directed all the officials concerned to apprise the commissioner of the progress in their respective missions.

Officials who took part in the meeting included Additional CEO Rajesh Rai, Regional Manager, Rakesh Iha, PWD EE Jai Singh, Irrigation department EE Ravi Mishra and several other officials.

## 47 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 47 more coronavirus positive cases on Wednesday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 47 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 31,638 cases. He said that two patients were discharged from hospital. He said no COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Wednesday evening keeping the death toll to 803. The CMO said at present 706 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4222 samples were sent for testing in the city.

## BJP leader's nephew thrown before train, loses left arm

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The nephew of a BJP leader lost his left arm when he was thrown before a speeding goods train by some goons in Gopalpur village under Ghatampur Kotwali police station late Tuesday night.

During a Ramilla event, the victim, Lalit (28) son of Karunesh Dwivedi and nephew of BJP leader Umesh Dwivedi of Gopalpur in Ghatampur, had a dispute with some local goons who, after dragging him into their van, threw him before the goods train. The victim's left arm was severed from the shoulder.

Lalit was rushed to the LLR Hospital from where he was referred to the Trauma Centre of King George's Medical University in Lucknow in view of his serious condition.

During the Ramilla event in Gopalpur, Lalit had a dispute with some local goons. Hearing about the incident, Umesh Dwivedi had visited the spot and pacified both the sides and dropped Lalit at his house.

But in the wee hours, when Lalit again reached the Ramilla venue, he was brutally beaten up by the goons and thrown before the goods train passing on the Banda railway track.

His kin reached the spot around 6 am on Wednesday and informed the police. Meanwhile, many BJP leaders, including Devendra Singh Bhole, MP, and Upendra Paswan, MLA, reached the LLR Hospital and took stock of the situation. Circle Officer Ravi Kumar Singh said the assailants named in the complaint were taken into custody and were being quizzed.

## Labourer batters son to death

KANPUR (PNS): A brick kiln labourer battered his three-year-old son to death before his wife and daughters in Hatherua village under Ghatampur Kotwali police area on Tuesday. Police arrested the accused and recovered the body on Wednesday. Santraj of Chhani Khurd village under Bimwar police station in Hamirpur district and his wife Anita were labourers in a brick kiln. They live there in a hut with daughters Anjana (10), Khushbu (7) and son Ravindra (3). On Tuesday morning, on hearing rumours that Santraj had killed his wife and set the body ablaze, police reached the spot but failed to get any clue of the incident. However, Santraj's wife could not be traced till late night, the police took him into custody. After quizzing him, the police recovered Anita and the two daughters while the son remained missing. Police took them all to police station and on being grilled, they disclosed about the shocking incident. They said on Tuesday morning, when Ravindra (3) was insisting for something, an enraged Santraj started beating him. When Anita tried to rescue her son, she was also thrashed. Later, Santraj battered Ravindra to death and after hiding the body threatened his wife and daughters to keep their mouth shut. SHO said on basis of the information given by Santraj, the body of Ravindra had been recovered. Sources said as Santraj suspected that Ravindra was his illegitimate child, he had killed him.

## NER GM inspects 'Dikshant Parade'

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER), Vinay Kumar Tripathi on Tuesday inspected the 'Dikshant Parade' of the 49th batch of women constable recruits organised at the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Training Centre/NER and took salute of the march past.

On the occasion Additional General Manager (AGM) Amit Kumar Agarwal, Inspector General-cum Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC), RPF, Atul Kumar Srivastava, along with principal heads of departments, members of North Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (NERWWO), senior railway officers besides officials from Air Force, Army, local police and others were present. In his address on the occasion, GM Vinay Kumar Tripathi while appreciating the parade and march past presented by the constable recruits said during the eight months of hard training 350 women constable recruits were provided high-level training. Under it they become adept in subjects like railway law, psychology, disaster management, computer etc besides training of various weapons, unarmed combat, crowd control and bomb disposal. Along with it they have also been trained in the field of passenger assistance, customer care and stress management with the aim of making them efficient in the area of their work, which will be helpful in enhancing the safety and image of the railway in future, he said.

The GM said that a large



number of postgraduates, PGDCA and MTech degree holders are among these trainee recruits. Along with it many of them had contributed to sports, scouts and NCC at the national and state levels. They will also be given one month commando training to counter any adverse situation during railway safety. Tripathi expressed confidence that the women constable recruits while serving in the largest organisation of India will give their significant contribution to the service of the nation and the faith of the people in Indian Railways will increase further. Moreover a collective award of ₹51,000 was announced on behalf of the GM. He encouraged the women recruits who had excelled in various fields by presenting medals and citations to them. The best recruit award was given to Prerna Kumari of South Eastern Railway (SER) for achieving the top position in outdoor and indoor subjects. Aditi of SER was awarded for best performance in indoor subjects. Priyanka of Northern Railway received the award for best performance in outdoor subjects. The North Eastern Railway

(NER)'s second parade commander Bhoomika Chaudhary and parade commander of Dikshant Parade Komal Kumari of South Eastern Railway were also honoured on the occasion.

In his welcome address IG-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner, RPF Atul Kumar Srivastava said that in this recruitment which started in the year 2018 out of a total 17 lakh candidates 4,500 women constables were selected. Srivastava said that 350 women recruits from different zones of the entire country have been trained in this training. In the changing environment these trainees have been given effective training to meet the new challenges, he added. He said that there are 74,000 Railway Protection Force members working on the Indian Railways. The RPF is a multi-skilled and effective force, he added. The principal of the Railway Protection Force Training Centre, Narendra Mohan Vashisht, in his report elaborated on the activities of the centre. Chief Safety Commissioner, RPF/NER, Dr SK Saini, proposed the vote of thanks on the occasion.

## DM's directive to officials

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel has directed the officials to dispose of the applications as per the spirit of the government to deliver justice through shortest process and within the stipulated timeframe. Such direction was given by the officer during the Sampoorana Samadhan Divas organised at Sadar tehsil on



Tuesday. On the day out of 94 applications only four could be disposed of on the spot but for the rest the DM directed the authorities concerned to dispose them of without inordinate delay and inform him without fail. He directed the Revenue department as well as the police to visit all the spots for disposing of the applications submitted in Sampoorana Samadhan Divas. He directed the officials to dispose of the matters to the satisfaction of the parties under the law. The DM instructed the officials to take the applications under IGRS seriously and dispose them of with quality. He said that to ensure the satisfaction of the aggrieved, they should make calls too and be sure that the disposal was done as it was reported. Prominent among those who took the part in it were SP Ajay Kumar, CDO Avinash

Singh, SDM Gaurav Srivastava, probation officer Gireesh Dubey, DSO Umesh Chand and PO ICDS PK Singh.

**ARRESTED:** Padari police have arrested an accused under the Gangster Act on Tuesday. As per the reports, during routine patrolling along with his team SHO Padari Venkatesh Tiwari intercepted a suspect at Aghawaar Chauraha who was trying to hide after seeing them. The police arrested the suspect who was identified as Vijay Harijan, a resident of Semara Baisukia village under Dehat Kotwali police station. It may be pointed out here that the suspect was already an accused under Gangster Act at Padari police station.

**GIRL RECOVERED:** City Kotwali police recovered a missing girl on Tuesday. As per the reports, a seven-year-old girl belonging to Tarkapur under City Kotwali police station, had left her house without informing her family. On December 9 the mother of the missing girl lodged an FIR at City Kotwali. Police was searching for the girl when it was informed by the Sonbhadra police that the girl was with them. On Tuesday ASP Sanjay Kumar handed her over to her father in his office.

**HELP EXTENDED:** SHO Katra Kotwali came forward to help a poor woman in the marriage of her daughter. Savita Devi whose husband had died some years ago but and sold 'laayi chana' for earning her living. Through it she not only earned her bread but married her two daughters too. Her third daughter's marriage was scheduled to be held on December 15. When SHO Ramesh Yadav came to know about the struggle of Savita, who resides in the locality behind the police station, he decided to extend a helping hand to her. The SHO handed over sarees, ₹2,000 in cash and edible items as 'shagun' for her daughter's marriage. This gesture of his is being appreciated by the people here.

## Howrah-Kathgodam puja spl extended

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of people is extending the 03019/03020 Howrah-Kathgodam-Howrah puja special train as follows, CPRO PK Singh said. The 03019 Howrah-Kathgodam puja special train is being extended from January 1 to 31, 2021. The 03020 Kathgodam-Howrah puja special train is being extended from January 3 to February 2, 2021.

**CANCELLATION/REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY:** The complete cancellation and reduction in frequency of the following special trains will be done by the railway administration from December 16 to January 31, 2021, due to operational difficulties caused by dense fog and bad weather. In addition the partial cancellation of the 05004/05003 Gorakhpur-Kanpur Anwarganj-Gorakhpur special between Prayagraj Rambagh-Kanpur Anwarganj-Prayagraj Rambagh will be done only two days in a week. It may be pointed out here that as per the information released earlier the partial cancellation of this train was done daily between Prayagraj Rambagh-Kanpur Anwarganj. CPRO PK Singh said the 04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar special train will on

December 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29 and 31 and January 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29 and 31, 2021, remain fully cancelled (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday). The 04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar special will on December 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31 and January 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 30 and February 1, 2021, will remain fully cancelled (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday).

On the other hand, the 02226 Delhi-Azamgarh special will remain cancelled on December 16, 19, 23, 26, 30 and January 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30, 2021 (Wednesday and Saturday). The 02225 Azamgarh-Delhi special train will remain cancelled on December 17, 20, 24, 27, 31 and January 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 and 31, 2021, (Thursday and Sunday).

**PARTIAL CANCELLATION:** The 05004 Gorakhpur-Kanpur Anwarganj special will on December 18, 19, 25, 26 and January 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30, 2021, every Friday and Saturday will remain partially canceled between Prayagraj Rambagh-Kanpur Anwarganj. On the other hand, the 05003 Kanpur-Anwarganj-Gorakhpur special will on December 19, 20, 26, 27 and January 2, 3, 09, 10, 16, 17,

23, 24, 30 and 31 every Saturday and Sunday will remain partially cancelled between Kanpur Anwarganj-Prayagraj Rambagh.

**TWO COACHES TO BE ATTACHED:** The railway administration will for the convenience of the passengers attach two additional general second class coaches with immediate effect in the special train 05269/05270 Muzaffarpur-Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur Jan Sadharan Express special train. As a result according to the modified composition of this train, a total of 22 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van and 20 coaches of general second class will be attached.

**BOY FOUND:** The Railway Protection Force (RPF)/NER makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In the same sequence, a member of the RPF post, Gorakhpur during patrolling found a nine-year-old boy who had ran away from his home as he was angry in an unclaimed condition during the patrolling at Gorakhpur station. After questioning she was handed over to Child Line, Gorakhpur. Likewise a member of RPF post, Gorakhpur, found a 10-year-old girl in unclaimed condition during the patrolling at Gorakhpur station. After questioning she was handed over to Child Line,

## UPMRC accomplishes another feat in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Uttar Pradesh Rail Metro Corporation (UPMRC) accomplished a major experiment by placing the first 'cross arm' at the IIT Kanpur metro station in the IIT Kanpur-Motijheel priority corridor.

This 'cross arm' technique will be used in future to extend the length of metro stations.

The UPMRC is continuously giving preference to numerous experiments which are constructive and are in line with the requirements of future. At present, the length of the metro stations has been determined up to 80 metres which will be amplified in view of future ridership.

Metro engineers had already made arrangements to increase the length of metro stations to about 60 metres so that they could be extend from 80 metres to 140 metres in accordance with the requirements.

At present, as per the length of the metro stations that was 80 metres, four-coach metro trains can be run. However, in the initial stage metro train will be run with three coaches on the 9-km priority corridor. The coaches will later be added to a metro train as per the increase in ridership or number of passen-



Uttar Pradesh Rail Metro Corporation placing the first 'Cross Arm' at IIT Kanpur station on Wednesday.

Pioneer

gers. In future, the length of metro stations can be amplified up to 140 metres as per the requirement and with the extended length, six-coach metro trains can be operated.

The 'cross arm' will be used in place of pier cap. It also looks like a pier cap and at both sides of metro station, cross arm are to be placed.

Seven cross arms will be used at Motijheel metro station,

while the other eight stations in the priority section will have four cross arms at each station. Thus, a total of 39 cross arms are to be placed in the priority section.

Apart from Motijheel and SPM Hospital stations, the arrangement of the cross arm at all other metro stations will be the same.

Except these two stations, 2-2 cross arms will be placed on both sides of the stations at the

other seven metro stations. While five cross arms will be placed on Motijheel metro station on one side and two on the other, due to overhead electric line at SPM Hospital, UP Metro has ensured the arrangement of three cross arms on one side and one on the other side.

These cross arms are also being prepared at the Lakhnau casting yard and will be taken to the designated place with the help of cranes.



# Suvendu Adhikari quits as TMC MLA, likely to join BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The fear of multiple defections ran high in the ruling Trinamool Congress with rebel party leader Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday submitting his resignation from the Legislative Assembly before joining other rebel leaders in a closed-door meeting at the house of TMC MP Sunil Mandal some 80 miles from Kolkata.

Adhikari was likely to resign from the primary membership of his party on Friday, before joining the BJP in Delhi, sources close to him said adding there were chances that he could also join

the saffron party in the presence of BJP president Amit Shah who is scheduled to visit Bengal from Saturday.

The Wednesday's quick turn of events saw Adhikari depositing his resignation letter --- which curiously bore no date --- at the Assembly secretariat before driving straight to Mandal's house off Burdwan.

There other rebel TMC satraps like Asansol MLA and Mayor Jitendra Tiwari, and Kalna party MLA and South Bengal Surface Transport Corporation Chairman Colonel Diptangshu Mukherjee joined him in a closed door meeting.

Tiwari met Adhikari hours after receiving a phone call from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from Coochbehar who assured him of an audience on December 18 after her return from North Bengal.

"Though anyone can meet anyone in a democracy but it is strange that Jitendra joined the Wednesday's meeting despite being assured by the Chief Minister that his grievances would be heard and redressed," Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim said.

Referring to the technical aspects of Adhikari's resignation, Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee said

that the papers were not presented to him personally adding, "I will look into it when I go to the Assembly. Things will be done according to the rule book." Constitutional experts like Udayan Banerjee however quoted Article 206 saying such resignations required to be presented to the Speaker personally with dates of resignation being mentioned in it.

Reacting to the Wednesday's developments senior TMC leader Saugato Roysaid "this is all the fallout of Suvendu's earlier dealings with the BJP... I think he has struck a deal with the BJP for better posts other than what

he was enjoying here as the Transport Minister with two additional portfolios."

Calling Adhikari and likes of him as "traitors," party MP and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee said, "let him go to BJP ... he has higher ambitions of being a Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister ... let us see what he gets there."

In what could bring more anxiety to the TMC leadership the Diamond Harbour MLA Dipak Haldar on Wednesday too started playing the rebellious tune even as his posters jointly with those of Adhikari appeared all around his constituency.

When asked to comment

on the developments he said he had personally not given those posters but said "those who might have given them might be my good friends as I am an admirer of Suvendu Adhikari."

Elsewhere Congress Lok Sabha Leader Adhir Chowdhury said that "Mamata Banerjee is getting the taste of the same medicine that she prescribed for the other opposition parties," while CPI(M)'s Rabin Deb said "it was inevitable that the leaders would quit one by one ... now the question remains to be seen as to whether the BJP will retain its original colour or whether it

will be submerged by the TMC defectors." Senior BJP leaders Kaliahs Vijaybargiya and Dilip Ghosh however said that they would welcome the "clean and able leaders" like Adhikari and would ensure that they got adequate respect in the party.

Meanwhile, Adhikari reportedly wrote to Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar about "threats" on his person and to his followers in the wake of present circumstances.

Adhikari alleged that the State Government was preparing false charges against him and his followers and sought the Governor's intervention.

Incidentally Dhankar who

visited Diamond Harbour too alleged how the Government was using the officials to falsely frame the defecting politicians asking the bureaucrats to watch out their steps as "note" was being taken of their activities and would be referred to in future.

Sources in the BJP said that Centre was proposing to provide special security cover for at least 25 TMC leaders and MLAs who might switch side in the coming days. Among them 10 would be provided Y-Plus security while 10 would be given Y category security. The remaining five are likely to get X category security.

## Didi relies on self charisma, asks voters to back her, not netas

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a circuitous admission that there was huge deficiency of trust quotient within the Trinamool Congress --- which saw stronger leaders rebelling frequently --- Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday accused the BJP of luring and coercing the TMC leaders to join their ranks.

She sought to rely on her personal charisma than on anything else to win the next year's Assembly elections.

Banerjee who was speaking

at a rally in Coochbehar in North Bengal said how "my party leaders are being called up by the BJP and being told to join them. Our trusted leaders like Subrata Bakshi and Anubrata Mandal received calls from Delhi and were told to join the BJP... think how dangerous they are."

While Bakshi a former MP and is one of Banerjee's most trusted lieutenants, Mandal a party strongman is the TMC's Birbhum district president known for his foul mouth.

In an apparent indication

that instead of banking on the loyalty factor she would once again rely on her own charisma Banerjee said that only the corrupt TMC leaders fearing arrest and the ones who would not get ticket were joining the BJP.

"I will never join their ranks come what may ... they may send me to jail but I will continue to work for the people of Bengal as I have been doing ... Those who are scared of not getting a ticket are leaving, those who have taken money (and are apprehending arrest) are leaving," she said challenging the BJP

to send her to jail.

Sending across the message of 'solidarity' directly to the people and the grassroots Banerjee said, "I want loyalty from the grassroots level workers of our party, do not bother about what your leaders are doing... act to your conscience because remember that you can change your dresses by the day but you cannot change your ideology... A time has come when you have to stand by the party and turn the things around so that you can help Bengal and its culture survive."

## AIMIM rejects Didi B-Team charge

**Kolkata:** The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin's (AIMIM) on Wednesday hit back at Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee refuting her charge that it was the "B team" of the BJP saying that all parties had the right to work according to their goal.

Referring to Banerjee's attack on AIMIM and its leader Asaduddin Owaisi, Bengal AIMIM spokesperson Imran Solanki said that his party had been working in the region for the past several years and had gain considerable ground which was why it had decided to contest elections to further its political goals.

"There is nothing that others should be

jealous of," he said.

Banerjee had earlier said that "there are some parties funded by the BJP which are coming from Hyderabad to cut votes in this State so as to enable them to win the elections ... it is time you understand their nefarious designs and reject them."

Banerjee said "the BJP is trying to isolate the Hindu votes and the AIMIM is playing the Muslim card to win Muslim votes ... then what will I do will I eat," saying how the AIMIM played the catalyst in the loss of secular parties like the RJD in Bihar. Reacting to her statements the AIMIM leader wondered why BJP could win so many seats parliamentary in 2019

when the Hyderabad-based party was not in the fray. "The BJP won 18 seats when we were not there in 2019. How could they win those seats... now she is blaming us... we have come to contest elections and if we are asked we will use our organization to fight elections."

The Muslims who have a good 30 percent vote in Bengal can impact election results in more than 125 seats in the State. The TMC leadership however said that as AIMIM only had impact on the Urdu-speaking Muslims and they were culturally different from the Bengali-speaking Muslims it was the TMC that will get their votes.

