

OPINION 8
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THE KIDS**WORLD 11**
US PUBLISHES LIST OF CHINESE,
RUSSIAN FIRMS WITH MILITARY TIES**AVENUES 12**
TIPS TO ACE
UPCOMING BOARDS

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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20 fliers from UK Covid +ve; No 'strain', says Govt

RAJESH KUMAR/
ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid new virus strain scare, 20 passengers who arrived in India on separate flights from London have tested positive for Covid-19. This even as the Government claimed that there is no trace so far of the new strain of coronavirus in India.

Of the travellers who tested positive seven landed in Amritsar, five in Delhi, four in Ahmedabad, including a British national, two in Kolkata, one in Chennai. One is a crew member of Air India.

While the Government on Tuesday claimed that there is no trace of new variant of the Covid-19 detected in the UK in India, on the first day itself of issuing guidelines to check the virus, the detection of so many Covid positive fliers from Britain arriving here is a cause of serious concern.

The new strain is said to be more transmissible and affecting the younger population.

While their samples have been sent to the National Centre for Disease Control for research, the detection suggests that the mutated virus may be already doing the rounds in the country, sources in the Union Health Ministry said.

The test results of passengers who arrived from the United Kingdom have raised serious question on safety of air passengers as to whether proper screening is being done before they board the plane in foreign destination.

In India, rules clearly stated that passenger have to give self-declaration certifying that he is not carrying the coronavirus. In some cases, airline insisted test report to ensure the passenger is coronavirus free.

"International travellers from the UK who arrived in India from November 25 to December 8, 2020 (the first and second week starting November 25) will be contacted by District Surveillance Officers and advised to self-monitor their health. If anyone among them develops symptoms, they will take the RT-PCR test and standard follow-up action would be initiated," as per the document released here for epidemiological surveillance and response to the new variant.

In fact, sources in the Ministry said efforts are already on to contact those who arrived in India from the UK in this period i.e. from November 25 to December 8. Though at a press conference, Dr VK Paul, Niti Aayog member, said that the new strain that has been spreading rapidly in the UK has not been detected in India yet but the SOP clearly rings alarm bells.

Six passengers who tested positive on their arrival in India were among the 266 who travelled by the Air India Flight that landed in the national Capital at 10.40 pm on Monday. A passenger who returned from the United Kingdom via Delhi to Chennai has tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday. His sample has been sent to Pune to check if it is the new strain of the virus.



Passengers wait in the arrival area after landing of a flight from the UK at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Tuesday

Seven passengers and a crew member who arrived here from the UK in an Air India flight tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday. Among the infected passengers are six men and two women.

The Air India flight from London had landed at Amritsar's Sri Guru Ramdas Jee International Airport with 250 passengers and 22 crew members at 12.30 am last night.

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Centre issues SOP for new arrivals

RT-PCR test and isolation in unit of institutional facility must

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after it announced suspension of flights from the UK from December 25 to this year-end as a safety precaution in the wake of emergence of a new variant of coronavirus, the Union Health Ministry issued the SOP for the travellers coming from Britain.

The Ministry has mandated RT-PCR test and isolation in a separate unit of an institutional facility if a traveller is found positive.

"The new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, reported in the UK, is estimated by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) to be more transmissible and affecting a younger population.

"This variant is defined by a set of 17 changes or mutations. One of the most significant is an N501Y mutation in the spike protein that the virus uses to bind to the human ACE2 receptor. Changes in

this part of the spike protein may result in the virus becoming more infectious and spreading more easily between people," the Ministry warned.

It said that all travellers from the UK will be required to declare, according to existing procedure, their travel history of the past 14 days and fill up the self-declaration form to be screened for Covid-19.

All passengers coming from the UK from December 21 to 23 would be subjected to the RT-PCR test on arrival and this has to be ensured by respective State Governments, the SOP stated.

Those found negative in RT-PCR test at the airport would be advised quarantine at home and followed up, while the passengers who are found positive shall be isolated in an institutional isolation facility in a separate unit coordinated by the respective state health authorities. They would earmark specific facilities for such isolation and treatment, it said.

A spike gene-based RT-PCR test should also be performed by an appropriate laboratory in case of a positive sample, the Health Ministry recommended.

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Delhi airport has storage capacity of 2.7 mn vaccine vials at any given time: CEO

New Delhi: The Delhi airport has a storage capacity of 2.7 million vials of Covid-19 vaccine at any given point of time, said a top official of its operator on Tuesday.

Vidheh Kumar Jaipuriar, the CEO of Delhi International Airport Limited, said the vaccine distribution programme, which is likely to begin from January, has been named "Project Sanjivani" by the airport operator. Jaipuriar said Pfizer vaccine has to be kept at minus 70 degrees Celsius and therefore the Delhi airport does not have any storage facility for that vaccine.

Gupkar Alliance steals the show in Kashmir

DDC polls: BJP retains majority in Jammu region

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) under the chairmanship of Farooq Abdullah is headed for a clear victory in Kashmir Valley while the BJP, with running an aggressive star studded election campaign in the region, is hoping to retain majority seats in its strong bastion across Jammu province to wield control over the newly elected District Development Councils.

The PAGD had fought the entire election on the plank of restoring Statehood and the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir.

According to the latest trends available on the website of the Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu & Kashmir, out of 280



National Conference candidate Salmaan Sagar flashes victory sign after his lead in the municipality election results, in Srinagar, on Tuesday

seats the election results of 226 seats were declared till late evening while counting was still going on the rest of the seats. As per the result tally, the PAGD won 92 seats while BJP was second at 64 and Congress party was trailing with 20 seats in its kitty at number three slot in the overall tally. On its own the NC had won 53 seats, JKPPD 25, CPI(M) 5, JKPC 6 and JKPM 3.

Former BJP Minister and

party vice president Shakti Raj Parihar earned a unique distinction of losing both the seats at the hands of the National Conference and Congress candidates.

Two other former BJP legislators Prof Garu Ram and Sham Lal Choudhary in Jammu, however, managed to win their seats from RS Pura and Suchetgarh constituencies respectively.

Continued on Page 11

Won't cancel CBSE board exams; offline mode after Feb: Min

Modalities will be worked out in consultation with MHA, Health Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Setting aside speculation about the mode and schedule of board examinations, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Tuesday stated that the CBSE board examinations will be held offline only and that no exams, including practicals, will be held before the end of February 2021.

During a virtual interaction with teachers from across the country, Nishank said more modalities on the board exams and other entrance tests like JEE and NEET will be worked upon in consultation with the Home and Health Ministries. He made it clear that the board exams will not be cancelled.

"The Classes 10 and 12



CBSE board exams 2021 will not be held in January and February. The exact exam schedule will be decided after February 2021," said Nishank.

"I received a lot of requests from various #students & #teachers to postpone @cbseindia29 board #exams for Class 10 & 12. Keeping the #COVID19 pandemic in mind & after various consultations, we have decided that #board exams will not be held in February," he tweeted later.

Continued on Page 11

Farmers adamant, to decide today course of action on Govt proposal

Union leaders will urge UK MPs to ask Boris Johnson not to attend R-day function

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Another hope of bringing an end to the stand-off between farmers and the Government ended on Tuesday after the protesting farmers on Tuesday said a decision on the Central Government's offer for fresh talks has been deferred to Wednesday, even as they remained adamant on their demand to repeal the three farm laws.

Besides, two other important developments of the day included a statement by farmers in which they said they would write to Britain MPs, urging them to press their Prime Minister Boris Johnson not to attend India's Republic Day celebrations on January 26 and emphasised on their earlier decisions to boycott all products of Adani and Ambani.



Farmers gather at Singhu Border during their sit-in protest against the Centre's farm reform laws, in New Delhi on Tuesday

"We all farmers have also decided to throw away all the towers installed by corporate houses such as Ambani in our fields. Following the protest, the farmers union have also wrote a letter to MP of Britain urging to stop British Prime Minister to visit India on Republic Day," said Kulwant Singh Sandhu,

farmers' leader.

The farmers protesting at Ghazipur border on Tuesday morning blocked both carriageways of National Highway-24 alleging some farmers coming from western UP were blocked by authorities on way to the protest site.

Continued on Page 11

Air pollution wiped out ₹2.6L cr, killed 17L people in 2019

Economic loss per capita was highest in Delhi, says study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The economic loss due to premature deaths and morbidity from air pollution — as high as 1.7 million (18 per cent of the total deaths) — was ₹2.6 lakh crore or 1.4 per cent of the GDP in India in 2019, according to a new scientific paper published in Lancet Planetary Health release on Tuesday.

The economic loss per capita was highest in Delhi, which was to the tune of \$62.0. Delhi was followed by neighbouring Haryana at \$53.8, according to the scientific paper on health and economic impact of air pollution.



In Delhi, the loss due to lost output from premature deaths and illness attributable to air pollution as a percentage of State GDP was 1.06 per cent, while Uttar Pradesh recorded highest loss to GDP at 1.34 per cent followed by Punjab at 1.22 per cent.

"Delhi had the highest per-capita economic loss due to air pollution, followed by Haryana in 2019, with 5.4 times variation across all States," said the findings.

Continued on Page 11

Trump bestows Legion of Merit on Modi, PM says 'I am honoured'

MEA: Award is in recognition of PM leadership and vision for India's emergence as a global power

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump has conferred the Legion of Merit, one of the highest military honours of the US, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in elevating bilateral strategic partnership and accelerating emergence of India as a global power.

Prime Minister Modi thanked President Trump for the honour, saying the award recognises efforts of people of India and US to improve ties.



"I am deeply honoured to be awarded the Legion of Merit by @POTUS @realDonaldTrump. It recognises the efforts of the people of India & the US to improve bilateral ties, reflected in the bipartisan consensus in both countries about the Indo-US Strategic Partnership," Modi tweeted on Tuesday.

The PM said the 21st century presents both unprecedented challenges as well as opportunities. "The India-US relationship can leverage the

vast potential of our people's unique strengths to provide global leadership for the benefit of entire humanity... On behalf of the 1.3 billion people of India, I reiterate my Government's firm conviction and commitment to continue working with the US Government, and all other stakeholders in both countries, for further strengthening India-US ties," Modi added.

India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, accepted the award on behalf of the PM from the US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien at the White House on Monday.

President Trump "presented the Legion of Merit to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in elevating the US-India strategic partnership," O'Brien said in a tweet.

Continued on Page 11

Prachanda faction expels PM Oli as party's chairman

Madhav Kr Nepal picked as chair

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The ruling Nepal Communist Party's Central Committee faction led by Executive Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Tuesday removed Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli from the post of chairman and decided to take disciplinary action against him, virtually splitting the party more than two years after its formation.

The Central Committee unanimously nominated senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal as the party's second chairman in place of Oli. Prachanda is the first chairman of the party.

"Now Dahal and Nepal



will chair the meetings in turn as stated in the party statute," said Rekha Sharma, a central committee member.

"Oli has been expelled as the party chair for going against the party," Sharma was quoted as saying by the Kathmandu Post.

Former Prime Minister Jhulanath Khanal and former agriculture minister Ghanashyam Bhushal were among the attendees of the Central Committee meeting of Prachanda-led faction.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

AIR QUALITY TURNS 'SEVERE' IN DELHI-NCR

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality turned "severe" on Tuesday with slow wind speed and low temperature allowing accumulation of pollutants, according to weather department officials. The average air quality plunged to "severe" also in Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida and Faridabad.

'RIOT ACCUSED SLAP FALSE CHARGE FOR SYMPATHY'

New Delhi: The Mandoli jail authorities has claimed before a court here that an accused in a Northeast Delhi riots case, who had alleged of being badly beaten by prison officials, misbehaved with staff and made "false", "mischievous" allegations to gain sympathy.

RAIL MOTORMAN SAVES LIFE BY BRAKING IN TIME

Thane: Timely action by an alert motorman Of the Central Railway saved the life of a man lying unconscious on the railway track near Ambarnath station on Tuesday, police said.

NOTICE

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NOTICE

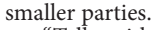
NOTICE

"Saurav Sharma" and "Saurav" both are my names. I should be identified & written as "Saurav Sharma" and "Saurav" both as one person. My real birth date is 09.06.1997. Saurav Sharma S/o Shri Chandra Shekhar Sharma. Address-681(I) TPT, A S C P L Lucknow.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rajbhar, a BJP ally till May



also on with Jan Adhikar Party president Babu Singh Kushwaha, Rashtra Uday Party chief Babu Ram Pal, Janata Kranti Party president Anil Singh Chauhan and Rashtriya Upekshit Samaj Party chief

"If a student feels that his marks are low then he or she can take the exam again. In such a situation, students will be able to improve," he said. The official said that admissions through UGPAT could be conducted from the new session in BPharma. AKTU Vice Chancellor Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak said that the process of admission to BPharma through UGPAT would give students an opportunity to study in other institutions of UP and other institutes of the country.

Interestingly, Rajbhar held meetings with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav but neither side has since said anything on the meetings.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After walking out of

“The CBI’s chargesheet in Hathras rape case has exposed the lies and irresponsibility of the BJP regime, by confirming gang-rape in the case,” he said. Affirming his belief in the judiciary and democracy, Akhilesh expressed confidence that former SP minister and jailed Rampur MP Mohammad Azam Khan would soon get justice in the false cases registered against him by the UP Police.

months for which I credit the judiciary as it did justice to me."

Her husband Azam Khan and ex-SP MLA son Abdullah Azam continue to remain in Sitapur jail.

TENDER NOTICE

No.SSA/CW/KGBV-VI to X/254/2020/3510 Dated - 21/12/2020

The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, invites fresh bids for the following work from registered contractors [Class- I (A, B & C)] under A. P.W.D.(Building) Assam, having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 22/12/2020(04:30 PM) to 11/01/2021 (2:00 PM) The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Name of Work	No	Place	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
CONSTRUCTION OF KASTURBA GANDHI BALIKA VIDYALAYA (CLASS VI to X) (ACADEMIC BLOCK ASSAM TYPE WITH RCC HOSTEL BUILDING (G+2) (KGBV-TYPE-II), SSA, ASSAM	1D	Jamadarhat ,Dhubri	Rs.1,91,28,900.00 [Per site]	12 (twelve months)	Rs.3,82,578.00 (for General) Rs.1,91,289.00 (for reserved Category) [PER SITE]	The Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Guwahati-19	Rs.5000.00



Sd/- Mission Director,
SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog No. CF/3433/20

चौ० चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ

कोरोना हारेगा देश जीतेगा

कुलपति श्री. एच. सी. तनेजा

कुलपति श्री. एच. सी. तनेजा

किसान मसीहा चौ० चरण सिंह जी

**किसान मसीहा चौ० चरण सिंह एवं
युगपुरुष मा० अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी
के योगदान को शत-शत नमन**

भारत रत्न मा० अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी

वैद्य श्री चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र का एक महत्वपूर्ण विश्वविद्यालय है। पिछले 50 वर्षों में विश्वविद्यालय परिवार के समस्त सदस्यों ने अपनी गहन निष्ठा, मेहनत और भविष्य दृष्टि संवारने का अथक प्रयास किया है। पौराणिक काल से ही महत्वपूर्ण यह क्षेत्र देश की आजादी के आंदोलन में भी अपनी महती भूमिका के कारण विख्यात रहा है। विश्वविद्यालय आधारभूत सुविधाओं की दृष्टि से प्रदेश और देश में अपना विशिष्ट स्थान रखता है। विद्यार्थियों को वर्तमान वैश्विक युग की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार गुणवत्ता युक्त उच्च शिक्षा देने में प्रयत्नशील है। उच्च शिक्षा का जन-जन तक पहुंचाने के वाक्यिक का निर्वहन विश्वविद्यालय अपने सीमित संसाधनों में पूरी ईमानदारी व लगन से कर रहा है। यह विश्वविद्यालय लगभग 222 एकड़ भू-क्षेत्र में विकसित है, जिसमें पुथक-पुथक विभागीय शैक्षणिक भवन, नवीनतम उन्नत उपकरणों से समृद्ध प्रयोगशालाएं, आधुनिक सुविधाओं से युक्त पुस्तकालय, मध्य प्रेक्षागृह, विशाल प्रशासनिक भवन, सामुदायिक केन्द्र, विश्वविद्यालय, कम्प्यूटर केन्द्र, वातावरणीय प्रदूषण-मुक्त तथा घुमना-मुक्त तथा घुमना-मुक्त बनाना, जैविक खाद निर्माण द्वारा कृषि निस्तारण योजना का क्रियान्वयन। क्रीडा भवन, कुश्ती स्टेडियम, विशेष रूप से विकसित किये गये विविध खेल मैदान तथा कोर्ट, तपोवन एवं साहित्य कुटीर आदि वांछित सुविधाएँ हैं।

उपलब्धियाँ

1. अनेक वर्षों से लम्बित नैक मूल्यांकन सम्मन एवं सम्मानजनक ग्रेड।
2. विश्वविद्यालय के समस्त प्रवेश ऑनलाइन सुनिश्चित एवं प्रक्रियाओं का सरलीकरण।
3. परीक्षाओं का समयबद्ध संचालन एवं सुविधापूर्ण संचरण, एवं सुव्यवस्थित तथा सुगमिष्ठ रीति से दीक्षासमाप्ति समारोह का आयोजन।
4. शैक्षणिक विभागों में रिक्त आचार्य एवं सहायक आचार्य के पदों पर नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण हो चुकी है।
5. परिसर को रैगिंग-मुक्त प्रदूषण-मुक्त तथा घुमना-मुक्त बनाना, जैविक खाद निर्माण द्वारा कृषि निस्तारण योजना का क्रियान्वयन।
6. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सी.बी.सी.एस. के माध्यम से शिक्षण प्रारम्भ एवं शैक्षणिक विभागों के शोध व अध्ययन हेतु कतिपय विदेशी संस्थानों तथा भारत के अन्य अनुसंधान केन्द्रों के साथ अनुबन्ध।
7. प्रशासनिक, अकादमिक, वित्तीय तथा विधायी प्रक्रियाओं का क्रमबद्ध सरलीकरण।
8. शैक्षणिक विभागों में अध्ययन, अध्यापन एवं अनुसंधान पर विशेष ध्यान।
9. अकादमिक गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चयन हेतु प्रकोष्ठ का पुनर्गठन एवं नियमित क्रियाशीलता को प्रोत्साहन।
10. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में छात्र/छात्राओं के सर्वांगीण विकास हेतु स्पर्िकमैके संस्था के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में शारद्रीय/लोकसंगीत के आयोजन तथा साहित्यिक सांस्कृतिक परिषद की पहल पर महापुरुषों की जयन्ती के अकादमिक एवं सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम।
11. पी.एच.डी प्रवेश परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण छात्रों का प्री-पी.एच.डी कोर्सवर्क में प्रवेश तथा अर्ह छात्रों का शोध पंजीकरण।
12. विभिन्न प्रशासनिक तथा अकादमिक समितियों का पारदर्शी पुनर्गठन।
13. सम्बद्धता के सभी लम्बित प्रकरणों पर त्वरित निर्णय।
14. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में चालीस वर्षों जल संग्रहण संयंत्र स्थापित किये गये एवं अनुसंधान के क्षेत्र में पं० दीनदयाल उपाध्याय शोधपीठ।
15. शैक्षणिक विभागों में पाठ्य समिति तथा शोध उपाधि समिति की बैठक का आयोजन।
16. विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सीर ऊर्जा सन्वयन द्वारा 1260 किलोवाट विद्युत का उत्पादन।
17. स्वामी विवेकानन्द की 12 फीट की धातु की मूर्ति का लोकार्पण।
18. ऑनलाइन ग्रीवेंस रेड्रेसल सिस्टम की शुरुआत।
19. सहारनपुर राज्य विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना के लिए 100 करोड़ रुपये जारी किये।

Study Programmes on the Campus

State Funded Courses :- Genetics & Plant Breeding (Ag. Botany) Botany, Chemistry, Economics-(MA, M.Phil & Ph.D.), Education (M.Ed., M.Phil, Ph.D.), English (MA, M.Phil, Ph.D.), Hindi, History, Horticulture, Mathematics, Microbiology, B.Sc. Food Microbiology, Safety & Quality Control, Physiology, Sanskrit, Statistics, Urdu, Zoology (Toxicology), Foreign Languages (Russian, German, French), B.Tech., Geography (PG), Physical Education (BP.Ed, MP.Ed, Yoga), Political Science

Self Finance Courses :- Institute of Business Studies (MBA, BBA, BBA (HA), B.Com, (Hon's), M.Com, MBA (Hospital Administration), MCA, Biotechnology, Home Science (Human Development Food Nutrition), Food Science & Technology (Plant Protection, Entomology, & Plant Pathology), Seed Science & Technology, BJMC, MJMC, M.Phil (MJMC), Fine Art, Law (BA -LLB, LL.M), Environmental Science, Geography (PG Diploma in GIS), Library Science (B.Lib, M.Lib), Sociology (MSW), Master of Public Administration (MPA), Diploma in Psychological Counselling, Vedic Math, Applied Microbiology, Medical Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Polymer Science, & Chemical Technology, M.Sc (Bio-Chemistry), B.Sc. Chemistry (Hon's).

धीरेन्द्र कुमार
कुलसचिव

सुशील कुमार गुप्ता
वित्त अधिकारी

प्रो. वाई. विमला
प्रतिकुलपति

प्रो० एन. के. तनेजा
कुलपति

CM cautions against new corona strain

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials to maintain full care and vigilance in view of the new coronavirus strain that has surfaced in the world.

He said that keeping this in view, the district administrations should ensure effective contact tracing and quarantine of people who have come to UP from the affected countries in the last 15 days.

The chief minister, who was presiding over an unlock review meeting at Lok Bhawan here, also directed the Health department to issue a helpline number in this regard and said that it should also be ensured that private labs should not charge more than Rs 700 for RT-PCR tests. “If a sample is collected from the house, the charge should be not more than Rs 900 and these arrangements should be implemented strictly,” he said.

Expressing satisfaction over the 95.68 per cent recovery rate in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said that the state government was committed to saving people from COVID-19 infection and asked the officials to further improve the testing rate. The chief minister also directed



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officials to maintain arrangements at the COVID-19 hospitals, saying there should be smooth availability of medicines, medical equipment and oxygen backup there.

He said people should be constantly made aware about preventive measures to be taken to prevent COVID-19 infection. He said the e-Sanjeevani app should be publicised widely so that more and more people could take the benefit of medical consultation through it. It may be mentioned that the number of e-Sanjeevani app users in the

state has crossed over three lakh. On Tuesday, 197 persons tested positive in Lucknow, taking the city tally to 76,896. Besides, 185 patients recovered while the death toll reached 1,088. The fresh cases included 27 from Gomtinagar, 25 from Indiranagar, 14 from Ashiyana, 11 each from Chowk & Aliganj and 10 from Vikasnagar. Across the state, 1,277 persons tested positive, including 58 in Kanpur, 70 in Ghaziabad, 46 in Gautam Buddhnagar, 57 in Varanasi and 54 in Meerut, taking the UP tally to 5,76,832.

Vigil on people coming from foreign countries intensified

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Health department is reinforcing the vigil on people coming from foreign countries in the wake of the mutated strand of coronavirus detected in the UK.

A senior health official said although flights from the UK have already been cancelled by the Centre, district teams of the department are continuously vigilant at the airports.

He said there are clear-cut instructions that all those coming from the foreign countries have to be tested. “We have already been on the job for the last month and a half as teams have been positioned at the airport, bus stations and railway stations for the purpose,” he said. Officials said that the mutated strand of coronavirus has led to concern and they are stressing on precautions to be followed by people.

Officials said the active cases and positivity rate in Lucknow have decreased during this month but the death

rate has increased.

“The death rate has increased to 1.8 percent. The number of deaths keeps on varying and the increase could be attributed to the decrease in cases and winter season making the matters worse for heart patients and others with comorbidities,” he said, adding that the death rate is almost similar to that in September.

The official said that in the areas with maximum coronavirus cases, they have started contact tracing at the offices where people are testing positive. “More cases are coming to the fore from new areas of the city instead of the old and we have not been able to know the reason,” he added.

Meanwhile, People’s Health Organisation Secretary Dr Ishwar Gilada said one should not panic over the new mutant virus strain reported in the UK as the Central government is alert and one should be concerned with imaginary situations. He said the virus has already been on the decline in

the India but the emerging concern is the post-Covid syndrome and long-haul COVID. “Subset of people who have recovered from Covid-19 are experiencing lingering symptoms that can be described as post-Covid syndrome, long-haul Covid or long Covid. This can last for weeks to months,” he said.