PNS

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
**E-Tender Inviting Notice**  
Tender is invited in two parts for the following work from experienced working organizations/firms which are registered with GST and possess Income Tax-payable certificate. Detailed information of tender is available on the website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) and for any other amendment / extension of the tender, Please logon [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) upto date of opening of tender. The authority to reject the tender without assigning any reason will be reserved with the Executive Engineer, Eecty, 400KV Substation Division, Sultanpur. **E-Tender No. 10/ESDS/2020-21 To be opened on dt 16.01.2021. Tender cost Rs. 236.00, Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00.** 1. Work for annual operation and maintenance of air compressor and 0.4KV ACDB installed at 400KV S/S Sultanpur under Eecty, 400 KV Substation Division, Sultanpur. **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EECTY, 400KV Substation Division, Sultanpur** No. - 1265, Date - 16.12.2020, **SAVE ENERGY IN NATIONAL INTEREST**

**मध्योचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, ई-निविदा सूचना** अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु कार्य में अनुभवी व दक्ष विद्युत ठेकेदारों से निम्नांकित ई-निविदायें (क्रमांक, निविदा संख्या, खण्ड का नाम, कार्य का नाम, कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि) आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
(1) **92/विशिष्टमंडल/2020-21**, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल बाराबंकी के विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-हैदरगढ़ बाराबंकी के उप खण्ड हैदरगढ़ में 4121 बकायेदार उपभोक्ताओं का विच्छेदन कार्य। 11.12 लाख, 3540 /- , 11200 /- (2) **93/विशिष्टमंडल/2020-21**, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल बाराबंकी के विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-हैदरगढ़ बाराबंकी के उप खण्ड देवीगंज में 5109 बकायेदार उपभोक्ताओं का विच्छेदन कार्य। 14.63 लाख, 3540 /- , 14600 /- ई निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 29.12.2020 को सांय 5 बजे तक उप सरकार की वेबसाईट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 30.12.2020 को प्रातः 11 बजे पूर्वानु से खोला जायेगा। ई निविदा का प्रथम भाग उपयुक्त पाये जाने की स्थिति में ई निविदा के द्वितीय भाग खोला जायेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र मध्योचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड की वेबसाईट [www.mvnl.in](http://www.mvnl.in) पर भी देखे जा सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तारण तथा शुद्धिपत्र से संबंधित सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल वेबसाईट पर डाली जायेगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाईट को नियमित देखें।  
**अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, बाराबंकी**। पत्रांक 3595, दिनांक 16.12.2020 "राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचाय"

**DELHI JAL BOARD**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-III**  
**NANGLOI PH-III: NEAR BARAT GHAR: NEW DELHI-110041**  
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"  
**N.I.T. No. 21 WEST-III/(2020-21)**  

| S. No. | Description   | Amount put to tender | Tender Fee | Earnest Money | Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution | Last date/ time for tender download throught e-procurement solution |
|--------|---|----------------------|------------|---------------|---|---|
| 1.     | Hiring of Sewer jetting cum suction machine of 8000 liter Capacity for Nangloi Jasti Sanitation in AC-II under EE(West) III | Item Rate            | Rs. 500/-  | Rs. 51,500/-  | 14.12.2020 I.D. No. 2020, DJB, 197482_1             | 31.12.2020 at 3:00 PM   |

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)  
**ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)**  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 260/2020-21  
**EX. ENGINEER (WEST) III**

## 57.22 % turnout in 7th phase of J&K DDC polls

**Jammu:** The seventh round of polling in the District Development Council polls in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday recorded marginally higher voter turnout of 57.22 percent across 31 constituencies.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, the State Election Commissioner KK Sharma said, "polling was by and large peaceful across 31 constituencies". He said the Jammu division recorded an average voter turnout of 71.93% while the Kashmir Division recorded 39.52% average voter turnout.

He further said that 393200 (210479 male and 182721 female votes) people exercised their right to franchise for the seventh phase across the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

As per reports pouring in from different areas, long queues of voters were seen at polling booths where women, elderly and first time voters



recording the highest polling at 70.47% followed by Baramulla with 59.53% and Kupwara district recorded 59.23% polling, he added.

Giving district wise details, the SEC informed that Jammu division recorded an average voter turnout of 71.93% with Poonch district recording the highest percentage of 80.12% followed by Reasi district with 76.75% and 75.63% voting recorded in Udhampur district. The lowest turnout in Jammu division was in Doda district which recorded 58.82%.

The Kashmir Division recorded 39.52% average voter turnout with Bandipora district

Division the polling percentage recorded in Budgam was 45.11%, Ganderbal 53.69%, Anantnag 22.46, Kulgam 17.98%, Pulwama 11.06% and 6.55% polling was registered in Shopian.

Similarly, in Jammu division poll percentage of 74.38% was recorded in Samba, 72.85 in Kathua, 67.75% in Ramban, 73.10 in Rajouri, 69.89 per cent in Kishtwar and 68.66% in Jammu district. The SEC informed that polling was held in 1852 polling stations including 1068 from Kashmir division and 784 from Jammu division.

PNS

## MMRC achieves 35th breakthrough, completes 91% tunneling work

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

As it achieved its 35th breakthrough near Dadar Metro Railway station, the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) Ltd announced on Wednesday that it had completed 91 per cent of the tunnelling work in the 33.50 km-long fully underground Colaba-SEEPZ Mumbai Metro Line 3.

With its latest breakthrough, the MMRC has so far completed tunnelling work in four out seven packages of the underground Colaba-SEEPZ Mumbai Metro Line 3. "We have completed 91 per cent of tunnelling work and 61 per cent of civil work," a MMRC spokesperson said. With the 1.12 km-long tunnel from Siddhivinayak to Dadar, the MMRC has completed package number four -- involving tunneling of 10.96 km length. In all, the MMRC deployed three Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) during the work on package number 4. "We are happy to announce 100% comple-

tion of tunneling work in 4 out of 7 packages. Tunneling in package-4 was particularly a challenging task as all the stations are located in close proximity to developments, active road traffic and popular religious places. Dadar, considered the heart of the city, will provide connectivity that will ease commuting woes of Mumbaikars," MMRC Managing Director Ranjit Singh Deol said.

"The Herrenknecht made TBM Krishna-1, equipped with Earth Pressure Balance technology, had started its main drive on July 7, 2020 and has completed the downline stretch using 805 rings. The overall progress of Dadar Metro Station is around 42 per cent," MMRC's Director (Projects) S K Gupta said.

The Package-4, which comprises Siddhivinayak, Dadar and Shitladevi stations, witnessed 8 breakthroughs (Nayanagar to Dharavi (Upline - 589m and downline - 589m), (Nayanagar to Dadar (Upline - 2491m and downline - 2472m), (Siddhivinayak to

## 4,304 more test positive in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

As the total number of positive Covid-19 cases came down by 10,218 because of reconciliation of figures, Maharashtra on Wednesday recorded 95 Coronavirus deaths and 4,304 infections.

A day after as 3442 people tested positive for Covid-19 and 70 more people died of the pandemic in various parts of the state, there was an increase in both the infections and deaths. With 95 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Maharashtra climbed from 48,339 to 48,434.

Taking into account 4304 fresh infections and reconciled infection figures, the total infections in the state went up to 18,80,893. "Today owing to the reconciliation process of positive cases till November 12 -- arising out of de-duplication of cases and shifting of out of state positive cases to concerned States, total positive cases of the state reduced by 10218. Similarly because of reconciliation, there is a reduction of 791 in total recovered cases of the state," a statement put out by the state public health department said. As 4678 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March this year rose to 17,69,897.

Dadar (Upline -1106m and downline - 1126m), (Siddhivinayak to Worli (Upline - 1305m and downline - 1284m).

It may be recalled that on November 6, the MMRC had achieved 34th breakthrough of the 648-m long tunnel from Churchgate to Hutatma Chowk station. Robbins-made Dual mode hard rock Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Surya-1 completed the upline stretch in 292 days using 506 rings.

Hutatma Chowk is one of the most significant stations on the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro-3 corridor as it provides proximity to Churchgate station, Bombay High Court, head offices of various banks and financial institutions, Consulates of a few countries, Bombay Stock Exchange, Ballard Estate, many hospitals, Colleges, Wankhede and Brabourne Stadiums, Jehangir Art Gallery, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Asiatic Library, Gateway of India and a number of delicious cuisines etc.

## Two Pakistani soldiers killed by Indian Army

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In a pin pointed retaliatory strike, at least two Pakistani soldiers were killed by the Indian Army opposite Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district late Tuesday night.

Ground reports indicated, soon after the Pakistani army attempted to target the Indian troops deployed at one of the forward posts in the Sunderbani sector late Tuesday evening Indian army hit back effectively. Official sources on ground confirmed, "in a pinpointed response the Pak army suffered fatal injuries. There was no further exchange of firing in the forward area. The firing stopped immediately". Ground reports suggested , at least two soldiers of the Pakistan army were killed in the retaliatory firing.

Official sources also revealed the area South of Pir Panjal is witnessing hectic activity along the line of control following fresh spells of snowfall in the higher reaches.

Pakistan based handlers of terrorist groups are attempting to push small batches of terrorists to infiltrate inside the Indian territory taking advantage of thick foliage and inclement weather conditions. On the other hand, Indian troops are standing tall, braving intense cold weather conditions to foil the nefarious designs of the Pakistan army. Intelligence reports indicated, desperate Pakistan army may target the Indian troops and launch BAT strikes in the region.

Meanwhile, fresh ceasefire violation was reported along the line of control in Nowshera sector of Rajouri on Wednesday.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER LUCKNOW CIRCLE, P.W.D., LUCKNOW**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
No. 7329/401C-LKO.CIR/2020-21 Dated : 11/12/2020  
The S.E. Lucknow Circle, U.P.P.W.D. Lucknow on behalf of Honorable Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites Item wise Rate bids online from eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, For Road Work class 'A' for the construction of work detailed in the table given below. The Bidders is advised to examine carefully all instructions including addendum/amendments to IFB, conditions of contract, contract data, forms, terms, technical specifications, bill of quantities etc. in the Bid Document.  

| S.L. No. | Dis-trict    | Name of work   | Estimated cost (Rs. In Lakhs) | Bid Security (Rs. In Lakhs) | Tender-Stationary Charges-G.S.T.  | Category | Time of Completion | Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing work | Address of Superintending Engineer | Address of Chief Engineer     |
|----------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1        | 2            | 3  | 4                             | 5                           | 6                                 | 7        | 8                  | 9   | 10                                 | 11                            |
| 1        | Rae Bareilly | Construction Of Bypass Between Lucknow Prayagraj Road (NH-30) Km-53 and Banda Baharuch Road (SH-13) Km-175 Near Bacharav | 534.00                        | 10.70                       | 2000.00+300.00+50 = Total 2350.00 | A        | 06 Month           | PO, PWD Rae Bareilly                                | Lucknow Zone PWD, Lucknow          | C.E Central Zone PWD, Lucknow |

> The Rate adopted in the BOQ are excluding GST Taxes.  
> All works shall be executed after adopting safety measures for infection of COVID-19  
Bids can be downloaded online from date 28.12.2020 at 9:00 AM to 27.01.2021 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 27.01.2021 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 28.01.2021 at 12:30 PM. According to the provisions of Government Order No. 12018/2007078-2-2018/42 T/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O. Technical evaluation of tenders is to be done by Prahar Software, the details of which are available in NIT enclosed with Bid Document.  
All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.co.in>  
(Dinesh Kumar Kureel) Executive Engineer Provincial Division PWD, Rae Bareilly  
(J.K. Banga) Superintending Engineer Lucknow Circle PWD, Lucknow For on behalf of Governor of UP  
UP- 157841 Date 14.12.2020 विज्ञान वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता गण्डक बाढ़ मण्डल-बस्ती**  
पत्रांक :- 5127 /गंवासां/निविदा / 2020 - 21/ दिनांक :- 14, दिसम्बर, 2020  
**ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से कराये जाने वाले कार्य की अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना**  
संख्या-03/अधीक्षण/ 2020-21  
महानगिर राज्यपाल उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन <http://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से प्री-क्वालीफिकेशन टेन्डिंगकल बिड एवं प्राईस-बिड/ फाइनलियल बिड, सिंचाई विभाग में वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 21.12.2020 को पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से दिनांक 26.12.2020 को अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्री-क्वालीफिकेशन टेन्डिंगकल बिड दिनांक 26.12.2020 को अपराह्न 15:00 बजे अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, गण्डक बाढ़ मण्डल-बस्ती के कार्यालय में मुख्य अभियन्ता (गण्डक), सिंचाई विभाग, उज्जयि, गोरखपुर द्वारा निर्धारित समिति द्वारा ऑनलाइन खोली जायेगी एवं प्री-क्वालीफिकेशन बिड में उपयुक्त पाये गये निविदादाताओं के प्राईस-बिड/ फाइनलियल बिड खोलने की तिथि कुल प्राप्त निविदाओं की संख्या के आधार पर ई-पोर्टल पर सूचित किया जायेगा। कार्यालय बन्द होने या छुट्टी होने की दशा में यह बिड अगले कार्यालय दिवस में उसी समय खोली जायेगी।  

| लॉट सं० | कार्यो का विवरण   | मात्रा                    | बरोहर बनारसि (EMD) (लाख रू० में) | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि | निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य + जीएएसटीएन-स्टेशनरी चार्ज | पंजीकृत श्रेणी |
|---------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1       | 2   | 3                         | 4                                | 5                        | 6  | 7              |
| 1       | जनपद बलरामपुर में राप्ती नदी पर कोढ़री घाट सेतु एवं पड़ुव मार्ग की सुखा हेतु निर्मित गाइड बंध एवं एकलवस् बंध की बाढ़ से सुखा हेतु लाचिंग एग्न व स्लोप सिचिंग के निर्माण का कार्य। | बिल आक क्वाटिटी के अनुसार | 3.56                             | 02 माह                   | 300.00+ 54.00+ 2000.00                             | ए अथवा उच्च    |

यह निविदा/बिड सूचना उ०ग० सरकार की वेबसाइट <http://up.gov.in> तथा सिंचाई विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://idup.gov.in> पर भी उपलब्ध है।  
उ०ग० 157852 दिनांक 14.12.2020 विज्ञान वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।  
**अधीक्षण अभियन्ता गण्डक बाढ़ मण्डल,बस्ती**

**DEPARTMENT OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY UTTAR PRADESH, PRAYAGRAJ**  
**NOTICE**  
On behalf of Honorable Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Director of Printing and Stationery U.P. Prayagraj has published Bid/Custom Bid on GeM Portal for the purchase of following machines for the use of Government Presses from the machine manufactures and authorized dealers of machine manufacturer.  

| S.No. | Description   | Quantity in Numbers | GeM Bid No./Date             | Bid End Date/Time | Bid Opening Date/Time |
|-------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1     | Heavy Duty Wire Stitching machine 1.5 Inch  | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/912956 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 21:00  | 30.12.2020 21:30      |
| 2     | Automatic 6 Clamp perfect Binding machine.  | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/912962 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 22:00  | 30.12.2020 22:30      |
| 3     | Plate baking machine for thermal and conventional plate   | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/912940 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 21:00  | 30.12.2020 21:30      |
| 4     | Online 26"x32" Digital sheet numbering machine with four head numbering attachment.               | 02                  | GeM/2020/B/912923 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 21:00  | 30.12.2020 21:30      |
| 5     | Heavy Duty programmable three knife trimmer machine.  | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/912930 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 21:00  | 30.12.2020 21:30      |
| 6     | Multifunctional machine MFM   | 06                  | GeM/2020/B/912987 09.12.2020 | 21.12.2020 16:00  | 21.12.2020 16:30      |
| 7     | Heavy Duty 12-station side gathering machine with online 6 clamp perfect binding.                 | 02                  | GeM/2020/B/912897 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 20:00  | 30.12.2020 20:30      |
| 8     | Desktop Computer  | 20                  | GeM/2020/B/913005 09.12.2020 | 21.12.2020 16:00  | 21.12.2020 16:30      |
| 9     | Thermal CTP-Computer to plate. for digital imaging of Offset thermal printing plate.              | 02                  | GeM/2020/B/912875 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 20:00  | 30.12.2020 20:30      |
| 10    | A-1 size 1-Hi Impression to Blanket Printing unit with separate reel stand. Half page folder.     | 02                  | GeM/2020/B/912818 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 19:00  | 30.12.2020 19:30      |
| 11    | A-1 size Impression to Blanket 1Hi unit Blanket to Blanket mono unit web offset printing machine. | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/912909 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 21:00  | 30.12.2020 21:30      |
| 12    | Heavy Duty wire stitching machine 2"  | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/912947 09.12.2020 | 30.12.2020 21:00  | 30.12.2020 21:30      |
| 13    | Power Generator-DG Set  | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/914983 11.12.2020 | 21.12.2020 21:00  | 21.12.2020 21:30      |
| 14    | Multifunction machine MFM   | 01                  | GeM/2020/B/914889 11.12.2020 | 21.12.2020 21:00  | 21.12.2020 21:30      |

UP- 157874 Date 15.12.2020 विज्ञान वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।  
**Director, Printing and Stationery Uttar Pradesh Prayagraj**



# Cabinet OK's ₹3.92L cr spectrum auction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal for the auction of 2,251.25 megahertz of spectrum worth ₹3.92 lakh crore at the base price. The Government, however, has decided not to auction frequencies in 3,300-3,600 Mhz bands that were identified for 5G services.

Addressing media, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Ministry plans to issue a notice to invite bids in December and hold the spectrum auction by March. In a bid to tighten security of communications network, the Cabinet Committee on Security decided to create the National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector, which will mandate service providers to purchase equipment from trusted sources.

The move is widely believed to be aimed at banning the use of Chinese equipment in the telecom sector.

"The auction will be for spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz frequency bands. Spectrum will be offered for assignment for a validity period of 20 years. A total of 2,251.25 MHz is being offered with a total valuation of Rs 3,92,332.70 crore (at reserve price)," an official statement said.

The Digital Communications Commission, the apex decision making body

of the Department of Telecom, in May had approved the spectrum auction plan worth Rs 5.22 lakh crore which included radio waves for 5G services as well. However, a part of the 300 Mhz of spectrum identified by the DoT for 5G services is being used by the Navy, and the Department of Space has also made claims on a significant portion of these radio waves.

The telecom operators have also been demanding the Government to lower the base price of 5G spectrum as each operator will need to shell out around Rs 50,000 crore for the required quantum of radio waves for the next generation services. Prasad did not reply to questions on the status of 5G spectrum. He said that the Government has retained rules of 2016 for payments in the upcoming auction as well. Besides the bid price, the telecom operator will also need to pay a 3 per cent revenue share to the Government every year.

"In addition to the bid amount, successful bidders will also have to pay 3 per cent of the adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) excluding wireline services as spectrum usage charges for the spectrum won through this auction," the statement said.

"Successful bidders may pay entire bid amount in one go (upfront) or may exercise an option to pay a certain amount (25 per cent for spectrum won in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz bands or 50 per cent for spectrum won in 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300

MHz, 2500 MHz bands) upfront and remaining amount in a maximum up to 16 equated annual installments, after a moratorium of two years," the statement said.

Detailing about National Security Directive, Prasad said the directive has been framed from the perspective of national security. "Considering the need to ensure India's national security, the Cabinet has accorded approval for the National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector," Prasad said. Under the provisions of this directive, the Government will declare a list of trusted sources and trusted products for installation in the country's telecom network.

"The methodology to designate trusted products will be devised by the designated authority, the National Cyber Security Coordinator. Telecom service providers are required to connect new devices that are designated trusted products," Prasad said.

"The list of the trusted source and product will be decided based on approval of a committee headed by the deputy national security advisor. The committee will consist of members from relevant departments, Ministries and will also have two members from the industry and independent experts. The committee will be called the national security committee on telecom," Prasad said, adding that policy will be formed in 180 days.

# ₹3,500-cr aid for sugarcane farmers



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid ongoing protests by farmers, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved assistance of about ₹3,500 crore for sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan). The fund would be directly credited into the accounts of the farmers. The decision would benefit five crore sugarcane farmers, their dependents, as well as five lakh workers employed in the sugar mills and related ancillary activities. The Centre has also decided to export 60 lakh tons of sugar during the ongoing marketing year 2020-21 as part of its efforts to help them clear outstanding dues to sugarcane farmers.

Briefing media after the meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a subsidy of Rs 3,500 crore on exports of 60 lakh tonnes of

sweetener and the subsidy amount will directly be given to farmers. The minister said both "sugar industry as well as sugarcane farmers are in crisis" because of high domestic production at 310 lakh tonnes as against the annual demand of 260 lakh tonnes. The decision will benefit 5 crore farmers, said Javadekar, who is also Union Environment Minister.

The CCEC observed that sugarcane farmers sell their produce to sugar mills but they do not get their dues from the mill owners as they have surplus sugar stock. The government would also facilitate the evacuation of this surplus sugar stock that will enable payment of dues of the sugarcane farmers.

The subsidy would cover the expenses on marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and costs of international and internal transport as well as freight charges on export of up to 60 lakh metric

# Farmers' protest at Delhi borders is an exception, limited to one State: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing farmers' protest at Delhi borders is an "exception" and "limited to one State", Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Wednesday and hoped for an early solution as the Government is in talks with farmer unions.

"There is an atmosphere of enthusiasm in the country because of the recent reforms in the farm sector," he said while referring to the enactment of three new legislations. "The ongoing protest is an exception and the agitation is limited to one State. We are holding discussions and talks. I believe there will be an early solution," Tomar said at a virtual conference organised by industry body Assocham.

The minister noted that while there is an agitation going on on one side, there are also lakhs of farmers coming in support of these laws. Tomar highlighted the measures taken by the central government in the last six years to boost farmers' income and make agriculture sector profitable.

Thousands of farmers, particularly from Punjab and



Haryana, are protesting for more than two weeks against the three farm laws, saying the new legislation will lead to the dismantling of the MSP (Minimum Support Price) and mandi systems and leave them at the mercy of corporates.

Tomar, who is leading the negotiation with about 40 farmer unions along with Food Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce Som Parkash, said the government has taken various initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic for the growth of farm sector, including a ₹1,00,000 crore fund for creating farm-level infrastructure and setting up of 10,000 FPOs. (Farmer Producer Organisations).

These budgetary provisions in agriculture and allied sector will strengthen the rural economy and make farming activities profitable, he said.

As the standoff continues between the Government and groups of protesting farmers over the three farm laws, Tomar had on Tuesday said the Acts have been welcomed in various states and that the Centre was willing to continue its talks with "genuine farm unions" to find a solution with an open mind.

The MSP at which the government commits to procure the produce from farmers is an administrative decision and it "will continue as it is", the minister had said.

tonne of sugar.

India, the world's second-largest sugar-producing country, had to offer export subsidies during the past two years to reduce surplus stocks and help cash-starved sugar mills clear cane payment to growers.

"Thailand's production is expected to be down this year, while Brazil's crushing will only start in April 2021. From now till April, there is good export opportunity for India," officials said.

In the previous marketing year 2019-20 (October-September), the government

provided a lump sum export subsidy of Rs 10,448 per tonne, costing the exchequer Rs 6,268 crore. Mills exported 5.7 million tonnes of sugar against the mandatory quota of 6 million tonnes set for the 2019-20 season (October-September), according to official data.

## USE OF BLACK MONEY IN 2019 LS POLL

# EC orders MP CEO to lodge FIRs against 3 IPS officers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) report's findings of extensive use of unaccounted cash during the Lok Sabha polls 2019 in Madhya Pradesh by a certain political party, the Election Commission has asked the Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh to lodge a criminal case against three IPS officers and others whose alleged role in the use of black money during the 2019 general elections as per extant electoral and other relevant laws.

The EC has also asked the Union Home Secretary to initiate "appropriate departmental action" against the IPS officers and also asked the Madhya Pradesh chief secretary to undertake a "similar action" against a state police service officer.

EC sources identified the three Indian Police Service (IPS) officers as Sushovan Banerjee, Sanjay Mane, V Madhu Kumar and the state police service officer as Arun Mishra. The report specifically mentions instances of prima facie involvement and nexus of



public/government servants in unauthorized/unaccounted cash transactions.

The EC said it was recommending action after it "deliberated" upon a report sent to it by the CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) intimating it about the Income-Tax Department's "search operations in Madhya Pradesh and its findings of extensive use of unaccounted cash during the General Elections 2019." While the EC did not name the party, it has been widely reported that the CBDT report referred to the Congress party.

"After deliberations, Commission directed to forward copy of the report of CBDT, the Chief Electoral Officer, Madhya

Pradesh to lodge criminal action before designated authority, e.g. Economic Offence Wing, Madhya Pradesh against concerned for violation as per extant electoral and other relevant laws. Commission has also directed Union Home Secretary to initiate appropriate departmental action against All India Service officers and also to Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh for similar action against State officer," the EC said.

The EC further stated that it was reported that these entities/individuals engaged in unauthorized and unaccounted cash contributions to individuals on behalf of certain political party, which is reported to be corroborated during search-

es against persons by Income Tax department under Section 132 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The report specifically mentions instances of prima facie involvement/nexus of public/Govt. servants in unauthorized/unaccounted cash transactions.

The CBDT in April 2019, said in a statement that part of Rs 281 crore of unaccounted cash, "was transferred to the headquarters of a major political party in Delhi". Without naming the political party at that time, CBDT said that around "Rs 20 crore of this cash was moved through hawala (channels) to the party's headquarters from the residence of a senior functionary at Tughlak Road".

The department's statement last year came after raids at 52 locations linked to several individuals and entities, including Nath. His officer on special duty (OSD) Pravin Kakkar, his former advisor Rajendra Miglani, and executives linked to his brother-in-law's firm Moser Baer and his nephew Ratul Puri's company Hindustan Powerprojects Pvt Ltd were all raided.

# India's Covid caseload likely to touch 1 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 caseload is all set to touch one crore any time soon as infection tally mounted to 99,32,547 on Wednesday when 26,382 people fell ill to virus in a day, while the deaths rose to 1,44,096 with 387 new fatalities.

The Union Health Ministry data showed that the active Covid-19 caseload of the country stands at 3,32,002, which is 3.34 per cent of the total coronavirus cases in India. "The ongoing trend of contraction of India's total active cases continues. The active caseload of the country stands at 3,32,002. The share of active cases in the total positive cases has further shrunk to 3.34 per cent," the Ministry said in a statement here.

"India has recorded less than 40,000 daily new cases since the last 17 days. In the last 24 hours, only 26,382 persons were found to be infected with Covid in India. A total of 75.84 per cent of the new cases are from 10 States and UTs.

# Farm laws agitate a section of farmers, especially from Punjab

## Punjab had enacted the similar farm laws in 2013

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The three controversial farm laws announced by the Modi Government have agitated a section of farmers, especially from Punjab who are opposing the 'contract farm legislations' even though the rich agricultural State had enacted the same in 2013.

As per a report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture to convince the protesting farmers to call off their strike, the Punjab Government's contract farming has given employment to thousands and benefited them after a world popular cola drink maker, PepsiCo was one of the first companies to make the soft drinks after reaping under contract farming and is still engaged in contract farming in the state.

The cola manufacturer is

not the only company engaged in contract farming, but there are many companies such as LT Food, EBRO Food, and Sun Star Overseas that have been doing contract farming in Punjab.

The government has repeatedly claimed that the contract farming law is going to change the fortunes of the farmers, but opposition parties and farmer organizations claim that this farm law will make the corporates dominate the farming and farmers will end up becoming just laborers.

"If the contract farming was so bad, why would telecom giant Bharti Airtel's 'Fieldfresh' and other companies like ITC, Patanjali, Dabur, Godrej Agrovet including have grown in the agriculture sector. Contrary to farmers' fears and beliefs, in reality, not a single company of Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Group is directly or indirectly has got in contract farming," explained a senior Agriculture Ministry official about the report.

Contract farming has been in India for the past 30 years and is being cultivated in millions of hectares including in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and many southern Indian states. And factually, not a single farmer in the country has lost his land to any corporate or private company, instead, the income of farmers who went for contract farming has augmented.

One of the greatest benefits of contract farming is the corporates or private companies cover the losses over risks like poor rain or any other issues which are likely to benefit small farmers more.

"The government has agreed to include suggestions of farmers in the new farm laws and if possible, will also amend the laws if at all needed to benefit the country's farmers. Now, the government is working on a mechanism to connect small farmers to contract farming so that their risks are absorbed by corporates under contract farming," said the report.

# Farmers to take out morcha to Ambani group's office on December 22 in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Amid the ongoing farmers' agitation demanding the scrapping of the three controversial farm laws, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) leader Raju Shetti on Wednesday announced that he would take out a farmers' morcha to the Ambani group's office at Bandra-Kurla Complex in north-central Mumbai December 22 to register their protest against the Centre's efforts to impose pro-Ambani-Adani agricultural policies on farmers.

Talking to media persons in Pune, Shetti said that the farmers owing affiliation to four organisations - SSS, Peasants and Workers' Party (PWP), Prahar and Lok Sangarsh Samiti (LSS) - would march from the Mumbai Suburban collector's office to the Ambani group's office at BKC on Tuesday next.

"If the Modi government goes ahead and crushes the farmers' agitation in a manner it is doing, then it will have to pay a heavy price for it. The BJP-led Government has hatched a conspiracy to hand over its food grain godowns to

Ambanis and Adanis. The Government should realise that it is not just Ambani and Adani, the farmers also live in this country," Shetti said.

"No wonder that the Modi government is not taking serious cognisance of the ongoing farmers' agitation. We are taking out a morcha from the Mumbai Suburban Collector's office to Ambani Estate at BKC on December 22 to register our protests against the manner in which the Modi government has bulldozed the farm bill to favour Ambanis and Adanis," Shetti said. Giving details of the farmers' protests in the run-up to the morcha to the Ambani group's office in Mumbai, Shetti said: "The farmers' ongoing agitation has evoked tremendous response across the country. As many as 30 farmers have died as part of the ongoing agitation. It is in this backdrop that on the evening of December 20, farmers will light candles in each village of the state to pay homage to the farmers who have so far died during the agitation. On that evening, the farmers will take an oath to make the ongoing farmers' agitation a success."

# JEE-Mains to be held 4 times a year starting 2021, first round in Feb

New Delhi: Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Wednesday announced that the JEE-Mains exam for admission to engineering colleges will be held four times a year starting 2021 to offer flexibility to students and a chance to improve their scores. The first edition of the exam will be held from February 23 to 26, followed by rounds in March, April and May. "We have examined the suggestions received from students and various quarters and it has been decided that JEE-Mains will be held in four sessions in February, March, April and May," Nishank said.

"The first session will be held from February 23-26 and the results will be declared within five days from the last date of exams. The move will ensure that students don't miss out on opportunities due to clash of exams or due to the COVID-19 situation at present," the MOE said in a statement. Nishank also said students will be given a choice to answer 75 questions (25 each in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics) out of 90 (30 each in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics). PNS

# Sunflower sea starfish listed as critically endangered species

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As a scuba diver's delight, the sunflower sea starfish, a key species of ocean has been listed as Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which maintains a "Red List of Threatened Species".

Citing a 90 per cent decline in the species' global population, the IUCN on December 10 officially placed the sunflower sea star (Pycnopodia helianthoides) on the group's Red List of Threatened Species, meaning that it is critically endangered. The next step is extinction. A partnership of more than 60 institutions had made the official request to the IUCN to put it under the Critically Endangered list..

"The sunflower star was the most susceptible of the 20 sea star species affected by a multi-host pathogen and has rapidly gone from being the most common subtidal sea star on the U.S. West Coast to critically endangered," said Drew Harvell, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,



who helped to place the animal on the Red List. "This highlights the impacts disease can have on the stability of our nearshore ecosystems."

Among the largest of the sea stars, the sunflower sea star is close in size to a city street sewer cover, with a voracious appetite to match. It scours along the ocean floor like a robotic vacuum cleaner, gorging on everything in its path. Populations of many sea star species dropped precipitously starting in 2013, with the sunflower star the hardest hit, due to warming oceans and sea star wasting syndrome, Harvell said, according to reports.

# 25% world's population may not have access to a Covid-19 vaccine till 2022, says study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Operational challenges of the global Covid-19 vaccination programme will be as difficult as the scientific challenges associated with their development, researchers said in the journal BMJ and asserted that nearly a quarter of the world's population may not have access to a Covid-19 vaccine until at least 2022.

This is a first-of-its-kind study by the researchers from the Johns Hopkins University in the US who analysed pre-orders for Covid-19 vaccines ahead of their regulatory approval that had been publicly announced by countries around the world.

By 15 November 2020, several countries had reserved a total of 7.48 billion doses, or 3.76 billion courses from 13 manufacturers, out of 18 Covid-19 vaccine candidates in clinical trials.

"Just over half (51 per cent) of these doses will go to high-income countries, which represent 14 percent of the world's population," while low and middle income countries will

potentially have the remainder, despite these countries comprising more than 85 percent of the world's population.

Up to 40 percent of the vaccine courses from these vaccine manufacturers might potentially remain for low- and middle-income countries. However, this will depend, in part, on how high-income countries share what they procure and whether the US and Russia participate in globally coordinated efforts.

But the authors point out that even if all of these vaccine manufacturers were to succeed in reaching their maximum production capacity, at least a fifth of the world's population would not have access to vaccines until 2022.

"Governments and manufacturers might provide much needed assurances for equitable allocation of covid-19 vaccines through greater transparency and accountability over these arrangements."



## The globule therapy

SC allows homoeopaths for COVID-19 mitigation protocols, recognises their right to administer doses



This is a forever debate, about the efficacy of allopathy and homoeopathy in curing diseases. While the former addresses the immediate criticality, the latter is good for long-term management and prevention. Alternative medicine is now being used as an add-on and as part of an integrated approach to medicine and convalescent therapies. When it comes to the flu virus, particularly COVID-19, a cure is still remote in allopathy where research is still focussed on studying the virus. Homoeopathy is still prophylactic, based as it is on symptom management, and eases conditions of mild to moderate cases at least. With no drug present to specifically

treat COVID-19, even allopathy is currently relying on HCQ and Remdesivir to target symptoms. Perhaps it is because the treatment is symptomatic in both disciplines at the moment that the Supreme Court has ruled that homoeopaths can prescribe medicines for prophylaxis, amelioration and mitigation of COVID-19 patients, provided the prescription is given only by institutionally qualified practitioners. It, however, clarified that no practitioner may flag it as a cure and strictly operate within the guidelines issued by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy). The court has enabled a bit of a stopgap, considering a cure is not in sight and vaccination will take time to cover the population our size. While homoeopathy has long been considered a palliative, its efficacy in cure, as claimed by patients, has not been demonstrated consistently in medical trials. So far, the evidence of their potential has largely been anecdotal than empirical. In fact, combinations like Bryonia Alba and Arsenic Album 30 have been in circulation as a preventive and recuperative aid, often used alongside allopathy.

India, besides Cuba, is the only country to officially explore homoeopathy as part of its COVID-19 prevention, treatment and research protocol. The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) has been conducting trials to prove that the discipline works in containing the disease but in the absence of concrete proof, it is at the moment nothing better than a placebo. Yet, homoeopathy enjoys mass acceptability in India, with users believing in its long-term effects. In fact, it is the second most popular system of medicine in the country which, given our oversized disease burden and a stressed healthcare infrastructure, could work in taking care of basic health problems. But there has to be a rationality of approach and not blind faith. Once the disease sets in, there is no alternative to the clinically proven and medically tested protocols. Traditional systems of medicine, like ayurveda and homoeopathy, are, therefore, good for overall well-being and building body resistance. This distinction is very important in a country growing up in a culture of naturopathy and home remedies and, therefore, is prone to trusting conventional wisdom. But this is a novel virus we are dealing with. There is no doubt that traditional systems of medicine in India have not only survived but flourished over the centuries and there are virtues embedded in our huge herbal heritage that are good for enhancing immunity and overall health management. But overplaying our herbs as part of a COVID-19 medicare protocol, when they are yet to cross the threshold of medical reason, comes with the attendant ills of misconception that they are just as effective as allopathic drugs. Like homoeopathic institutes, a few ayurveda pharmaceutical companies, too, have been working on simulation studies where few plant molecules have shown the ability to halt the alarming multiplication of the SARS CoV-2 virus in an Artificial Intelligence (AI) modelling. Researchers at IIT Delhi, in collaboration with Japanese scientists, have found that properties of Ashwagandha have “therapeutic and preventive value” against COVID-19 infection. But they are working on more conclusive proof that could allow for pharmacological interventions. Besides, our drug control laws need more teeth and the Health Ministry has even released the draft of Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) (Amendment) Bill, 2020, with stiffer penalties. But more deterrence needs to be built in. Rather than upgrading AYUSH protocols, we need to lay out a tiered structure on evidence-based protocols and mapping the progression of the disease. That would make us truly holistic in approach.

## Boris is willing

The UK Prime Minister would grace the R-Day parade but his post-Brexit tilt towards India may give China some heartburn



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to visit New Delhi as the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in January. His tour will help further strengthen Indo-UK relations and is being seen in diplomatic circles as the UK's post-Brexit tilt towards the Indo-Pacific region, in which India is an important player. The significance that Britain is attaching to the ties with India can be gauged from the fact that Johnson's trip will be his first major bilateral outing since becoming the Prime Minister and the first since the UK's departure from the European Union. Both nations have shared interests because of their past history and the fact that the UK has a 1.5 million-strong Indian diaspora, which has made valuable contributions in academia, literature, arts, medicines, science, business and politics. Closer ties with the UK will help Indians who want to work and set up businesses in the island nation in terms of easier visa access. Apart from the two nations planning to boost employment and jointly confront threats to global peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region, the idea is to transform the G7 group comprising the UK, the US, France, Japan, Germany, Italy and Canada into a broader grouping of 10 leading democracies that will be capable of thwarting China's expansionist plans. It is with this goal in mind that Johnson has invited India, Australia and South Korea to attend the UK-hosted G7 summit in the summer of 2021, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted. For its part, a stronger bond with the UK will stand India in good stead as it strives for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). China has been blocking it for decades despite the fact that the other four permanent members — Russia, the UK, the US and France — are backing New Delhi's claims. Unfortunately, the UN charter is such that it gives permanent members the power to veto any resolution, including the expansion of membership, and Beijing has been exploiting this factor to the hilt. It has thwarted India's ambitions to sit at the UNSC high table by laying down conditions that are impossible for New Delhi to meet. Moreover, with China wanting to push Pakistan's agenda time and again at the UNSC, India needs as many allies as it can in its corner.

Johnson's visit is coming at a time when New Delhi is seeking more investment to shore up a tottering economy. The trade Ministers of both the nations are in talks and India would work with the UK on a range of issues. The two are trying to deepen their economic partnership in the hope that it will ultimately culminate in a free-trade agreement as the economies of both the nations have taken a body blow due to the pandemic. The total trade between the countries is worth almost 24 billion Euros and it grew by 11 per cent in the last financial year, but there is potential to ramp it up in a post-COVID world. On December 15, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who is on a visit to India as a prelude to Johnson's trip, announced a closer collaboration on an enhanced trade partnership, and met Modi to discuss a 10-year roadmap for a new era in bilateral ties. Apart from trade, the two democracies are seeking closer collaboration on tackling the coronavirus pandemic, climate change and enhancing defence cooperation so that they can better address key issues like terrorism and maritime security. One can safely assume that China will be watching this bonhomie and Johnson's overtures to India with some concern, if not outright alarm.



BHOPINDER SINGH

The undermining of all major institutions of democracy in the United States was afoot in all earnest by President Donald Trump in his four-year tenure — from the Judiciary and Military to even his own Justice Department, all were par for course as long as the weakening of the institutions solidified Trump's own chances for a second term. His patent hiring-and-firing spree, refusing to cooperate with the Congress on critical investigations, attacking independent Press to filling up key appointments with supposed loyalists raised serious questions about the free and fair functioning of democracy. Not surprisingly, the US had by 2017 slipped from the status of “full democracy” to “flawed democracy” as per the Democracy Index, as published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The report had noted: “Trust in political institutions is an essential component of well-functioning democracies. Yet surveys by Pew, Gallup and other polling agencies have confirmed that public confidence in the Government has slumped to historic lows in the US. This has had a corrosive effect on the quality of democracy.”

While the systemic changes, interferences and appointments were being made towards Trump's electoral advantage, somewhere the popularity polls were still giving him nightmares — he knew that when push comes to shove, he would need these institutions to be spineless, acquiesce and fall in line with Trump, irrespective of the election results. The telltale signs of Trump's nervousness were written all over when for months he refused to commit honouring the poll results and ensuring a peaceful transition of power — the seeds of “rigged”, “stolen” and “fraudulent” elections were planted well in advance.

Two specific institutions were getting primed for any eventuality i.e. Judiciary and the Armed Forces. Trump's initial comfort with a 5-4 conservative majority in the Supreme Court had given him reasons to believe that he could persist with controversial steps like the travel ban from several Muslim-majority nations, as was upheld by the courts then. But soon and awkwardly so for Trump, the Supreme Court started asserting its independent views that militated against Trump's preferences — even Trump's personal appointees like Justice Brett

## Institutional spine

### Major institutions refused to buckle under pressure from President Trump when he tried systemic changes to shore up his chances for a second term



Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch voted against his interests in certain cases. White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany shockingly admitted that the key takeaway from the unfavourable rulings was that ‘we need more conservative justices on the courts’. Trump did exactly that, with the hurried appointment of Justice Amy Barrett eight days before elections, creating a powerful 6-3 conservative tilt. Tellingly, Trump had desired that the newly appointed Justice Amy Barrett participate in the forthcoming election-related cases that went to the courts.