He added that often this physiological suffering is downplayed as a psychological problem and the patients get scuttled. “Post-Covid syndrome is a new, unique phenomenon, and the medical community is still learning about it. It can have huge downstream effects on a person’s quality of life, impacting family and social life as also productivity. It is also seen in those who had mild symptoms and hence it is reason enough to fortify the steps towards prevention of Covid and requires holistic care with multidisciplinary approach, patience and reassurance in addition to physical therapy,” he said.

Elderly man, live-in partner killed over land dispute

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An elderly man and his live-in partner were killed by his sons and grandsons over a land dispute, at his house in Madaon on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. After a case was registered, the police arrested the accused.

The deceased were identified as Ram Dayal (70) and Shanti Devi (60) of Semra Garhi in Madaon while the accused as Ram Milan, his brothers Praveen Kumar and Santosh and Ramdayal’s grandsons Rahul & Avnish.

As per reports, the police got a call around 1 am on Tuesday about the murder and a team reached the scene. The police collected primary details related to the incident and started a manhunt for the accused. Commissioner of Police DK Thakur said the accused were nabbed after a while and grilled. The accused owned their crime during interrogation,” he added.

It surfaced that Ram Dayal had a 6.5 biswa farming land at a prominent location in Itaunja



and he had sold it for Rs 57 lakh after being persuaded by his live-in partner Shanti Devi. After the land was sold, Ram Dayal got Rs 11.5 lakh in his bank account while Rs 4 lakh was given to Shanti’s son Monu.

The news reached Ram Dayal’s first wife and her sons. Around 9 pm on Monday, the accused reached Ram Dayal’s house where they confronted him on his decision to sell the land. Ram Dayal and Shanti Devi confronted the accused who strangled them to death and fled the scene.

Shanti’s son Sanjay came to know about the incident and he called police. Sanjay told the police that Ram Dayal would have verbal spat with his sons and his wife over the land. The police later nabbed the accused.

KGMU FOUNDATION DAY

Rajnath calls upon doctors to work in armed forces

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Calling upon KGMU students to come forward and work in the armed forces, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said it would also give them an opportunity to serve the country. Singh was addressing the students in the 114th and 115th Foundation Day of KGMU virtually. The programme was organised at the Scientific Convention Centre on Tuesday.


Urging the students to work with a never-say-die spirit, Singh said: “We were all living in challenging times which have also showcased the human resilience in its superior form. We are fighting an unknown enemy in coronavirus which has also highlighted the brilliance, endurance and resilience of mankind. This is a great learning for the youth that whatever be the challenges, we must give a big fight and have the faith to win.” He also asked the students to always have a querying thought process. “You may think big, you may think small, you may think strange but let the thought processes continue and also involve your teachers in discussions,” he added.


“2020 will be remembered for a long time, especially amongst the medical fraternity. This pandemic has forced us to fight a battle which most of the people had never even imagined. The kind of hard work which the doctors put in the beginning cannot be expressed in words and they are still working tirelessly under tough circumstances,” he said.

Pointing out that a similar situation had prevailed in 1918 during the occurrence of Spanish flu, he said battle is not over as a new strain of coronavirus has been detected in Britain. “This is a matter of concern, the battle will continue till we have vaccinated all, and hence we should seriously follow the precautions. The work associated with the vaccination is over and scientists will complete their trials fast. The first instalment of the Sputnik vaccine from Russia will also be arriving shortly. There is a consensus that the vaccination will be first given to health workers, including doctors and paramedical staff,” Singh said. The defence minister said KGMU has a standing and credibility, the feeling of respect and gratitude. “The importance of this institution can be judged from the fact that they have given stalwarts which are institutions in themselves,” he said. “This Foundation Day programme is also an opportunity for me to thank the medical community for the sincerity and sacrifice with which they have served people during these times, which the entire humanity will remember. I remember an image in which superheroes were shown bowing to the doctors. Members of the medical fraternity are superheroes and no Batman and Superman could have saved the world from coronavirus. The commitment and alacrity with which they responded is something for which the entire world will be indebted to them,” Singh said. He told the youngsters to take inspiration from this and not consider their degrees as their individual possession but a social trust. “We are proud of the glorious history of KGMU but more than the history, the importance of a dynamic institution is also seen in its future and hence as we stand in 2020, we also have to determine where KGMU will stand 30 years from now. Can KGMU emerge as a centre of excellence? I am sure it will,” Singh said.

The minister said that the building of KGMU is placed where Machhli Bhawan was once located and Awadh culture has always associated good health with fish, and this tradition of good health needs to be carried forward in the 21st century.

Admitting that there is a big gap in the healthcare associated with the 135 crore people of India, he said it is a big challenge for the government. “If the private sector was not spending in the health sector, the situation would be more serious. The out-of-pocket medical expenses account for 59 percent, which is enough to break the back of those who are poverty-ridden. It is for this reason that the government started the Ayushman Bharat scheme for 10 crore families and 1.5 crore people have benefitted,” he pointed out. “I have always thought of health being based on balance which is a science in itself. In all the medical approaches, it is said that health is based on balance, be it Ayurveda, Unani, Allopathy, Naturopathy, Homeopathy or Reiki. We should always remember to maintain the balance in all kinds of situations and this I am saying not because these words are written in any great books but out of my own experience,” he added.





देश की खुशहाली का रास्ता
खेतों और खलिहानों से होकर गुजरता है।

- चौधरी चरण सिंह

किसानों के कल्याण के लिए जीवन समर्पित करने वाले
कुशल नेतृत्वकर्ता एवं पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री

चौधरी चरण सिंह जी की जयंती
किसान दिवस (23 दिसम्बर, 2020)
पर शत्-शत् नमन

(23 दिसम्बर, 1902 - 29 मई, 1987)

“माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में किसानों के हितों को सर्वोपरि रखते हुए अनेक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाये गए हैं, जिससे अन्नदाताओं के जीवन में बदलाव और खुशहाली आ रही है। किसानों के कल्याण एवं सम्मान के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार समर्पित है।”

- योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

किसान-सम्मान दिवस पर आयोजित होने वाले कार्यक्रम

पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री चौधरी चरण सिंह जी की प्रतिमा पर मा. मुख्यमंत्री जी द्वारा माल्यार्पण


समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान : विधान भवन प्रांगण

कृषकों का सम्मान, के.सी.सी. एफ का लोकार्पण
फार्म मशीनरी बैंक के अन्तर्गत ट्रैक्टर चाबी वितरण
कृषक उपहार योजनान्तर्गत ट्रैक्टर चाबी वितरण
कल्याणकारी योजनान्तर्गत दुर्घटना बीमा लाभ वितरण

समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:10 बजे | स्थान : लोक भवन सभागार

विगत 3.5 वर्षों में किसानों के हित में उठाये गए महत्वपूर्ण कदम

- 36 हजार करोड़ रु. से 86 लाख लघु एवं सीमांत किसानों का ऋण मोचन
- गन्ना किसानों को 1.12 लाख करोड़ रु. का गन्ना मूल्य का रिकॉर्ड भुगतान
- पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि योजनान्तर्गत 24 हजार करोड़ रु. से अधिक किसानों के खाते में हस्तांतरित
- न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य के अन्तर्गत खाद्यान्न की रिकॉर्ड सरकारी खरीद कर किसानों को 60 हजार करोड़ रु. से अधिक का भुगतान
- रमाला चीनी मिल सहित 20 चीनी मिलों का विस्तारीकरण एवं आधुनिकीकरण

 सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

CDRI signs MoU with Cipla Foundation

Lucknow (PNS): Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) and Cipla Foundation, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of Cipla Ltd, on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to implement a corporate social responsibility project at the institute.

CDRI spokesperson Sanjeev Yadav said project would focus on development of new chemical entities (NCEs) for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and cancer and promote science

outreach in communities, especially amongst college students, teachers, etc.

“This is a unique research and outreach initiative supported through the CSR arm of Cipla Ltd. The project takes forward the Cipla Foundation’s consistent efforts to foster scientific learning and research. This step comes in the wake of Government of India’s recent provision for permitting corporate funding under CSR towards research in science, technology,

engineering and medicine through Clause (IX) of Schedule VII to the Companies Act 2013,” he said. He added that the partnership would also boost industry-academia collaboration for research under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs guidelines. Speaking about this collaboration, managing trustee of Cipla Foundation Rumana Hamied said: “Public health research is critical for improving the overall state of healthcare in India and thereby fulfils the objectives set out in the UN sustainable development goals. A partnership like this between Cipla Foundation and CDRI will encourage scientific research for the welfare of society and benefit all by making quality healthcare affordable and accessible.”

CDRI director Prof TK Kundu said: “CDRI and Cipla Foundation are focused on the development of affordable healthcare products and promotion of science outreach activities to benefit the underserved and neglected sections of society.”

(SICOM)
(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change)
B-4 Wing, Ground Floor, Pandit Deen Dayal Aantodyaya Bhavan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Reference No. SICOM/ HR/1/2020

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal management (NCSCM) has been established as an institution of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. NCSCM is located in the campus of Anna University, Chennai.

Applications are invited in the prescribed proforma for the post of Director on a contract basis with tenure of 5 years.

For further details regarding the educational qualification, eligibility criterion, please visit website sicom.nic.in, ncscm.res.in, moef.gov.in.

The Last date for submission of application through Speed Post Only is 1500 Hrs. on 25.01.2021.

National Project Director , SICOM

GUJARAT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujlam Suflam), Gandhinagar.
State Water Data centre building, Sector-8, Gandhinagar
Ph.No.:- 079-2323671/123236712
Tender Notice No.-:- 03 - 2020-21

The Executive Engineer, Unit No-2 (Sujlam Suflam) 2nd floor, State Water data centre building, Sector-8 Gandhinagar PIN-380008, Gujarat State invites on line tender (E-Tendering) for following works(EPC works) in three bids system from experienced and resourceful agencies as under:

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. In crore)	Qualification of bidder (1) Class (2) EMD. (3) Tender fee (4) Time limit (5) Solvency)
1.	Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract for Lift Irrigation M.S Pipeline project for transmission of 50 cusecs of water from Matpur village taluka- Patan to Dharoi extended Branch 4 & 5 near Bhramanwada village taluka - Unjha District Mehsana including Construction of Pumping Station, supplying and laying, M.S pipeline of 1200 mm (ID), 8mm thickness with allied works etc. with operation and maintenance of commissioned project for 10 years including 3 years Defect liability period for Matpur - Bhramanwada Dist Mehsana Pipeline Project.	Rs 55.13 crore	(1) 'A' class (2) Rs 55.13 lacs (3) Rs. 21240/- (Rs.18000+3240 GST) (4) 18 month (excluding 10 year O & M period) (5) 11 03 Crores

1. Date of uploading :- 23/12/2020.
2. Pre-Bid Meeting :- On 08/01/2021 at 12.00 hrs.
3. Last date for downloading tender document and On line submission of tender Date : 03/02/2021 upto 18 00 Hrs.
4. Physical submission of tender of Tender fees, EMD & Other document Only by speed post /R.P.A./Courier - from Dt. 04/02/2021 to 12/02/2021 upto 18 00 Hrs.
5. The EMD exemption certificate will not be accepted.
6. The EMD less than 180 days validity will not be accepted and offer will not be considered.
7. Online verification of Tender fee, EMD and other document and Pre-qualification bid Date 15/02/2021 12 hrs.
8. The details of above tender will be available on www.statetender.com www.gwrdc.gujarat.gov.in and www.gwrdc.npcourcure.com.
The tender will be accepted only on line

No/INF/VP/N/2020/G/1565

विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, झाईवर हेतु आपूर्ति का कार्य ।
मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 2640.00 मात्र ।
निगम लि०, लखीमपुर निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 मात्र ।
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा विद्युत वितरण **7-निविदा सं० 139/वि०** मण्डल, लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत **वि०मं०ल०/2020-21** अधिशाषी निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु अनुभवी एवं अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम निविदाकारों से दो अलग-अलग भागों के प्रयोगार्थ विभिन्न कार्यों के सुचारु में निविदायें ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से सम्पादन हेतु 01 अदद डीजल चलित अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित वाहन मय चालक उपलब्ध कराने का की जाती है, विवरण निम्नवत है- कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 2640.00 निविदा जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 एवं समय 28.12.2020 समय 12:00 / 1180.00 मात्र। **8-निविदा सं०** बजे निविदा के माग-1 खोलने की **140 / वि०वि०मं०ल० / 2020-21** तिथि एवं समय 28.12.2020, 14:00 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण बजे **1-निविदा सं० 133/वि०** खण्ड-निर्घासन के प्रयोगार्थ विभिन्न **वि०मं०ल० / 2020-21** अधीक्षण कार्यों के सुचारु सम्पादन हेतु 01 अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल के अदद डीजल चलित वाहन मय प्रयोगार्थ निगम सम्बन्धी विभिन्न कार्यों चालक उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। धरो. के सुचारु सम्पादन हेतु 01 अदद हर धनराशि ₹0 2640.00 मात्र । डीजल चलित वाहन मय चालक निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 मात्र। उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। धरोहर **9-निविदा सं० 141/वि०** धनराशि ₹0 3000.00 मात्र । निविदा **वि०मं०ल० / 2020-211** सहायक प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 मात्र। अभियन्ता (मीटर) विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड **2-निविदा सं० 134/वि०वि०मं०ल०/** के अन्तर्गत लखीमपुर टाउन क्षेत्र में **2020-21** विद्युत् वितरण मंडल विभिन्न कार्यों के सचारु सम्पादन हेतु लखीमपुर के अंतर्गत उपखण्ड 01 अदद डीजल चलित वाहन मय अधिकारी, विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड झाईवर हेतु आपूर्ति का कार्य । बसगापुर के प्रयोगार्थ 01 अदद डीजल धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 2640.00 मात्र । चलित वाहन मय झाईवर हेतु आपूर्ति निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 मात्र का कार्य । धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 2640. । **10-निविदा सं० 142/वि०** 00 मात्र । निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 **वि०मं०ल० / 2020-21** विद्युत वितरण 1180.00 मात्र। **3-निविदा सं० 135/** मण्डल लखीमपुर खीरी के कार्यालय **वि०वि०मं०ल० / 2020-21**-विद्युत सम्बन्धी दैनिक कार्यों के सुचारु वितरण मंडल गोला के अंतर्गत सम्पादन हेतु एक अदद अनुभवी उपखण्ड अधिकारी, विद्युत वितरण कम्यूटर आपरेटर उपलब्ध कराने का उपखण्ड गोला (टाउन) के प्रयोगार्थ कार्य । धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 01 अदद डीजल चलित वाहन मय 1600.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 झाईवर हेतु आपूर्ति का कार्य । 1180.00 मात्र । निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 2640.00 मात्र । प्रदेश सरकार की ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 मात्र। <https://etender.up.nic.in> से **4-निविदा सं० 136/वि०वि०मं०ल०/** डाउनलोड/देखे जा सकते हैं। **2020-21** विद्युत वितरण मंडल गोला निविदा के प्रथम भाग में निम्नलिखित के अंतर्गत उपखण्ड अधिकारी विद्युत अविशेष सिर्फ ऑनलाइन जमा करने वितरण उपखण्ड गोला (देहात) के होंगे :- उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रयोगार्थ 01 अदद डीजल चलित आमंत्रित की गयी है, जिसे वाहन मय झाईवर हेतु आपूर्ति का कार्य <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक । धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 2640.00 मात्र । 21.12.2020 को प्रकाशित किया गया निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 मात्र। है। निविदा कार्य की कुल मात्रा, **5-निविदा सं० 137/वि०** निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम **वि०मं०ल० / 2020-21** विद्युत वितरण एवं शर्त ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध मंडल लखीमपुर के अंतर्गत उपखण्ड है। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण अधिकारी, विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड बताये निविदा निरस्त करने का आ्यल के प्रयोगार्थ 01 अदद डीजल अधिकार होगा। निर्धारित तिथि के चलित वाहन मय झाईवर हेतु आपूर्ति विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बन्धित का कार्य । धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल 2640.00 मात्र । निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य वेबसाइट पर डाेली जाएगी। अतः ₹0 1180.00 मात्र। **6-निविदा सं०** स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए **138 / वि०वि०मं०ल० / 2020-21** उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखें। विद्युत वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, वितरण मण्डल** अंतर्गत उपखण्ड अधिकारी, विद्युत **लखीमपुर** पत्रांक-2129 दिनांक:- वितरण उपखण्ड धौरहरा के प्रयोगार्थ 22.12.2020 “राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा 01 अदद डीजल चलित वाहन मय बचायें”।

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD., E-TENDER NOTICE. Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced / reputed contractors for execution of following works : For more details login on website www.etender.up.nic.in. **1.E-Tender No. 54/AETC/2020-21 :-** Providing Man Power for Operation of 220/132kV (SAS) Sub station Azamgarh-II, under ETD, Azamgarh. Earnest Money : Rs. 14500.00 (Rs. Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost : Rs. 1711.00 (Rs. One Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS / NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Electy. Transmission Circle, UPPTCL, Azamgarh. Tenderers can upload their tender bids against E-tender No. 54 upto 17.00 hrs. of 27.01.2021 and the same will be opened on dated 28.01.2021 at 14.00 Hrs. Intimation regarding opening of Tender Bid Part-II i.e. Price Bid will be given on above e-website in due course of time. Please visit website www.etender.up.nic.in for details / download and for any other corrections / amendments / modification / time extension till the date of submission of tender. In case the tender opening date is holiday or the undersigned remains out of headquarters, the date of opening of the tender will stand extended to the next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject / devide any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. Superintending Engineer (Trans.) UPPTCL, Hafizpur, Azamgarh No. 1514 Date 21.12.2020 **SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION.**

मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०, हर्दोई ई-निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा अनुभवी एवं कार्य में दक्ष ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदायें दो भागों में 3080 सरकार की पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा सूचना www.mvvn.in पर भी अवलोकित की जा सकती है। सभी निविदाओं को अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 08.01.2021 समय 17:00 बजे तक तथा प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 09.01.2021 समय 14:00 बजे नियत है। निविदा में संशोधन, तिथि विस्तार, पुनर्प्रकाशन आदि की सूचना भी उक्त पोर्टल पर एवं वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध करायी जायगी। **1. अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 148/विविंह/2020-21 :-** 33 / 11 केवी0 विद्युत उपकेंद्र कछीना के दुटियारा से रेंसों तक एवं रेंसों से इण्डस्ट्रियल एरिया तक 33 केवी0 लाईन के सुदुर्घीकरण का कार्य। निविदा मूल्य ₹0 1180.00 जीएसटी सहित एवं धरोहर धनराशि ₹0 7830.00। **2. अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 149/विविंह/2020-21 :-** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, हर्दोई के अन्तर्गत 250 के0वी0ए0 क्षमता का अतिरिक्त परिवर्तक लगाने एवं क्षमतावृद्धि का कार्य निविदा मूल्य ₹0 3540.00 निविदा वितरण कम्यूटर आपरेटर उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य निविदा मूल्य ₹0 16290.00। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल हर्दोई** पत्रांक-3175 दिनांक-22.12.2020 “राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें”

Uttar Pradesh Shashan Nagar Vikas Anubhag-1
In pursuance of the provisions of clause (3) of Article 348 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is pleased to order the publication of the following English translation of notification no-2393/S-1-2020-67TA/20, Dated, 18 December, 2020

NOTIFICATION
No-2393/S-1-2020-67TA/20, Dated, 18 December, 2020

The following draft notification which the Governor proposes to issue in exercise of the powers under clause (2) of Article 243-Q of the Constitution of India read with section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh, Municipalities Act, 1916 (U.P. Act no-II of 1916) is hereby published for the information of the general public and with a view to inviting objections or suggestions in respect there of as required under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the said Act.

2- Objections or suggestions, if any, with respect to the proposed notification should be sent in writing addressed to the Pramuikh Sachiv, Uttar Pradesh Shashan, Nagar Vikas Anubhag-1, Babu Bhawan, Lucknow. Only such objections and suggestions shall be taken in to consideration as are received within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notification in the Gazette.

Draft Notification

In Exercise of the powers under clause (2) of Article 243-Q of the Constitution read with section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh, Municipalities Act, 1916 (U.P. Act no-II of 1916), the Governor having regard to the population of the area, the density of populations therein, the revenue generated for the local administration. The percentage of employment in nonagricultural activities and the economics importance, is pleased to specify that the local area the limits of which is specified in the Schedule below, shall be a transitional area for the purpose of Part IX-A of the Constitution of India and there shall be constituted for the said transitional area a Nagar Panchayat to be known as Nagar Panchayat Belsar in District Gonda.

SCHEDULE

Territorial area of Nagar Panchayat Belsar, District Gonda

Direction	Village and Their Khasras
Centre	Belsar-1 to 2513
North-West	Chandpur-1 to 990
West-North	Barsada-1 to 1600
West	Baranjawa-1 to 296
North	Mujud-1 to 1114

UP- 158040 Date 22.12.2020 विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(Deepak Kumar)
Principal Secretary

BJP govt has betrayed people in UP: Sisodia



Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia in Lucknow on Tuesday

Pioneer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia hit out at the Yogi Adityanath government, saying that the Bharatiya Janata Party regime had betrayed the people of the state. He was speaking at a press conference during his visit to Lucknow. Sisodia said he accepted UP cabinet minister Sidharth Nath Singh’s challenge for an open debate on health and education and was in Lucknow for it. “But the BJP minister neither responded nor attended the debate,” he said. Sisodia drew parallels

between Uttar Pradesh’s model of governance and that of Delhi and said UP’s electricity policy had caused the public to reel under its pressure.

“The ridiculous price hike, the worsening conditions of the government hospitals and the lack of constant water supply had worsened the public life further,” he commented.

About schools in UP, the AAP leader said the government schools in Delhi were improving with each passing day, averaging on above 90 per cent from its students and the situation had bettered. “In UP, the government’s

stagnant, outdated and mis-managed model of education has only led the students astray, with them scoring around 60 per cent at the very best,” he claimed. Taking a jibe at the Yogi government, Sisodia said “they keep making promises to the people, but fail miserably when it comes to delivering the promises.” He said the Aam Aadmi Party was an organisation that was exclusively pro-people. He shared a vision of good governance that Delhi has already witnessed first hand, and expressed desire on implementing it across Uttar Pradesh.

3 held for converting locals to Christianity

Eight arrested for forced conversion to Islam

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three persons were arrested for forcibly converting locals to Christianity in Azamgarh on Tuesday. After arresting seven persons under the new anti-conversion laws to prevent love jihad across the state, this was the first time that people were arrested for forcing villagers to adopt a different religion citing its advantages. As per reports, the police were tipped-off that people were paid to convert to Christianity during a congregation at a resident’s house in Dih Kaithauli village under Didarganj police station on Sunday.

A villager identified as Ashok Yadav complained to the police about the incident after which three religious preachers were arrested. They were identified as Balchand of Jaunpur, Gopal Prajapati of Varanasi and Neeraj Kumar of Azamgarh.

The three preachers came to Dih village and organised a meeting at Tribhuvan Yadav’s home, allegedly to convert people to Christianity.

The trio were booked under UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020. The ordinance envisages that no person shall convert, either directly or indirectly, from one religion to another by use or practice of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurements or by any fraudulent means or by marriage nor shall any person abet, convince or conspire



such conversion. The onus to prove that the conversion has not been done forcibly will lie on the person accused of the act and the convert.

Meanwhile in Etah, eight people, including a woman, were arrested for kidnapping a Hindu girl, converting her to Islam and getting her married.

As per reports, a 21-year-old female BA student was abducted from Jalesar town of Etah on November 17 and married after getting her religion converted. Based on a complaint from her father, a case was registered against six identified and two unidentified persons under Section 366 of the Indian Penal Code and UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020 at Jalesar police station.

On Tuesday, eight accused — Haider Ali, Mahmood, Mehfooz, Ansar Hussain, Antar Hussain, Shahid Hussain, Ramzani and Aamreen — were arrested from Agra crossing and sent to jail. So far, the police have sent 14 accused to jail in this connection. Besides, a reward of Rs 25,000 each has been announced on five identified accused who are on the lam and warrants for attaching their properties were issued by the court on Tuesday.

Man kidnaps son of wife’s relative to ‘teach him lesson’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man kidnapped the son of his wife’s relative on the suspicion of playing a role in her elopement. However, he could do no harm to the boy as police swooped down just in the nick of time on the place where he was kept. The accused was identified as Matru Rawat of Kasimpur Viruha village in the area. As per reports, the wife of the accused went missing a couple of days back. Matru suspected the role of Ayodhya (of Nizampur village), who is the husband of his wife’s sister.

On December 20, Matru lured Ayodhya’s son into fleeing the house. After searching for him everywhere, Ayodhya called the police and suspected Matru’s role in the kidnapping. The police worked on the case and recovered the boy on Tuesday. The police also arrested Matru for kidnapping.