Even in the Military realm, when the appointment to the top post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to succeed the previous Obama-appointed Gen Joseph F. Dunford Jr was getting considered, President Trump had called the shots. As per protocol and professional decorum, the Defense Secretary has a say in suggesting a name. Given that the Defense Secretary at that time was the distinguished former combatant James Mattis, his professional assessment carried weight — Mattis had preferred Air Force Chief of Staff Gen David Goldfein; however it was Trump who overruled the choice and appointed General Mark Milley instead. Later, General Milley had to so often navigate through the minefield of Trump's fickle, whimsical and overtly political theatrics that

the telltale signs of Donald Trump's nervousness were written all over when for months he refused to commit honouring the election results and ensuring a peaceful transition of power

the top military advisor many a time saw himself at odds with the President's instincts. It was left to him and the subsequent Defense Secretary, Mark Esper, to control wild ideas like using military personnel to control civil unrest on the streets of the US. Expectedly, Mark Esper too was fired and yet another ‘loyalist’ ushered in.

But to the credit of both the

institutions, much before the electoral process had started — neither gave any statement or did any act to suggest that they indeed had succumbed or forsaken their institutional independence, at the altar of Donald Trump. At one stage, General Milley had publicly expressed regret at having mistakenly got caught in an overly political moment, whilst in uniform — he rightfully acknowledged that the optics had diminished the apolitical stance of the Armed Forces. At yet another event later, when the chaos of the electoral results was dangerously poised, he tellingly clarified: “We do not take an oath to a king or a queen, a tyrant or a dictator. We do not take an oath to an individual...We take an oath to the Constitution” — unequivocally indicating that the US Military was not beholden to anyone.

Similarly, the Supreme Court with an ostensibly favourable 6-3 Trump/conservative tilt, rejected a bid by the Texas's Attorney General, which was supported by the President, in the strongest ever indication that Trump cannot count on the top courts to overturn election results under flimsy or make-believe grounds. Not only did the courts reject Texas's plea challenging the results towards the four battleground States but it effectively did so on grounds that willy-nilly checkmate similar misadventures in other States too. The conspiracy the-

ories are simply unlikely to be entertained by the courts, irrespective of the ideological composition of the majority therein. The sore loser in Trump was left fuming: “The Supreme Court really let us down. No wisdom, no courage!” On the contrary, it was the actual demonstration of wisdom and courage by the hallowed institutions of the US Government that would save it from the sure ruin of its revered democracy, as was envisaged and enshrined by its founding fathers.

From falsely (and prematurely) claiming electoral victory, calling to halt vote counting to refusing to accept the results — Trump has done everything possible to degenerate and abuse power and respect in the democratic processes. Thankfully, the institutions have shown integrity, steel and resilience despite the umpteen times these were subjected to tinkering, though Trump has almost guaranteed a polarised, fractured and deeply divided society with his continuing vanity and petulance, which will far outlive his stay at the White House. The ongoing Trump saga is a timely reminder for the leaderships and institutions in other democracies where tendencies to take liberties with institutions are apparent.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## SOUNDBITE

I hope that an early and reasonable solution will be found on the issues raised by farmers. There is the possibility of a certain meeting ground.

**Vice-President**  
—M Venkaiah Naidu



Stay home and watch history unfold on your television or digital screens on Inauguration Day. The ceremony's footprint will be extremely limited.

**US President-elect**  
—Joe Biden



I did not even watch my season after I came out of the house. I don't watch Bigg Boss. I find it very disturbing. Especially now, people are so aggressive in the house.

**Actor**  
—Shamita Shetty



I don't think you can concretely plan anything in Test cricket. Test cricket is always about encountering situations and reacting to the situations to the best of your abilities.

**India cricket captain**  
—Virat Kohli



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Poll boost for LDF

Sir — The local body election results in Kerala are a good gauge of the public mood in favour of the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) just a few months before the Assembly election.

Keralites are known for their political consciousness; they are fully aware that whom they vote to power matters and they exercise great discernment in electing their representatives. The biggest takeaway from the results is that the narrow strip of scenic beauty called God's Own Country continues to be a Left bastion immune to a Rightward shift in politics.

The landslide victory is a clear endorsement of the Pinarayi Vijayan Government's laudable social welfare programmes and best possible handling of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as an unequivocal rejection of the attempts by the Congress and the BJP to implicate the office of the Chief Minister in the much hyped gold smuggling case.

The CPI(M)-led LDF Government can now feel a huge sense of relief that the orchestrated campaign against it has met with failure.

**G David Milton**  
Maruthancode

### Govt least bothered about soaring prices

The retail inflation figure of 6.93 per cent, as released earlier by the Centre, is doubtful and shocking as the Government has completely failed to control the rising prices of all essential items. The trend of market prices of almost all items is totally different as compared to the inflation figures supplied by the Government. If the inflation is at 6.93 per cent, would it not be reasonable to expect a fall or stability in the prices of at least some of the essential commodities?

The unpleasant truth is that the prices of all commodities are steadily shooting up — some of the essential articles cost double or triple the earlier price — especially during the ongoing COVID crisis, vegetable prices are soaring at an alarming rate. Since the prices haven't come down as promised by the Narendra Modi Government, it has shaken the faith and trust of the people in the ruling dispensation.

Also, the Government isn't seen making any serious move to tackle the worsening price situation. It seems more interested in wasting time and money in making hollow promises rather than taking concrete action. Apart from its favourite pastime of blaming the previous



Congress Governments, it appears that the Centre is occupied with more important plans like toppling the Governments in the Congress-ruled States and passing Bills in haste rather than giving any serious thought to the price issue which affects every common citizen.

It can be expected, however, that the jugglers who are entrusted by the Government to produce imaginary inflation figures will be busy as ever by cooking up numbers to mislead the people.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

### Houses should have met

Sir — When the 9/11 terror attack occurred, a Parliament session was called at one day's notice in national interest. The same principle should have been applied in India where a farmer agitation is continuing for 20 days and both sides are sticking to their guns.

With no solution in sight, the

Winter Session was a good hope for discussion and making some progress. But now this hope has vanished. The session was cancelled apparently due to the COVID scare but today's farmers' rally in Narela was organised by the ruling party itself, which contradicts the Government's statement.

**Yash Pal Ralhan**  
Jalandhar

### Don't quibble over book

Sir — This has reference to the report ‘Pranab's son and daughter lock horns over his memoir’ (December 16). They have each issued statements either in favour of suppressing certain portions of, or fully publishing Pranab Mukherjee's book, *The Presidential Years*.

They may be entitled to their views but one should think that what is most relevant to the citizens of this country is not what ‘they’ think but whether the former President left a will in which he mentioned about this book and how its publication should be handled by the executor of that will. It is very reasonable to assume that he did. This alone should be the criterion for settling the issue.

**NS Rajan**  
Bangalore

### Biden's task is cut out

Sir — US President-elect Joseph Biden will have to heal the wounds of a nation that seems to be at war with itself. Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will take their oaths of office outside the US Capitol building as inauguration planners make the arrangements.

The hidden mechanics of electing a US President have drawn new scrutiny this year as President Donald Trump continues to deny that he has been beaten fair and square even though Biden has officially secured enough electors to become the next US President.

**CK Subramaniam**  
Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

## The thread that binds us

India is a nation united by the sensibilities of a unique Sanskrit-Urdu culture and no one can take that away from us



MARKANDEY **KATJU**

When the British ruled India, they questioned whether it was a nation at all. They held that it was only an administrative unit created and united by them. Their view was articulated by John Strachy, a high official in India who said in 1880, in his lectures given at Cambridge University (collectively published as a book titled '*India*'), that India was only a label of convenience, a name given to a large geographical territory having several countries. He said, "This is the first and foremost thing to learn about India, that there is not and never was an India, nor any country of India, possessing, according to European ideas, any sort of unity — physical, political, social or religious. No Indian nation, no people of India, of which we hear so much." The same view was reiterated by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the creator of Pakistan, who insisted that, "India is not a nation, nor a country. It is a subcontinent of nationalities." So, what is the truth?

To my mind, the views of Strachy and Jinnah are wrong and India is indeed a nation. What really makes a nation are features which distinguish it from other countries. Is there any such feature which makes India a nation? Yes, there is, and it is our composite Sanskrit-Urdu culture, which unites us and makes us one nation. Now, when I say this, immediately objections will be raised. Many South Indians, people of the northeastern States and so on, will ask what have they to do with Sanskrit or Urdu? Some people in the country are averse to Sanskrit. For instance, many Tamilians, who regard themselves as Dravidians, call it the language of Aryan invaders and oppressors. Where Urdu is concerned, many Hindus regard it as the language of Muslims.

Sadly, these objections are based on a lack of understanding. When I use the expression "Sanskrit-Urdu culture", I am referring to the spirit of Sanskrit and the soul of Urdu. There is a misconception that Sanskrit is a language that is predominantly used for chanting mantras during worship in Hindu temples and sacred texts. Only about five per cent of Sanskrit literature is devoted to religion, while the rest deals with diverse topics such as philosophy, science, mathematics, art, law, linguistics and so on. The emphasis of Sanskrit is on reason because it was the language of free thinkers who questioned everything. The great Hindi writer Rahul Sankrityayan, who was in his early years an orthodox Brahmin, said that before he learnt Sanskrit he believed in God but, after he learnt the language he became an atheist. And indeed, much of Sanskrit literature is atheistic.

On the other hand, the emphasis in Urdu, which is wrongly regarded as the language of Muslims (before 1947 it was a common language of all educated people, whether Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh or so on, in large parts of India), is on emotion. Urdu poetry expresses the voice of the human heart and the afflictions of the common people with an elegance that perhaps no other poetry can ever achieve. The two main attributes of humans are reason and emotion, and both are necessary for progress. In Europe, the great French thinker Voltaire emphasised reason and combated religious bigotry and superstitions in his writings. On the other hand, the equally great French thinker Rousseau stressed upon emotion and passion. He said that mere reason makes one a cold, calculating and selfish being who never has the desire to help his fellow human beings and never thinks of the suffering of others.

The fact remains that India is broadly a country of immigrants, like North America. About 92-93 per cent of the people living in the nation today are the descendants of immigrants, most of whom came from the north-west. Its original inhabitants are the pre-Dravidian tribals like the Bhils, Gonds, Santhals, Todas and so on, who make up only about seven to eight per cent of the country's population. These immigrants brought with them their own language, religion, practices, culture and so on. Through the intermingling of these immigrants for over thousands of years, a common culture emerged, which can be broadly called the Sanskrit-Urdu culture. This is the culture of India. Sanskrit and Urdu complement each other. In fact Sanskrit is one of the grandmothers of Urdu (the other grandmother being Persian), as many Urdu words are derived from it.

Though Sanskrit is a great language, by its overemphasis on reason (like Voltaire) it lacked compassion for fellow human beings who were suppressed. However, this compassion was supplied by Urdu (much like Rousseau, who empathised with the poor). Thus, what unites India and makes it a nation is the Sanskrit-Urdu culture. To those who say they have nothing to do with Sanskrit or Urdu (in fact most young Indians do not know these languages anymore) my reply is that when I use the expression "Sanskrit-Urdu culture" I am not referring to Sanskrit or Urdu literally, but to the spirit of Sanskrit and the soul of Urdu. Even Tamilians, Nagas and so on, have reason and emotion and in that sense they belong to the Sanskrit-Urdu culture. India is a nation united by the sensibilities of this unique Sanskrit-Urdu culture and no one can take that away from us.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India. The views expressed are personal.)

WHY WILL IT BE FOR THE PARTY, BY THE PARTY AND OF THE PARTY HERE? IN A FEW DAYS, YOU WILL KNOW WHEN PEOPLE GO TO VOTE.

—EX-TMC MINISTER  
SUVENDU ADHIKARI

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



AFTER PROFITING FROM BEING PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, YOU ARE HOBNOBBLING WITH THIS AND THAT PARTY. I WON'T TOLERATE THIS.

—CHIEF MINISTER  
MAMATA BANERJEE

# Build an indigenous arsenal

Research and development in India requires greater attention of the Government in the critical areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation



AMIT **KUMAR**

On November 27, through a gazette notification, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced the constitution of an Apex Committee for Implementation of the Paris Agreement (AIPA). This panel has been constituted for the purpose of ensuring a coordinated response on climate change matters that protects the country's interests and ensures that India is on track towards meeting its climate change obligations under the Paris Agreement, including its submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). One of the functions of this committee is to "commission and recommend independent research and analytical studies and plan capacity-building and training activities" on the above issues.

Indigenous research and development (R&D) in India requires greater attention of the Government in the critical areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation. It calls for coordinated actions in mission mode with concomitant allocation of public resources — an area that leaves a lot to be desired at present. Even if we were to keep real innovations aside, in a scenario where a substantial share of our climate action is based on imported technologies and products, adaptive R&D is critical to ensure their optimal performance levels under local conditions, throughout their lifespan. Moreover, business-research, too, is an important part of taking a product to its ultimate consumer in a timely fashion.

Although as per the *Global Innovation Index 2020*, featuring 131 economies, India has moved up to 48th place, it may be noted that globally about 72 per cent of spending is in sectors like Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hardware and electronic equipment, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, automobiles, software and ICT services, with a minimal share of sectors dealing with climate actions. It is imperative, therefore, for the AIPA to earnestly take up research and innovation in areas around climate action. It must draw a plan for outcome-oriented collaborative research in priority areas that are either potentially impacted by climate change or contribute to it. Climate action can be broadly categorised into climate change mitigation and adaptation.

On the mitigation front are those technologies that help in the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as renewable energy and technologies for decarbonising in hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement and heavy transport. At the other end of the spectrum are technologies and practices to empower society to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. Several scientific studies had already cautioned that India should be ready for more extreme weather events — like cyclones, flooding and droughts — on account of the accelerated pace of climate change.

In such a scenario, research focus areas would include climate-resilient crops, early warning systems, disaster risk management, resilient coastal infrastructure, water management technologies and public health. For instance, as per the recently released *Lancet Countdown* report on health and climate change, India recorded the highest loss in productivity because of extreme heat in 2019. To address such challenges, the country needs solutions that suit its specific demands while taking into account its climatic conditions, energy consequences, as well as affordability.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 aims to "build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation." Target 9.5 of SDG 9 reads "enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing ones, including, by 2030,

“APPROPRIATE INCENTIVE FRAMEWORKS COULD NUDGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SCALE UP ITS RESEARCH FUNDING IN CLIMATE TECHNOLOGIES, AMONG OTHER AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE ON ONE HAND AND HELP STEER HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS RESEARCH ON THE OTHER”



encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per one million people and public and private research and development spending.”

So the big question is, where are we in this respect? The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Institute for Statistics tracks these indicators. In 2018, the top countries in terms of gross expenditure on R&D (public as well as private spend) as a share of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP), were Israel (4.95 per cent), the Republic of Korea (4.8 per cent), Sweden (3.33 per cent), Japan (3.26 per cent) and Austria (3.17 per cent). While China stands at 12th position with 2.18 per cent of the GDP being its R&D spending, India was at 38th place with research spending of 0.65 per cent of the GDP. It ranks as one of the lowest spenders among the BRICS countries. Not only this, our ranking in another indicator, namely, the number of researchers per million inhabitants (in full time employment) is off the mark, too. With 252 researchers per million inhabitants, we are near the bottom rung as compared to China (1,307), Denmark (8,065) and Korea (7,980). This is not a demographic dividend one would have envisaged.

Indeed, a report on '*India's R&D Expenditure Ecosystem*' compiled by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) in mid-2019 laments that while in absolute terms our R&D expenditure has increased, as a fraction of the GDP, public expenditure on R&D has been stagnant. It has remained between 0.6-0.7 per cent of the GDP over the last two decades. Now, India has set a goal to up its R&D spending to two per cent of the GDP by 2022. However, this was in the pre-Coronavirus era. Now, the implications of large-scale reallocation of public resources for battling the virus have to be seen on such "non-priority" goals. There is enough evidence from across the globe that governments often tend to reduce public research funding when faced with

resource stress, prioritising short-term impactful areas over the long-term ones that R&D initiatives tend to be.

Incidentally, the erstwhile Planning Commission, too, had set a goal of two per cent of the GDP in the 12th Five-Year Plan, i.e., by 2017. However, the worrisome part is that investment in R&D by two critical sectors — private and higher education, is even lower. Generally speaking, it is public funding that supports R&D of new technologies, given the higher risks involved and negligible assurance of their commercial success. Private sector funding may come at a later stage, leveraging promising outcomes of publicly-funded early-stage efforts. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared in the just-concluded Climate Ambition Summit that, "India is not only on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets but to exceed them beyond expectations" or the UN Secretary-General exhorts countries to declare a climate emergency until the world has reached net zero CO2 emissions; obviously this cannot happen on the back of imported technologies alone.

As the numerous problems to be addressed are local in a country of the size of India the solutions, too, will have to be developed indigenously, tailored to our unique but varied requirements, more so from the perspective of equity and inclusiveness. The fact that the AIPA is slated to provide inputs to the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, must accord it the required heft to overcome usual bureaucratic indifference.

Viewed from a broader national interest perspective, the need for significant and continued public spending on climate-related research cannot be overemphasised. And this should certainly not be limited to supporting public-funded institutions only. Given that in today's world technology is a core part of diplomacy as argued by our External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the central role of climate technologies in geopolitics must be recognised fully.

This, in turn, leads to the relative negotiating powers of different countries, ones that are knowledge generators *vis-à-vis* those who receive them. Investments in R&D then go beyond self-reliance and get linked to larger national interests. After all, *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* can only be built on the solid foundation of R&D-led innovations across value chains. As elaborated by Jaishankar, a self-reliant India is essentially all about building its domestic strengths and enhancing its capabilities. For that to happen, India will have to enhance its investment in research and technology development in frontier areas, including those that are of relevance to intensive climate action.

However, indigenous research should not be confused with isolated research to be carried out by Indian entities alone. Rather it is all about research and innovations led by India through leveraging collaborative competencies of a range of global players. And it depends on inculcating research temperament among the Indian youth and creating state-of-the-art innovation ecosystems across the country. Above all, we must aspire to be among the top nations as per globally recognised R&D and innovation criteria.

If we can reach seemingly audacious renewable energy goals in less than a decade, there is no reason as to why we cannot set our ambitions high in terms of excellence in research and innovations, too. Considering that public spending on research is only one part of the pie, businesses and higher educational sectors, too, will have to play their part. Appropriate incentive frameworks could nudge the private sector to scale up its research funding in climate technologies, among other areas of national importance on one hand and help steer higher education institutions towards research on the other. The war against climate change requires in-country arsenal, urgently.

(The writer is Senior Director, Social Transformation, TERI. The views expressed are personal.)

## J&K district elections to usher in a new dawn

The polls are unique in the sense that deprived sections, like West Pakistan Refugees, Valmiki and Gorkhas are voting for the first time



ANIL **GUPTA**

Voters decided the fate of 298 candidates, including 72 women, contesting the seventh phase of the District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on Wednesday. A total of 31 DDC constituencies went to the polls, including 13 in Kashmir division and 18 in Jammu division. The response of the people across both regions to the elections is a curt message to the *status quo* lobby.

The vast majority standing in long queues outside the polling booths

in bone-chilling cold while responding to news reporters does not mince words. It is clear that they are voting for development and employment. It is their sole agenda since they have been deprived of it for long. Connectivity, education, health and basic amenities still elude the people despite huge amounts of funds received from successive Central governments.

Where did all these funds vanish? Reports are surfacing of projects shown as completed in files but not actually existing on the ground. Voters are openly accusing their leaders of having cheated them time and again and becoming unreachable and inaccessible after the elections are over, leaving them to their plight which has not changed during the last 70 years. People have also realised that they were emotionally exploited with slogans like self-rule, greater autonomy and so on. Had these leaders been serious and committed to the welfare of the people, they could have easily provided

them the basic facilities of road, water and electricity but instead they chose to mislead them with false slogans and dreams of greener pastures while lining their own pockets with the generous assistance received from successive Central governments.

Kashmir's identity the world over was recognised as a multilingual, multi-faith, multi-cultural plural society famous for peaceful co-existence. But the political leaders are responsible for the murder of the famous Kashmiri identity. They promoted secessionism, separatism and radicalisation, leading to the onslaught on the Kashmiri Pandit community, the indigenous community of the Valley, forcing them to flee in the face of large-scale ethnic cleansing.

Corrupt leaders delayed the devolution of powers to the grassroots by not holding elections to the Panachayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). They were loathe to allow the centre of



power to shift to the towns and villages. However, now the process to undo the ills and woes of 70 years of misrule has been set in motion with all sincerity. This includes elections to the second and third tiers of PRI by holding elections for Block Development Councils (BDCs) and District Development Councils (DDCs). ULBs' elections were held, too.

The ongoing DDC elections are

unique in the sense that certain deprived sections (West Pakistan Refugees, Valmiki and Gorkhas) are voting for the first time. (Earlier they could vote only for parliamentary elections). There are reserved seats for the women and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for the first time. A new crop of grassroots leadership is emerging which augers well for the future.

The Union Territory (UT) of J&K now has 100 per cent reservation for locals in all jobs, including gazetted and non-gazetted ones. No other State/UT in the country enjoys this unique privilege. The amended land laws were also used by the status quoists to create fear among the people claiming that their lands would be snatched and forcibly purchased by outsiders. People are being confused by quoting the protection enjoyed by a few States under Article 371. Often people are misled by drawing comparison with neighbouring Himachal Pradesh stating that the State has a special provision pro-

tecting their land rights.

The fact is to the contrary. Section 118 in Himachal is restrictive and does not put an absolute ban on the sale and purchase of land and property in Himachal. It has provisions through which, with the approval of the Government, anyone can buy land and property in the State. However, the new land law of J&K totally bans the sale of agricultural land to other than the existing agriculturists.

However, at long last, the common man has understood how unscrupulous leaders misled them and deprive them of basic amenities while filling their own coffers. They are happy with the much-awaited change they were yearning for and are hopeful that the representatives they choose for the DDC will meet their much-wanted basic needs.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran political commentator, columnist, security and strategic analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



FOREIGN EYE



### MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Thirteen of the world's 14 peaks taller than 8,000 metres have been climbed in winter. But K2, the world's second tallest mountain at 8,611 metres, remains elusive. Now, a 55-member global group of climbing veterans are daring to take on a feat that has long been considered mission impossible — the first winter ascent of K2.

(TKP editorial)



# Sensex, Nifty extend record run

## HDFC TWINS, IT PACK LEAD CHARGE

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks raced to new peaks for the fourth straight session on Wednesday as participants took note of continuously improving macroeconomic indicators and positive trends in global markets.

The BSE Sensex settled 403.29 points or 0.87 per cent higher at 46,666.46, while the NSE Nifty climbed 114.85 points or 0.85 per cent to 13,682.70 -- record closing for both the benchmarks.

Both the indices also marked their all-time intra-day highs of 46,704.97 and 13,692.35, respectively.

In the Sensex pack, HDFC, ONGC, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Titan, TCS and Mahindra and Mahindra were

the prominent gainers, advancing up to 3.11 per cent.

On the other hand, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra and HCL Tech were among the major laggards, skidding up to 1.09 per cent.

Asian bourses closed broadly higher amid hopes that COVID-19 vaccines and economic stimulus by governments around the world will revive economic growth.

European equities surged to 10-month highs on prospects of a Brexit trade deal and expectations of swift roll-out of coronavirus vaccination.

“Domestic equities remained in the grip of bulls, recording fresh highs fairly supported by firm global markets. Emerging prospects of additional fiscal stimulus in the US and satisfactory progress on coronavirus vaccination bolstered investors’ sentiments. Barring PSU banks, all key sectoral indices recorded gains.

“Encouraging data for key economic indicators and pos-

itive news flows continued to attract investors’ interest in domestic equities. Further, improving prospects of corporate earnings recovery, weak dollar index, consistent improvement in coronavirus recovery rates, government’s

strong commitment to revive the economy and dismal real interest rate scenario globally continued to act as key tailwinds to attract FPIs flows into Indian equities,” said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

## Gold gains ₹215; silver jumps ₹1,185

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price gained ₹215 to touch ₹49,059 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday supported by strong global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, gold had closed at ₹48,844 per 10 gram.Silver price jumped ₹1,185 to ₹64,822 per kilogram. It was at ₹63,637 per kilogram in the previous trade.

## ₹ climbs 5 paise to 73.58 per US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 5 paise to close at 73.58 against the US dollar on Wednesday, propped up by sustained foreign fund inflows and a weak greenback overseas. Strong domestic equities also strengthened investor sentiment, traders said. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 73.49 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 73.48 and a low of 73.60.

# Cyber security, data protection must to promote financial inclusion: RBI Guv

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Issues concerning cyber security and data protection must be addressed to gain confidence of the excluded section in use of technology, which is necessary for promoting financial inclusion, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Wednesday.

“Technology, though being a great enabler, can also lead to exclusion of certain segments of society,” Das said in his keynote address at a webinar on ‘Investing in Investor Education in India: Priorities for Action’, organised by the NCAER.

The RBI Governor added that it was imperative to build trust in formal financial services among the hitherto excluded population.

“Adequate safeguards need to be reinforced to address issues of cyber security, data confidentiality, mis-selling, customer protection and grievance redress through appropriate financial education and aware-

ness. These cast great responsibility on financial education providers,” he emphasised.

Financial inclusion in the country, he said, is poised to grow exponentially with digital savvy millennials joining the workforce, social media blurring the urban-rural divide and technology shaping the policy interventions.

For harnessing the near universal reach of bank accounts across the length and breadth of the country, there needs to be greater focus on penetration of sustainable credit, investment, insurance and pension products by addressing demand side constraints with enhanced customer protection, Das said. The interventions in financial education would have to be customised in local language and local settings keeping the different target audience in mind, he pointed out.

The scaling up of Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL) projects across the country at the block level would be the cornerstone of community-led

participatory approaches in the journey towards greater financial literacy, he added.

The Governor also stressed that in a large country like India with an aspiring population, financial education cannot remain just the responsibility of financial sector regulators.

This aspect has been highlighted in the National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE 2020-2025) document which recommends a multi-stakeholder led approach to achieve financial wellbeing of all.

“Going forward, increasingly, educational institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders like think tanks, research institutions should come forward to shoulder the responsibility of increasing financial literacy through appropriate awareness campaigns,” Das said. Financial inclusion initiatives in India started in the aftermath of first All India Rural Credit Survey in 1954 with promotion of cooperatives.

# Tech firm NTT appoints Abhijit Dubey as Global CEO

IAN S ■ LONDON

Global technology services company NTT Ltd. on Wednesday said Abhijit Dubey will succeed Jason Goodall as its Global Chief Executive Officer.Dubey takes the role following over 20 years with global advisory firm McKinsey & Company.Dubey will join NTT in early February and formally step into his new role on April 1, 2021. He will be based at the company’s headquarters in London.“We are looking forward to welcoming Abhijit to the NTT family in 2021 to lead the next generation of our business,” Goodall who is the current Global CEO for NTT Ltd. said in a statement.Following a three month handover period, Goodall will retire from his executive role on June 30, 2021 and will remain as a Board Director for NTT Ltd., and Dimension Data, as well as act as a strategic advisor for the NTT Venture Capital business.

# Farm Acts already national laws; States need not notify separately: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid ongoing protests by thousands of farmers against three new Farm Acts and assertions by some states

that they would not notify these legislations, government officials and constitutional experts said these are already national laws and therefore states are not required to noti-

fy them separately.

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, the Farmers Produce

Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 -- are three farm laws which the central government

notified in the ‘Gazette of India’ on September 27 after receiving the President’s assent.

A senior Agriculture Ministry official told PTI: “The three farm laws enacted by the

central government are national laws.

They have come into force across the country from the date of notification. So, a separate notification by each state

is not required.”

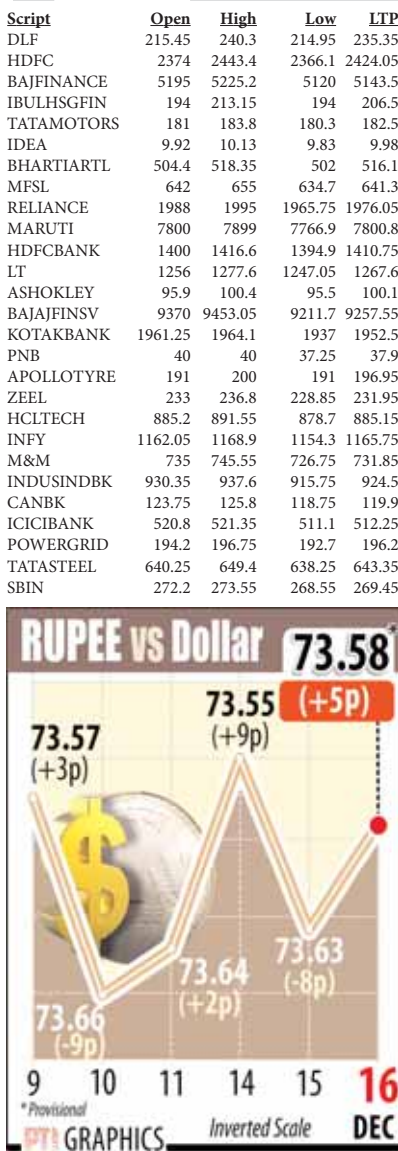
In some states, farmers are already taking advantage of various provisions of these legislations, the official added.

Asked if there was a special provision for the Delhi government which notified one of the three farm laws early this month, the official said, “It was not required.”

| NIFTY 50    |          |          |          |          |        |  |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--|
| SCRIP       | OPEN     | High     | LOW      | LTP      | CHANGE |  |
| NIFTY 50    | 13663.10 | 13692.35 | 13606.45 | 13682.70 | 114.85 |  |
| HINDALCO    | 248      | 252.15   | 245.9    | 251.5    | 6.95   |  |
| BHARTIARTL  | 504.2    | 518.8    | 502.1    | 518.3    | 14.1   |  |
| HDFC        | 2377.95  | 2443.40  | 2365.50  | 2415.00  | 64.65  |  |
| ONGC        | 101.9    | 103.6    | 100.65   | 103.05   | 2.6    |  |
| DIVISLAB    | 3652.20  | 3727.00  | 3636.00  | 3722.45  | 94.05  |  |
| UPL         | 453.85   | 461.5    | 451.5    | 459.1    | 10.3   |  |
| ASIANPAINT  | 1547.00  | 1587.90  | 1537.60  | 1583.95  | 56.5   |  |
| TITAN       | 2440.00  | 1510.00  | 1469.20  | 1499.00  | 30.25  |  |
| M&M         | 737.1    | 746.25   | 726.2    | 731.45   | 13.5   |  |
| TATAMOTORS  | 181      | 183.8    | 180.1    | 182.25   | 3.35   |  |
| POWERGRID   | 194.7    | 196.85   | 192.55   | 196.3    | 3.5    |  |
| L1          | 1256.25  | 1278.00  | 1247.05  | 1268.95  | 22.7   |  |
| TCS         | 2779.00  | 2819.80  | 2760.45  | 2810.00  | 48.45  |  |
| WIPRO       | 353.9    | 358.95   | 353.2    | 358.6    | 5.9    |  |
| COALINDIA   | 1443.5   | 146      | 143.5    | 145.3    | 2.2    |  |
| JSWSTEEL    | 370      | 372.5    | 364.5    | 370.6    | 4.7    |  |
| HDFCBANK    | 1404.00  | 1416.80  | 1394.50  | 1408.15  | 16.55  |  |
| TATASTEEL   | 641.2    | 649.45   | 630.2    | 642.2    | 6.85   |  |
| BAJAJ-AUTO  | 3289.00  | 3308.45  | 3252.00  | 3307.00  | 35.35  |  |
| HINDUNILVR  | 2317.10  | 2354.90  | 2300.35  | 2343.85  | 23.8   |  |
| SUNPHARMA   | 571      | 578.5    | 571      | 576.9    | 5.25   |  |
| IOC         | 96.5     | 97.5     | 95.8     | 96.25    | 0.8    |  |
| NESTLEIND   | 18398.00 | 18734.95 | 18250.15 | 18340.00 | 150.1  |  |
| INFY        | 1140.00  | 1168.90  | 1153.60  | 1164.00  | 9.4    |  |
| CPIA        | 790.35   | 790.35   | 782.3    | 787.7    | 6.05   |  |
| ITC         | 213.75   | 215.55   | 213.5    | 214.6    | 1.05   |  |
| GRASIM      | 920.4    | 925.3    | 911      | 915.45   | 3.45   |  |
| DREDDY      | 5050.00  | 5051.75  | 5006.00  | 5045.00  | 13.65  |  |
| SHREECEM    | 24389.00 | 24488.90 | 24145.70 | 24310.00 | 50.35  |  |
| RELIANCE    | 1988.00  | 1994.95  | 1965.70  | 1977.55  | 3.2    |  |
| SBIILE      | 861.2    | 861.5    | 850.5    | 857.5    | 1.3    |  |
| HEROMOTOCO  | 3130.10  | 3145.00  | 3105.00  | 3116.60  | 3.65   |  |
| MARUTI      | 7820.00  | 7899.00  | 7770.00  | 7773.00  | 7.75   |  |
| BPCL        | 402.8    | 405.95   | 398.3    | 399.0    | 0.4    |  |
| BAJFINANCE  | 5199.00  | 5225.00  | 5128.00  | 5227.05  | 4.55   |  |
| ADANIAPORTS | 480      | 480.45   | 473.15   | 476      | 0.25   |  |
| KOTAKBANK   | 1965.00  | 1965.00  | 1936.55  | 1951.00  | -0.15  |  |
| EICHERMOT   | 2500.00  | 2506.45  | 2446.00  | 2471.70  | -3.35  |  |
| AXISBANK    | 613.55   | 614.9    | 604.8    | 605.75   | -1.35  |  |
| BRITANNIA   | 3766.20  | 3786.00  | 3745.00  | 3754.00  | -11.55 |  |
| HDFCLIFE    | 655.4    | 655.75   | 647.25   | 649.2    | -2.25  |  |
| HCLTECH     | 886.25   | 892      | 878.45   | 882      | -4     |  |
| SRIN        | 272.8    | 273.65   | 268.5    | 269.35   | -1.3   |  |
| BAJAJFINSV  | 9369.60  | 9450.00  | 9212.00  | 9250.00  | -46.95 |  |
| TECHM       | 935      | 935      | 917      | 921.45   | -5.6   |  |
| NTPC        | 106.95   | 107.25   | 104.55   | 105.15   | -0.7   |  |
| GAIL        | 126.5    | 126.85   | 123.85   | 124.4    | -0.85  |  |
| ULTRACEMCO  | 5160.00  | 5225.00  | 5094.25  | 5114.00  | -42.85 |  |
| INDUSINDBK  | 92       | 93.75    | 91.5     | 917.9    | -8.85  |  |
| ICICIBANK   | 520.05   | 521.7    | 511.1    | 512.5    | -5.55  |  |

| NIFTY NEXT 50 |          |          |          |          |        |  |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--|
| SCRIP         | OPEN     | High     | LOW      | LTP      | CHANGE |  |
| NIFTY NEXT 50 | 32166.10 | 32443.40 | 32040.40 | 32143.85 | 171.15 |  |
| DLF           | 212.65   | 220.40   | 214.5    | 223.4    | 20.85  |  |
| HAVELLS       | 862      | 905      | 860.35   | 901.95   | 37.15  |  |
| HDFCAMEC      | 2822.95  | 2875.75  | 2805.00  | 2856.00  | 65.2   |  |
| TATACONSUM    | 574.9    | 585.02   | 573.7    | 584      | 12.7   |  |
| ICICIGI       | 1462.70  | 1490.00  | 1459.35  | 1486.00  | 30.3   |  |
| LUPIN         | 953.25   | 963.9    | 942.3    | 962      | 17.6   |  |
| HINDPETRO     | 228.9    | 234.4    | 228.55   | 230.3    | 3.85   |  |
| TORNTHPWR     | 2751.00  | 2802.00  | 2725.50  | 2788.00  | 38.8   |  |
| ICICIPRULI    | 481.8    | 488      | 481.2    | 486.4    | 6.25   |  |
| MUTHOOTFIN    | 1215.60  | 1230.00  | 1209.00  | 1215.90  | 13.8   |  |
| IGL           | 49.10    | 49.35    | 48.53    | 48.81    | 4.95   |  |
| BIOCEN        | 459      | 462.5    | 455.4    | 459.9    | 4.6    |  |
| LTI           | 3265.90  | 3315.00  | 3265.05  | 3294.00  | 30.85  |  |
| MARICO        | 412      | 416.85   | 411.5    | 412.25   | 3.75   |  |
| BERGEPAINT    | 684.75   | 691.1    | 682.25   | 688.5    | 4.25   |  |
| BOSCHLTD      | 13290.00 | 13560.05 | 13255.00 | 13210.00 | 73.05  |  |
| SBICARD       | 825      | 832.65   | 821.1    | 825.4    | 4.35   |  |
| COLPAL        | 1609.70  | 1627.45  | 1598.10  | 1613.00  | 8.05   |  |
| CADILAH       | 471      | 472.85   | 465.9    | 469.05   | 2.2    |  |
| PIDILITIND    | 1626.00  | 1640.90  | 1620.00  | 1625.00  | 4.55   |  |
| BAJAJHLING    | 3145.00  | 3170.90  | 3105.00  | 3127.00  | 8.15   |  |
| AUROPHARMA    | 878      | 884.5    | 870.2    | 876.5    | 2.05   |  |
| GICRE         | 142.25   | 142.65   | 140.2    | 141.15   | 0.3    |  |
| AMBUJACEM     | 249.1    | 249.7    | 245.1    | 248.1    | 0.5    |  |
| DELTA         | 1463.00  | 1466.75  | 1430.00  | 1451.00  | 2.35   |  |
| SIEMENS       | 1548.00  | 1549.65  | 1533.00  | 1537.90  | 1.45   |  |
| ADANTRANS     | 434.9    | 435.15   | 425.3    | 431.25   | 0.15   |  |
| DABUR         | 515.4    | 519.55   | 512.3    | 513.9    | 0.05   |  |
| ACC           | 1649.95  | 1649.80  | 1624.25  | 1633.00  | -1.45  |  |
| GODREJCP      | 729.9    | 730      | 715.65   | 722      | -0.8   |  |
| NDC           | 117.4    | 120.8    | 113.9    | 114.8    | -0.15  |  |
| MCDOWELL-N    | 598      | 600      | 591.3    | 593.15   | -1.15  |  |
| AIKEM         | 2905.00  | 2910.00  | 2881.00  | 2893.10  | -5.4   |  |
| ADANIAGREEN   | 1019.75  | 1029.90  | 1011.10  | 1011.50  | -2.15  |  |
| INDIGO        | 1678.40  | 1683.75  | 1637.05  | 1655.45  | -4.35  |  |
| MOTHERSUMI    | 158      | 159      | 155.5    | 156.8    | -0.5   |  |
| HINDZINC      | 244      | 245      | 239.5    | 242.4    | -0.85  |  |
| UBL           | 1168.55  | 1193.40  | 1150.1   | 1153.95  | -4.6   |  |
| ABBOTINDIA    | 16451.00 | 16599.00 | 16200.00 | 16290.00 | -89.2  |  |
| BANDHANBNK    | 415.9    | 418.45   | 408.05   | 409.25   | -2.25  |  |
| OFSS          | 3149.10  | 3149.10  | 3105.00  | 3112.00  | -21.6  |  |
| INFRAE        | 248      | 248.8    | 243.65   | 245      | -1.9   |  |
| DMART         | 2650.05  | 2678.45  | 2605.00  | 2619.00  | -21.05 |  |
| PFC           | 121.85   | 123.4    | 119.5    | 119.75   | -1.15  |  |
| NAUKRI        | 4675.00  | 4710.00  | 4590.00  | 4590.00  | -49.05 |  |
| BANKBARODA    | 617      | 617.9    | 605.65   | 604      | -0.75  |  |
| CONCOR        | 416      | 417.65   | 406.25   | 408      | -4.9   |  |
| PETRONET      | 269      | 269.7    | 263.05   | 265.5    | -3.35  |  |
| PGHL          | 1130.20  | 1149.90  | 1116.30  | 1139.00  | -17.5  |  |
| PNB           | 39.6     | 39.6     | 37.25    | 38.15    | -2.45  |  |

## BSE 500



| VEDL        | 147    | 153.4   | 146.6    | 147.8   |
|-------------|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| HINDUNILVR  | 2322.9 | 2354    | 2303.1   | 2344.5  |
| M&MFIN      | 179.4  | 183.95  | 178.1    | 182.15  |
| JINDALSTEEL | 275    | 287.2   | 273.4    | 285.5   |
| BRITANNIA   | 3765   | 3787.05 | 3746.65  | 3752.27 |
| RBLBANK     | 237.9  | 243.9   | 237.7    | 241.75  |
| MUTHOOTFIN  | 1215   | 1230    | 1209     | 1216.65 |
| TITAN       | 1469.5 | 1509.8  | 1469.5   | 1503.4  |
| BANKBARODA  | 67.85  | 68      | 65.7     | 66.45   |
| SAIL        | 58.85  | 60.9    | 58.85    | 60.15   |
| LICHSGFIN   | 376    | 391     | 373.25   | 379.85  |
| TCS         | 2775   | 2819.75 | 2761.2   | 2813.25 |
| IRCTC       | 1457   | 1457    | 1450     | 1424    |
| ONGC        | 101.05 | 103.6   | 100.95   | 103.1   |
| COALINDIA   | 143.7  | 145.75  | 143.55   | 145.45  |
| MOTHERSUMI  | 156.85 | 159     | 155.5    | 156.75  |
| NESTLEIND   | 18480  | 18725   | 18255.15 | 18321.6 |
| ITC         | 213.8  | 215.65  | 213.5    | 214.35  |
| SRTANSFIN   | 1108.9 | 1108.9  | 1064.45  | 1071.6  |
| JSWSTEEL    | 368.5  | 372.35  | 364.6    | 370.55  |
| AXISBANK    | 614.7  | 615     | 604.85   | 605.9   |
| DEEPAKNI    | 884.8  | 932     | 874.3    | 909     |
| TATAPOWER   | 75.45  | 76.5    | 74.65    | 76.15   |
| ESCORTS     | 1347.1 | 1364    | 1332.95  | 1340.2  |
| BPCL        | 403    | 406     | 398.25   | 399.5   |
| PEL         | 1465   | 1465.75 | 1429.25  | 1457.25 |
| HAVELLS     | 863    | 904.85  | 858.1    | 901     |



# US passes bill that calls out Chinese aggression against India

**Washington:** The US Congress has officially passed the USD 740 billion defence policy bill, which among other things include calling out Chinese aggression against India along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The US House of Representatives and the Senate on Tuesday passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which included key components of Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's resolution

language urging the Chinese government to end its military aggression against India along the LAC.