In his confession, Matru said he doubted Ayodhya’s role in his (Matru) wife’s elopement and kidnapped the body with an intention to kill him. He said he wanted to teach Ayodhya a bitter lesson but could not harm the boy due to police’s intensive search operation.

In another case, a 35-year-old property dealer, Dheeraj Verma, went missing under mysterious circumstances. As per reports, Dheeraj of

Kalyanpur left for a construction site in Mati locality on Dewa road on Monday morning. Around evening, Dheeraj told his brother Neeraj that he was going to Anandi water park to meet some people to discuss business-related issues.

“We waited for him till 10:30 pm on Monday and then called him. His phone was switched off. We talked to his friends but did not get any clue about Dheeraj,” Neeraj said. On Tuesday, Dheeraj’s family members reached Anandi water park where they found his scooter and shoes. They called the police and a team reached the scene. The family members said they were apprehensive of Dheeraj’s safety and suspected that he had been abducted. “He had a tussle with some of his rivals over a land. He may have been abducted by them,” they told the police.

THEFT

Cash and ornaments were stolen from the house of a high court lawyer on Tuesday. As per reports, DK Singh of Faizullahganj, along with his family, was out of the city and the house was locked. On Tuesday morning, Singh’s neighbour informed him about the theft and he reached the city. “The thieves made off with Rs 25,000 in cash, 30 silver coins, two gold rings and other valuables,” he told the police.

Departmental inquiry started against 11 ex-COs

BIKRU CARNAGE CASE

PNS ■ KANPUR

On the recommendation of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to probe the Bikru carnage, a departmental inquiry has been started against 11 former circle officers posted in Kanpur Nagar .

Superintendent of Police ((South) Deepak Bhuker, who has been entrusted the inquiry, told media persons that all the former circle officers would be called for recording their statements. While some of these officers have retired, others have been promoted and are posted in different parts of the state. It may be recalled that during the probe, the SIT had minutely examined the details

of the entire 37 years, right from the emergence of Vikas Dubey as a gangster to the stage of his encounter.

The SIT examined when and how cases were registered against Dubey and what actions were taken in those cases, when did the police take preventive action against him and on whose recommendations his arm licences were issued. Taking all these points into consideration, the SIT had recommended a probe against senior police officers.

After launching a departmental inquiry against 37 cops from the rank of constable to

inspector, the names of 11 circle officers came to the fore.

The SIT report also discussed the tenure of two circle officers of Bilhaur and Rasoolabad without mentioning their names.

Bhuker said the former circle officers who formed part of his investigations included Nandlal, Karunakar Rai, Sunder Lal, Prem Prakash, Ram Prakash Arun, Subhash Chandra Shakya, Laxmi Nivas and Amit Kumar (COs Bilhaur), CO Office and Passport Harendra Kumar Yadav, CO Sisamau and CO Rasoolabad.

Drink toddy to keep corona away: Rajbhar

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party’s UP unit chief Bhim Rajbhar kicked up a row by advising the masses to drink toddy (palm wine or tadi) for thwarting coronavirus infection. Speaking at a public function in Ballia on Tuesday, Rajbhar further ruffled religious feathers by terming toddy purer than Gangajal. Rajbhar said that toddy boosted immunity and drinking it regularly would prevent coronavirus infection. The BSP leader added that as Rajbhars drink toddy fiercely, hence the incidence of coronavirus infection was less among the community. At the same time, the BSP leader chose to attack former minister of UP and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, alleging that he was spreading confusion among people in the name of serving their interests.



Investiture ceremony held at Avadh Girls’ Degree College on Tuesday

Pioneer

Pathak takes addl charge as KMLU VC

Lucknow (PNS): Vice-Chancellor of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak took the additional charge as Vice-Chancellor of Khwaja Moinuddin Language University (KMLU) on Tuesday. After taking charge, Prof Pathak held a meeting with all the faculty members of the university.

AKTU spokesperson Asheesh Mishra said Pathak collected information about the activities and problems of the language university and vowed to give concrete shape to its concept. Pathak said the main concept of KMLU is to promote research and innovations in the field of languages. “No progress has been made in this field in the university.

SCHOOLSCAN

MATHEPHI-2020 COMES TO A CLOSE

The International Maths and Physics Olympiad, ‘Mathephi-2020’, organised by City Montessori School, RDSO Campus, came to a close with an online prize distribution ceremony on Tuesday. The chief guest on the occasion was mayor Sanyukta Bhatia, who inaugurated the function virtually. Prize winning students of eight countries, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, Bangladesh, Qatar, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and various states of India, were honoured amidst a scintillating educational-cultural show. Students of India and abroad displayed their talents in several competitions based on maths and physics.

One-month course begins at NBRI

Lucknow (PNS): Under the aegis of Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) began a one-month certificate courses on Greenbelt Development for Industries from Tuesday. GSDP is an initiative by MoEF & CC to empower youth to get employment or self-employment. MoEF & CC and National Skill Development Council have selected NBRI for conducting these courses. Inaugural function of both the courses took place at CSIR-NBRI on Tuesday. Senior scientist Dr Richa Rai welcomed the chief guest and other participants and provided an overview of the courses.

NBRI director Prof SK Barik highlighted the importance of these courses and briefed the audience about the success stories of previously conducted courses. Prof Barik also narrated the expectations of the Minister of MoEF & CC from GSDP courses. “The ministry

has included two courses that include Greenbelt Development for Industries, Pollution Monitoring Across the Country,” he said. Prof Barik also stated that 50 participants were selected from different parts of the country like Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh by a national-level screening and advisory committee.

The chief guest at the inaugural function was Vice-Chancellor of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU) Prof Sanjay Singh, who highlighted the necessity and importance of these courses in the present scenario and emphasised on the popularisation of such courses to cover a large number of unemployed educated youths. He also encouraged participants to participate with full zeal and enthusiasm in the one-month certificate course. In the inaugural function, an MoU was also signed between BBAU and NBRI.



DM KR Sharma along with RPL trained workers who were felicitated by Union Minister MN Pandey in Varanasi on Monday

Pioneer

Minister felicitates 900 trained workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In line with its vision to promote decentralisation and local governance for better planning and implementation of skill development programmes, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is conducting a Special Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme for workers with Department of Panchayati Raj (DoPR) in Varanasi and Chandauli. The programme, implemented under SANKALP Programme of MSDE, has been rolled out in Sewapuri and Baragaon blocks in Varanasi that include 167 gram panchayats and in Niyamatabad and Sahabganj blocks in Chandauli that include 160 gram panchayats.

The implementing agency for the programme is National Skill Development Corporation

(NSDC). After initial preparations such as getting trainers onboard, setting up of RPL camps at appropriate locations and mobilisation of candidates with the support of DoPR (UP) training started in the first week of October last. Considerable progress has been made since then and nearly 2,250 candidates have been enrolled for training. At a virtual event, Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey felicitated over 900 workers who have successfully completed their RPL training with skill certification and announced the launch of phase II of the programme.

Under the partnership, MSDE is supporting the State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs)/District Skill Committees (DSCs) in selection and onboarding of the

PIAs and facilitating successful execution of the programme. Both ministries (MSDE and MoPR) are being supported by Directorate of Panchayati Raj, UP and the State Skill Development Mission, UP and are monitoring the pilot to comprehensively understand the key challenges and learnings and implement necessary corrective measures.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr Pandey said 'about 70% of our country's population resides in rural India and hence the inclusion of gram panchayats is crucial for the success of District Skill Development Plans and will provide a huge fillip to the Skill India Mission. Through RPL, we aim to align the competencies of the pre-existing workforce of the country to the standardised framework. Certification builds confidence, brings respect and provides recognition to the

candidates, it has the potential to make skills aspirational. Supporting formalisation of the informal learning of youth will supplement their efforts in finding sustainable livelihood opportunities and reduce inequalities based on privileging certain forms of knowledge over others. We aim to expand this initiative in all villages of India as a key step in the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Skill India. The pilot in addition to recognising the skills of the trainees shall also link them with work opportunities emanating from the gram panchayat's development work.'

The event was also graced by UP Minister for Panchayati Raj Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary and UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education & Skill Development Kapil Dev Agrawal.

47 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 47 new patients have been detected in the district on Tuesday, increasing the total number to 20,735. The day also saw two more deaths, increasing the toll to 346. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 30 and 25 of them have been recovered from home isolation, while five from the hospitals, increasing the number to 17,077 and 2,952 respectively. The total number of patients

who have been recovered so far is 19,980, leaving 409 active cases. The recovery rate is 96.35 per cent, while the mortality rate is 1.66 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 31 positive patients were found out of 1,809 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 4,91,801 and the results of 2,487 are awaited. Out of them, 4,71,082 were negative, while 20,719 positive. The total number of

samples collected was 5,18,168. Earlier, a male aged 67 from Shivpur succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,616 including 202 red zones. Two green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,414 green zones with nine 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 Manduadih railway but all 29 and 27 tests conducted there respectively have been found negative. Besides, all the 135 tests have been found negative at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura apart from 19 at CHC Shivpur, 103 at LBS Hospital Ramnagar, 140 at Government Women's Hospital, 27 at Swami Vivekanand Hospital, Bhelupur and 115 at SSH BHU.

SMS attains new heights again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Attaining new heights once again, School of Management Sciences (SMS) has earned 45th rank in all India Best B-Schools of India. The recent 'Business India' B-School Special issue has put this institution in the prestigious bracket of the Top-50 business schools. Since 2001 onward SMS-Varanasi has been constantly rated amongst the top B-Schools in the country by various surveys. SMS was even declared the Best B-School in India (North) for its outstanding contributions in the field of education, training and development by ASSOCHAM India in March, 2018 and it has also achieved the coveted 'A' Grade in NAAC accreditation.

Director Prof PN Jha attributed this wonderful performance, in just 25 years of existence of the institute, to many factors like hard work of faculty, majority of whom are doctorates and NET-qualified, excellent academic ambience and powerful infrastructure in terms of amenities and facilities. He said that SMS happens to be one of the few institutions in the country to publish four research based journals in different areas of professional education, two of these, 'Management Insight' and 'Purushartha' are internationally indexed.

According to him, the courses on Business Analytics, Supply Chain Management and Logistics, Retail Business, Indian Ethos coupled with

hands-on training on latest software like SPSS, R, SAS etc. have differentiated us. 'We provide value-based education since inception. The place-tweets too have considerably swollen in terms of both numbers and package this year. The government's skill development programme and start-up initiatives have also got a boost through our programmes and campaigns, apart from establishing a Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Skill Development being actuated at the campus. This centre is also offering consultancy services to the corporate world,' he said, adding that the Central Library of the institute is fully computerised with a store house of over 35,000 books in addition to e-journals

and other online materials for ready references.

He further said that apart from the traditional way of teaching and teaming, to meet the challenges of COVID-19, the institute adopted an innovative system of running lectures, symposiums, webinars, online workshops through a very advanced learning management system, 'Moodle'. Now, the institute successfully runs both offline and online mode of teaching through its advanced and modern communication technology system.

He, along with Executive Secretary Dr MP Singh and Registrar Sanjay Gupta have congratulated all stakeholders on this high national level achievement by SMS.

Dist admn seeks objection on new demarcation list

VARANASI (PNS): After the demarcation, seven, 179 and 875 member posts (wards) have been reduced in Zila Panchayat, Block Development Council (BDC) and Gram Panchayat respectively in the district. The district administration has published the new demarcation list and sought the objection on it by December 26. The final list is likely to be published in the first week of January.

Some revenue villages have been included in the jurisdiction of Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC) and subsequently, the number of member posts (wards) of the Zila Panchayat, BDC and Gram Panchayat has reduced in the district. After the demarcation, seven member posts have

reduced in the Zila Panchayat and there will now be 41 member posts (wards) in Zila Panchayat which was 48 before the demarcation. As per the new demarcation list, there will now be five wards in Kashi Vidyapeeth Development Block with the reduction of four wards. There were nine wards in this block before the demarcation. Similarly, there will now be four wards each in Chiragaon and Harahua blocks instead of six and five respectively which was earlier.

Similarly, a total of 179 member posts (wards) have been reduced in the BDC after the demarcation. There were 154 wards of BDC in Chiragaon but now this number has reduced to 115 wards after the demarcation. And,

there will now be 122 and 110 wards in Kashi Vidyapeeth and Harahua blocks instead of 236 and 136 respectively which was earlier. So after the demarcation, there will now be 1017, 1009 and 909 wards in Harahua, Chiragaon and Kashi Vidyapeeth blocks instead of 1246, 1267 and 1297 respectively. It is pointed out that the new wards have been constituted on the basis of population. On the basis of 50,000 population, one Zila Panchayat Ward is constituted as per Panchayat Act and similarly, on the basis of 2000 population, a Kshetra Panchayat Ward or BDC is constituted. But there is a different standard for the members of Gram Panchayat. And, 9, 11, 13 and 15 Gram Panchayat members could be

made in the population of 1000, 2000, 3000 and more than 3000 respectively. It is pointed out that as many as 61 Gram Panchayats have been included in the jurisdiction of VMC and thus, the population of rural areas has reduced from 23,94,574 to 20,39,894. The new demarcation lists have been published at the district headquarter and block headquarters. Anyone can lodge an objection on the new list by December 26 in writing. The objection is to be addressed by January 2 and the final list is likely to be published after January 3. The publication of a new list of Zila Panchayat, BDC and Gram Panchayats is in order to the preparations going on to conduct the panchayat election.

48 new Covid cases in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of corona infections has once again come down by 50. And the relief is that no one died of Covid infection for the third consecutive day. Several days later more than 50 people outnumbered corona. On Tuesday, the Covid report of 48 new people including the District Malaria Officer came positive.

According to Nodal Officer Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, a total of 6,598 people were tested for Covid on Tuesday. Corona infection has been confirmed in 48 people. He said that it is a matter of relief that as the scope of testing increases, the number of infected people has come down significantly.

The number of people who get infection-free is also higher than positive patients. He said that this is the third consecutive day that no Covid infected patient has died. Serious patients are recovering rapidly. At the same time, 20,041 people have completed home isolation with 34 people being healthy on the same day while 16 people were discharged from Covid hospitals in 24 hours.

According to Dr Rishi, the infected malaria officers are also included among the

infected. The corona infected persons included the Railway Chief Signal Officer, female teachers of Primary School Bahria and GGIC Katra, a doctor posted in the PAC Dhumanganj Battalion.

On the other hand, the warehouse charge of State Warehousing Corporation, a constable of RAF, field officer of Dabur India, two constables of CRPF and a lawyer's Covid report have come positive.

CORONA IS STILL IN ITS OWN PACE: With the number of newly infected patients now significantly decreasing, those who believe that the pace of coronavirus infection has stopped have misunderstood. The medical fraternity says that the corona is still in its own pace, people have increased immunity by adopting the Vedic customs of food and drink, due to which there is no adverse effect on this pandemic.

To recall, the day when corona positive patients started pouring in more than 400 each day in Prayagraj, people were nervous in those days and could not figure out what to do to prevent the pandemic. At the same time, gradually people relied only on food made in their home. They preferred 'kaadha' instead of tea, the use of other food items including

garlic, basil leaf, mustard oil and fruit increased, and today they have results before them.

There has been no corona vaccine, nor has there been a surprise revolution in treatment, but the number of new corona infections has fallen from 400 to 60.

Recently, at the Circuit House in Prayagraj, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Choubey said that the recovery rate in the country is 95 per cent and the same is in Uttar Pradesh. This means that people's ability to fight corona has increased in UP.

Dr Rahul Singh, the Nodal Officer at Prayagraj of Covid vaccination, said that the force of corona pandemic is the same as before, just the immunity of people has increased here. It can only be called awareness. There is a need that people should increase their use of vitamin and protein content in food. Avoid fast food as much as possible and keep children away from external foods. Cover the mouth and nose with a mask. So it will be easy to win the war with Corona before the vaccine arrives.

HOSPITAL PREPARED AT KALINDIPURAM: The Health department and district administration have prepared

a hospital at Kalindipuram in Prayagraj under the Covid Plan of Magh Mela. Those who are found corona infected in Magh Mela will be treated in the same hospital here. This hospital will start in a couple of days.

Although it has a capacity of about 500 patients, it will start from 100 beds at present. In Kalindipuram, the Health department had set up an L2 Covid Care Centre, now it has been made a Covid Care Centre for the Magh Mela. It was to be started from December 20 first, but it will start from December 23.

Nodal Officer of COVID-19, Dr Rahul Singh informed that all facilities for treatment of corona patients will be available in the hospital. At present it will be of 100 beds, if required it can be made up to a capacity of 500 patients. The District Magistrate Bhanuchandra Goswami will inaugurate it.

Dr Prabhakar Roy, Chief Medical Officer of Prayagraj, said that it is a commitment to keep Magh Mela 100 per cent Covid free. There will not be a single corona patient living there. If anyone is found infected with corona, he/she will be brought to Kalindipuram hospital immediately by ambulance, added Dr Singh.

Education a tool to shape future of country: AU V-C

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Vice-Chancellor of Allahabad University Prof Sangita Srivastava delivered the keynote address in an 'International Conference on Learning-2020' being organised by the prestigious Lady Irwin College, Delhi. She spoke on 'Tracing Pedagogical Trajectory: Emerging Educational Policies and the New Normal'.

In her address Prof S Srivastava said that education is undoubtedly one of the most important factors that impact the growth and development of a country. Education is a tool

to shape the future of the country. Prof Srivastava said that our education policy till now was more or less following the principles laid down in the first such policy designed by Lord Macaulay, but now we are redesigning it as NEP 2020 which will fulfill our needs and also better reflect our culture and our vision for the future. Improvement in education will not only enhance efficiency but also augment the overall quality of life.

The Vice-Chancellor quoted PM Modi's line 'Manuj se Manav' and 'Atee se Adhoniakta Ki Or.' She said that we should think local and act global. Prof

S Srivastava further quoted Swami Vivekananda, 'As long as I live, so do I learn.' as not just her own motto but also the essence of any education.

She also highlighted some of the key points of NEP 2020: Recognising, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each students; No hard separation between arts and sciences; Multidisciplinary and holistic education; Conceptual understanding; Multilingualism; Tech savvy; Respect for diversity; and a 'light but tight' regulatory framework. Prof Srivastava stressed on the practicality of extensive research work and

product development. She expressed her belief that thesis should not lie in a dark room but should always have a practical use for society. Further she talked about the multidisciplinary courses best fitted for NEP 2020 like home science as it is a combination of arts and sciences with practical application in our day to day life. Prof Srivastava ended her speech with a warm regards to Prof Anupa Siddhu, Director Lady Irwin College, DU and Prof Douglas Hartman, Programme Director: Graduate Programme in Teaching & Curriculum, Michigan State University, USA.

NCR GM inaugurates badminton courts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager, North Central Railway, Rajiv Chaudhry inaugurated two newly constructed synthetic flooring badminton court in NCR Headquarters colony. Lalita Chaudhry president NCRWWO, President North Central Railway Sports Association and PCE NCR Shrad Mehta, other PHODs of NCR, secretary and members of NCRWWO and official from NCR sports association and sportsmen were present in this function held in sports complex Railgaon colony Subedarganj.

President NCRSA and PCE Shrad Mehta in his welcome address mentioned that with continuous support of the GM in promoting sports, NCR has achieved many laurels in field of sports and successfully conducted two mega All India Inter Railway events of wrestling and gymnastics in last one year and emerged as overall champion in Gymnastics event among all zonal railways. He also informed that NCR has been chosen by Railway Board for development as centre of excellence in field of gymnastics which will help immensely in promotion of gymnastics and fitness among Railway employees.

Speaking on the occasion General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry congratulated sportsmen of NCR for their outstanding performance in various sports arena. He also commended sports association for development of synthetic badminton court and other activities for promotion of sports over NCR. Chaudhry also advised on precautions to be taken against COVID-19 while participating in different sports events.

The General Manager also inaugurated an open-air gym-

nasium in Mahadevi Park in Railgaon colony. This on field facility for residents of Railway colony is equipped with multiple fitness and exercise equipment to suit varied needs of different age groups.

A similar facility created in December 2019 has been very popular among railway employees and North Central Railway is also considering similar facility in Central Railway Hospital Prayagraj for benefit of patients as well medical staff.

Inaugural programme of sports facilities was coordinated by General Secretary NCRSA Ankur Chandra and Joint Secerary Vijaya Kumar.

This programme was followed by tricycles and bicycles distribution by the GM and Lalita Chaudhry to railway employees and their wards.

Under this initiative four tricycles to differently abled railway employees and 48 bicycles to girl child of railway employees

studying in class VI to class VIII were distributed from Staff benefit fund (SBF) of North Central Railway. PCPO NCR Nanad Kishor welcomed GM, president NCRWWO, PHODs, secretary and other members of NCRWWO, office-bearer of recognised unions and associations, railway employees and their wards in this function held in Mahadevi Park in Railgaon Colony Subedarganj. Addressing beneficiaries, GM Chaudhry said that use of bicycles improves our fitness and mobility and distribution among schoolgoing girls is an important step towards women empowerment.

He congratulated management of SBF, personal department, unions and association for this noble initiative. Programme was coordinated by Awadesh Kumar Chief Personnel Officer/IR and other officials from HQ personnel department.

IOCL launches *Chhotu* cylinder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Indian Oil Corporation Limited has launched a five kg capacity FTL 'Chhotu' cylinder for short-term use to students residing in hostels and people living from outside states. On Monday, Dr Utti Bhattacharya, Executive Director and head of state of Indian Oil, Uttar Pradesh, made its debut at Indian Oil's petrol pump Messrs Sitaram Radheshyam & Sons at Balsan Crossing.

During this period, the artistes also made people aware of the 'Chhotu' cylinder through the street plays. In addition to various products like cashless digital payment pre-delivery check, Paytm QR code was explained. Dr Utti Bhattacharya said that small petrol cylinders will be available at grocery stores along with all petrol pumps which

anyone can easily take through the Aadhar card. Emphasising the pre-delivery check, he said that pre-delivery check before refill delivery can not only prevent domestic accidents related to LPG but will also help in improving the service. Deputy General Manager LPG Sales Abikar Pal Sandeep etc. were present on the occasion.

LAL MADE VISITING PROF: Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj added another feather in its cap when Professor Jonathan A Lal of this university has been appointed Visiting Professor at Maastricht University, Netherlands.

Media incharge Dr Ramakant Dubey shared that Maastricht University, Netherlands is counted among the top 100 universities of the world. It is a proud moment for any Indian professor to be

appointed as visiting professor at Maastricht University. SHU-ATS Director of IPC and Dean Jacob Institute of Biotechnology and Bioengineering Prof Jonathan A Lal has been appointed as Visiting Professor of Maastricht University for five years.

SHUATS Professor Jonathan A Lal, during his tenure, will strengthen education and research work in collaboration with Maastricht University. In addition, Professor Lal will also educate and train students in the field of biotechnology at Maastricht University. For this great achievement, the SHUATS Management congratulated to Prof Jonathan A. Lal.

CONTRACTOR, SON INJURED IN BOMB ATTACK: A railway contractor and his son sustained injuries when were attacked with crude bombs by a crimi-

nal on Monday night at Preetam Nagar area, under the Dhoomanganj police station. The bomb lobber has been identified as Salman with the help of CCTV footage.

The contractor Rakesh Dubey and his son Abhishek were attacked at their door step. Rakesh sustained severe injuries in his leg, while his son received pellet injuries on his face. They, however, could not understand as to why Salman attacked them, because there was no difference with him.

The police have launched a man hunt for Salman who lived in the same locality with his maternal uncle (Mamu). The police have detained Mamu for interrogation, but he could not reveal the whereabouts of Salman and his associates.

The police raided several hideouts to arrest Salman but could not get any success.



Divisional Commissioner and District Magistrate jointly addressing the special meeting on Mega Leather Cluster on Tuesday.

Pioneer

KANPUR MEGA LEATHER CLUSTER SPV asked to submit land details to DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has asked the special purpose vehicle (SPV) created for the Mega Leather Cluster to submit details of the land to the Kanpur Nagar district magistrate at the earliest so that the land records and its status could be cross-checked.

Addressing the maiden high-level coordination meet-

ing of the Mega Leather Cluster project on Tuesday, the divisional commissioner said once the status and records of the identified land were checked by the district magistrate, the proposal would be forwarded to the government and once the approval of the government was obtained action would take off at the divisional commissioner level.

He said the public hearings would be carried out by the dis-

trict magistrate regarding environmental and social impact assessment.

He directed the joint commissioner of industries to convene a meeting every month so that every issue was settled and resolved within time so that the project could be accomplished within the stipulated time frame.

Prominent officials who took part in the high level meeting were DM, ADM (Land

Acquisition), joint commissioner of industries UPSIDA RM, SPV members RK Jalan and Ashraf Rizwan.