China and India have been locked in a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since May this year. Several rounds of talks between the two countries to resolve the standoff have not yielded any concrete outcome.

The House and Senate versions of the bill were reconciled by a bipartisan Congressional conference committee earlier

this month.

The inclusion of this provision, which Krishnamoorthi led as an amendment when the bill passed the House, reflects the US government's strong support for its allies and partners like India in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Krishnamoorthi's measure, which passed each chamber with overwhelming bipartisan support, will become law if President Donald Trump signs it.

Trump has threatened to

veto the bill as it lacks a repeal of legal protections for social media companies. However, the NDAA has been passed by Congress for the last 59 years.

"Violent aggression is seldom the answer, and this is especially true for the Line of Actual Control, which is the disputed border region that separates the People's Republic of China from India," Krishnamoorthi said.

"By including my resolution language in the NDAA and signing that legislation into law,

the United States government will send a clear message that China's military provocations of India will not be tolerated," he said.

"The United States is committed to standing with our allies and partners like India in resolving the border standoff using diplomatic means," Krishnamoorthi said.

As approved by the conference report, the powerful NDAA says that it is the sense of the Congress on the aggression of China along the border

with India and its growing territorial claims.

The Senate agreed to include the provisions of the bill that was passed by the House in its version of the bill.

The House bill contained provisions that would express the sense of Congress on cross-border violence between China and India and the growing territorial claims of Beijing.

Expressing "significant concern" over the continued military aggression by China along the border with India, the

NDAA says that China "should work with" India toward de-escalating the situation along the Line of Actual Control through existing diplomatic mechanisms and refrain from attempting to settle disputes through coercion or force.

Attempts by China to advance baseless territorial claims, including those in the South China Sea, the East China Sea, and with respect to Bhutan, are destabilising and inconsistent with international law, says the bill.

China is also engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.

Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are also vital to global trade. **PTI**

## Biden's challenge: Creating a Covid-19 free White House

**Washington:** Three blocks from the White House, office space for more than 500 Biden transition staffers sits mostly idle. The government is shipping out laptops so staffers can work from home. President-elect Joe Biden, surrounded by just a handful of aides in Delaware, is using Zoom to oversee his plans to assume power.

But Biden soon will be entering a no-Zoom zone at the White House — just one sign of the challenges his new administration will face when it moves to Washington in the midst of a pandemic.

After months of making a virtue of the cautious approach his campaign and transition team have taken toward COVID-19, Biden's prudence will be tested by technology and tradition when he arrives on January 20.

White House computers don't allow the popular video conference software Zoom or rival systems like Google Meet and Slack. Government-issue

cellphones only gained texting capabilities a few years ago. And many employees will need to be present at the White House to access classified information.

Biden's team has limited experience with staffing a physical office during the pandemic. His campaign went all-virtual in mid-March, clearing out its Philadelphia headquarters and sending staff back to their families in Washington, New York and beyond. His transition team plotted out his path to power entirely online.

The closest Biden's team has come to experimenting with in-person work was election night, when a small selection of masked and socially distanced aides in Wilmington, Delaware, monitored returns in hotel conference rooms, a far cry from running a White House 24/7.

Even now, the most prominent use of the 100,000-plus square feet (9,290 square meters) of office space reserved

for the transition is for Vice President-elect Kamala Harris to receive the highly classified President's Daily Brief.

Telework is possible for some White House staff, and improvements in both secure and unclassified videoconferencing have been made over the last two decades. But the lack of in-person coordination could pose an additional challenge to the new government facing a multitude of crises.

Further complicating matters, the Biden team must devise health and safety protocols from scratch. The Trump administration was, at best, a cautionary tale in how not to run a workplace during a pandemic.

Despite relying on an aggressive testing regimen that is not available in other workplaces, the West Wing under President Donald Trump has been the locus of at least two significant outbreaks of COVID-19 since Trump himself came down with the virus five weeks before Election Day. **AP**

## EU chief von der Leyen sees progress on Brexit talks

AP ■ BRUSSELS

**E**U Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday she saw clear progress in the trade talks with the U.K., turning a post-Brexit deal from a fleeting possibility into an ever more realistic possibility.

Von der Leyen confirmed that the major problems had been reduced to just two — fair competition in the EU market and fishing rights for EU vessels in U.K. Waters. Even though she still spoke only of a "very narrow" path to a deal, she added that nonetheless "I can tell you that there is a path to an agreement."

It was still far more optimistic than previous comments coming from British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and even any assessment of success over the past months.

"This is now a case of being so close and yet being so far," von der Leyen told the EU parliament, which will have to approve any deal brokered with the U.K.

Britain left the 27-nation bloc in January but for the rest of this year is still in a transition period that kept all trade ties the same with the EU.

These talks deal with trading relations between the two sides starting on Jan. 1, which makes a tough timeline for the negotiations.

"The clock puts us in a very difficult position," said von der Leyen.

## Trump voters accept Biden victory 'with reservations'

**Washington:** Robert Reed says he will always believe the 2020 election was stolen from President Donald Trump. The retired police officer-turned-construction worker believes fraud marred the vote, no matter how many courts rejected that claim.

Still, a day after the Electoral College made Joe Biden's win official, the ardent Trump supporter from the suburbs of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was ready to move on.

"I think it's pretty much over," Reed said of Trump's ongoing quest to overturn the results of the election. "I trust the Electoral College." For weeks, Trump has been on a mission to convince his loyal base that his victory was stolen and the contest rigged.

With help from conservative media, polls show he's had considerable success. But now that the Electoral College has formalized Biden's win and Republican officials, including Senate Leader Mitch McConnell, are finally

acknowledging him as president-elect, many Trump voters across the country seem to be doing the same.

Interviews with voters, along with fresh surveys of Republicans, suggest their unfounded doubts about the integrity of the vote remain. But there is far less consensus on what should be done about it and whether to carry that resentment forward.

For some, like Reed, the Electoral College vote was the clear end of a process. Others have vowed to continue to protest with demonstrations like the one that turned violent in Washington, D.C., over the weekend. And some said they hoped GOP leaders would press for more investigations to put the doubts Trump sowed to rest.

They are people like Scott Adams, a retiree and Trump voter living in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, who said he accepts Biden's victory — but "with reservations." Adams said he's heard too much discussion about irreg-

ularities in the vote count on Fox News and conservative talk radio to trust the election's outcome and doesn't feel he'll ever know the true margin of victory.

(Biden won the Election College by a vote of 306 to 232.) But Adams doesn't think the election was rigged enough to change the outcome, even if he believes it was "rigged enough that it should be questioned more." He'd like to see more investigations.

Republicans across the country — from local officials to governors to Attorney General William Barr — have said repeatedly there is no evidence mass voter fraud affected the outcome. Trump and his allies brought a flurry of lawsuits, but nearly all have been dismissed by judges.

The Supreme Court, which includes three Trump-nominated justices, denied requests to hear a pair of cases aimed at invalidating the outcome of the election in key battleground states. **AP**

## Trump still involved in ongoing litigation related to presidential polls, says White House official

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump is still involved in ongoing litigation related to the November 3 presidential election, according to a top White House official.

The statement from White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany came a day after members of the Electoral College met in various states and formally elected Joe Biden, a Democrat, as the 46th President of the United States. Biden is scheduled to be sworn-in on January 20.

"The president is still involved in ongoing litigation related to the election. Yesterday's vote was one step in the constitutional process. So, I will leave that to him," McEnany told reporters on Tuesday at a news conference.

McEnany was responding to a question if Trump, a Republican, has any plans to invite Biden to the White House now that the Electoral College has voted. "Does the president acknowledge that Joe Biden is the president-elect," she was asked.

"The president is pursuing ongoing

litigation," McEnany said. "Yesterday was one step in the constitutional process leading up to the January 20th date in the Constitution," she said.

McEnany defended Trump's litigation against elections.

President Trump still refuses to concede, making unsubstantiated claims of widespread fraud during the presidential election won by Biden.

"I think pursuing legitimate litigation through the judicial system is in no way assailing democracy. In fact, it's using democrat institutions in the manner they are to be used: to pursue legitimate claims with sworn affidavits and additional evidence," she said.

Trump, she said, believes he certainly was under assault when it comes to the investigations into his administration. "The Mueller probe, the unfortunate way that our FBI was mishandled by folks like Andy McCabe, by folks like Jim Comey, and weaponised in a political way against his candidacy and then against his presidency," she added. **PTI**

## Indian-American Raja Chari among 3 astronauts selected by NASA for SpaceX Crew-3 mission

**Washington:** Indian-American US Air Force Colonel Raja Chari has been selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the European Space Agency.

Chari, 43, will serve as the commander while NASA's Tom Marshburn will be pilot and ESA's Matthias Maurer will serve as a mission specialist for the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the ISS, which is expected to launched next year.

A fourth crew member will be added at a later date, following a review by NASA and its international partners, NASA said in a statement on Monday.

"Excited and honored to be training with @astro\_matthias and @AstroMarshburn in prep for a trip to the @Space\_Station," Chari said in a tweet on Monday.

"Proud to be working and training with Matthias Maurer and Thomas Henry Marshburn in preparation for a mission to the International Space Station aboard the SpaceX Crew

Dragon," he posted on his Facebook page. This will be the first spaceflight for Chari, who became a NASA astronaut in 2017. He was born in Milwaukee, but considers Cedar Falls, Iowa, his hometown, NASA said.

He is a colonel in the US Air Force and joins the mission with extensive experience as a test pilot. He has accumulated more than 2,500 hours of flight time in his career. Chari was selected earlier this month as a member of the Artemis Team and is now eligible for assignment to a future lunar mission, it said in a statement.

Chari's father Srinivas Chari came to the US at a young age from Hyderabad for an engineering degree.

"It's official... Next stop: International @Space\_Station! In late 2021, I'll fly to humankind's orbital outpost for the first time, continuing our quest to discover more in space for #Earth. Get ready for #cosmickiss – a declaration of love for space," Maurer tweeted. **PTI**

## Germany enters harder lockdown as virus deaths hit new high

**Berlin:** Germany hit a new record level of coronavirus deaths as it entered a harder lockdown on Wednesday, closing shops and schools to try to bring down stubbornly high new cases.

The country recorded 179.8 deaths of new infections per 100,000 residents over the last seven days, a new high and significantly more than the 149 per 100,000 reported a week ago by the Robert Koch Institute, the country's disease control center.

It also blew past its previous daily total, with Germany's 16 states reporting 952 people had died of the virus, the agency said. That was far greater than the previous daily record set Friday of 598 deaths, although included two days of figures from the hard-hit eastern state of Saxony, which did not report Tuesday. **AP**

## Afghan-Taliban delegation arrives in Pakistan to push forward peace process

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

**A** high-level Afghan-Taliban delegation arrived here on Wednesday to hold talks with the top Pakistani leadership as part of efforts to push forward the reconciliation process, amid growing incidents of violence in Afghanistan.

The Taliban Political Commission (TPC), headed by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, is on a December 16-18 visit to Pakistan, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

"During the visit, the delegation will meet with the Foreign Minister and call on the Prime Minister," the FO said.

The visit comes after a delegation led by US special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, on Monday met Pakistan's Army chief General Qamar

Javed Bajwa and discussed with him the ongoing Afghan peace process. AP reported that Baradar and his delegation were summoned to Islamabad from Qatar, where they have been negotiating since September with Afghan government representatives, officials close to the talks said.

According to a report in The Express Tribune, the delegation will discuss issues of mutual interest, in particular, problems of refugees, relaxation and facilitation of Afghan's movement to Pakistan, as well as issues faced by Afghan traders.

The visit of the TPC delegation is part of Pakistan's policy to reach out to key Afghan parties in the peace process with a view to facilitating the Intra-Afghan Negotiations that commenced in Doha on September 12, 2020.

## STOP TALKS WITH OTHERS: SANYUKT KISAN MORCHA TO GOVT

"The route was closed around 11 am. The DND and the Kalindi Kunj routes are operational and commuters are advised to take these routes for travelling to and fro Delhi," said Noida Traffic Police official.

The Chilla route had remained obstructed since December 1 when the protest started here. One side of the road (Noida to Delhi) had remained closed during a large part of the period until December 12, when protesters agreed to open it for the sake of commuters but stayed put at the border.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police also took on to Twitter and informed commuters regarding border closed and its alternative routes. "Tikri, Dhansa Borders are closed for any Traffic Movement. Jhatikara Borders is open only for two wheelers and pedestrian movement," Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

"Available Open Borders to Haryana are following Borders. Jharoda (Only Single Carriageway/Road), Daurala, Kapashera, Badusarai, Rajokri NH 8, Bijwasan/Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera Borders," it further tweeted.

According to an Agriculture Ministry statement on Tuesday, Tomar thanked the BKU (Kisan) leaders for coming out in support of the laws and said these legislations have been welcomed in various States across the country.

Earlier this week, a delegation of over 100 farmers from Uttarakhand had also met Tomar.

On Tuesday, the leaders of agitating farmers asserted they will "make" the Centre repeal the three new agri laws in a hardening of their stand.

Meanwhile, protesting farmer unions on Wednesday said constituting a new panel to

break the stalemate on the three new agri laws, as indicated by the Supreme Court, is not a solution as they want a complete withdrawal of the legislations.

They also said the Government should have formed a committee of farmers and others before the laws were enacted by Parliament.

Their assertions came after the Supreme Court indicated earlier in the day that it may form a panel having representatives of the Government and farmer unions to resolve the deadlock.

Enacted in September, the three farm laws have been projected by the Government as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove the middlemen and allow farmers to sell anywhere in the country.

However, the protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of MSP and do away with the mandis, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.

## SANT BABA RAM SINGH COMMITS SUICIDE AT DELHI BORDER

He had on Tuesday asked the Central Government to resolve farmers' concerns. He had also extended support of Rs 5 lakh to the farmers' agitation this week at Singhu border. He had also distributed 500 blankets on Tuesday to farmers at Singhu border, said one of his followers.

Meanwhile, a shockwave swept across Punjab and Haryana, especially among the Sikh community. Leaders, cutting across party lines from both States, expressed shock and grief over the incident, asking the BJP-led Central Government to "wake-up" before it was too late.

Former Union Minister and SAD MP from Bathinda Harsimrat Kaur Badal, taking

to Twitter, said, "Even as GOI remains stubborn & refuses to be moved by suffering of #farmers, Baba Ram Singh ji Singhra wale has committed suicide after being unable to see the suffering around him at Kundli border. Hope GOI wakes up to the tragedy & repeals the 3 agri laws before it's too late."

Senior Congress leader and Haryana's former Minister Randeep Singh Surjewala, paying tributes to the deceased, asked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "immediately stop playing with the feelings of farmers amidst the intense cold wave... This royal obstinacy or stubbornness is suicidal because it has become an enemy of the country's soul and food provider".

Congress' senior leader and former party affairs in-charge in Punjab Shakeel Ahmed questioned the Modi Government over a "farmer leader's suicide". "May his soul rest in peace. But the Modi Government is saying that these three laws are not made for the service of Adani-Ambani sahiban, but for the benefit of the farmers. Then why did the farmer leader commit suicide?" tweeted Ahmed.

Lok Insaaf Party president and MLA from Ludhiana Sanjarjeet Singh Bains too took to Twitter to "salute the salute the martyrdom of Sant Baba Ram Singh" while hoping for the "restoration of strong democracy by overthrowing the dominant dictatorial system in India".

**STATE PREPARES FOR VACCINATION**

publications after which we will share the findings of the study," he said.

Regarding the testing at the institute, he said they have tested over one lakh samples.

Meanwhile, SGPPI spokesperson said that under the MoU which has been signed between UP Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd and SGPPI, the corporation under

its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative will provide financial assistance of approximately Rs 7 crore to SGPPI for establishing tele-ICU service. "This futuristic tele-ICU initiative will help improve the delivery of ICU care in six old medical colleges in Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Meerut, Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra. The central command centre of this tele-ICU will be set up in SGPPI, from where ICU services at these medical colleges will be supported for sustained quality assurance. The on-site ICU teams will be provided teaching and training by offsite ICU expert teams from SGPPI.

"Knowledge sharing and ICU patient monitoring over an extended period of time will definitely improve the quality of the ICU services in the state medical colleges," she said. She added that it will ensure availability of trained ICU manpower and improve the quality of ICU service at these medical colleges at par with SGPPI.

**46% OF INDIANS CONSULT DOCTORS ONLINE OUT OF COVID FEAR: SURVEY**

The survey conducted by online doctor consultation platform Mount Virtual Hospital showed that about 70 per cent of the respondents who had diabetes, heart problems, blood pressure issues, cancer or kidney diseases, who are at increased risk of severe illness from the Covid-19, still want to get the consultation done with their doctors over call — be it for follow-up consultation or new consultation.

"With people using digital mediums to connect to doctors, we are observing behavioural change, and it will impact the healthcare sector positively in times to come," Sanjay Singh, Founder of Mount Virtual Hospital, said in a statement.

According to the report, 60 per cent of the women surveyed in the age group of 18-45

years, wanted to connect digitally with their doctors for consultation related to dermatology, nutrition and diet and mental health issues, while 80 per cent of the men (45-85 years of age) still prefer to have online consultation due to fear of Covid-19 infection keeping their age in mind.

"We have observed almost 200 per cent jump in demand for online consultation. Many cancer patients who want to avoid risk of Covid-19 infection are connecting to us over video calls to discuss their problems," said Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director, Department of Clinical Hematology & Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Hospital.

"With a large educated and technology-friendly population, India is now ready to take tele-consultations to the next level and utilise it for complex super specialities as well," Bhargava added.

No wonder, telemedicine is becoming a hugely popular offering in healthcare. A recent Global Market Insights report found that the sector was worth about USD38.3 billion in 2018, and that figure is projected to swell to USD\$130.5 billion by 2025.

**PAKISTAN TO FENCE OFF GWADAR PORT CITY TO SECURE CHINESE INTERESTS**

The Frontier Corps which largely operated with archaic means like batons (lathis) and obsolete weapons is likely to be weaponized in a modern manner with total funding from Beijing, they said.

Assessments suggest the Balochs are likely to target more Chinese convoys as they will be free from factoring in negotiations with the Pak authorities to free captured Chinese engineers and technicians in a bargain for money which was the practice till now.

## Nigerians anxious after 330 boys are kidnapped

**Kankara (Nigeria):** Anger, fear and exhaustion. Anxiety has overwhelmed many parents in Nigeria's northern village of Kankara who await word on their sons who are among the more than 330 kidnapped by extremists from a government boys' school late Friday.

Nigeria's Boko Haram jihadist rebels have claimed responsibility for the abduction of the students from the Government Science Secondary School in Kankara. Hundreds of other students managed to escape by jumping the fence during the extremists' attack or by fleeing as they were taken into the nearby forest.

Boko Haram kidnapped the boys from the school because it believes Western education is un-Islamic, the rebels' leader Abubakar Shekau said in a video claiming responsibility for the attack, according to SITE Intelligence Group. **AP**



## TrendSlazer

### I miss the stage: Ayushmann

Actor **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** misses performing live, and says he also misses touching the hands of fans at gigs.

The actor has posted a picture from one of his past gigs on Instagram to share how much he misses performing live.

"I miss the stage. I miss people screaming at my gigs. I miss touching the hands of the crowd. I miss being part of the crowd of a local artiste's gig somewhere in Eastern Europe. I miss being missed when I get late for my concert," he wrote with the image.



**'A lot of people have approached me to act in their films. After watching my music videos, people feel I can become an actor. I think that I don't want to do anything half-heartedly. I have been learning music since childhood. I don't want to act just for the sake of it. I want to be well prepared before coming into films.'**

—Armaan Malik

Actor **KARTIK AARYAN** flaunts his locks in a new post on Instagram, saying long hair has swag.

In the image, the actor is seen dressed in a denim jacket paired with a yellow T-shirt.

"*Lambe Baalo Ka Swag hi Alag hai. Phir se trend shuru karein* (Long hair has a different swag. Shall we start the trend again?)"

Kartik has started shooting for his next film, Ram Madhvani's *Dhamaka*. The film, which will be produced by Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP and Ram Madhvani Films with Co-Producer Amita Madhvani, gives a bird's eye view into the working of a news channel.



### 'It has been a bittersweet year'

For Hollywood star **JAMIE FOXX**, 2020 has been a bittersweet experience. The Oscar-winning actor says he is learning to overcome the loss of his younger sister, adding that he finds joy in things she taught him and the wisdom she left behind.

Earlier this year, Foxx lost his younger sister DeOndra Dixon, who was born with Down Syndrome, at the age of 36.

"This year has been bitter-sweet for me. I'm living in a situation where my family has been affected by someone we love very dearly — my sister, who has transitioned," Foxx said.



A podcast titled *Mafialand*. What would be your instant reaction as soon as you hear about the show? Well, most or almost all of us would immediately interpret it to be the story of underworlds, dons, drugs and weapons. However, only when one goes into the details of it, s/he realises how it has an entirely different take. *Mafialand* is a glimpse into India's most flourishing industry, i.e. that of the mafia. After all, in every corner of the country there's a mafia, who's probably — at first glance clearing your garbage, parking your car, or selling you groceries, but we tend to ignore them. The show focusses on issues that operate in broad daylight, under our very eyes.

The Spotify Original is made in collaboration with Sikhya Entertainment. Its founder and film producer, Guneet Monga, delves into the making of the podcast, and more. Excerpts:

**How did you conceptualise it?**

The initial idea was to explore the world of mini-mafias in India that control our daily lives. The focus was always on looking at how there is a mafia hidden in every corner of our existence, and we don't even know about it. We drew a parallel with the underworld, because that is the immediate response we get from people when we say the name *Mafialand* — they think we are looking at the pulpy world of the Mumbai mafias. But no! Our show would actually be about something like the garbage disposal mafia in Mumbai. That was how we pitched it to Spotify.



**What research went into it?**

Our co-producer, Confluence Media, is led by a team of established, senior investigative journalists including Josy Joseph. It has a network of stringers across the country, who would bring us the access, the voices, and the story on the ground. The team of

researchers would then prepare extensive and detailed research dockets, from which a writer would craft a compelling and tight narrative. We would give this one brief to all writers: 'Don't use Google!' Our ambition was to create original work that went straight to the source, instead of relying on what was already out there. The purpose was to demonstrate that podcasts can be a form of journalism too, but with a twist. It was also important to identify the right audio streaming platform to work with — one that would give you creative freedom and is open to exploring new podcast concepts.

**"Mafia sirf underworld mein nahi hai, Mafia humari galiyon mein hai, humare gharon mein hai." The podcast says that right from nursery admissions in Delhi to getting admission in sports to parking a car, there's involvement of mafia all around... What do you intend to say?**

I think every Indian knows that there is something wrong in the way things are going. Every young parent in Delhi knows this. Every driver who has to park their car in an Indian city knows this. Every person in Bangalore dealing with dry water taps knows this. So people are aware. What we are telling them is the scale of the problem, the mafia modus operandi, and what combating this mafia nexus means. We are empowering them with insight about their own lives.

**How did you come across people who have been at the receiving end and were ready to open up as these things are usually done secretly?**

One of our most harrowing episodes is Episode 6 — *Amreeka ke Jawai*, where we explore the immigration mafia in Punjab. We had Nirmal Singh, whose teenage son lost his life on his way to the United States, because of the cruel conditions this mafia subjected him to.

## Beyond the borders

Writer-director **AJITPAL SINGH's** debut Hindi feature film, *Fire In The Mountains*, will have its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival virtually



tragedy, when my cousin sister Amarjeet Kaur died because her husband didn't take her to the hospital thinking she was possessed by a ghost. The film is about the clash of two world views — traditional and modern, with a strong woman at the heart of it. I hope my film will make people ask some relevant questions about their blind faiths."

The producer and co-founder of Jar Pictures who has produced award-winning films such as Berlinale winner *Killa* and Oscar entry from India, *Liar's Dice* and commercial hits like *Gangs Of Wasseypur 1 and 2*, *Nil Battey Sannata* and *Qarib Qarib Single*, Ajay Rai says, "We are thrilled to start our film journey here. This is our second film after to be selected at Sundance, after a gap of seven years. It feels truly special."

The Jar Pictures producer Alan McAlex who did individual projects *Dangal* and Amazon series *Made in Heaven* as an Executive Producer and co-produced *A Suitable Boy*, says, "We

are delighted to end this difficult year on an exciting note. It's a great joy to be among 10 films from across the world."

Having promoted indie gems, Mauli Singh produced her award-winning first short film *Rammat-Gammat* with Drishyam Films. Excited about the premiere of her debut feature, the film publicist turned producer says, "Over the past seven years as a publicist, I have passionately promoted some of the best independent films premiering at the top film festivals, all the while harbouring a dream of producing films which will connect with the audience across the world. I couldn't have asked for a better start than this. The film is our labour of love and I am excited to see how the world audience will connect with it."

On her collaboration with Jar Pictures, Mauli says, "I worked with Ajay and Alan as their publicist. It's a joy to collaborate with them as a co-producer on my first feature and learn from the best in the business."

Artists from several countries have collaborated on the film which includes the veteran French DOP Dominique Colin (who collaborated with many auteur filmmakers including Gaspar No  and C dric Klapisch) who shot the film, Simon Price from New Zealand edited the film along with Parikshit Jha, and the music is composed by Arnaud van Vliet of South Africa. The Indian crew includes the production designer Mausam Aggarwal, sound recordist Kanishk Bhoklay, sound designer Mohandas VP, costume designer Karishma Vyas and casting director Taran Bajaj. Additional dialogues are written by Uttarakhand based actor-writer Sudarshan Juyal.

Earlier titled *Switzerland*, the film won two awards, 'Prasad Lab DI' and 'Moviebuff Appreciation' for the best WIP project at 2019 Film Bazaar's Work-In-Progress Lab. It was also part of NFDC Screenwriters Lab 2018-19 and Marche Du Film 2020's, Goes to Cannes Section.



## Fortunate to enjoy audience support: Chandan

Actor Chandan Roy Sanjay's passion for cinema has resulted in a filmography spanning over 14 years. Way before that he established his banner, Proscenium Film Company, under which he created a live film titled, *In Between* (2020). The film was presented over BookMyShow; it opened to appreciation and attracted 500 viewers.

A commentary on the vibrant lives of actors, the film deals with a few actors auditioning for roles amid the emotional turmoil that takes a toll on their profession. Chandan's film borrows heavily from his two decades of theatre experience and one and half decade of experience in cinema.

The actor-producer roped in his team of old actors for the one-take film & theatre phenomenon. He reveals that the project is inspired by his personal experiences and he remarks that he pieced together the script to depict the reality of an actor's life.

Chandan says, "I am grateful to viewers for embracing the film despite it being a relatively alien form of entertainment. Everyone associated with the film is truly excited to bring it back to the audiences and we all realise we're fortunate to enjoy this kind of support. What's interesting is that because the film is about the hardships of an actor's life it is relatable to those acting and it is a revelation for those who think acting is just a glamorous job that pays well."

(The live film will have two shows at 7 pm and 9 pm each on December 19 and 20 on BookMyShow.)

Nirmal spoke to us over the phone while he was working on board a ship in Germany. His story opens the episode. This is a testament to the kind of trust the research team built with our various guests, including former or current members of the mafia themselves.

**How challenging was it to explore this subject?**

One of the main challenges was getting larger character camps in place. Not only did the researchers have to build relationships of trust with everyone, from victims to the accused, but we also had a lot of last-minute dropouts. Especially with the accused, who fear that the authorities will gun for them on the basis of their interviews with us. We have had to navigate through these challenges not just for one story but for all 12. The scope of research is so vast because we are incorporating so many different geographies. All the researchers were working under COVID restrictions, which made access and mobility even more difficult. But through all of that, we persevered. We are grateful to the team of researchers who worked with us and to the streaming platform for being patient given these external challenges.

**In today's world of enhanced visual effects and works, why did you think a podcast would turn out to be better than a visual series for this show?**

Podcasts are a great way to experiment with non-fiction storytelling. It's a more stripped down version of storytelling compared to visual series, which can often hide behind big-name actors, lush production design, and enhanced visual effects. We've seen the growth of podcast consumption across the world and believe that India is heading in the same direction. What's fascinating about a podcast is that it just does not work if the basics of storytelling aren't in place, so it's easier to spot mistakes, but also a great way to hone your skills if you are an emerging writer or filmmaker.

**You have directed and produced another crime podcast, *The Big Shots - Dosa King*. How was the experience of exploring this genre with podcasts?**

The vision for *Dosa King* was always cinematic. We wanted it to be a character study of a great man — P Rajagopal, the man behind Saravana Bhavan. It's a story everyone thinks they know, but we found a whole rich world behind the headlines. So we were excited to jump on the opportunity to tell it through an immersive podcast, where we could marry narration, dramatised scenes, and interviews. And given that Spotify recently produced a true crime podcast in India, it seemed like the perfect fit.

**What would you say about the status of this genre in India? Why do you think podcasts are dominating the media landscape here?**

We are very excited that podcasts are gaining ground in India. It shows that people are hungry for exciting stories, and they want them in different forms, and for different purposes. We hope that our two original podcasts turn out to be gripping, informative, and help further the podcast format in the country.



# PAUSE AND REFLECT

## The Ministry of Jal Shakti holds a review meeting of the National Hydrology Project

The National Hydrology Project was started in the year 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme with 100 per cent grant to implementing agencies with a budget outlay of ₹3,680 crore to be spent over a period of eight years. The project aims at improving the extent, reliability and accessibility of information related to water resources and to strengthen the capacity of water resource management institutions in India. The efficient and reliable information paves the way for an effective water resource development and management.

The project, in its mid term, has made significant progress in the fields of water resource monitoring system, water resource information system (WRIS), water resource operation and planning systems, institutional capacity enhancement and trainings.

The Minister of State, Jal Shakti, Rattan Lal Kataria, informed that under the NHP, a nation wide repository of water resources data — NWIC has been established. Approximately 1,900 real time data acquisition stations (RTDAs) have been set up and contract for 6,500 RTDAs have already been awarded. He informed that near real time data acquisition systems (NRTDAs) as well as manual data acquisition stations are being set up. India WRIS, water information and management system WIMS have been revamped. The major success has been bringing all states on board for data sharing on water resources, a task hitherto left unaccomplished by previous governments.

Kataria also directed authorities to share the valuable research work carried out under NHP in public domain and encourage universities/research institutes globally to benefit as well as contribute towards it. He termed NHP as a project of national importance. He stated that collecting data from scattered agencies posed a major bottleneck in effective water



resource management and also a stumbling block in important policy level decision making.

Acknowledging progress made in data collection, he informed that 12,273 surface water stations have been set up by 2020 as compared to mere 878 in the year 2016. Around 70,525 ground water stations have been set up in a span of four years.

Kataria stated that data is a valuable resource and lack of interest shown by previous governments has resulted into unavailability of reliable historic data. He emphasised that the NDA government, under the dynamic leadership of Narendra Modi, is trying to amend all historical wrongs committed by the previous governments and correct the myopic perspective with which water resource manage-

ment was being handled. He also hailed the very first step in this direction of setting up of Ministry of Jal Shakti for adopting an integrated approach towards effective water management.

He further informed that through NHP, the management of water resources shall witness a sea change since it will adopt an integrated approach and make use of latest cutting edge technology. For

example, opening of gates for dams has so far been a manual operation but through NHP, these operations shall be changed into automatic mode on pilot basis for a few dams.

He lauded the efforts of Haryana government in implementing NHP and informed that Haryana is among the top ten performing states in terms of percentage of funds utilised.



## Baghel celebrates virtual marathon

Chhattisgarh celebrated the completion of two years of Bhupesh Baghel-led state government by participating in the virtual marathon campaign. More than one lakh people hailing from 28 districts took part in the virtual race. The Chief Minister Baghel also took part in the event.

The allocated time for the marathon was set from 6 am till 11 am, but the enthusiasm filled statesman continued the marathon even after the deadline had passed. It was organised by the Sports and Youth Welfare and Public Relations Department of the state. Unlike the commonly held marathon, participants in this virtual marathon had to upload their running photos or videos on social media.

The theme of the event was — *Baat Hai Abhiman Kee, Chhattisgarh Ke Swabhimaan Kee*.

Approximately 71,000 people registered to participate in the event but by 11 am more than one lakh people joined the campaign. Baghel uploaded his photos on social media while sporting a special t-shirt. He said that the entire state and its zeal is running with me. He motivated others to run as well.

The Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, School Education Minister Dr Prem Sai Singh Tekam, Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar, Women and Child Development Minister Anila Bhedia, Excise Minister Kavasi Lakhma, Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma, Raipur (Rural) MLA Satyanarayana Sharma, Raipur Mayor Ejaz Dhebar and many other public representatives attended the event and participated with enthusiasm.

Several bureaucrats including Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain and Director General of Police DM Avasthi, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Rakesh Chaturvedi and Secretary to Chief Minister Siddharth Komal Singh Pardeshi also took part in the campaign. People from all age groups, gender and diverse sections of society participated in the campaign and made it a huge success. Women, children, old-aged and elderly people uploaded their pictures on social media with the #RunwithChhattisgarh hashtag.

## LIC INTRODUCES CUSTOMER-CENTRIC INITIATIVES

LIC is devising better methods to provide services to its esteemed policyholders in the times of the pandemic. The policyholders can now avail its improved customer-centric initiatives. Online facility for switching of funds under ULIP

policies has been introduced through LIC's Customer Portal, registered for premier services.

This facility is available for New Endowment Plus (Plan 935), Nivesh Plus (Plan 849) and SIIP (Plan 852), the three plans current-

ly being sold. The facility of online switching of funds is free of cost. One switch is allowed per day per policy through an OTP based authentication system. All rules applicable for offline requests are applicable for the online system as well.

LIC has also extended the bi-lingual customer care support. The services are now additionally available in Marathi, Tamil and Bengali.

The company also has a

Conversational Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning enabled bi-lingual chatbot, which is a one stop platform for providing information regarding premium due date, various products, including the newly launched plans

and customer queries. The chatbot has answered 1,20,75,440 queries so far since its launch in January 2020.

LIC is well advanced with digital transformation and has responded to the pandemic with great speed and agility.

## GSL launches patrol vessel for Indian Coast Guard

The fifth and the last vessel of the indigenous project for 05 Offshore Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard was launched at the hands of Jayanthi Natarajan, President, Coast Guard Wives Welfare Association, in the presence of DG K Natarajan, DGICG, who was the chief guest for the event at Goa Shipyard Limited. The vessel was named as ICGS Saksham. Considering the ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19, the function was held in a scaled down manner at GSL in distinguished presence of Flag Officer Goa Area Rear Admiral Philipose G Pynumootil, NM, chairman and MD of Goa Shipyard Limited — Commodore BB Nagpal and various other dignitaries.

The indigenous project was launched by the Prime Minister on November 13 2016. Since then, two vessels have been commissioned and all five have been launched. In spite of the ongoing COVID situation and disruptions in supply chains, it is creditable for the shipyard to complete the 100 per cent hull construction and



launch the vessel within 18 months from keel laying, which was in June 2019. The vessel is in advanced stage of outfitting and will be ready for delivery by October 2021 as per the contractual schedule.

Entirely designed in-house by the professionals of GSL, these OPVs will form a formidable part of the Coast Guard Fleet and used for protection of Exclusive Economic Zone of territorial water

of the nation. These vessels will be fitted with modern and technologically advanced machinery and computerised controls systems, making them the advanced patrol vessels in service with the Indian Coast Guard on delivery. These 2,400 tonnes vessels will be equipped with features like quick response boats for rescue and anti piracy, gunnery simulators and many more features. The hull would be the most efficient form

designed by GSL and would provide for fuel efficiency, crew comfort and excellent sea keeping qualities.

While complementing GSL for achieving yet another milestone in execution of five CGOPVs Project, DGICG K Natarajan said, "The launching of this majestic ship, which is an example of fine workmanship and equipped with most advanced machineries, will help Indian Coast Guard in performing multifarious roles chartered to Indian Coast Guard more effectively."

On this occasion Cmde BB Nagpal, CMD GSL, said, "The launch of the fifth OPV despite the serious supply chain constraints imposed by COVID-19 is a major feat for GSL. In line with the shipyard's tradition of delivering on time, we are confident to deliver this last vessel of the project. Our endeavour has been to maximise the indigenous content on these ships. I am happy to state that more than 70 per cent indigenisation has been achieved for these ships."

## SAIL receives Golden Peacock Award

The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 by the Institute of Directors.

Anil Kumar Chaudhary, chairman of SAIL, lauded the efforts and said, "SAIL has been the winner of this award for successive two years and this bears testimony to the efforts made by the company for sustainable and environmentally responsible steel making. This award is one of the most coveted awards in

the category. Considering various environmental issues leading to global warming and climate change, the award encourages corporates to enhance their environmental performance and to compete with peers to set benchmarks."

SAIL, as its corporate responsibility for environment protection, continuously focusses on adopting various environmental measures including upgrading of pollution control facilities, treatment and recirculation of wastewater from individual units and outfalls, efficient handling of different solid wastes, carbon sequestration through afforestation, among others. Also, the impact of



## VIT-AP hosts international conference

VIT-AP University, Amaravati, conducted three days virtual international conference in the area of applications of fluid dynamics. The conference, ICAFD-2020, is the fifth international conference in the series. It was aimed at establishing a premier international forum that brought together scientists, engineers and industrial experts to present the latest achievements and innovations in the areas of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics.