The SPV members said that the cluster would be spread over 235 acre land at Ramaipur, which is 20 km from Jajmau.

They also said that 105 acre land had been purchased from UPSIDA, 45 acre from farmers and 85 acre land had to be exchanged from gram sabha land.

56 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 56 more coronavirus positive cases on Monday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 56 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 31,943 cases. He said that 88 patients were discharged from hospital. He said three COVID-19 deaths in the city were reported till Tuesday evening. The CMO said at present 658 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4069 samples were sent for testing in the city.

IIT-K launches diploma programme in geodesy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur has launched a new diploma programme in geodesy, the science of accurately measuring and understanding three fundamental properties of the Earth: its geometric shape, its orientation in space, and its gravity field, as well as the changes of these properties with time.

The one-year programme will be offered by the Department of Civil Engineering in three broad areas: Geodesy, Navigation & Mapping and Remote Sensing & GIS.

Dr Radhakrishnan, Chairman of the IIT Kanpur Board of Governors, said the D-IIT programmes launched at IIT Kanpur would raise the national capability in geodesy, and navigation and mapping besides impelling advance data analytics into remote sensing and GIS.

This programme will give a new dimension to the geoinformatics courses offered by the IIT-K.

As per the statement released by the IIT-K, the one-year D-IIT will add to the skill sets of working professionals from government institutions, industry, faculty members and researchers in academic institutions involved in teaching and research and development in the areas of civil engineering, exploration, mapping, and geoinformation systems.

The new D-IIT programme will be open to candidates from different backgrounds, including civil engineering, computer science, information technology, electrical and electronics, mining, geoinformatics, physics, mathematics, earth science, environmental science, geography, etc., with requirements as for the MTech/MS(R) programme of geoinformatics specialisation in civil engineering. However, for the D-IIT programme, the GATE requirement has been waived for working professionals.

Financial assistance for the D-IIT programme in geodesy is available through the National Centre for Geodesy, supported by the Department of Science and Technology.

2nd edition of IEEE Winter School on Fog/Edge Computing

KANPUR (PNS): The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur will organise the second edition of the Institute's Electrical, Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Winter School on Fog/Edge Computing 2020 on December 29 and 30.

The two-day virtual event will focus on easy and economic implementation of emerging services like V2V in vehicular telematics services, industry 4.0 and e-healthcare services, and manufacturing industry 4.0, and their role in enabling services in Internet of Things (IoT) applications. Besides this, the event will also provide insights on identifying and solving technical challenges to future 6G wireless network.

The event will also feature future research directions and the ICT convergence for entrepreneurs. IIT-K Director Prof Abhay Karandikar took to Twitter to announce this initiative.

Three arrested with ganja

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUIN

Police apprehended three accused along with 96 kg of illegal ganja. SP Yashveer Singh and ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh said that they had already launched an operation for arresting the accused and their team had launched a checking drive against the suspects. Meanwhile on getting information that few suspects were standing at Bhabhua Majar under Ata police station the team reached the spot and arrested the accused who were identified as Devendra Shivhare, Shailendra Singh and Naveen Sahu, all natives of Jhansi district, and confiscated 96 kg of ganja from them. SP Yashveer Singh said that they had lodged an FIR under Section 8/20 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was lodged against the accused. He also added that the accused used to supply illegal ganja in many



The accused along with the confiscated car and ganja at Police Lines, Orai, Jalaun

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nearby districts like Kanpur, Unnao and other districts of Bundelkhand. Police had confiscated an Alto car (UP-93/AW-5562) too. The team which made the arrest included incharge of Ata police station inspector Sunil Kumar Singh, SOG incharge inspector Praveen Kumar, S-Is Ajay Kumar Singh, Kulbhushan

Singh, Chandan Pandey, Surendra Kumar Singh, Sheetal Prasad Mishra, besides Mohit Kumar, Sachin Kumar, Kaushal Kumar, Shailendra Chauhan, Karmveer Singh, Gaurav Bajpai, Jagdish Chandra, Niranjana Singh, Vinay Chauhan, Neetu Kumar, Manoj Sonkar, Shriram Prajapati, Bhipendra Singh, Raes, Gaurav Kumar and Rahul Babu.

Renovation work inspected

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

MP Anupriya Patel has reiterated that she was committed to making the district as a most attractive tourist spot and for that she sought proposals from the locals. Such announcement was made by her during the inspection of ongoing work of renovation at Bariaghat on Monday. Interacting with priests as well as people present at the ghat the MP appealed to them to keep an eye on the construction and inform her if case of any laxity. On the occasion she requested the people to give her a proposal for the beautification of all the ghats in the city and she will approach the union tourism minister and CM for allocating adequate funds for the work. She asked Apna Dal (S) spokesperson Rajesh Patel to remain in regular touch with her for the overall development of the district.

One killed in mishap

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A man died when a truck hit his motorcycle in an area under Ahraura police station on Monday. As per the reports, Anil Maurya (32), a resident of Kashipura village under Rohaniya police station in Varanasi, was on the way when he was hit by a truck in Patihita village under Ahraura police station. On getting information the police reached there and found that the motorcyclist had died on the spot. The police sent his body for the post-mortem examination, informed his family and took the truck driver into custody.

DM'S DIRECTIVE: DM Sushil Kumar Patel on Monday took the incharge of the paddy purchase centre located at Ahraura run by NAFED to task on seeing no activity there. The DM was informed that till date the centre had purchased only 3,764 quintals of paddy through 69 farmers and on December 16, 17, 18 and 19 no any purchase was made. The DM directed the Dy RMO to issue a show cause notice to the district manager, NAFED, in this regard.

ARRESTED: Chunar police have arrested a girl on Monday, one person who was accused of kidnapping a girl by enticing her away. As per the reports, on November 2, the father of a girl had lodged a named FIR that the accused had abducted his daughter by enticing her away. Taking instant action the police recovered the girl but the kidnapper was still at large. On Monday on being tipped off by an informer, the police raided Durga turn in Belwaan Shahansapur village under Rohaniya police station Varanasi and nabbed the accused, Karan Yadav, a resident of Belwaan Shahansapur village under Rohaniya police station in Varanasi. Meanwhile the Halia police arrested an accused of stealing a pick-up on Monday. As per the reports, Shyambabu Keshari, a resident of Devahat village under Halia police station, had lodged an FIR on Sunday that his pick-up UP63/AT-2468 which was parked outside his residence had been stolen. Taking swift action the police recovered the vehicle from Devahat village near Hanuman temple and nabbed the accused, Satish Singh, a resident of Semariya village under Koraon police station in Prayagraj. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail.

Farmers given training in organic farming

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a miniratna company of the Government of India, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has been continuously running training programmes for skill development and income enhancement of local farmers. Under it in collaboration with NCL-IIT BHU Incubation Centre, farmers in the surrounding areas are being imparted training on many important topics like organic farming, food processing, value addition to local produce and selling the finished product at the right place. Farmers of Birkunia village of Singrauli district were given one-month-long training in organic farming and food processing. This training had started from November 10 in which a large number of local farmers participated. During this period women from the area took training in food processing i.e. in making pickles, jam, jelly, sauce, chips, papad etc. During the training the farmers learnt the tricks of cultivation and processing of vegetables using organic method, making organic manure and organic pesticides besides weed and pest management by organic method. During the training farmers learnt the tricks of how to grow vegetables with organic method without chemical fertilisers, development of safe vegetable nursery plant, growing profitable



seasonal vegetable with integrated model, use of modern technology in growing vegetable, their protection, product packaging, branding, marketing etc and value addition to local produce. The farmers were mainly trained in ultra-modern methods of cultivating peas, carrots, spinach, fenugreek, coriander, cauliflower, tomatoes, beetroot etc. Meanwhile a two-month-long training programme on cultivation and processing of medicinal and edible mushrooms is being conducted in Semaur panchayat. Under this programme 20 villagers of Semaur village and 20 students are being provided onsite training by a team of trained farmers on how to prepare a set up for mushroom cultivation, and growing of crop and post-harvest management, storage, marketing etc. This training is not just about growing crops, but the aim is to bring maximum benefits of the yield of these crops to the farmers. Therefore during the training the farmers were taught to make products of fruits, vegetables and other

crops like (jam, jelly pickle, jam, potato chips, papad, vermicelli) etc produced in Singrauli and its surrounding areas and the ways of value addition. Also they were informed of the ways to prevent these products from getting spoiled. This training was conducted under the supervision of experts in the field of agriculture and also through the videos the methods being used in different parts of India were taught. Along with training to farmers, detailed information was also given on setting up a cottage industry and business management. Besides, arrangements are also being made to sell the products made here in the local market as well as those in metropolitans. It may be pointed out here that under the Kisan Ganga campaign of NCL, after giving training to 10,000 farmers in various agricultural-related disciplines the work of connecting them directly with customers is in progress. Through it farmers will be able to bring their crops and products directly to customers which will increase their income.

AEFI committee set up for Covid vaccination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra on Tuesday said that a district level coordination committee for Covid vaccination had been set up under the district magistrate.

He said if the Covid vaccination led to any health problem, the person concerned would be provided treatment free of cost at the existing nursing homes of the city.

The CMO directed the officials to mandatorily feed the batch number of the vaccine

and the name of the company on CovinAp.

He said the third phase of the Covid vaccine trial had taken off on December 5, 2020 and after 28 days, the repeat dose of the vaccine would be administered to the vaccinated people.

Dr Mishra said an AEFI (adverse effect following immunisation) committee had been set up to remain vigilant to any reaction by the vaccine and it would be directly under his control. He said others in the committee were Dr Amit

Kanaujia, Dr Seema Nigam, Dr KC Bharadwaj, Dr Rajshekhar, Dr Piyush Mishra, Dr Sandeep Srivastava, Dr Vikas Dixit, Dr Prabhat Tiwari, and Dr Rajesh Sachan.

The CMO said the training to vaccinate a person had already been imparted and 0.5 ml vaccine would be administered in the deltoid muscle. He said it was mandatory that after a person was vaccinated, he or she would have to remain at the vaccination centre for 30 minutes. He said officials would note down the details of

the vaccinated person.

Dr Mishra said the vaccinators would put on gloves and wear a mask and sanitise hands thoroughly before vaccination. He said strict instructions had been issued to the team not to use spirit or sanitiser to clean the skin of the person being vaccinated as the vaccine would become ineffective. He said for this, distilled water had been approved.

The CMO said the third phase of the Covaccine trial at Prakhar Hospital had been completed.

Doc advises diabetics, heart patients to take extra care

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Alliance Club of Kanpur Vishal President Dr SK Nigam, said in the current times of COVID-19 pandemic and extreme cold weather condition, the senior citizens need to take special care of their health. Addressing a Mega Health Camp for senior citizens at Param Hospital on Tuesday, Dr Nigam said diabetic and heart patients need to take extra care and both need to monitor their sugar level and blood pressure also. He said for diabetics, it was highly essential that they go in for HbA1c test quarterly in a year as it gave a clear picture of the blood sugar level of an individual. He said the normal range was between 6 and 7 but in a diabetic it was 7 plus and if the Hb1Ac was between 7 and 8.5 then it could be controlled by medicines but if it exceeded then one had to take to insulin as per the diabetologist. Dr Nigam further stated that diabetes was a global epidemic with rapidly increasing prevalence in both developing and developed countries. He said in India, the health authorities had recommended glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) as a possible substitute to fasting blood glucose for diagnosis of diabetes. He said HbA1c was an important indicator of long-term glycemic control with the ability to reflect the cumulative glycemic history of the preceding two to three months.

He said HbA1c not only provided a reliable measure of chronic hyperglycaemia but



Alliance Club International holds a mega health camp for senior citizens on Tuesday.

Pioneer

also correlated well with the risk of long-term diabetes complications. He said elevated HbA1c had also been regarded as an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease and stroke in subjects with or without diabetes.

He said the valuable information provided by a single HbA1c test had rendered it as a reliable biomarker for the diagnosis and prognosis of diabetes. He said uncontrolled diabetes could lead to renal failure, heat problem, paralysis and wound did not heal and also ended in Alzheimer's disease also. He said every Tuesday between 10 and 12 free health camp was organised. He appealed to the people to avail themselves of the facility.

'STIMULATE STUDENTS' CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION AND CONFIDENCE'

Mathematics provides an effective way of building men-

tal discipline and encourages logical reasoning. It plays a crucial role in understanding the contents of other school subjects such as science, social studies and even music and art. In the current times there is a need for innovative learning programme to be implemented, integrating available technology to stimulate students' creativity, imagination and confidence. This was stated by subject expert, Ajay Dixit while addressing a workshop on 'Mathematics' at Gyan Bharti MS Inter College on Tuesday to celebrate National Mathematics Day in the fond memory of mathematics wizard Dr Srinivas lyengar Ramanujan whose birth anniversary was celebrated all over the country.

He said motivating students to be enthusiastically receptive was one of the most important aspects of mathematics instruction. He said effective teachers focus attention on the less interested stu-

dents as well as the motivated ones. He said there was a need for extrinsic and intrinsic motivation. Dixit said the first involved rewards that occurred outside the learner's control and may include token economic rewards for good performance, peer acceptance of good performance, avoidance of punishment by performing well, praise for good work, and so on. He said many students demonstrate intrinsic motivation in their desire to understand a topic or concept to outperform others or to impress others. Dixit said with these basic concepts in mind, there were specific techniques that might be expanded, embellished, and adapted to the teacher's personality and, above all, made appropriate for the learner's level of ability and environment. He added that to call attention to a void in students' knowledge there was a need for revealing to students a gap in their understanding. He said the more dramatically one revealed the gap in understanding, the more effective the motivation. He said closely related to the preceding technique was having students appreciate a logical sequence of concepts. He underlined the need for setting up a contrived situation that led students to discover a pattern can often be quite motivating. He added that when students were challenged intellectually, they react with enthusiasm and great care must be taken in selecting the challenge. The vote of thanks was proposed by Awadh Bihari Mishra.

AMU represents India's rich culture, says Modi



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Participating for the first time in any event of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed its centenary celebrations lauding AMU's contribution in fighting the coronavirus pandemic as "unprecedented" and saying that the university "represents India's rich culture and heritage."

In his address, the Prime Minister pointed to religion-neutral development policies of his government saying they are implemented "without discrimination".

Modi also stressed significance and power of "diversity" and importance of retaining it. The Prime Minister urged people "to not look at everything from a political lens, saying 'Campuses like AMU can play a key role in contributing to this approach'."

AMU Chancellor Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank attended the event. Modi also released a postal stamp during the function which he addressed through videoconferencing.

"AMU alumni are spread across the world and take a lot of pride in their alma mater. Their pride is justified. In 100 years of existence, AMU has crafted and polished millions of lives, giving them modern and scientific thinking and inspiring them to do something for society and the nation", said the Prime Minister.

"In the last 100 years, AMU has also worked to strengthen India's relations with many countries of the world", said Modi in praise of the institution

that was originally established by Sir Dyed Ahmad Khan as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in 1875.

AMU became a University in 1920, through an Act of the Indian Legislative Council by elevating the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College to the status of a Central University.

"The research done in AMU on Urdu, Arabic, and Persian languages, research on Islamic literature, gives new energy to India's cultural relations with the entire Islamic world", he said.

In the backdrop of the recurring debate on the minority character of the university, Modi praised diversity in the university.

"People tell me that the AMU campus is like a city in itself. We see a mini India among different departments, dozens of hostels, thousands of teachers, and professors. The diversity which we see here is not only the strength of this university but also of the entire nation", said the Prime Minister.

"I have been told that at least 1,000 international students are currently enrolled in AMU", he added.

The Prime Minister asked students in the AMU to contribute to the nation building.

"It is an onus on AMU students to share with the world everything good about India. They have a two-fold responsibility to contribute to nation-building and also help India bolster its soft power", he said.

Modi lauded the stellar role played by the AMU during the ongoing pandemic crisis in the country.

"The contributions made by the university during the coronavirus pandemic were unprecedented. They helped people get tested for free, built isolation wards, started plasma banks, provided hospital beds, and helped society", he said.

The Prime Minister quoted AMU's founder saying that

the growth of the country is above the caste and religion of the people.

Sir Syed had also said that religion should not be the reason for anyone's backwardness.

Modi said it must be realised that politics is an important part of society, but there are many other issues in society besides politics.

"... for a new India, the core is that welfare must not be seen from the prism of politics. There are some elements who may have an issue with this. They can be found in all countries. They will spread negativity. But these people will be sidelined if we work for the betterment of the country keeping politics aside. Politics can wait, society can wait, (but) the country can't wait for development, the poor and disadvantaged can't wait for development", said Modi as he addressed students, teachers and staff of the varsity.

"Country is on the path where no citizen would be left behind because of their religion and everyone would get equal opportunities so that everyone can fulfill their dreams. Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas is the mantra behind it", said the Prime Minister in his outreach to the AMU student community.

He said progressive education among Muslim girl students has led to decline in the dropouts from 70 to 30 percent.

"Earlier, the dropout rate of Muslim girls was 70 percent due to lack of toilets and now after launching the Swachh Bharat Mission, the dropout rate went down to only 30 percent", he said.

"Thirty five per cent of students in AMU today are female, I congratulate AMU for this feat", said the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister also mentioned the "end" of regressive triple-talaq in the country.

Finding and retaining young talents science's bigger challenge: PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the biggest challenge facing science now, may be a vaccine for Covid pandemic, but the biggest long term challenge science faces is to attract high quality youngsters and retain them.

"The biggest challenge facing science now, may be a vaccine for COVID pandemic. But the biggest long term challenge science faces is to attract high quality youngsters and retain them."

"What is called science today, becomes the technology of tomorrow and an engineering solution later. For attracting good talent into our science domain, the government has announced scholarships at various levels. But it needs a big out-reach from within the science community as well," said the Prime Minister at the inauguration of the sixth edition of the four-day India International Science Festival (IISF) here.

He said that India wants its scientific community to share and grow with the best of global talent and the Government is taking steps to make India the most trustworthy centre for scientific learning.

The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of bringing the benefits of science and technology to all. "Science and Technology are bridging the gap of scarcity. It is connecting the poorest of

the poor with the Government. With digital advances, India is becoming a centre of evolution and revolution of global high-tech power," he added.

Earlier, Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Secretary DSIR and DG, CSIR, in his welcome address dwelt upon various dimensions of the IISF-2020. "More than 40 science laboratories and educational institutions are participating in organising this festival. He said, IISF-2020 will attempt 5 Guinness Book of World Records, one of which—maximum students making the Sun Dial simultaneously—was attempted this morning where 6,874 students from 189 schools participated.

With the theme 'Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare', the mega event aims to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students and innovators. It is being organized jointly by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in association with VijnanaBharati. The nodal institution for science festival this year is CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), New Delhi.

Centre, World Bank ink \$500 million project for safe and green NHs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government and the World Bank on Tuesday signed a \$500 million project to build safe and green national highway corridors in the States of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Andhra Pradesh. The project will also enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support MoRTH construct 783 km of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such

as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts, and other bioengineering solutions. The project will help reduce GHG emissions in the construction and maintenance of highways.

Dr CS Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance stated that the Government of India is committed to environmentally sustainable development in its infrastructure projects. This project will set new standards in the construction of safe motorable roads.

The ultimate objective of transport infrastructure is to provide seamless connectivity and reduce logistics costs, said



a government statement.

The Government of India has launched many investment programs in road sector infrastructure to strengthen and improve logistics performance. This project will also support analytics to map the freight volume and movement pattern on the National Highway network, identify constraints, and provide innovative logistics solutions, it

added. A senior MoRTH official said the project will support the ministry with an in-depth analysis of gender-related issues in the transport sector along with help in creating jobs for women by training women-led micro enterprises and women collectives to implement green technologies in the highway corri-

dors. "Connectivity for economic growth and connectivity for sustainable development are two important aspects of a country's development trajectory. This operation brings these two priorities together in support of India's growth strategy," said Junaid Ahmad, World Bank Country Director in India.

Government hopeful of farmers resuming dialogue soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After meeting with two farmers groups from Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Tuesday he is hopeful that protesting unions would soon complete their internal discussions and resume talks with the Government to resolve the crisis.

He met two more peasants' bodies from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh that extended support to the legislations.

"Representatives of different farmers' bodies had come to tell that the laws are good and are in the interest of farmers. They had come to urge the Government not make any amendments to the laws," Tomar said after meeting the two groups.

"I am hopeful they (protesting farmers' unions) will soon complete their internal discussions and come forward for talks. We will be able to find a solution successfully," the minister said.

UP-based Kisan Sangarsh Samithi (KSS) and Delhi-based Indian Kisan Union (IKU) are among those farmer groups that have extended support to the laws

in the last three weeks. The previous groups were from Haryana, Uttarakhhand and Uttar Pradesh.

"The three laws enacted by the Centre are good and are in the interest of the farming community," KSS President Ajay Pal Pradhan said after the meeting.

KSS further demanded that the government should notify only that much land which is required for the development. In the Secunderabad industrial area, industries have developed 45 per cent of the land acquired and the rest is not used yet.

Earlier, interacting with members of international media from the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia, Tomar said that the government is still willing to continue talks with protesting unions on all contentious issues.

The Minister said the agriculture sector is the backbone of the Indian economy and the Narendra Modi government is focusing on doubling farmer's income by 2022. He was interacting with members of international media from the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia.

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) III

OVER HEAD TANK ASHOK VIHAR DELHI

Subject :- For publication of PRESS NIT No. 37(2020-21)

Item No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement
1.	Replacement of old, rusted damaged 100/150 mm dia water line in C-Block, JJ Colony Wazirpur AC-17 under EE (NW) III (Re-invite)	Rs. 26,87,449/-	Tender ID No. 2020_DJB_197689_1 on 19.12.2020 at 03:26 PM	04.01.2021 Up to 3:00 PM

The same has been uploaded on e-procurement as mentioned above.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V 271 (2020-21)

Sd/-
(Mukesh Jindal)
Ex. Engineer (NW) III

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No.: 5820202021 **E-Tendering Tender Notice** **Date: 07.12.2020**

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders by Two Packet System/Single Packet System on prescribed form for the following work up to **13.30 hrs.** on the tender opening date. The details of the Tender are as under:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion Period	Eligibility Criteria for similar work
1	161	Construction of RCC Boundary wall in Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay-Prayagraj section under Sr.DEN/II/ALD.	9246.65 Lakh	47,73,300/-	18 Months works	Any Civil Engineering Work, which includes RCC among other
2	162	Allahabad Division:- Construction of new Crew running room at Mughalsarai.	408.51 Lakh	3,54,300/-	24 Months	Building Work
3	163	Hiring of 02 Nos. transport Vehicle (01 MT) for 02 years for SSE/P.Way/Churk & Naini under Sr. DEN/II/PRYJ.	17.81 Lakh	35,600/-	24 Months	NIL

Date of Opening of tender: For S.N. 1 to 3: 13.01.2021. Note:- (1) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenders. (2) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to **13.30 hrs.** on the due date of tender opening. (3) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with **IREPS** website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by **CCA** under **I.T. Act-2000**. (4) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter/head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (5) The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document as "Annexure" in standard format without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. (6) The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (7) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (8) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (9) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (10) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of **IREPS** may be approached. (11) Tender on line can be submitted up to **13.30 hrs.** of tender opening date. (12) The tender offer shall be made online through Two Packet System i.e. (1) Technical Bid & (ii) Financial Bid, For SN-1 i.e. Tender No. 161. (13) The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC July 2020 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered.

139520 (R)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPPO NCR

One in CBI net in online child sexual abuse racket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an accused, Niyaz Ahmed Mir, 35, resident of Srinagar in an on-going investigation of a case related to online child sexual abuse racket. The agency had earlier registered a case under Information Technology Act and provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against the accused on the allegations of running online child sexual abuse racket from India, targeting minors living in USA, the

CBI said.

"It was further alleged that the accused uploaded the pornographic videos and images over the dark web for financial gains and was also involved in direct communication with many minors in the USA," it said.

The wife of the accused, Tamara Stanley, is living in Washington, USA, officials said.

"The accused was allegedly operating through his wife, who had agreed to be involved in a Master - Slave relationship with the accused and on his direction, she allegedly exploit-

ed multiple minors, recorded these abuses and electronically sent the same to him. It was also alleged that when the victims refused to follow his dictates, he shared these videos and images with their family members," the agency said.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused at Srinagar which led to recovery of incriminating digital evidence including three laptops, five mobiles, pen drives and hand written notes among others. The arrested accused is being produced before the Competent Court at Srinagar, officials said.

ARYAVART BANK **आर्यावर्त बैंक**

(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India) (भारत सरकार, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया का संयुक्त उपक्रम)

Regional Office: Lucknow, Aryavart Bhawan, 569/20/K/1, Sneh Nagar, V.I.P. Road, Opp. Awadh Hospital, Alambagh, Lucknow

Notice Under Section-13(2) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. (SARFAESI Act.)

Authorized Officer, Aryavart Bank, Regional Office - Lucknow, have issued Demand Notice under Section-13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 through Registered /Speed post. The contents of the same are inter alia the defaults committed by you in the payment of outstanding amount including principal interest and other charges etc. The outstanding dues are mentioned here-in-below:-

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Branch	Description of the property	Date of Demand Notice	Amount of Notice
Borrowers:- (1) Mr. Sachin Dev Verma S/o B.L. Verma, 600/38, Bhaupatmau, Lucknow-227107 (2) Mr. Akhilesh Kumar S/o Ram Ashrey, D-33, Salempur Ptaura Anshik, Kakori, Lucknow-227107 Guarantors:- (1) Mr. Prasant Kumar Verma S/o Guro Prasad Verma, E-4718, Sec-11, Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017 (2) Mr. Sanjay Pal S/o Raja Ram Pal, Amrudhi Bagh, Alambagh, Sringer Nagar, Lucknow-226005 Branch-Khushhalganj	House built on Kharsa No. 3172/2, Situated at Village & Pargana- Kakori, Tehsil & District- Lucknow, in the name of Mr. Sachin Dev Verma S/o B.L. Verma (As per Sale Deed Dated-03.10.2015) Boundaries:- East-Plot Raghuraj, West-Plot Chandrawati, North- Road 12 mt. wide, South-Plot Siddheswari Devi. Area-427.509 Sq. mtr.	01.12.2020	Rs. 15,97,195.05 + Interest & other Expenses

Further with reasons, we believe that you are avoiding the service of said Demand Notice issued under the Act hence, we are now constrained to make this publication of demand notice, as required u/s-13(2) of said Act, the Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. You are hereby called upon to pay Aryavart Bank, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this Demand Notice with the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc., failing which, we Aryavart Bank will take necessary action under the provisions of Section-13(4) of sale thereof. Further, you are prohibited u/s -13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale/lease etc. and encumber in any other way, the aforesaid secured asset.

Date : 23.12.2020 Place : Lucknow Authorised Officer

MAHARSHI VASHISHTHA AUTONOMOUS STATE MEDICAL COLLEGE
Basti, Uttar Pradesh-272124

www.asmcbasti.edu.in email-gmcbasti2019@gmail.com
Letter No. MCBasti/2020-21/2955 **Advertisement** Date: 21 December 2020

Applications are invited on the prescribed format for the post of Professor or Designate Professor, Associate Professor or Designate associate Professor and Assistant Professor in Maharshi Vashishtha Autonomous State medical College, Basti. The tentative number of post is given below :-

S. No.	Department	Professor				Associate Professor				Assistant Professor			
		Gen	OBC	SC	EWS	Gen	OBC	SC	EWS	Gen	OBC	SC	EWS
1	Orthopaedics					1							
2	Ophthalmology									1			
3	Obstetrics & Gynaecology							1					
4	Anaesthesiology			1				1				1	
5	Community Medicine			1								1	
6	General Medicine											1	
7	General Surgery							1					1*
8	Dermatology, Venerology & Leprosy									1			
9	Paediatrics				1								
10	Pathology	1										1	
11	Pharmacology			1									
12	Biochemistry			1									
13	Blood Bank	1											
14	Microbiology				1*								
15	Radio-Diagnosis	1								1			
16	Psychiatrics										1		
Total		03	03	02	01	01	02	01	00	03	03	02	01

* As per EWS guidelines post are not carried forward/or considered as backlog vacancy in case unfilled hence other category candidates may be allowed provisionally to apply for the post subjected to condition that they will be considered for the post as an UR candidate only if EWS category seat is otherwise not filled.

1- **Academic Qualification:**

- A post graduate qualification MD/MS/ DNB in the concerned subject and as per NMC Regulations.
- In blood bank department a candidate having MD in pathology may be considered.

2- **Experience:**

Professor
Associate Professor in the subject for 3 years in a permitted/approved/ recognized medical college/ institution with 4 Research publications (at least two as Associate Professor as first or corresponding author.

Associate Professor
As Assistant Professor in the subject for 4 years in a permitted/approved/recognized medical college/ institution with two Research publication as first or corresponding author.

Assistant Professor
3 years Junior Resident in a recognized permitted medical college in the concerned subject and one year as Senior Resident in the concerned subject in a recognized permitted medical college.

3- **AGE-As per Government rules.**

4- **Pay Scale:**

1. Professor-Academic level 14, initial Pay Rs. 1,44,200.00
2. Associate Professor-Academic level 13 A, initial Pay Rs. 1,31,400.00
3. Assistant Professor-Academic level 11, initial Pay Rs. 68,900.00

(The Pay / Allowance of the Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in State Medical College by the State Government will be permissible)

5- **Application Fee:**
A demand draft of Rs. 500/- (Rs. Five Hundred Only) Payable in favour of "Principal, Autonomous State Medical College Society, Basti is mandatory as application fee.

6- No TA/DA for attending the interview is payable.

7- Number of posts may increase or decrease.

8- Interested candidates are invited to send their application on prescribed format (downloadable from www.asmcbasti.edu.in) along with certificates latest by date 5 January 2021 till 5.00 PM to the office of Principal, Maharshi Vashishtha Autonomous State medical College, Basti, Uttar Pradesh-272124 only by registered/speed post.

9- Application received after due date, time and incomplete in any form will not be considered.

10- **Qualification and pay scale for selected candidates as Designate Professor and Designate as Associate Professor:**

1-Designate Professor "The requisite experience for equating a Consultant or Specialist (after possessing postgraduate medical degree in the subject) working in the concerned specialty in the minimum 300 bedded ESI Hospitals as professor shall be more than 18 years with Four Research publication in indexed journal as Ist Author or corresponding author. Such Consultant or Specialist after joining a medical college shall be called as "Designate Professor" and on completion of three years experience in the capacity of Designate Professor, such person shall be designated as "Professor."

2-Associate Professor "The requisite experience for equating a Consultant or specialist (after possessing postgraduate medical degree in the subject) working in the concerned specialty in the minimum 300 bedded State Government Hospitals as associate professors shall be more than 10 years with Two Research publication in indexed journals as Ist Author or corresponding author. Such Consultant or Specialist after joining a medical college shall be called as "Designate Associate Professor" and on completion of three years experience in the capacity of Designate Associate Professor, such person shall be designated as "Associate Professor" as per MCI norms."

3. **Pay scale** - as prescribed by State Government.

Principal
Autonomous State Medical College, Society, Basti.

Simultaneous polls

The EC claims that it is ready for 'one nation, one poll' once the laws are amended, & the Govt's agenda is clear



The debate on "one nation, one poll" has been an ongoing one and looks like the Narendra Modi Government is pursuing it despite concerns. Soon after the Prime Minister expressed his own commitment to work towards simultaneous polls, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora has said that once the legal considerations and amendments were taken care of, the Election Commission (EC) could set the process in motion as it was in the "ready" mode. On the face of it, the favourable aspects would seem attractive, chief among them being the streamlining of costs and

apparatus of conducting the election process itself and stemming the prospect of policy paralysis, with some State or the other due for a mandate every other year. The argument is that with States in India's federal structure going to polls at varied points of time within the Central Government's mandated period of governance, no visionary or decisive steps can be taken or implemented as they would be subservient to electoral politics which, in this country, tends to be overtly populist in nature. Besides, it would rid the country from being in a continuous poll mode and go in for a performance mode. But it is in the subtext of the Westminster system which we have adopted, that questions arise about whether a unitary system works best for our federal structure. And in the current political context, whether it threatens the very idea of regionalism itself, considering that in a single election, national issues tend to take the centre stage and drown out or at least blur pertinent issues of localised interest, something that regional parties are usually in better command of and base their political relevance and bargaining chips on.

Although many argue that the voter is evolved enough to make a distinction between the larger national interest and those of his periphery, there is always a possibility that the overarching aura of the former could affect the judgment call of the voter at the State level if the prevailing party seeking mandate happens to be of a centrist party. And as the results of the last Lok Sabha elections have shown, the centrist surge has helped the ruling BJP regain its footprint in States where it had been hit badly in the last Assembly elections. Besides, with many regional satraps now in awe of it and the party itself poised to make new inroads in States during the Assembly elections scheduled for 2021, the BJP thinks it is an idea whose time has come. This is precisely the reason why the Prime Minister is fast-tracking this proposal. Of course, there are complexities. Sidestepping these will require constitutional amendments to the Representation of People's Act, 1951, the anti-defection law and others relating to rules of procedure with two-thirds majority in both Houses. Besides, such a move does not factor in mid-term situations where a State Government may choose to dissolve itself or fall because of a loss of majority. Would the Governor then not call fresh elections or hold on to a moribund Assembly till the dates of the next round of general elections are announced? What if the Central Government falls before the term of the Assemblies end? Such a move would then go against the spirit of democracy and lead to an absolutist control of federal polity. As it is, though we call ourselves a federal state, in reality we are a more centralised union of States. The "One nation, one election" formula would further strengthen this idea. Already, the Opposition, primarily the Left and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has rightfully warned about the implicit idea of a monolithic State that such a move might encourage, fuelling such demands as "one nation, one culture, one language". This centralisation may become more a syndrome than reform. Former Election Commissioner TS Krishnamurthy, too, had warned that without administrative alignments and ascertaining the practicalities of implementation, there is no point pushing through the proposal just for the heck of it. When the idea was placed before the Law Commission ahead of the general elections, it, too, had recommended that in order to equalise timelines, two conditions had to be met: First, a "motion for an early general election must be agreed to by at least two-thirds of all members of the House". Second, "a no-confidence motion must be passed by the House, and with no alternative Government being confirmed within 14 days of passing a confidence motion". The BJP knows it, too, but with the Opposition in tatters, it is keeping up its momentum.

Inbound doldrums

With the inbound tourism non-existent this year, locales which depended on foreigners find themselves struggling for survival



Back in March 2020, when a busload of Italian tourists in Rajasthan became the first major cluster of COVID-19 cases in India, nobody had any inkling that nine months later we would be staring at a hospitality sector that has been gutted by the global pandemic. In a recent interview on *The Pioneer* Conversations, Deep Kalra, the chief executive of India's largest online travel agency, MakeMyTrip.com, stated that Indians were indulging in "Revenge Travel" and that is a term that is being increasingly peddled across the world. It has come to the point that people are even taking "flights to nowhere" so as to get onboard aircraft again. However, none of these factors will take away from the fact that international long-haul travel has come to a complete standstill. While India still has some air bubbles with nations in the Arabian peninsula, Europe and East Asia, only those non-Indian citizens with work and official visas can travel to India with the exception of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders. So destinations such as Goa, Kerala and Rajasthan which depended on foreign tourist inflows find themselves in a piquant situation.

While in Goa, the flow of domestic Indian tourists and white-collar migrants who have shifted to the coastal state has actually led to the local economy growing; in Kerala and Rajasthan, hotel owners, taxi operators and even tourist guides are staring at bankruptcy. Indeed, in the southern State, the double whammy of the collapse of tourism and the remittance economy from overseas workers will have a devastating economic impact in the coming years. The Central Government has taken huge steps to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the overall economy and as economic activity comes back, prospects for India are less pessimistic than before, even though there will be a contraction for this fiscal year. But the hospitality industry will not recover for many years to come, because even with a vaccine there is no guarantee that international long-haul travel will return and as we are noticing mutations to the virus, a vaccine may not be the panacea that we expect it to be. Yes, domestic tourism will help the industry and should be encouraged, India has every possible landscape to offer and is really 'Incredible India' from the majestic mountains to sun-kissed sands. But those lower down the food chain in the domestic travel industry are suffering financially and should be given some succour through direct cash injections or more. If the industry and its workers are sustained well, when things do eventually return to normal, we could see an explosion in travel to this country.

KAILASH SATYARTHI

As vaccinations begin in one corner of the world, marking the beginning of recovery from the COVID pandemic, we cannot forget that the majority is fighting increasing hunger, poverty and exploitation. This blatant and brazen inequality of the world we live in has been exposed by the grossly unequal response of the world to the pandemic. Of the initial \$8 trillion that have been released as global COVID relief, only 0.13 per cent has been allocated to the poorest communities. The rest has been used to bail out big businesses that have multiplied their profits in the midst of a global recession. The most grievous casualties of this injustice are our children.

We witnessed that the Government, in partnership with citizens, came forward to mitigate the immediate crisis of dry rations, medical aid and essential needs in the most affected communities on an unprecedented scale, which is truly admirable. I am proud of my children, the survivors of child labour and trafficking living in Bal Ashram, came forth to make masks for law enforcement, front-line workers and communities in Rajasthan. Several individuals and organisations stepped up at the time of crisis, risking their safety to provide life-saving relief and care. But with extremely limited access to digital education, overnight loss of household income and no food on the plate for millions of children, we have only barely touched the tip of the iceberg. While the pandemic did not create these inequalities, our response to it has exposed and exacerbated them to the extent that we risk losing an entire generation to child labour, trafficking, child marriage and other forms of exploitation. This will be an utter and complete breakdown of our moral, socio-economic and democratic systems.

Now that we are looking towards recovery, it is important to understand that central to finding the solution is the understanding that the children who are forced to work are the same children who are denied education, and the same children who are undernourished and starving. We cannot leave our children to fend for themselves in this time of crisis.

The need of the hour is that our children receive their fair share — a fair share in policies, in budgets and in protection. A fair share for children is based on fundamental

principles of justice that our children deserve. In 2015, when the world came together and committed to the Sustainable Development Goals, the countries did so with the promise to "leave no child behind". But we are failing in this. The same communities that have been discriminated against for decades, including minorities, migrants and farmers, are the same communities where children are denied education, nutrition and safety. They have historically and structurally been alienated from global wealth and development, and we will look back at this unprecedented period as the time when the vulnerable were pushed over the edge into unending cycles of disenfranchisement. To be able to break this chain of intergenerational exploitation, governments must make a tangible and radical shift to a culture of fair share for the most marginalised children and their families. That is the only way we can end child labour and exploitation, and build a world where our children learn and thrive. The truest judge of how the world has responded to the pandemic is the trafficked child who collapsed dead on the road because she walked a 100 km to get home; the child who was made to drop out of school and was forced to get married because of lack of access to digital education and the child labourer who was trapped in factories as the employer deserted her/him during lockdown. Our children are the mirrors to the world we are building.



WITH EXTREMELY LIMITED ACCESS TO DIGITAL EDUCATION, OVERNIGHT LOSS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND NO FOOD ON THE PLATE FOR MILLIONS OF CHILDREN, WE HAVE ONLY BARELY TOUCHED THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

SOUNDBITE

There is something common between Shaheen Bagh and farmers' protest. Don't see any need to close Chilla. Is it to create an artificial scarcity?

Congress spokesperson
—Abhishek Manu Singhvi



There are threats to the lives of at least 20 prominent politicians, the majority of whom are part of the Opposition political parties, rallying to topple the ruling Government.

Pakistan Interior Minister
—Sheikh Rashid



I am super excited for the song, 'Jugni 2.0'. This is my first song release for the year and it's a fun foot-tapping song which will make you all let loose on the dance floor.

Singer
—Kanika Kapoor



We didn't have any fast bowlers or bouncy wickets at home when we landed up in Windies. These boys have at least played in all these countries with these conditions.

Former India batsman
—Anshuman Gaekwad



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New COVID-19 strain

Sir — The news of detection of the new variant of Coronavirus while scouring its genetic sequences and the spike in infections in the UK has caused consternation across the world. It has come at a time when vaccines have begun to be rolled out.

The UK Government has responded by imposing tougher measures and many countries have imposed travel restrictions on the UK. It is possible that it may be circulating in other parts of the world, too. It must be made clear right at the outset that a lot remains to be known about the new COVID-19 strain. It is feared that the new mutated strain could be a setback in the global fight against the pandemic. The ability of viruses to mutate into new forms is well known.

The new strain is not something unexpected. It is cause for worry that it has emerged as the dominant strain and is rapidly replacing other versions of the virus. It will bear on the course of the pandemic. It is found to be 70 per cent more transmissible and to that extent calls for modification of the pandemic response.

G David Milton
Kanyakumari

Nepal has a long, shared history with India

From times immemorial, Nepal and India have been bound together in ties of heritage, culture, traditions and history. For an average Indian, a person from Nepal is as good as an Indian working in different fields, including that of Indian defence forces. It used to be very heart-warming to see our favourite Gorkha Brigade football team playing in Durand and DCM tournaments in New Delhi. Never it came to our mind that it is a team made of foreign nationals. Seeing all these commonalities, it is very distressing to note the enormous differences that have arisen between the countries. Some introspection is, therefore, required to be done by both sides, more from our side being the bigger country, to examine what has gone wrong.

A number of questions, thus, come to mind. Have we, adventurously or inadvertently, exhibited a big brotherly attitude towards the Himalayan State that has caused some sort of insecurity in the minds of Nepalis — a glimpse of which I got in early '90s itself during an international course for Asian sub-region that I conducted in Pakistan, in which a participant was also from Nepal? Has it been a wrong step taken by us in supporting the



Communist Party of Nepal, knowing their international connections? Or have we made a mistake of siding with the movement for abolishing the monarchy in Nepal? However, seeing the present-day influence that China has been able to establish in Nepal, it is essential to pay special attention towards our relations with Nepal since we can't afford to lose Nepal to China.

BP Srivastava
Noida

Cricket travails

Sir — Cricket is a team game where performance matters. There is a vast difference in the level of cricket played in India and what we displayed at Adelaide and Lord's in the 88 years of international cricket.

With the advent of ODIs and T-20s, the standard of the

game has gone down and nose-dived to an abysmal level in the just-concluded Test match. Winning the toss is vital in a Test match situation. Team India won the toss and achieved a handy first innings lead and, after that, the rest is history.

The team selection poses a problem. The bench strength is very poor and so we cannot play

with accomplished batsmen. To add salt to the injury, there are a number of players hurt in the Indian XI. We did try to do our best in IPL and got injured in the process. Winning IPL is considered prestigious whereas playing international matches for the country is considered secondary.

CK Jayanthi Ramani
Coimbatore

Missing ethos

Sir — "Aya Ram, Gaya Ram" is not alien to Indian politics. We are habitual to see that educated or uneducated, criminal or law-abiding, when people join politics they have a fixed ideology to sacrifice their self-respect for the sake of position and power.

And now that the BJP is trying to offer such people a lollipop in one State after another, it has become a matter of concern. Because one has to be sure that this trend is likely to continue in future too, given the BJP's efforts to extend its footprint. In Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, the resignations resulted in the downfall of the Opposition Government.

The way the defection of Suvedu Adhikari with eight TMC lawmakers and dozens of others to the BJP took place in front of Home Minister Amit Shah, it is a reminder from a few months back when PM Narendra Modi declared that 40 Trinamool Congress MLAs would join the BJP.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Find a middle path soon

It is in our national interest to resolve this stand off between the farmers and the Centre in a graceful manner through the process of dialogue



SHSHANK SAURAV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a gurudwara in Delhi has political pundits deducing that the visit was aimed at sending a message to the Sikh community which has presented a united front against the recent farm legislations. Even though political compulsions are a reality and some gestures could be related to political messaging but it is a fact that Hindus and Sikhs are one. They may have their differences but they can never be separated. It is also a fact that our Constitution entitles everyone to protest peacefully and therefore, the farmers have every right to raise their concerns in a peaceful manner. Some of the issues flagged up by them are valid and the Government has agreed to listen to them. Even the highest executive office of this country has invited the growers for discussions and promised to address their grievances. Asking for outright withdrawal of these legislations is motivated by anything but farmers' welfare.

Giving a legal guarantee for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the core issue in this protest and somewhere I also agree that there should be a provision in law to ensure that private institutions or large corporations are not allowed to procure farm produce below the MSP declared by the Government. As far as the legality of the MSP is concerned, it is already in the statute under The National Food Security Act, 2013. The MSP is defined under Section 2(10) and obligations of the Centre/State governments and local authorities for procurement and distribution of food grains are specified under the said Act.

The fear of phasing out the MSP mechanism doesn't hold any ground because the Government has to keep procuring food grains to distribute through the Public Distribution System (PDS) and to achieve other objectives like food security, inflation control and so on. If we keep the economics and legality aside for a moment, the truth of the matter is that the vote bank politics of our country will never allow any Government to abolish the PDS scheme and the Government will have to procure grains at the MSP as long as the PDS scheme is run.

Similar to the MSP, the laws should be amended to include a grievance redressal mechanism and farmers should not be left at the whims and fancies of bureaucrats. The Government can simulate the Consumer Forum mechanism in which there are different forums available based on the nature of the dispute. A separate body for redressal of the growers' dispute will ensure speedy resolution as well as save the time of the courts which are already overburdened.

There is no doubt that the Indian agriculture laws needed reforms. This is evident from the fact that the Congress promised the abolition of the Agricultural Produce Market Committees Act (APMC) in point 11 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in point 21 of its 2019 poll promise, which was covered under Chapter 7 of the election manifesto. Similarly, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-ruled Delhi was among the first States to notify the farm laws. If the Opposition really wants to help farmers, then it should come out with suggested amendments and their proposals should be discussed in detail. However, none of the Opposition leaders are showing the courage to explain how these laws are going to take away any existing rights of farmers and they are shying away from a public debate on this topic.

If we see the larger issues around agriculture then the MSP is not a solution because this helps only those farmers who have surplus produce to sell. More than 90 per cent of farmers do subsistence farming and they produce just enough to meet their own requirements. Only a small section of farmers are beneficiaries of the MSP scheme and if someone believes that a higher MSP is a panacea for all the woes of the growers, then s/he has certainly not understood the issue.

The MSP scheme has been in place for decades and cheap farm credit along with farm loan waiver, tax-free income, various kind of subsidies like electricity, fertiliser and so on are already being given to farmers. An increasing population has reduced the landholding size and farmers must reduce their dependency on crops to lead a better life. The Government's initiatives in the field of animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries, poultry and so on, should be taken positively and such activities can increase the income of rural households.

India is a vast country and there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problems of the farmers. The problems of Punjab's farmers are different from those of the growers from States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Food "ann" and farmers who are our "annadatas" have a special place in our culture and no one should be allowed to defame them in furtherance of their political agenda. It is in our national interest to resolve this issue in a graceful manner through the process of dialogue. This should be done at the earliest because many lives are being lost in this protracted struggle. It is time to smoke the peace pipe.

(The writer is a Chartered Accountant and public policy analyst. The views expressed are personal)

HOW CAN MAMATA BANERJEE TRAIN THE GUNS ON THE BJP FOR THE RECENT EXITS IN HER PARTY? SHE LEFT THE CONGRESS TOO. —UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH



FACTCHECK THE SPEECH MADE IN BENGAL BY THE HENCHMAN OF THE TOURIST GANG. SEVEN FALSE STATEMENTS IN ONE SPEECH. —TMC MP DEREK O'BRIEN

A long wait for real equality

Even though 25 years have passed since the world adopted the Beijing Declaration, gender equality is still an elusive dream and one of the major casualties of the pandemic



ARCHANA DATTA

The US President-elect Joe Biden's decision to choose an all-women communications team and opt for more women in his Cabinet is being considered a paradigm shift in the gender narrative. It is being compared to the major fight for equity that ushered in voting rights for women in the US. Feminists, perhaps, would find some reason to celebrate Biden's move, despite the fact that women hold only 25.1 per cent of all seats in Parliaments across the world. And when we look back at the events that unfolded this year, whatever little sense of contentment we might have got from Biden's gesture, is short-lived! The year witnessed the deepening of the pre-pandemic inequalities and discrimination. It also brought to the fore more disturbing concerns about women's basic human rights.

While the raging global health crisis instilled a fear of contracting infections in people, for many women and girls, it also unleashed the threat of intimate partner violence (IPV) considering that they were closeted within their homes for extended periods due to the lockdowns necessitated by the outbreak. Over two dozen evidence-based global research studies corroborate that "the pandemic has raised the profile of violence against women and children." The home, that is supposed to be a safe haven, has turned into a breeding ground for extreme brutalities, which prompted the UN Secretary General António Guterres to call for a "ceasefire." Sadly, this appeal for a ceasefire was not made for any battlefield but for the violence being perpetrated in homes across the world.

According to media reports, deaths due to domestic abuse in the UK more than doubled in the first two months of the lockdown, while in the US there was not only an increase in domestic violence cases but also in the severity of injuries inflicted. In India, the number of IPV complaints went up 2.5 times during the nationwide lockdown. This is notwithstanding the fact that as many as 150 countries have laws against domestic violence. However, many legal experts are of the opinion that the laws are "not always on the women's side."