ICAFD-2020 invited resource persons from abroad (USA, Australia, UAE, Singapore, South Africa) and reputed universities (IIT, NIT, VIT, Central University) from India for the talk. The conference was the result of a long collaborative effort between the School of Mechanical Engineering, VIT-AP University and the Department of Mechanical Engineering Science, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

In the welcome address, VC Dr SV Kota Reddy welcomed the founder and Chancellor Dr G Viswanathan, VIT University. Dr Chellor highlighted the role of conference for intellectual growth of an individual, followed by the importance of applications aspects of fluid dynamics influencing our daily life.

Dr Pankaj Tambe, chairperson of the conference said that 175 participants registered for the conference. Hundred participants presented their papers. Out of this, 25 participants were from USA, Canada, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Malaysia, UAE, Singapore, West Indies, Australia. The rest of the papers were from different states of India.

The inaugural address was given by Dr R



Paner Selvam, University of Arkansas, USA. He highlighted the important challenges a fluid dynamics researcher has to work in the near future for the advancement of this area. Dr Viswanathan praised the School of Mechanical Engineering, VIT-AP University for organising the conference during the pandemic.

Dr S Srinivas, co-chair and convener of the conference highlighted the objectives. Dr CLV Sivakumar, registrar, VIT-AP University, presented the vote of thanks. He praised the efforts taken by Dr S Srinivas, Dr Pankaj Tambe, Dr Mohanty, Dr Satyanarayana Badeti, Dr Amit, Dr VR Reddy, S Karthikeyan and Dr J Prakash for successfully arranging the conference.

## ESIC Med College gets new equipment

Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge), and G Kishan Reddy, Minister of State for Home Affairs, jointly dedicated new services and equipment at ESIC Medical College, Hyderabad. The services and equipment dedicated are:

(i) Innovative portable point of care (RT-PCR), a user friendly, quick sample processing device for COVID patients.

(ii) Remote health monitoring system — COVID BEEP services to COVID and Non-COVID patients. It's a comprehensive indigenously developed physiological parameter monitoring system to measure remotely heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, respiratory rate and oxygen saturation. It is the first of its kind wearable device that gives all parameters simultaneously. The device can be controlled by the doctors remotely for measuring blood pressure.

(iii) COVID-safe incubators for new born babies, indige-



nously developed by modifying existing incubators.

(iv) Round the clock in-house dialysis services with 50 beds: There are about 600 dialysis patients in the hospital who were being referred to the private hospitals. During the

pandemic, referral and transport increased the risk of infection of SARS-CoV-2. Therefore, with starting of the dialysis services, all ESIC insured persons and beneficiaries at Hyderabad will get in-house dialysis services.

## GAIL launches testimonial videos

Advocating natural gas as a cleaner and convenient fuel option towards a gas-based economy, as envisioned by the Government of India, GAIL has established a Natural Gas pipeline network of over 12,500 kms. GAIL has been spreading the clean energy to various nooks and corners of the country by spreading the length of its pipeline network and connecting more and more number of cities.

To facilitate energy empowerment and fuel the nation, the company has launched three testimonial videos under its online initiative.

The initiative advocates the use of uninterrupted, convenient supply of piped natural gas (PNG) at homes. It pro-

motes affordable environment-friendly fuel for transportation through compressed natural gas (CNG) and encourages convenient, soot-free and workers' health-friendly energy for better work environment in manufacturing and industries. It also advocates the usage of cleaner natural gas for captive power generation for industries and SMEs. The use of the cleanest fossil fuel will help in reducing emissions of GHG, thereby, facilitating in reduction of air pollution, climate change, global warming and rising sea levels.

An engagement activity has been initiated along with the initiative. The company has launched three testimonial videos under its online initiative. The initiative advocates the use of uninterrupted, convenient supply of piped natural gas (PNG) at homes. It pro-



# Game for Night Life

## India begin quest to repeat 2018-19 heroics with Pink Ball affair

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

A peerless Virat Kohli and his “fearless” India would look to unleash their might on an Australian team which is ready for revenge but not exactly in ‘pink of health’ ahead of the first Day/Night Test starting here at Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

Media mogul Kerry Packer, while promoting his path-breaking ‘World Series Day/Night Test matches’ on *Channel 9* back in late 1970s, had an unforgettable caption “*Big Boys Play At Night*”.

Even in 2020, there couldn’t have been a more appropriate catch-line for a series where Kohli’s magnificence meets its match in Steve Smith’s manic consistency, Cheteshwar Pujara’s doggedness challenged by a much younger Marnus Labuschagne, ready to show the world that he isn’t a one-season wonder. All this would be under lights at the Adelaide Oval.

And then there are those mean fast men on both sides aiming to instill the fear of pink ball in twilight zone, creating all sorts of doubts in the batsmen’s minds.

A Josh Hazlewood versus Mohammed Shami will be as enticing a sub-plot as Jasprit Bumrah bowling those yorkers in reply to Pat Cummins’ barrage of bouncers.

With a workhorse like Ishant Sharma missing from Indian ranks and the enforcer David Warner absent in the Australian line-up, the teams are evenly placed in terms of strength.

However, there will certainly be some distinct home advantage for Australia along with the experience of playing more Day/Night Tests.

A Day/Night Test match has its own little grammar where batsmen are expected to attack in the first session while bowlers are



Indian skipper Virat Kohli bats during net session @imVkohli/Twitter

| INDIA-AUSTRALIA TEST   |       |              |         |      |
|------------------------|-------|--------------|---------|------|
| Venue                  | M     | Ind          | Aus     | Draw |
| In Aus                 | 48    | 7            | 29      | 12   |
| In India               | 50    | 21           | 13      | 15   |
| Total                  | 98    | 28           | 42      | 27   |
| Since 2000             | 42    | 17           | 15      | 10   |
| At Adelaide            | 12    | 2            | 7       | 3    |
| HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS |       |              |         |      |
| Ind                    | 705-7 | at Sydney    | 2003-04 |      |
| Aus                    | 674   | at Adelaide  | 1947-48 |      |
| LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS  |       |              |         |      |
| Ind                    | 58    | at Brisbane  | 1947-48 |      |
| Aus                    | 83    | at Melbourne | 1980-81 |      |
| Faisal Features        |       |              |         |      |

at their peak once the sun sets, allowing the pink kookaburra to pick its pace up.

Never has an Indian team been so spoilt for choices with multiple options in place for various positions.

But Indian skipper Virat Kohli made it clear that Shubman Gill and KL Rahul will have to wait for their chances with the management deciding to stick to an out-of-form Prithvi Shaw in the opening slot.

“Shubman hasn’t got opportunities at this level yet in Test cricket, so as and when he gets an opportunity it will be great to see how he goes about things, because he is a very, very confident young man,” Kohli said on the eve of the game.

“Prithvi has performed at the Test level, but he will be playing in Australia for the first time. So, I think it is very exciting to see his progress as well.”

Can Rahul be fitted in the team at some stage?

“KL is obviously a quality player and hence he has been included back into the Test squad and you know we have to see what combinations suits the balance of the team best,” skipper’s statement stressed that Hanuma Vihari, with his part-time off-

1st Test. Day 1  
Live from 9:30am IST  
SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

breaks, is the choice for now.

For the much-sSpeculated wicketkeeper’s slot, Wriddhiman Saha was preferred over the explosive but erratic Rishabh Pant.

In the build-up to the series, Saha’s fifty in the red-ball first-class match was achieved in a tougher setting than Pant’s 73-ball 100 under lights against a second string Australia A attack.

Also, Umesh Yadav predictably, after his good show in the practice game, got his place in the side as the third pacer.

On Tuesday, India’s top batters were being troubled by Thangarasu Natarajan’s incoming deliveries with pink kookaburra at the Adelaide nets.

If Natarajan, at 130-plus, can trouble them so much, then Mitchell Starc, the world’s top wicket-taker in pink ball Tests, can be menacing.

At times, less options make it easier to choose and Kohli would hope that he has made the right choices so that Ajinkya Rahane can help India do an encore once he takes a break.

### SQUADS

**India (playing XI):** Virat Kohli (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravichandra Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav.

**Australia:** Tim Paine (captain & wicketkeeper), Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Moises Henriques, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, James Pattinson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade.

## Rahane will do tremendous job in my absence: Kohli

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday backed his deputy Ajinkya Rahane to “do a tremendous job” in leading the side once he goes on paternity leave after the first Test against Australia and described their relationship as the one built on “trust and mutual respect”.

“Well, firstly we had a lot of mutual understanding and respect over the years, we have had some great partnerships batting together which is based on trust and understanding on what needs to be done for the team,” Kohli said when asked how he sees Rahane faring in his absence.

He believes that both have been on the same page and know how this team functions.



“Jinks has done a tremendous job in the two tour games and he seems to be very composed and he knows the strengths of our team and how we need to go about things,” he said. Kohli made it clear that

Rahane will certainly follow the template set by him and there is no ambiguity as far as both of them are concerned.

“...We already know the template that we play with and how we want to go about things, so we are absolutely on the same page and I am sure he will do a tremendous job in my absence as well,” the skipper seemed very confident.

As of now, Kohli is keen on setting up the base for Rahane to consolidate once he leaves.

“...The focus remains till the time I am here is to be able to provide, you know, captaincy and leadership and performances as a player to the best of my abilities and from then on, I am pretty confident that Jinks will do a tremendous job.”

## Smith fit to play

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith, whose fitness became a cause of concern after he missed a training session, was merely down with a stiff back and will play in the opening Test against India here, skipper Tim Paine said on Wednesday.

After doing a few stretching exercises and running drills at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday, Smith had skipped the routine football session and headed straight to the dressing room in some discomfort.

Paine said it was not a serious niggle and a day’s rest came as a “blessing in disguise” for the star.

“We expect Steve to be there. He has had a stiff back a number of times before and you can have that if you bat as much as he does at the nets,” Paine said at the pre-match media interaction.

“He has a stiff back before and yesterday (Tuesday) was more precautionary. Obviously, come tomorrow (Thursday), he gets through stiff back and finds a way to score runs like he always does,” he added.



## Green made for Test cricket, will make debut: Paine

**ADELAIDE:** Rookie all-rounder Cameron Green is made for Test cricket and will make his debut in the pink ball match against India, Australia captain Tim Paine announced on Wednesday.

The giant seam-bowling all-rounder made an impressive hundred in the first warm-up game against India A and was drafted into the Test team. While he got concussed in the second game due to a straight drive from Jasprit Bumrah, Paine indicated that the baggy green is waiting for him.

“He trained well. If all things go well, Cam Green will be making his Test debut tomorrow (Thursday). Great news for him. Great news for us and great news for all Australian cricket fans,” Paine said ahead of the series-opener.

Paine, who batted alongside Green in the warm-up game and has also seen him score a lot of runs in Sheffield Shield, is confident that he has a bright future ahead of him.

“He is really impressive for a guy of his age and understands his game pretty well. He has smart cricket brain and is calm under pressure. He is made for Test cricket,” Paine complimented the 21-year-old West Australian’s skills. **PTI**



## Real draw level with leaders Sociedad

AFP ■ MADRID



Karim Benzema spared Real Madrid’s the blues on Tuesday with a winning brace which shot the reigning champions to a 3-1 win over Athletic Bilbao that draws them level on points with La Liga leaders Real Sociedad.

Frenchman Benzema headed home a cross from Dani Carvajal with 16 minutes remaining to put Real ahead against battling Bilbao, who had fought back to level earlier having lost Raul Garcia to two quickfire bookings in opening minutes.

Toni Kroos had given the hosts the lead in Madrid with a thumping strike on the stroke of half-time, but Ander Capa rocked the capital club six minutes after the break when he shot past Thibaut Courtois at the second time of asking.

The 32-year-old



Benzema had other ideas however, putting his team in front before making sure of the points in stoppage time with a clinical finish after collecting Luka Modric’s pass.

Third-placed Madrid gained their fourth straight win in all competitions and are equal on 26 points with Sociedad, who face troubled Barcelona at the Camp Nou on Wednesday, and local rivals Atletico Madrid.

Tuesday’s match was the game in hand which Real had on Sociedad, while Atletico have played two games fewer than their two title rivals.

Barca are nine points back but play one of their two games in hand in the hope of giving some momentum to what has been a miserable season so far.

## India’s bid for 2027 AFC Asian Cup will face tough challenge: Patel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All India Football Federation President Praful Patel on Wednesday acknowledged that the country’s bid to host the 2027 AFC Asian Cup will face tough challenge from other competitors but termed it a “natural consequence” of its rising status in the continent.

Unveiling the Bid Book to host the continental showpiece in 2027 along with Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, Patel said the AIFF is hopeful of winning the hosting right of the tournament which will be competed among 24 teams.

“Competition will be tough but unless you try you will not get anything. Just like any other bidding country, we are also confident of winning the right to host the event. There will be diplomatic support also. It is the country’s bid and AIFF is only a representative,” Patel said.

“India has arrived in the world scene in football. We have hosted men’s FIFA U-17 World Cup and is going to host the women’s U-17 World Cup in 2022. Then, we are hosting the 2022 AFC Women’s Asian Cup. “The bidding of both the



FIFA U-20 World Cup for both men and women is also on the cards. So, it is a natural consequence of having all these top level tournaments that we will bid for the AFC Asian Cup in 2027.”

Asian football heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Iran as well as 2022 FIFA World Cup host Qatar are also bidding for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. Saudi Arabia and Qatar submitted their Bid Books to the AFC on Monday.

India is expected to submit the Bid Book on Thursday or Friday — the deadline for submission. Uzbekistan has pulled out of the race.

In April this year, the AIFF had submitted its official expres-

sion of interest to host the tournament. The host country will be decided in June next year.

Rijiju, on his part, said the Government will extend all possible support to the AIFF to win the bid.

“Indian football need to get back (to earlier glory) and we need to host big events. This is one of the most prestigious football tournaments and from the Government side, we will extend all the support,” said the minister. “It will be a defining moment (if India win the bid). I am confident by 2027 the men’s and women’s team ranking will go up and we will be able to host the tournament. So, the whole nation is supporting the bid,” he said.

## Zimbabwe to host qualifiers of 2023 ODI WC

PTI ■ DUBAI

Zimbabwe will host the qualifiers of the 2023 ODI World Cup between June 18 and July 9, according to a revised scheduled announced by the ICC due to the postponements caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

India, the hosts of the rescheduled 2023 ODI World Cup, along with seven other top Super League teams will qualify directly for the tournament to be held in October-November. The bottom five teams from the Super League will compete in the 2023 World Cup qualifier, joining the best three teams from League 2.

“When we rescheduled the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2023 to October and November 2023 it enabled us to extend the window for qualification events to take place and thereby ensure we maximise the opportunity for qualification to be decided on the field of play,” ICC Head of Events, Chris Tetley said in a statement. The ICC also announced the schedule of the World League 2 and the Challenge League.

## Kohli perfect role model of a leader: Laxman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli’s captaincy is still work in progress as far as captaincy is concerned. Couple of things I think Virat Kohli can improve.”

Laxman touched upon constant experiments with the line-up since Kohli took charge and said this can lead to insecurity among players. Kohli took charge as Test captain in 2014 and was handed the limited-overs’ leadership in 2017.

“...There were certain times when I felt that he becomes little defensive, especially with his field changes.

“The second thing is chopping and changing the playing 11. With experience, I can say that any player, whether experienced or a newcomer, wants that stability, security, so that he can focus on performing to the best of his abilities for the team. That’s something which Virat Kohli can definitely improve on,” he pointed out.

“I mentioned so many times, the intensity and the body language he shows when he’s on the field, whether he’s batting or fielding, I think he leads by example and that is so infectious,” Laxman shared his opinion on *Star Sports* show *Cricket Connected*.

“It rubs off on all of his team-mates and that’s why he’s a



## Chelsea lose for 2nd time in 4 days

AP ■ LONDON

Two losses in four days stalled Chelsea’s serene progress in the Premier League, turning the spotlight onto its expensively assembled attack that remains a work in progress.

Two drab draws for Manchester City in the same period is raising even more questions — notably, what has happened to what was once the most entertaining team in England?

It was an evening for forget for two of the league’s supposed title contenders on Tuesday, with Chelsea’s 2-1 loss at Wolverhampton — sealed by a winning goal in stoppage time — followed by City’s 1-1 draw at home to West Bromwich Albion, one of the favorites for relegation this season.

Chelsea missed the chance to climb into first place, at least for one night, while City



squandered an opportunity to move within sight of the top two in the division, Tottenham and Liverpool.

Chelsea’s setback at Molineux followed a 1-0 loss at Everton on Saturday and both defeats have highlighted the importance of playmaker Hakim Ziyech, who missed them through injury.

Olivier Giroud, who began the season as Chelsea’s third-choice striker but is now starting regularly, opened the scoring in the 49th minute.

Wolves roared back and equalized through Daniel Podence in the 66th before his fellow Portugal international, Pedro Neto, broke forward on the counterattack and drove

home the winner in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard remodeled his attack as part of an offseason spending spree, but Timo Werner is now without a goal in eight games, Kai Havertz has underwhelmed, and another of the new signings, Ziyech, has had spells out injured.

Meanwhile, US winger Christian Pulisic is feeling his way back to match sharpness after a run of injuries. As does Pep Guardiola, with City languishing in sixth place after a tepid display against West Brom, which grabbed a point thanks to an unfortunate own-goal by City defender Ruben Dias in the 43rd.

City had gone ahead through Ilkay Gundogan in the 30th but struggled for imagination in attempting to break down a deep-lying visiting defense.

Guardiola’s team had similar problems in attack in a 0-0 draw at Manchester United on Saturday.

With 18 goals, City is the lowest scorer of the league’s top nine teams.

Guardiola has been playing two defensive midfielders since the offseason departure of long-time playmaker David Silva in an effort to give more protection to his defense, but it is robbing the team of creativity.

West Brom battled to a hard-fought point but it was not enough to save its manager, Slaven Bilic, from getting fired. Bilic lose his job on Wednesday, with West Brom in next-to-last place.

Bilic had been at the club for only 18 months but had earned the admiration of the fans after leading West Brom to automatic promotion from the Championship last season.



## Pacer Migael receives maiden SA call-up

IANS ■ JOHANNESBURG

Fast bowler Migael Pretorius has received his maiden call up in the South Africa squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against Sri Lanka.

The 25-year-old has had an exceptional season so far in the 4-Day Domestic Series under the coaching of former Proteas paceman Allan Donald. He is currently third on the tournament’s leading wicket takers table with 19 scalps from five matches and best bowling figures of 7/102 against the Hollywoodbets Dolphins in their season opener last month.

“We’re pleased to include Migael in the Proteas Test squad for the Sri Lanka series. We’re big on rewarding consistently good work and the player has done a lot to make a case for himself,” said Cricket South Africa Convenor of Selectors Victor

Mpitsang in a statement.

“We hope that this experience will be a great learning one for him and that this can serve as encouragement for players across the country, showing them that their chances may not be as far off as they think,” he added.

Meanwhile, Kagiso Rabada and Dwain Pretorius have not yet been medically cleared to participate in the series.

The Proteas will gather in Pretoria on Saturday for the Test series which begins on December 26.

**Test squad:** Quinton de Kock (captain), Temba Bavuma, Aiden Markram, Faf du Plessis, Beuran Hendricks, Dean Elgar, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Rassie van der Dussen, Sarel Erwee, Anrich Nortje, Glenton Stuurman, Wiaan Mulder, Keegan Petersen, Kyle Verreynne, Migael Pretorius.

## Doha to host 2030 Asian Games, Riyadh in 2034

**MUSCAT:** Doha will host the 2030 Asian Games, the Olympic Council of Asia announced on Wednesday, while Riyadh was named as host of the 2034 edition under a compromise agreed between the rivals.

An executive board meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) unanimously approved the proposal to name the runner-up in the two-horse race for the 2030 games as 2034 hosts.

“I can now announce... that the city who had the highest vote and will host 2030 in Doha,” said OCA president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

“The second hosting city, for 2034, is Riyadh.”

Doha beat Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in a vote of 45 National Olympic Committees at the 39th OCA General Assembly held in Muscat, Oman.

Doha hosted the Asian Games in 2006 while Saudi Arabia has never organised an OCA multi-sport event. **AFP**