In some parts of the world, like Northern Africa, Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, 43 per cent and 35 per cent of the countries respectively, are yet to pass any laws against IPV.

Fortunately, India does have a law against domestic abuse since 2005. But the available data seldom reflect the reality, since a large number of cases remain unreported. The extended nationwide lockdown made matters worse for Indian women/girls as many of them failed to reach the designated helplines, because of the wide connectivity gap. While just 46 per cent of urban women have their own mobile phones, in the rural areas, it drops to 37 per cent.

The UN chief's calls for a strategy to counter the perils of the "shadow pandemic", are yet to bear fruit. So far, only 48 countries have incorporated any such measure in their COVID-19 containment blueprint. While commenting on why women continue to get the short end of the stick, Beulah Shekhar, Emeritus Professor, Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences, Coimbatore, says that the "present calamitous situation has made it abundantly clear that, both, the Government and the NGOs, lack preparedness and like before, there are knee-jerk reactions to adverse developments. Decentralised and multidisciplinary disaster responses teams led by women are the need of the hour. This will aid in the effective implementation of gender-sensitive strategies."

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ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, DEATHS DUE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE UK MORE THAN DOUBLED IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE LOCKDOWN WHILE IN THE US, THERE WAS NOT ONLY AN INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES BUT ALSO IN THE SEVERITY OF INJURIES INFLICTED. IN INDIA, THE NUMBER OF IPV COMPLAINTS WENT UP 2.5 TIMES DURING THE NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN



Now, the combined onslaught of violence, financial insecurity and increased unpaid workload on women is making many of them vulnerable to greater mental and physical health risks. "Women are now doubly prone to abortions and mental depression. They are 1.5 times more susceptible to HIV infections and 2.3 times more susceptible to alcohol disorders," says the World Health Organisation (WHO).

A CARE International study reveals that "women are suffering almost three times more from significant mental health consequences." Another survey by Total Brain says that "depression has increased by 83 per cent in women, compared to 36 per cent in men." As per a media report "suicide rates among young women in Japan and South Korea are already on the rise due to increased stress." In Britain, a study found that "during the first six weeks of the lockdown, suicidal tendencies had gone up mostly among women and young adults."

Women working from home (WFH) also experience "increased levels of anxiety, stress and sleeplessness, as often, the line between personal and work life gets merged." Be that as it may, women's mental health issues are often dismissed as "frivolous" or "imaginary" and seldom receive any medical attention. A WHO survey (June to August) in 130 countries disclosed that critical mental health services in 93 per cent of the countries "got disrupted even when there were growing demands" for help.

In the field of gainful employment, too, women are being gradually pushed out. The UN Economic and Social Council's 'World's Women 2020' report, says that only 47 per cent of women are part of the labour market, compared to

74 per cent of men, a gender gap, that has been persisting for the last 25 years. In Southern Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia, the rate plummets to less than 30 per cent.

During the pandemic, women bore the major burnt of the economic disruption as the sectors in which they predominated like food service, retail, entertainment and so on, have been the hardest hit. A staggering 72 per cent women working as domestic help lost jobs, while for many women in risky and stigmatised jobs, it was a "choice between unemployment and the risk of infection."

India, which already has one of the world's lowest female labour force participation rates (FLPR), saw the numbers falling even further. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE's) latest data showed a job contraction for both men (104 million) and women (17 million). However, men regained most of their lost jobs by November, while, women lost 49 per cent of them. Moreover, a study indicated that "23.5 per cent of women employed before the lockdown, were less likely to be re-employed." In the case of small women entrepreneurs, "most of them (73 per cent) faced setbacks, with 21 per cent suffering a near wipe out and 35 per cent seeing a significant decline in business revenues..." says a report by Bain & Company, a management consultancy. The CMIE's household survey too flagged a more disturbing impact on younger women, whose FLPR went down to 8.7 per cent from 14.3 in 2019.

According to a research, women with no children appear to have had the best rebound in terms of employment and women with very young children often got a raw deal, while in the case

of men, there was little change, both, during the pre and post-lockdown period. This is not restricted to India alone, but, has become a global phenomenon. In the US, most professional gender gaps are in fact motherhood gaps and many working mothers, in the absence of guaranteed paid maternity leave or affordable childcare, are confronting brutally hard choices between a job and child care. So is the case in Israel, where free early childhood education and day care, raised women's overall workforce participation to 74 per cent, but, the pandemic disruptions reduced it to 56 per cent.

The UN Women expressed concern that "even when the pandemic subsides, women are likely to suffer from long-term setbacks in workforce participation and income."

Even though 25 years have passed since the world adopted the Beijing declaration, yet, gender equality is still an elusive dream and one of the major casualties of the pandemic. "Women are yet to become citizens in the real sense. Though in the eyes of the law, they may possess equal rights but they are often treated as subjects, second class citizens or lesser mortals. There is an implicit bar, either in the garb of patriarchal control or societal norm," rues Putul Sathe, Professor, Research Centre for Women's Studies, S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai. While, Beulah Shekhar, says that "women's rights remain only a rhetoric, just ticking the right boxes, and not a reality in India."

(The writer is former Director-General, Doordarshan and All India Radio and ex-Press Secretary, President of India. The views expressed are personal)

Humanity hurtling towards a climate crisis

The world has its environmental conservation challenges cut out. It must forge a resilient strategy for 2021 and beyond



KOTA SRIRAJ

The COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented human suffering and its socio-economic impact was felt globally. Environmental deterioration too, seems to have accelerated during this time, if the slew of extreme weather events that took place this year are anything to go by.

In fact, 2020 was the third-warmest year on record, given that the global mean surface temperature for January-October was 1.1 to 1.2°C higher than the pre-industrial base-

line (1850-1900). This has been followed by an unusually cold winter.

We know climate change as a phenomenon that denotes a gradual worsening of our environmental conditions but, this year has shown that the change is rapidly transitioning to a climate crisis. This means more bad news for humanity on the environmental front.

The University of North Carolina uses supercomputers to observe the effects of climate change. While presenting its findings at the National Institute of Environment Health Sciences-sponsored Global Environment Health seminar in June, the experts stated that unchecked Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution were going to pave the way for extreme weather events in the 21st century.

The unanimous conclusion at the seminar attended by 400 experts from around the world was that there was an urgent need to flatten the

GHG emission curve, similar to the emergency efforts being made to flatten the COVID-19 one.

Currently, the ambient air pollution caused by ozone and fine particulate matter is major cause for worry as it contributes to 3.4 million premature deaths worldwide. How many deaths in India are attributable to this cause needs to be worked out by the Government urgently, as studies suggest that pollution-related casualties will be the highest in densely populated areas.

At the same time, measures to reduce GHG emissions can exponential boost and aid global efforts to save human lives. According to the figures released by the University of North Carolina, if we are successful in bringing down GHG emissions, approximately 5,00,000 fewer premature deaths can be achieved by 2030 and this number can be taken up to two million fewer premature deaths by 2100.

Even though, the global lockdowns necessitated by the pandemic gave the world a breather by bringing down GHG emissions by 17 per cent, the resumption of economic activity will see the pollution levels climb up soon enough. Unless we take climate change and environmental degradation seriously and mend our ways, we are headed for disaster.

The climate crisis being triggered by the spiraling GHG emissions has left an indelible mark on the environment this year and has resulted in the exacerbation of extreme weather events. One of the most extreme weather spells was the Atlantic hurricane season that saw a record-breaking 30 storms between June 1-November 30. Apart from these storms and cyclones, heavy rainfall in several parts of Asia and Africa led to immense loss of human lives, property and livelihoods. Brazil, for instance, saw uncharacteristically

high temperatures and droughts which caused major wildfires and resulted in a loss of \$3 billion to the agriculture sector.

India, too, has not been spared the adverse effects of climate change. A record-breaking cold wave in December 2019 continued well into January and this was accompanied by heavy rainfall throughout northern India. The national Capital received the maximum rainfall in 10 years and this led to a sharp plunge in temperatures in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (UP).

The vagaries of climate change again manifested themselves in the form of untimely rainfall in March. As many as 222 out of the total 683 meteorological districts in the country received excess rain. This was not only detrimental for agriculture but also adversely impacted the efforts of the Government to contain the COVID-19 pandemic which was spreading fast during that period.

Even as environmental experts attributed the freak rains to GHG emissions and global warming, the efforts to rein in the same have slipped time and again and the outbreak has only made the efforts to safeguard the environment that much more difficult. This is because, given the socio-economic impact of the contagion, countries will be tempted to keep environmental concerns on the back-burner in a post-Corona world. Shoring up their tottering economies will be their primary concern for a long time to come. This will lead to a *Catch-22* situation as the pandemic was a result of environmental degradation in the first place. Along with the rest of the world, India, too, has its environmental conservation challenges cut-out. India must forge a resilient environment strategy for 2021 and beyond. Removing bottlenecks in renewable energy self-sufficiency must become a priority along with dialing down of

dependence on fossil fuels. Just focussing on these two areas on a war footing will decrease GHG emissions and reduce ambient temperatures. This will result in controlling climatic extremities.

Similarly, allocation of sufficient funds is essential to ensure that the battle against climate change is fought on an even keel. In order to ensure this, the diversion of precious public money for needless projects must be identified and curtailed. Climate change is a reality but we still do not have a full blown climate crisis on our hands. If we take sustainable development seriously even as we pursue our economic recovery goals diligently, we can hope to leave a better world for future generations. Else, as we have already witnessed, climate change can prove to be a runaway train.

(The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal)

Automated system flagged Kisan Ekta Morcha page as spam: FB

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Social media giant Facebook said Kisan Ekta Morcha's page had been taken down after its automated systems found increased activity and flagged it as spam, and that the page was restored in less than three hours.

Facebook had faced criticism from various quarters after the page - which is run by a farmers' collective - was taken down on Sunday evening.

"As per our review, our automated systems found an increased activity on the (Kisan Ekta Morcha) Facebook page and flagged it as spam, which violates our Community Standards. We restored the page in less than three hours when we became aware of the context," a Facebook spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that the review showed that

only the Facebook page was affected by the automated systems while the Instagram account remained unaffected.

While a vast majority of work fighting spam is done automatically using recognisable patterns of problematic behaviour, the company also relies on human review team to work on cases where human expertise is needed to understand the context of a particular situation, the spokesperson said. "In Q3 2020, out of the 1.9 billion pieces of content removed globally for violating our policies on spam, we restored 74.9 million pieces of content globally, when we identified issues ourselves," the spokesperson added.

Protestors at the ongoing farmers agitation had said social media is crucial for their movement as it allowed them to share their views. Many had seen the shutting down of the Facebook page as an attempt to

silence them.

Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and other states are protesting against the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.

Enacted in September, the three farm laws have been projected by the central 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 Minimum Support Price and do away with the mandi system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates.

Govt invites EoI for strategic sale of Shipping Corporation

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has expanded its strategic disinvestment plan for current fiscal initiating the sell-off plan for Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI) by inviting expression of interest from potential interested parties. The Government proposes to sell its entire shareholding of 63.75 per cent in the listed entity to a buyer that will takeover the company with full management control. The proposed initiation of strategic sale plan for SCI is the second big initiative by the Centre after two of its entities - Air India and BPCL have reached advanced stages of bidding to sell the entire government equity.

For the strategic disinvest-



ment of Shipping Corporation of India (SCIL) EoI and PIM (preliminary information memorandum) have been published, DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a tweet.

Interested players have to submit initial bids by February 13, 2021, said a preliminary information memorandum document.

RBSA Capital Advisors is the transaction advisor to the disinvestment.

Govt removes export curbs on medical goggles, gloves

New Delhi:The Govt on Tuesday removed export curbs on medical goggles and gloves, which were in demand due to the Covid-19 pandemic, to boost outbound shipments of these products. The export restrictions were imposed on account of the spread of COVID-19."The export policy of medical goggles and Nitrile/NBR gloves is amended from restricted to free category making all types of medical goggles and Nitrile/NBR gloves freely exportable," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. In a separate notification, DGFT said import of copra is allowed through government-run trading firm MMTC, while import of coconutoils is permitted through STEs (state trading enterprises) except STC (State Trading Corporation).

Markets regain footing on firm European cues; IT stocks hog limelight

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex made an emphatic comeback on Tuesday following the previous session's massive reversal, as European markets reversed losses amid expectations that the Covid-19 vaccines will be effective against a new virus strain in the UK.

IT stocks led the recovery on Dalal Street, with pharma and select banking stocks also witnessing robust demand.

After gyrating 968 points in a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 452.73 points or 0.99 per cent higher at 46,006.69. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 137.90 points or 1.03 per cent to 13,466.30. HCL Tech was the top

gainer among the Sensex companies, rallying 5.09 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Infosys, PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, Nestle India and L&T.

Only five index constituents finished in the red -- Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finance, HDFC, RIL and IndusInd Bank, which slipped up to 0.94 per cent. European markets witnessed a sharp recovery after German pharmaceutical company BioNTech said it was confident that its coronavirus vaccine would work against the new UK variant. The variant, detected mainly in London and the south-east of England in recent weeks, has sparked concern worldwide because of signs that it may spread more easily.

E-commerce props up paper-packaging fortunes

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

A revival in demand, led by increased offtake from e-commerce channels, will support a rebound for paper-packaging entities this fiscal, offsetting the impact of pandemic-induced disruptions in the first quarter, Crisil said on Tuesday.

According to the rating

agency, despite a 200 basis points (ps) blow to operating margin, credit profiles will be stable on the back of strong capital structure.

Sales volume had wilted after the lockdown as demand from key end-user industries such as ready-made garments, industrial components, consumer durables and exports weakened.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech on Tuesday announced recruitment of 13,000 volunteers and continued progress towards achieving the goal of 26,000 participants for the Phase III clinical trials of its

Covid-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' across multiple sites in India.

Covaxin has been evaluated in approximately 1,000 subjects in Phase I and Phase II clinical trials, with promising safety and immunogenicity results, Bharat Biotech said in a state-

ment. The indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine has been developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Virology (NIV), it added.

"Covaxin is a highly purified and inactivated 2 dose SARS-CoV2 vaccine, manufactured in a vero cell manufacturing platform with an excellent safety track record of more than 300 million doses," Bharat Biotech said.

According to the company, the vaccine is developed and manufactured at Bharat Biotech's BSL-3, biocontainment facility. The company has successfully recruited 13,000 volunteers for the Phase III clinical trials of the vaccine

and the target is to have 26,000 participants, as per the statement.

"This is an unprecedented vaccine trial ever to take place in India, and we are overwhelmed with the steady rise in participation," Bharat Biotech Joint MD Suchitra Ella said.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	13,373.65	13,492.05	13,192.90	13,466.30	137.9	
ADANI PORTS	444.25	470.5	435	468.9	24.65	
HCLTECH	879.15	919.25	872	917	46.55	
TECHM	910	948.9	903.2	944	37.15	
INFY	1,182.00	1,223.85	1,176.10	1,219.95	42.65	
GAIL	114.5	120.6	112.65	118.35	3.65	
WIPRO	354	365.7	349.45	364.35	10.4	
POWERGRID	185.45	191.05	185	190.45	4.95	
SUNPHARMA	553	571.1	540.4	566.9	14.35	
IT	12,235.25	12,680.00	12,133.55	12,648.30		
NESTLEIND	18,200.00	18,665.00	18,000.00	18,609.90	417.3	
CIPLA	782	798	761.1	796.2	17.7	
TITAN	1,466.00	1,510.00	1,451.20	1,504.90	33.25	
JSWSTEEL	353.75	364	346.15	361.35	7.85	
DIVISLAB	3,658.95	3,739.10	3,601.90	3,712.95	78.8	
EICHERMOT	2,400.00	2,464.00	2,382.45	2,446.05	49.65	
BHARTIARTL	494	505	485.55	500.35	9.45	
ASIANPAINT	2,541.00	2,613.60	2,496.20	2,603.90	49.25	
HDFCLIFE	630	643.25	620.6	641	11.8	
COALINDIA	132.5	136.1	129.8	135.45	2.5	
BPCL	367.35	374.6	357	374.1	6.75	
AXISBANK	585	593.95	568.4	593	10.5	
TCS	2,834.00	2,883.65	2,818.65	2,870.65	50.5	
M&M	688.8	699.35	667.3	697.7	11.75	
DREDDY	5,107.70	5,250.40	4,936.35	5,150.00	81.45	
SHLIFE	940.85	955.6	925.2	954.05	13.2	
UPL	437.3	445.8	425.55	444	6.7	
NTPC	973.5	99.8	96.5	98.95	1.45	
IOC	86	88.5	84.2	88.2	1.1	
HOMOTOCO	3,020.00	3,065.00	2,900.60	3,030.00	35.9	
ICICIBANK	497.3	501.8	489.1	499.55	50.5	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,245.00	3,384.80	3,172.00	3,320.00	317.5	
SBIN	254.8	258.7	248.25	251.5	2.45	
ONGC	89.05	92.3	86.6	90.65	0.8	
GRASIM	877.35	889.4	863.35	885	7.65	
BAJAJFINSV	8,850.00	8,963.80	8,621.20	8,920.00	73.25	
ITC	203.1	206.25	196.9	204.2	1.25	
TATASTEEL	596	610.45	585	599.3	3.45	
SHREECEM	23,717.50	24,070.25	23,389.05	23,833.25	115.75	
BRITANNIA	3,620.00	3,662.40	3,541.10	3,640.65	16.6	
MARUTI	7,380.00	7,480.00	7,205.10	7,401.00	24.9	
TATAMOTORS	164.55	169.2	156.7	165.05	10.5	
HINDUNILVR	2,310.00	2,333.30	2,281.00	2,310.00	4.05	
HDFCBANK	1,384.00	1,394.80	1,345.00	1,373.00	43.5	
HINDALCO	233.9	239.25	227	231.8	-0.5	
RELANCE	1,949.00	1,958.90	1,888.45	1,935.00	-4.7	
INDUSINDBK	842.7	857.5	839.85	839.75	-2.95	
ULTRACEMCO	5,039.95	5,091.10	4,891.20	4,988.00	-19.85	
BAIJANCE	5,070.00	5,125.00	4,826.35	5,010.00	-31.85	
HDFC	2,415.00	2,439.90	2,360.50	2,398.50	-16.3	
KOTAKBANK	1,930.00	1,930.25	1,886.10	1,901.05	-19.8	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	30,903.35	31,494.55	30,232.60	31,417.30	455.8	
IGL	465	501.55	462.05	494.9	30.55	
BANDHANBNK	378.3	399	374.2	396.45	22.15	
UTI	3,397.00	3,618.00	3,318.10	3,573.00	177.55	
INDIGO	1,425.00	1,596.95	1,425.00	1,574.65	67.65	
HDFCAMC	2,786.00	2,905.95	2,678.00	2,888.10	102.75	
CADILAHC	455	470.85	438.8	468.7	15.9	
NAUKRI	4,465.10	4,630.00	4,366.95	4,622.00	142.15	
ADANITRANS	395.1	411.9	381.9	408.05	12.15	
TORNTHPHARM	2,669.95	2,755.90	2,600.00	2,743.95	75.9	
ICICIPRULI	466.25	483.95	458.6	482	12.8	
BIOCON	447.35	461.45	437	462	12	
DLF	215.1	221.8	210	220.45	5.65	
PIDILITIND	1,684.10	1,727.80	1,645.85	1,725.95	43.75	
GICRE	133	139	127.1	137.25	3.45	
LUPIN	945	962.05	913.9	955	23.3	
TATACONSUM	559.8	578.05	551	575.5	12.75	
ICICI	1,435.00	1,468.85	1,410.40	1,444.80	32.1	
BERGEINT	698.4	717.3	682.2	709.05	14.05	
SEAMEANS	1,474.55	1,516.20	1,441.30	1,505.05	28.5	
PETRONET	243	249.8	239.55	248.4	4.6	
NMDC	109.6	112.65	107.75	111	1.95	
CONCOR	382	387.9	365.05	385.75	6.35	
BOSCHDT	12,448.65	12,690.00	12,070.00	12,621.90	173.25	
AUROPHARMA	847	859.8	821.4	856	10.25	
GODREJCP	705.2	720.2	694	711.95	8.45	
PFC	109.35	111.65	105.6	111.45	1.25	
MOTHERSUNI	146.05	151.15	139.7	148.7	14.5	
SBICARD	815	827.35	800	821	7.3	
HINDPETRO	210.2	211.5	203.9	212.1	1.85	
AMBIJACEM	235.6	239.15	227.25	237.1	1.7	
OFSS	3,091.00	3,111.15	3,031.55	3,119.00	16.9	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,171.00	1,194.75	1,152.75	1,175.15	5.3	
MARICO	404.25	404.25	389.05	398.25	1.4	
COLPAL	1,542.50	1,584.00	1,517.30	1,545.00	3.45	
DABUR	504.9	509.9	495.5	504.6	1	
ADANIGREEN	992	1,040.00	976	1,022.10	30.9	
UBL	1,085.30	1,111.15	1,060.95	1,091.10	1.2	
MAVILLS	868.05	883.85	857	883	0.9	
GOODWELL-N	559.9	564	544.15	556.5	0.4	
PGH	10,959.00	11,031.15	10,755.05	10,959.95	0.8	
BANKBARODA	58.15	60	56.2	58.7	-0.1	
ACC	1,572.85	1,587.90	1,520.00	1,569.00	-5.35	
INDUSTOWER	231	234.25	224.2	231.5	-10.5	
PEL	1,356.00	1,397.75	1,282.95	1,335.90	-9.5	
HINDZINC	230.2	237.9	224.8	232.5	-2	
AIKEM	2,864.00	2,886.95	2,761.10	2,840.50	-35.65	
BAJAJHLONG	3,071.00	3,189.00	2,850.20	3,030.00	-40.55	
DMART	2,676.00	2,678.30	2,552.25	2,628.00	-54.4	
GUJAJINDIA	15,726.00	15,938.10	15,351.00	15,505.00	-343.25	
PNB	33.85	34.75	31.7	33.35	-0.75	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
DMART	2670	2675	2551	2625.55
HCLTECH	876.2	919	872	913.85
RELIANCE	1940	1958.4	1887.75	1936.6
BAIJANCE	5045	5131	4826.45	5014.25
TATAMOTORS	164	169.1	156.55	165.05
HDFCBANK	1376	1387.05	1345.45	1373.5
IDEA	9.22	9.59	8.9	9.52
HDFC	2406.2	2441.4	2361	2401.2
ITC	202.2	206.2	196.9	203.35
MARUTI	7360	7438.15	7201.4	7394.5
TITAN	1458.5	1512.8	1451.2	1502.35
BHARTIARTL	492	505	485.6	500.25
INFY	1178	1224	1176.3	1220.75
INDUSINDBK	835.5	857.45	813.8	840.75
IRCTC	1370	1408.55	1335.95	1398.35
LT	1232	1268	1214	1262.35
TATASTEEL	594.55	610.55	584.55	601.25
INDIGO	1356.4	1594.9	1356.4	1573.35
CANBK	109.6	117.4	105.55	115.25
ONGC	88.1	92.3	86.5	90.6
SBIN	254	258.55	248.15	257.55
AXISBANK	582.6	593.75	568.45	589.65
ICICIBANK	496.51	501.75	489	500.55
KOTAKBANK	1920	1929.1	1886	1902.9
BAIJAJFINSV	8840	8968.55	8616.7	8937.3
GAIL	113.2	120.6	112.6	118.45
VEDL	134.25	140	130	139.25
BAIJAJ-AUTO	3185	3286.2	3174.25	3269.35
ASIANPAINT	2501	2613.35	2495	2604.65
LUPIN	944	962.45	914.6	954.4
DRREDDY	5108	5176.15	4943.55	5161.9
IBULSHGFIN	181	188.15	173.15	186.45
TCS	2830	2883.1	2819	2870.5
COALINDIA	130	136.1	129.75	135.55
ADANITI	423.2	461	417.6	458.75
MOTHERSUMI	145.25	150	139.6	148.85
TATAPOWER	68	71.9	66.7	71.6
TATACHEM	445	478.05	438	475.75
HDFCAML	2778	2900	2676	2875.2
IOC	33.5	34.75	31.7	33.45
PNB	85.7	88.5	84.2	88
BHEL	32.5	33.3	30.6	32.65
WIPRO	352.3	365.85	349.35	364.6
AUROPHARMA	845	860	822	856.8
PVR	1300	1322	1212.05	1257.2
BANDHANBNK	376	398.95	371	396.65
CIPLA	778.05	798.35	760.65	795.35
HINDUNILVR	2300	2332.4	2281.8	2309.55
SPIICEJET	84.3	90.3	82.35	89

UK working to unblock borders ‘as fast as possible’: Boris

AFP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday sought to sound a note of calm saying he was working “as fast as possible” to unblock trade across the Channel after France shut its borders to UK hauliers in a bid to contain a new variant of the coronavirus.

Following conversations with French President Emmanuel Macron over the ban, which has caused chaos around the key UK port of Dover and led to concerns of food shortages just days before Christmas, Johnson said supply chains remained “strong and robust”.

“These delays only apply to a very small percentage of food entering the UK,” the prime minister told a press conference, adding that he wanted to sort out the problem “in the next few hours”.

France’s snap decision on Sunday, which was initially set to last for 48 hours, was made in a bid to contain the new strain of the virus, discovered in the UK, which officials have said is 70 percent more transmissible.

The ban caused Britain to bring forward “Operation Stack”, the contingency plan drawn up to deal with anticipated freight tailbacks on roads around Dover in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

‘A bad end to a bad year’

Earlier in the day, the prime minister called a meeting of the Cobra emergency committee to discuss the situation regarding international travel and in particular the regular flow of freight.

Misery was piled on travellers trying to leave Britain as around 30 nations introduced bans on individuals arriving from the UK in a bid to contain the new coronavirus variant of the disease which British officials have said is 70 percent more transmissible than the main strain.

The chaos on the roads surrounding the key port is a stark sign of what to expect should Britain leave the EU without a deal in 10 days.

However, Johnson said that during his call with Macron the pair had “vowed” not to discuss Brexit as negotiations between London and Brussels continue. Road signs near the Channel port, through which 10,000 heavy goods vehicles pass each day, on Monday urged people to go home, saying that the French border was closed.

David King, a lorry driver from Birmingham in the west of England, had been left stranded in Dover trying to make a delivery to Belgium.

“It’s been a frustrating year hasn’t it, for everyone, so this just adds to it. A bad end to a bad year really,” he told AFP.

A disused airfield will be opened later Monday to serve as a lorry park for up to 4,000 stranded drivers.

UK supermarket Sainsbury’s warned that prolonged disruption could lead to “gaps over the coming days” in the supply of lettuce, cauliflowers, broccoli and citrus fruit.

Chaotic scenes

The ban on all but unaccompanied freight crossing to France comes as companies scramble to shift merchandise

UK scientists probe new Covid variant’s spread in children

PTI ■ LONDON

Scientists in the UK are investigating the impact of a new mutant variant of coronavirus, named VUI-202012/01, on children and whether its faster transmission in parts of England is down to the younger segment of the population.

The Government’s New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (Nervtag) is monitoring the data to analyse this arc of the variant, which has led over 40 countries, including India, to suspend travel to and from the UK in order to try and contain the more infectious mutation.

Earlier strains of coronavirus found it harder to infect children than adults, with one explanation being that children have fewer of the doorways called the ACE2 receptor the virus uses to enter a human body’s cells.

Professor Wendy Barclay, from Nervtag and Imperial College London, said the mutations to the virus appeared to be making it easier to breach those doorways.

“Therefore children are equally susceptible, perhaps, to this virus as adults, and therefore given their mixing pat-

terns, you would expect to see more children being infected,” she explained.

Experts do not believe that the new version is any greater threat to children’s health and the scientist behind the world’s first approved vaccine against Covid-19 has said the Pfizer/BioNTech jabs will work against the strain, though further investigation remains underway.

“The likelihood that our vaccine works... is relatively high,” said Ugur Sahin, chief executive of the German co-developer of the vaccine BioNTech.

Speaking on ‘Bild TV’ in Germany, Sahin said his company would investigate the mutation in the coming days and that he viewed the matter “with a degree of soberness”.

His message of some confidence comes as the UK reached the half a million milestone for vaccinations of the jabs, delivered to the elderly and most vulnerable sections of the country’s population.

“I can today announce that over half a million people, more than 500,000 people in the UK, have now received their first dose,” Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced at a

10 Downing Street briefing on Monday evening.

“I find that a reason for hope and for confidence,” he said. His address came as nearly 1,500 lorries piled up on the borders as France sealed off the UK amid fears of the new rapid spreading variant. Government ministers have been working to get the block lifted, with mass testing of the drivers being one option in order for the flow of goods to resume and truckers able to get back home in time for Christmas.

“Testing of some sort is part of the discussions that the transport secretary is having with his counterpart in France right now,” UK Home Secretary Priti Patel said.

“Getting those tests up and running can happen pretty quickly, but in terms of the details of that, that is something both the transport secretary and his counterpart will be discussing,” she said.

From initial reports of the new variant being more confined to London and southern parts of England, the government’s Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, has now confirmed that it is to be found “everywhere”.

WHO Europe to convene member states over new Covid variant

Copenhagen, Denmark: The World Health Organization (WHO) in Europe said Tuesday it would convene its members to discuss how to handle the outbreak of a new variant of the novel coronavirus discovered in the UK.

Hans Kluge, WHO’s regional director for Europe said in a post to Twitter that the organisation was closely monitoring the spread of the new variant and would in response “convene member states to discuss strategies for testing, reducing transmission & communicating risks”.

Kluge added that “limiting travel to contain spread is prudent until we have better info.”

BioNTech: Can make mutation-beating vaccine in 6 weeks

AFP ■ BERLIN

The co-founder of BioNTech said Tuesday it was “highly likely” that its vaccine against the mutated strain detected in Britain, but it could also adapt the vaccine if necessary in six weeks.

“Scientifically, it is highly likely that the immune response by this vaccine also can deal with the new virus variant,” said Ugur Sahin.

But if needed, “in principle the beauty of the messenger technology is that we can directly start to engineer a vaccine which completely

mimics this new mutation -- we could be able to provide a new vaccine technically within six weeks”.

Sahin said the variant detected in Britain has nine mutations, rather than just one as is usually common.

Nevertheless, he voiced confidence that the vaccine developed with Pfizer would be efficient because it “contains more than 1,000 amino acids, and only nine of them have changed, so that means 99 percent of the protein is still the same”.

He said tests are being run on the variant, with results expected in two weeks.

ONE DEATH EVERY 33 SECONDS IN US’ DEADLIEST COVID-19 WEEK SO FAR: REPORT

Washington: In the United States last week, someone died from Covid-19 every 33 seconds. The disease claimed more than 18,000 lives in the seven days ended Dec. 20, up 6.7% from the prior week to hit another record high, according to a Reuters analysis of state and county reports.

Despite pleas by health officials not to travel during the end-year holiday season, 3.2 million people were screened at

US airports on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Health officials are worried that a surge in infections from holiday gatherings could overwhelm hospitals, some of which are already at capacity after Thanksgiving celebrations. And while the country has begun to administer two new vaccines, it may be months before the inoculations put a dent in the coronavirus outbreak.

PILOT BLAMED FOR FIRST CORONAVIRUS TRANSMISSION CASE IN TAIWAN SINCE APRIL

Taipei: Taiwan reported its first local coronavirus transmission on Tuesday, blaming a foreign pilot for ending 253 days of being virus-free. Health authorities said a woman in her thirties had tested positive after contact with the pilot, a New Zealander working for a Taiwan airline. Health Minister Chen Shih-chung said the pilot had failed to “truthfully declare” his contacts and activities to authorities once he had been confirmed as a carrier.

FROM PAGE 1

CENTRE ISSUES SOP FOR FLIERS FROM UK

Also, contacts of such travellers who were found Covid-19 positive at airport testing would be subjected to institutional quarantine and tested according to ICMR guidelines.

“Necessary action to send the samples to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, or any other appropriate lab for genomic sequencing will be initiated at the facility level.”

In case the report of the sequencing is consistent with the current SARS-CoV-2 virus genome circulating in the country, the ongoing treatment protocol including home isolation and treatment at facility level as per case severity may be followed, the SOP stated.

“If the genomic sequencing indicates the presence of a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, then the patient will continue to remain in a separate isolation unit. While necessary treatment as per the existing protocol will be given, the patient shall be tested on 14th day, after having tested positive in the initial test.

“In case the sample is found positive on the 14th day, further samples may be taken until his two consecutive samples taken 24 hours apart are tested negative,” the guidelines stated.

It stated that state-wise passenger manifest of the flights from the UK landing at various airports in India for the past four weeks from November 25 to December 23 shall be conveyed by the Bureau of Immigration to the State Government and Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) so that the data would be provided to the surveillance teams.

The list of passengers travelling between December 21 and 23, who are found RT-PCR positive at airport testing, shall be shared with the States by the Central unit of IDSP. They shall be advised quarantine at home and tested as per ICMR guidelines.

Their monitoring would be ensured by the State Governments and IDSP. Those travellers from the UK who arrived in India from November 25 to December 8 will be contacted by district surveillance officers advising them to self-monitor their health and in case of development of symptoms would undergo RT-PCR test.

The list of travellers who arrived in India between December 9 and 23 will be shared with respective States and district surveillance officers for daily follow up till 14 days after their arrival in India.

“The district surveillance officer has to ensure daily follow up of passengers under observation for 28 days starting from date of arrival,” the SOP stated.

20 FLIERS FROM UK COVID +VE; NO ‘STRAIN’, SAYS GOVT

Earlier in the day, some of the passengers protested against the authorities over the alleged delay in carrying out their coronavirus tests.

In Ahmedabad, four out of the 275 passengers including a British national who have arrived from the United Kingdom have tested positive for coronavirus.

As many as 260 Air India passengers in Delhi, 199 British Airways passengers, 271 Air India fliers in Ahmedabad, 243 in Amritsar and 590 passengers from different flights at Mumbai who arrived from the United Kingdom, have tested negative so

far.

Two passengers, who arrived from the UK, tested positive for Covid-19 at Kolkata airport on Sunday. A flight carrying 222 passengers from the UK arrived at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) airport on Sunday night. According to officials, 25 passengers did not have Covid reports with them. So they were taken to a nearby quarantine centre, and their coronavirus tests were conducted and of them two tested positive.

The Government on Monday said all UK-India flights will be suspended from December 23 to December 31 in view of the emergence of a new coronavirus strain in that country.

FARMERS ADAMANT

Addressing a Press conference, farmers said all toll tax in Haryana will be freed on December 25-26.

Prem Singh, another farmer leader, said there is propaganda by the BJP led Centre Government against protesting farmers. “We are responding to every call of the Government and we will soon draft a reply to the Government and to meet the Government, we will decide on December 23 in a meeting of farmers’ leaders,” said Singh.

Harinder Singh, another farmer leader, said, “The protest is getting bigger day by day and several farmers from Punjab, Haryana and other states have joined us. We want the Government to repeal these laws.”

“We have also decided to organise a webinar on December 24 at 12 pm through Zoom and during that a five member of farmers union will answer all questions to the viewers,” said Omkar Singh of Bharatiya Kisan Union.

“We also invite Kangana Ranaut and Mukesh Kumar and all who are opposing us to join the webinar and we will answer their question,” said Baljit, head of IT cell, Sanyukt Kisan Morcha.

Meanwhile, farmers at Ghazipur border closed the NH-24, prompting police to issue advisory to commuters and diverting traffic.

“Gazipur border is also closed for traffic from Delhi to Gaziabad. It was already closed for traffic from Gaziabad to Delhi. Traffic has been diverted from Nizamuddin Khattha, Akshardham & Gazipur chowk. Pl go via Anand Vihar, Apsara, Bhopra & DND borders,” tweeted Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Delhi’s Outer range.

The Delhi Traffic Police also informed commuters regarding routes closed and alternative routes.

Police said the Singhu, Auchandi, Piau Maniyari, and Mangesh borders are closed. “It advised commuters to take alternative routes through the Lampur, Safiabad Saboli and Singhu school toll tax borders,” said police.

Police said as traffic has been diverted from Mukarba and the GTK road, people are suggested to avoid Outer Ring Road, the GTK road and National Highway (NH) 44.

Those travelling to Haryana can go through the Jharoda (only single carriageway), Daurala, Kapashera, Badusarai, Rajokri NH-8, Bijwasan-Bajghera, Palam Vihar and Dundahera borders, it said.

According to the traffic police, Tikri and Dhansa borders are also closed for traffic but the Jhatikara border was open only for two-wheelers and pedestrians.

At the Chilla border, the Delhi to Noida carriageway is open for traffic. The

Noida to Delhi carriageway is, however, closed, it said.

The sixth round of talks on December 9 was cancelled following a deadlock with the farmer unions refusing to budge from their demand for repealing the three laws.

GUPKAR ALLIANCE STEALS THE SHOW IN KASHMIR

Parihar lost Gundana seat at the hands of NC candidate Asim Hashmi while he lost Marmat seat at the hands of Congress candidate Mushtaq Ahmad.

Voting was held in 280 seats - 14 in each of the 20 districts of the Union Territory -- in eight phases over a period of 25 days between November 28 to December 19.

Reacting to the election results, Vice President of the National Conference and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, “The trends that have emerged in the DDC polls in J&K are very encouraging for the JKPAGD. The BJP had made this election a prestige issue about Article 370 & J&K’s special status. The people have now spoken & it’s for those who believe in democracy to pay heed to these voices”.

Omar also asserted, “The @JKPAGD is an alliance that emerged out of the betrayal of the people of J&K on 5th Aug 2019. We have faced every obstacle - illegal detentions, agency threats & pressures, our candidates were locked up to stop them campaigning & from all this we are emerging victorious”.

Thanking voters, Omar in his last tweet said, “All of us in the JKPAGD are deeply indebted & grateful to the people of J&K for your support at this critical juncture. We reaffirm our commitment to use all democratic & legal weapons at our disposal to continue to fight for our rights”.

BJP, for the first time opened its account in Kashmir Valley in the DDC polls. The party won one seat each in Srinagar, Pulwama and Bandipur.

In Jammu region, the counting trends predicted BJP was all set to win a clear majority across four districts of Jammu region while it failed to woo the electorate across the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

The BJP was ahead of two seats in Rajouri and failed to open its account in Poonch.

The counting trends in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban indicated the BJP may find it difficult to win majority seats in the final tally to get its own chairperson in place in the District Development Council.

In Kashmir Valley PAGD is set to install its own chairperson without facing any resistance in 9 out of 10 newly elected District Development councils to further strengthen the grassroots democracy.

Barring Srinagar district where independents are going to be kingmakers, all other nine districts of Kupwara, Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Bandipur, Ganderbal, Shopian and Kulgam are going to elect one of the elected representatives as their chairperson.

Within the PAGD, the oldest regional party headed by Farooq Abdullah enjoys a clear edge over its constituents as its candidates emerged front runner and set to romp home victoriously.

PDP remained front runner on four seats in South Kashmir district of Shopian, 2 in Bandipur, four in Ganderbal, 2 in Baramulla, 1 in Srinagar, and seven in

Pulwama. NC was front runner on eight seats in Budgam, 6 in Anantnag, 5 in Bandipora, 5 in Ganderbal, 3 in Shopian, 2 in Pulwama, 1 in Srinagar, 2 in Baramulla and three in Kupwara.

In Jammu region, BJP candidates were front runners on 11 seats in Jammu district, 12 in Samba, 11 in Udhampur and 10 in Kathua till last reports came in. Elections were held across 14 constituencies each in all the districts.

Despite bringing in star campaigners and running an aggressive election campaign the BJP failed to register similar performances in Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts of Jammu province. BJP candidates were front runners on six seats in Doda, three in Kishtwar. These two districts fall in the parliamentary segment of MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh. The BJP also failed to impress voters in the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch as it managed to establish a lead on only two seats in Rajouri. In Reasi district the BJP won four seats while its rival parties secured majority seats.

WON’T CANCEL CBSE BOARD EXAMS; OFFLINE MODE AFTER FEB: MIN

“Exact dates will be announced soon. Our govt is in favour of #students,” he said in another tweet.

Nishank earlier interacted with students regarding entrance exams and online classes.

The main issues that are causing much unease among students, teachers, and parents are the dates of CBSE and State board exams, syllabus, and exam patterns.

Addressing the live webinar with teachers, Nishank said cancelling the exams and promoting students will result in “putting a stamp on these students” and these students might face trouble in getting jobs and admissions at higher education level in future.

On the mode of 2021 board exams, Nishank said many CBSE schools are in rural areas and hence online examinations are not possible.

“The exam will be conducted offline as we need a laptop and stable internet and electricity for each student which is a challenge,” said the Minister.

On the syllabus issue, Nishank said there would be 30 per cent syllabus cut while there would be 33 per cent internal choice in the board exams.

As part of the Central Government initiative to conduct examinations on time amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Union Education Minister has planned a three-way dialogue with the students, parents and teachers across the country.

“Online education has become a big challenge for students who have not attended schools and colleges for the last nine months owing to Covid-19 pandemic. But the students should always be ready to turn this challenge into an opportunity,” the Minister said.

“The biggest challenge is to study with stronger determination and will and declaration of board results on time so that a full academic year of students is not wasted,” he said in one of the response.

Nishank acknowledged that even though this year’s curriculum incorporated online schooling, it might have not been fair to all the students set to appear for board examinations in 2021. Therefore, CBSE Class 10 and 12 Board exams will be held offline.

Last week the National Testing Agency

(NTA) released new rules for JEE Main 2021 exams. According to the new rules, candidates who appeared for JEE Main 2019 or JEE Main Advanced 2019 will not be allowed to appear for JEE exams 2021. The NTA had said a candidate can attempt JEE (Advanced) a maximum of two times in consecutive years whether or not he/she has passed the qualifying examination (JEE Main).

From the commencing academic year, candidates will have an opportunity to take the exam four times a year, i.e., in February, March, April, and May. Applicants would be allowed to appear in all four attempts and the best of two attempts will be considered for the final merit list.

TRUMP BESTOWS LEGION OF MERIT ON MODI

Modi was presented with the highest degree Chief Commander of the Legion of Merit which is given only to the Heads of State or Government.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs said the award is in recognition of Prime Minister Modi’s steadfast leadership and vision for India’s emergence as a global power. “The award is in recognition of the Prime Minister’s steadfast leadership and vision for India’s emergence as a global power, and exemplary contribution made by him for the advancement of the India-United States strategic partnership and promoting global peace and prosperity,” the MEA said in a statement.

Senior BJP leaders asserted that the US’ decision to confer the prestigious award on Prime Minister Modi reflects his “acceptance” as a world leader and is a testimony to his vision, steadfast leadership and diplomacy.

“Hon PM Shri @narendramodi ji being conferred with the prestigious ‘Legion of Merit’ by the US President @realDonaldTrump reflects PM Modi Ji’s vision, steadfast leadership & diplomacy. As India emerges as a rising power globally, Indo-US ties are strongest ever than before,” BJP president JP Nadda tweeted.

Congratulating Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah said that this award is yet another testimony of his acceptance as a world leader, working relentlessly towards global peace. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said this is a recognition of Modi’s leadership and statesmanship by the global community.

O’Brien in another tweet said that Trump also presented the Legion of Merit to Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan’s former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The awards were received by their respective ambassadors in Washington DC.

President Trump “awarded the Legion of Merit to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for his leadership and vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific,” he said.

Trump awarded the Legion of Merit to Australian Prime Minister Morrison for his leadership in addressing global challenges and promoting collective security, O’Brien tweeted.

The United States is the latest country to confer its highest award to the Indian prime minister.

Other awards include Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud by Saudi Arabia in 2016, State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan (2016), Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award (2018), Order of Zayed Award by the United Arab Emirates (2019), Order of St Andrew by Russia

(2019), Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin by the Maldives (2019).

PRACHANDA FACTION EXPELS PM OLI

Nearly two-thirds of the Central Committee members were present in the meeting. Out of 446 central committee members, 313 were present at the meeting organised by Prachanda-led faction. Prachanda would be elected as the parliamentary party leader on Wednesday, the paper said, citing party leaders.

Prachanda-led faction, having majority in all the party committees, has decided to take disciplinary action against Oli on Sunday, the paper said.

The next meeting of the Central Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, said party spokesperson Narayanakaji Shrestha.

The Prachanda-led faction has also decided to file a separate petition in the Supreme Court seeking reinstatement of the dissolved House of Representatives. Eleven writ petitions have already been filed in the apex court on Sunday and Monday demanding for reinstatement.

The party will also launch nationwide protest rallies in collaboration with other major political parties, said Sunil Manandhar, central member of the party.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Oli, one of the two chairmen of the ruling party, organised a separate meeting of the Central Committee leaders close to him at Baluwatar, the prime minister’s official residence.

Oli announced a new 1,199-member committee to organise the party’s general convention on November 18-23 in Kathmandu next year. Earlier the party’s convention was scheduled from April 7 to 12, 2021.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali, a Standing Committee member, was appointed as the new spokesperson of the party by the Oli-led faction.

AIR POLLUTION WIPED OUT ₹2.6L CR, KILLED 17L PEOPLE IN 2019

However, household air pollution decreased in India resulting in 64 per cent reduction in the death rate attributable to it from 1990 to 2019, whereas the death rate from outdoor ambient air pollution increased during this period by 115 per cent.

India has a good economic and development trajectory, which can improve further with the reduction of air pollution, the report noted adding that the economic loss due to air pollution as a percentage of the State GDP was higher in the northern and central India States, with the highest in Uttar Pradesh (2.2 per cent of GDP) and Bihar (2 per cent of GDP).

NITI Aayog member Prof Vinod Paul said the scientific paper presents the latest evidence on air pollution in India, translating the health loss to economic impact.

“India has many ongoing major initiatives to reduce air pollution. This paper provides a robust assessment of the trends and current situation in each state, and highlights that augmenting the existing air pollution control efforts based on the specific situation of each state would be useful.

With the dates for Boards to be announced in March 2021, there is a lot of angst among the students. BHARAT GOYAL shares tips that will come in handy for them

The Board exams are valued as the foundation of a child's future in the Indian education system. Every year, schools across the country put a special focus on the students of Classes X and XII so that they perform well in the exam that helps decide their future course. However, the schools had to cancel face-to-face classes this year amidst the fear of Covid-19 contamination. And hence, the students lost crucial time.

Nonetheless, there is no reason for students to not be hopeful of achieving excellent marks in the examinations. To make the job easier for students, CBSE has already slashed 30 per cent of the syllabus. Meanwhile, schools are making all efforts to clear doubts via online sessions. Now, the students must follow certain tips to prepare in a manner that helps them score well.

Prepare a time table, stick to it: First and foremost, prepare your study schedule smartly. It is important to have a timetable based on your style of study. Even without waking up at odd hours, a student can invest around eight hours of preparation each day. However, one must not keep unrealistic goals and take breaks after every hour or so to stay focused. It is advisable to begin studies with a difficult topic as the mind is most fresh then.

Relating to study content, preference should be given to NCERT textbooks over reference books. Rather than jumping to other books, the focus should be on mastering prescribed textbooks. Also, students should prepare brief notes on every topic and make it a habit to underline (or highlight) the crucial sentences/words in their textbook as this helps in better memorisation.

To thrash out weakness, take tests every week: To become ready for the exam day, a student must take up several tests of each subject so as to know the weak points and gain more confidence. This will weed out nervousness in the examination hall. Practice tests will also improve your time management skills. You may also ask a friend to quiz you over the study material as explaining answers to someone else can help you better understand and retain the information.

As this academic year is unprecedented, students must take mock tests with masks and shields as that is how they will be supposed to be in the exam hall. Students must acclimatise themselves to protective gears so that they don't lose their precious time adjusting masks during exams.

Mental and physical health: Like the old English proverb says — Sound mind rests only in sound body. A student must eat right and exercise at least 15 minutes a day to keep body



fit and mind rejuvenated. Not to forget, eight hours of sleep is a must. Slashing sleep time may have negative consequences. Mental strength is extremely essential to score well. And don't focus too much on competition; your goal should be outperforming yourself. If you did better than the last time, you are successful.

In the exam hall: Read all the questions properly, understand them, and prepare a plan to approach the question paper. Deal with questions carrying more marks first. Logic suggests it is challenging to attempt big questions at the last but a student can finish short questions in little time as well.

Don't spend too much time on a particular question and if possible, make charts (or diagrams) with answers. It creates a very good impression. Needless to mention, try to avoid cuts. A clean handwriting increases the chances of you securing better marks by many folds. After finishing your paper, do cross-check

Don't spend too much time on a particular question and if possible, make charts (or diagrams) with answers. It creates good impression. Needless to mention, try to avoid cuts. A clean handwriting increases the chances of you securing better marks by many folds

everything. It helps you thrash out all silly mistakes.

Bonus Tips

Avoid deviation: It is important to switch off the phone and other gadgets while studying to avoid distraction. If possible, stop going to parties and deactivate your social media accounts in the last three months before board exams. This will save you a lot of time.

Seek guidance: Sometimes, topics require extra guidance and self-study doesn't always suffice. To bounce over this, a student must not feel shy in reaching out to their teachers, classmates, or seniors for help. Not just this, students must also take guidance regarding exam patterns and strategy to score well. Opening your heart out gets you solutions and lightens your mind.

The writer is Founder & Director, Bhartiyaam International School

QUOTE OF THE DAY

It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense.

— Robert G Ingersoll

Star-studded 16th annual convocation at SRMIST

The SRM Institute of Science & Technology, will be having its 16th Annual Convocation on December 26, 2020 (Saturday) at 10:30 am. The event will be held virtually as per the protocol of the Government of Tamil Nadu due to the ongoing pandemic.

Based on the restrictions imposed by the State Government, only rank holders and PhD degree awardees will be given their degrees in person at Dr TP Ganesan Auditorium, Main Campus, Kattankulathur. The rest of the eligible graduands are invited to attend through virtual mode.

About 17,199 students belonging to the Faculties of Engineering and Technology, Faculty of Science and Humanities, Medicine & Health Science and Management studies including 129 PhD scholars will be receiving their degrees in various disciplines.

As many as 244 students will be awarded medals for having secured first, second and third rank in their courses.

The convocation address will be delivered by Chief Guest of the event Dr K Sivan, Chairman of ISRO, Bangalore and Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India. Dr TR Paarivendhar, Founder Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science & Technology and Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha will preside over the convocation.

Endowment award in the name of Tmt Pachimmal Palanimuthu for the best outgoing MBBS student and Tmt Swarnam & Dr



Dr K Sivan
Chairman of ISRO, Bangalore and Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India

Krishnamoorthy Endowment award for the best overall outgoing student of SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Center will be awarded to Ms. Kritika Wadhwa for topping among all students in the final year and in overall duration of the course in MBBS programme. Endowment in the name of Tmt Lakshmi and Dr Renganathan for the best outgoing BDS student of SRM Kattankulathur Dental College and Hospital will be awarded to K. Shyam Sharma.

The Annual report will be presented by Vice Chancellor of SRMIST, Dr. Sandeep Sancheti. The Convocation will be held in the presence of SRMIST's Pro Chancellor (Administration) Ravi Pachamoothoo, Pro Chancellor (Academic) Dr P Sathyanarayanan and Vice President Dr R Shivakumar.

The study of Information Management takes the idea of information as a resource as its starting-point. In taking a principled systematic approach to the identification, acquisition, storage, retrieval, processing and use of that information, the theory and practice of information management aims to design effective information environments that can respond to managerial information needs, support decision-making and help in meeting organisational goals.

In order to accomplish this goal, information management draws on a range of fields including knowledge management, information retrieval, information systems, and project management; search engine optimisation, user-centred design and human-computer-interaction, website design and programming; as well as business intelligence, business processing modelling, organisational theory, information governance and ethics.

Being a generic discipline, the study of Information management has wide applicability to organisations of all kinds including business, government, health, transport and education.

While information has always been prized as an asset, a number of trends are making information management even more important in the digital context. These trends include the addition of data as an asset, and the systematic processing and use of data from an organisation's internal (e.g. transaction data), and external environ-

Manage information wisely

While information has always been prized as an asset, a number of trends are making information management even more important in the digital context. DR JONATHAN FOSTER tells you what makes it a lucrative option



ments (e.g. customer opinions); the emergence of platforms, datafication and the commodification of data more generally; and beyond this the opportunities/problems of widespread connected information processing within an inter-dependent digital ecosystem. The last of these trends brings not only the value and benefits of information and data, e.g., personal data, to the fore but also the risks of their processing.

In a digital context there is also a contemporary concern not only with the idea of information as an asset, and increasing the value of information, but also the idea of

information as a liability. Hence the need to address issues of information governance, accountability and ethics; how ethical values can inform the design and use of information products and services, and how not only organisations e.g. Governments but also societies e.g. citizens need to reflect on how their information data is gathered, processed and used for what ends.

A degree in Information Management lays emphasis on developing your knowledge, skills and experience of design, implementation, management and governance effective information envi-

ronments. This includes examining their purposes, functions and processes and mediating between information users, resources and systems in both organisational and networked contexts. You'll also acquire practical experience in the use of new information and communications technologies and develop personal awareness and skills relevant to information management.

The field of information management covers a wide array of job roles. As an information management degree, your skills will be invaluable to employers from a range of sectors, these include: Information Architect; Taxonomist; Information Managers, Officers and Assistants; Information Rights Managers/Freedom of Information Officers; Competitive Intelligence Officers and Analysts; Data Protection Officers; Information Analysts; Information Governance Managers; Cyber-Security Managers; Web Managers; and Information Scientists.

The writer is Lecturer in Information Management, Information School, University of Sheffield, UK

It's all about innovation

Advertisers need to create content that's powerful, entertaining or life altering. These things seem basic, but they've become much more complicated, says ABHIK SANTARA

There's a lot of optimism and worry about the future of advertising, and there are so many varied opinions on what the world of advertising will look like. Some argue that advertising will be better and more valuable in the hearts and minds of consumers-and, as a result, more effective. The complexities of modern day consumer journeys are empowering consumers to get what they want, when they want it. And increasingly that means that they don't want to be interrupted by an ad that isn't good or relevant.

As advertisers, it's foolish to think that consumers want to hear what we have to say. They are not waiting to hear from us, we have to make ourselves heard-irrespective of what stage of the journey he or she is at. So we need to create content that's legitimately powerful, entertaining or life altering. Those things seem basic, but they've become much more complicated with the proliferation of platforms.

No doubt we'll have new tools and capabilities that make the processes of advertising easier, more measurable or more automated, but I'm also hopeful that the power of storytelling will remain at the core of it. After all, increasing use of technology and automation won't change the fact that communication will



always be a people business. At least for the foreseeable future, individuals will still be responsible for making business decisions and serving audiences and customers. They'll just be using more sophisticated technology to dramatically improve the way they do it, deliver it and measure it.

As long as we're connecting to other people, the human element will never go away. But the drive for more real-time personalisation means that the human element will be exercised more and more on the strategic level than the executional level. Advertising will be less about crafting the individual words and images, and more about crafting the systems and algorithms that create

the words and images.

We are at a moment where we are too focussed on vanity metrics like views, impressions and clicks. But we need to figure out how far down the funnel these things are impacting people and creating sustainable differences in conversion and loyalty. It will not be naïve to witness a growing ambition and a shift to emotional connection and the human element. That's how brands will differentiate, that's how brands will be loved and that's how consumers will stay loyal. In the digital era-We have to give people things not to escape to, but things they can run to and reaffirm.

The writer is Director and CEO of Atom Network

ICSI confers Honorary degrees

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India conferred the Honorary CS Degree onto Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur in the virtual presence of Chief Guest of the day, Shri Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha, on the third day of the 48th National Convention of Company Secretaries, at Indore.

ICSI also virtually inaugurated its Fourth Overseas Centre at Singapore at the hands of Anurag Singh Thakur on the day.

Addressing the audience virtually, Speaker of the Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla said: "ICSI has made a significant contribution in ensuring ethical & fair administration in

the corporate Sector. Company Secretaries are responsible for legal administration of Companies and for transferring benefit of growth to society."

"Company Secretaries work assiduously to strengthen governance and ensure ethical & legal compliance. Both ICSI and its members are playing a vital role in ushering transparency and integrity in the economy for building a hi-tech tax compliant society & eliminating shell companies," he further added.

Delighted with conferment of the honorary degree, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur said: "It is my utmost honour to be receiving the Membership of this renowned institute and join a list which has Late Shri Arun Jaitley ji as its recipients."

A plethora of opportunities for VIT students

Though it is pandemic times, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) emerged as the Top Educational Institution in India by having 7403 job offers rolled out by 382 companies that conducted campus recruitments at VIT. All the campus recruitments were conducted virtually and 4503 students have taken multiple offers.

IT majors Cognizant, Infosys and TCS have conducted their annual

campus recruitment process at VIT. This year, due to the pandemic, all the three companies have conducted their entire process remotely. Students from all the 4 campuses of VIT (Vellore, Chennai, Amaravati and Bhopal) participated in the selection process.

The results were announced by Dr G Viswanathan, Chancellor of VIT and 3517 job offers were rolled out by these three companies with

Cognizant offering 1418 students followed by TCS (1321) and Infosys (778). These are the highest numbers offered by these companies this year across all the campuses in the country. The other IT services companies like Virtusa, Hexaware, CapGemini and Mindtree have also recruited in big numbers from VIT.

Earlier, TCS has recruited 224 students for its Digital Practice with a CTC of ₹7 lakh per

annum followed by Wipro hiring 419 students for its Turbo hiring with a CTC of ₹6.5 lakh per year for a higher position. Again these are the highest numbers for TCS and Wipro for this year across all the campuses in the country. Wipro and VIT broke their own record by having 419 offers from the 2021 graduating batch. VIT has already entered into Limca Book of Records 10 times for highest number of placements.

Trends in education

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Great Learning, one of India's leading EdTech companies for higher and professional education, on December 17, 2020, highlighted some trends witnessed by the company during the Covid-19 wave in 2020. The trends are based on the significant traction witnessed by the company across all its platforms as the demand for high-quality programmes in emerging skills spiked during the pandemic. In March 2020, the com-

pany introduced the Great Learning Academy, a free learning platform with over 30 introductory and intermediate level programmes in emerging digital skills, to make high-quality learning accessible to all. Close to 6.6 lakh learners have benefited from the Academy.

The company also announced key learning trends witnessed between March and December 2020. The trends include top programmes undertaken by learners, their profiles along with geographies they belong to.

It is important to know what skills are necessary for the position that one has applied to. ANKIT SHYAMSUKHA shares tips that will help aspirants to land their dream job



Count on your skills

With companies undergoing remote working guidelines, the technical and soft skills are becoming vital perks that interviewers are looking for in an interviewee. The way you present yourself in the online interview will say much about your ability to work efficiently.

Once hired, along with mastering the technology, you must learn to follow certain protocols. Therefore, it becomes pivotal to figure out which interview skills you may require for the particular job you are applying for. Many educational brands and training institutions are sharing free online courses to brush up your skills which again, is the need of the hour.

Following are some of the silks that will help you to land on your dream job.

POISE

When things go wrong, it becomes crucial for you to stay calm and poised. This quality shows that you will be able to work under any strenuous and pressuring circumstances. In the time of COVID-19, when we are adapting to the challenges of the new normal, a crisis is inevitable. Exhibiting the calmer side of yours will not only impress your future employ-

ers but also help you manage the crisis efficiently. Remember one more thing, a poised person at work always receives appreciation.

PROPER ETIQUETTE

No matter how boring or uninteresting the meeting gets, you need to show enthusiasm. You must look engaged and that you are a vital part of the conversation. It's very easy to get disconnected when you are attending an online meeting as there are so many windows open on your laptop along with internet issues. Since your voice is the first impression, it needs to be upbeat. Make note of the things beforehand that you need to talk or share in the meeting. Use the mute and chat features in case you're facing any technical or unavoidable issue. If you're attending an offline meeting, reach at least 15 minutes before and put your phone on silent.

TRY OUT NEW THINGS

It has been seen that there are many who will crib about their current job but don't have the courage to try out the things they would like to do. Courage is essential to land your dream job. There is nothing wrong to have the courage of taking up the risk and following your heart.

You need to have quick logical reasoning and creative solutions for every situation. Most companies will give you a hypothetical situation to check out your critical thinking skills

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Part of landing your dream job involves knowing the ins and outs of that particular job. When you're applying to a new company, you must do your detailed research about the company founders, work process and branding components. The company's website, Twitter and LinkedIn pages will help you in your research. Research also entails examining your qualities that align with the job requirement. Spend some time to figure out what you want and what skills are required for a particular position.

COMPUTER HYGIENE

As work thrives on technology now, it becomes crucial that you set up a backup system for your computer files.

However, the study shows that one-third of the employees avoid keeping the backup of the documents because it consumes a lot of time. In your interview, you might be asked to indicate your experience utilising the technology, describing how you organise and store files using cloud-based collaboration tools. How do you keep track of links and tabs? Do you use Dropbox? Google Docs? Confluence? So, be well prepared

about such questions beforehand.

COLLABORATE

A year ago, collaboration only meant teamwork. But, now the meaning of collaboration has expanded and gone beyond teamwork. The collaboration also means sharing documents online and editing them before the deadline.

CRITICAL THINKING

You need to have quick logical reasoning and creative solutions for every demanding situation. Most companies will give you a hypothetical situation to check out your critical thinking skills. Critical thinking is a personal skill and can't be imparted through the education system.

BE FUTURE READY

Experts assume that there is an increased demand for future-ready employees, who can easily adjust in the digital or niche setups like eCommerce, cybersecurity experts, data analysts, machine learning.

As per industry estimates jobs in the Accounts, Banking, Finance and Taxation continue to grow and HR look out for people with the right skills.

The writer is CEO, ICA Edu Skills

How to get that perfect score

For many, math is a subject that gives them nightmares. However by following a few basic tips, one will fall in love with numbers, says ANITA KISHOR

Mathematics is an incredibly important concept —one that we inevitably and unintentionally use to solve everyday problems. The laws of mathematics govern everything around us, and without a good understanding of them, one can encounter significant difficulties in life. As a subject, students have polarised views around it, while some might find it interesting and easy to understand, most believe they do not have the ability to solve math problems. Here are five tips that will help students fall in love with math and craft the learning path that suits them best.

UNDERSTANDING CONCEPT

It's important to understand that Mathematics is a conceptual subject and is deeply seeded in logic. Every single math concept can be broken down into the basic fundamentals. To be able to learn advanced mathematical processes, students must first get a firm grasp of the fundamentals of math. Having the basics right will ensure that students ultimately save time and will significantly reduce their confusion while working on more complex problems.

EXPLORE ONLINE RESOURCES

Research has shown time and again that hard subjects like Mathematics can be learnt very effectively online. With the current remote-learning scenario, students have a great opportunity to explore various online resources to help them ace math. Online learning can help visualise a math problem and help them gain conceptual understanding while solving it. Gamified content on various online learning platforms is an effective learning strategy because they engage students and provide incentives for continued practice. Students can learn key concepts through math games that keep them motivated.

PRACTICE & MORE PRACTICE

One of the most crucial ways to ensure students do well in Mathematics is for them to get hands on and actively practice the subject as frequently as possible. Solving math problems multiple times is a key learning aid because it helps transition problem-solving skills from the conscious to the subconscious. This method of learning will not only help rewire the mind to understand math problems but also helps students develop an affinity for the subject. As a teacher



Anita Kishor
Teacher & Chief Strategy Officer, BYJU'S

and a math-lover, I can say with certainty that proficiency in math is not restricted to those who have the aptitude for it. With regular and diligent practice, anyone can get better at math.

FOCUS ON LOGIC

The beauty of Mathematics lies in the logic behind its various concepts. While shortcuts and tricks have been used by students and teachers from time and again to simply math, these methods actually allow students to skip conceptual thinking. Continuous use of shortcuts would lead to students carrying a big bag of tricks into an examination and not really thinking about the questions asked. Students must treat every single math problem as a new challenge and figure out the different ways in which it can be solved.

ASK FOR HELP

More often than not students shy away from asking for help due to the fear of looking uninformed. In a traditional classroom setting, students find themselves trying to catch-up with their peers and often do not get their doubts resolved. Students must work on their confidence while asking for help to improve their competence. Today, with numerous online resources available at their disposal, students can also embrace a flexible format of learning.

Digital machineries have gained influence in almost every educational field and have started altering the way students are being trained. These immersive, virtual experiences are at the forefront of the contemporary education world. Although the zone of sports education has been slow enough to embrace digitalisation, but it is not excluded from this transformation.

Digital is so much more than just student-transforming touch points. Instead, it is a whole new ballgame that has been unlocking unparalleled opportunities for advancement in the sports industry. Organizations that have been coaching for sports can offer the

potential to draw students closer through ground breaking and modified experiences. Beneath the tip of this digital iceberg, organisations should find a new strategy, technology investment and approach to innovation that crafts a digital line of sight through all operational areas.

Social Streaming of Live Sports: The digital revolution has been mutating the game for sports business. Proven models like analytics, cloud and IoT which has hardly been researched upon are being experimented and sports education organizations must adapt to the present trends to remain viable. A particular arena where this turns out to be apparent is in the area of social streaming of live sports. The

MIND IT

engaging social media platforms have the expertise and reach to win broadcasting rights for live sports and stream them worldwide via their individual platforms. Students can get access to sports viewing that suits their anywhere, on-demand lifestyle while the broadcast landscape becomes ever more disrupted

Engage sponsors: Students today are interacting with media more than ever with audio consumption, TV viewership, and application usage having doubled up in the current times. The sports undergraduates

have a tendency to be increasingly receptive to personalised engagement. Targeted advertisements are considered to be twice as effective and engaging as compared to non-targeted ads. Digital analytics are an effective tool that is designed to have a better consideration of what stimulates students understanding, lending sponsors insight into what types of ads and engagement models will work for individual audiences. Digital tools can also aid sponsors in tailoring timing, content, and message delivery for greater effectiveness

The dawn of predictive analytics in sports: The continuous pressure to advance student performance has led technologies like predictive analytics to gradually become predominant in the sports education domain. The advances made in this field help in creation of predictive modules which will help in computing sports likelihoods, predictions of win or loss along with analysing the students' performance. This section helps in calculating simple game statistics and also uses correlation to classify statistical associations between various game metrics. It also helps in determining where, when, and how students engage with sports, and to categorise between campaigns which are a hit and

those that are under-performing. Based on this information sports organizations can determine the most operative product offerings and can accordingly launch personalised marketing initiatives

E-sports are clearly the future of sports: Today's students expect the teaching modules to be digitally engaging and the most effective way to deliver virtual engagement is through gamification. E-sports which can be rightly termed as the transformation of watching into playing, is offering a future where creation of virtual reality gaming experiences has been turning e-sports into physically active experiences.

The writer is Vipul Solanki, Director, Nest Academy of Sports Management



The Faculty of Engineering at the University of Sheffield,

UK recognises academic excellence of undergraduate students by offering scholarships of up to £3000 to overseas students starting an undergraduate degree in September 2021. The scholarship will be awarded to international undergraduate students who exceed the academic conditions of our standard UCAS offer.

Candidates who attain A level grades of A*AA or above (or the equivalent qualification in your country) will receive the Excellence Scholarship.

The scholarship amount is dependent on your academic achievement: A*A A: £1,000, A*A*A: £2,000, A*A*A*: £3,000.

Eligibility: Make University of Sheffield your first (firm) choice in the UCAS application process for 2021 entry; Be an undergraduate student; Be classed as an international student for tuition fee purposes; Be taking all prerequisite subjects for your selected degree

For full details and terms please visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/engineering/study/scholarships-international-excellence>

last date to apply for the scholarship is June 30, 2021.

Applicants are invited for a beneficial Science and Technology Undergraduate Asian Scholarships at Singapore Management University. Indian students can apply.

Eligibility: Must be a full-time SMU first-year undergraduate student.

Must give outstanding academic results and demonstrates leadership and communication skills.

Supporting documents: Applicants must submit: Personal statement Include a CV, Personal Identification Documents, Transcript from each University attended.

Admission requirements: For taking admission at the Singapore Management University applicants must check the entry requirement.

Language requirement: Applicants must need to demonstrate their English language ability by taking the TOEFL or IELTS test.

Must have a good record of co-curricular activity and community service involvement and good character record.

How to apply: Must have to take admission in Undergraduate Degree Programme at the University. There is no separate application form.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this studentship is March 19, 2021.

TELECALLING AT IVY PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6589345
Deadline: December 30, 2020

CUSTOMER SERVICE (OPERATIONS) AT HAPPSALES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6589344
Deadline: December 30, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT STUDYROOM

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6589346
Deadline: December 30, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT EXETER PREMEDIA SERVICES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6589347
Deadline: December 30, 2020

CONTENT WRITING (HINDI) AT JARVIS TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGY CONSULTING

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹30,000-₹39,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6589350
Application deadline: December 30, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT BIG BLUE PEOPLE

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹16,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6589351
Application deadline: December 30, 2020

MARKETING AT EZERX HEALTH TECH

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6589354
Application deadline: December 28, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

‘Go for holistic development’

The present pandemic has not dampened students' need to study abroad. SADOIQ BASHA tells you why

Millions of students from India are currently studying at colleges across the world, and this number is steadily increasing.

In fact, the pandemic has failed to dampen the spirit of Indian students, who are still willing to travel abroad to pursue their higher education.

New learning experiences

One of the biggest reasons students and parents consider studying abroad is to enjoy foreign culture firsthand.

You will experience new cultural perspectives, customs, traditions, and social atmospheres when you go to a different country to study. These experiences further enhance your interpersonal as well as intrapersonal skills that go a long way in your holistic development.

Career opportunities

Earning an international degree is a gateway to employability prospects worldwide.

When you complete your study abroad program, you have a broad perspective on different cultures, nurtured new language skills, and a willingness to take on new challenges.

Needless to say, employers appreciate these skills in employees. Studying abroad also helps you cultivate a strong global network that will help you throughout your career.

Option to choose from a wider range of courses

Almost all the universities in countries such as the US, UK, and Australia, provide a wide variety of courses for international students. Universities overseas offer courses in some unconventional and contemporary fields such as sports, entertainment, and psychology.

Therefore, without a doubt, a degree abroad is a good investment in a student's life.

The writer is CEO and Founder of Edvoy

IN BRIEF

PEARSON UG ENTRANCE EXAM ACROSS INDIA

The Pearson VUE, the global leader in computer-based testing, has announced Pearson Undergraduate Entrance Exam — (<http://www.undergraduateexam.in>)

The examination, being extensively rolled out within the India, is a standardised test of quantitative, verbal and abstract reasoning.

The admissions this exam is aimed at assessing the aptitude and suitability of students in order to enable them to secure a place at a top university in India.

The examination is specifically designed by the company's exam content experts and psychometricians, to change the way students are assessed in India at the important university admissions stage.

It will be the first examination of its kind launched by the company in this market, where students only need to sit for one entrance test in order to be admitted to various universities (which accept the exam) across the country.

Providing test-takers with the flexibility of taking their admissions exam anytime, anywhere, is integral to the exam delivery model; candidates will be able to choose between taking their exam at a Pearson VUE Test Center (PVT) or at home via Pearson VUE's online proctoring solution OnVue.

Registrations for the examination will start from January 11, 2021. Students will have a six-month testing window as well as the ability to reschedule their exam.

REAL TIME FLOOD FORECASTING BY IIT MADRAS

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers and students undertook important data collection exercise that could play a crucial role to prevent future floods in Chennai.

Teams, of faculty and students, led by Professor Balaji Narasimhan,

Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, measured river discharges at critical places across Adyar River to collect data in real-time during cyclone.

Professor Balaji Narasimhan said: "As part of a robust flood management, rating curves at critical sections of rivers are

important to understand volumetric flow rate (in m³/s or ft³/s) for different flow depths. Once a rating curve is developed, an integrated network of water level sensors could be used to monitor the river discharges remotely and automatically at these critical river stretches."

ONLINE TALENT SEARCH EXAM FOR CAT ASPIRANTS

The TIME is conducting the its Talent Search Examination (TTSE) for CAT21/22 aspirants on 27th December 2020. The test will be conducted in two slots — 10 am and 6 pm. Students can choose to write the test on only one course — CAT in anyone slot.

Attractive performance-based fee waivers (up to 100% on CAT 21/22 classroom/online courses) will be available for the students.

A minimum assured discount of 10 per cent of the total course fee will be given

to those who write the Free Mock and enrol in the mentioned courses before 27th December, 2020. To register: <https://www.time4education.com/local/articles/page.php?id=4430>

As soon as the lockdown was implemented, TIME announced its online classes for various courses like CAT, CLAT, IPM, Bank exams, GMAT, GRE, and other courses. New batches are being launched every week.

To know more visit: <https://www.time4education.com/index.php>.

‘Let it go & move on’

Smith advises deflated India to forget Adelaide debacle & keep moving forward



Steve Smith plays shot during his stay at the crease against India in the first innings of 1st Test at Adelaide CA/Twitter

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australian batting star Steve Smith has no time to think about how India might plot revenge in the second Test in Melbourne this weekend but he does have a word of advice for the visitors jolted by the first game's battering — “Let it go and move on”.

The Australian trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood produced one of the finest fast bowling performances in recent times to dismiss India for their lowest Test score of 36 in the opening day-night Test at Adelaide Oval. Australia won by eight wickets and the series will now move to Melbourne for the Boxing Day Test starting

December 26.

“Look, the other day we just saw some pretty incredible fast bowling. It is probably the best I've seen our bowlers bowl collectively for about five years I think,” Smith said in a virtual media conference.

“The lengths they were hitting were just impeccable. Sometimes that happens, you get a good ball and you nick it...You got to let it go and move on and try and keep yourself in a positive mindset,” the 31-year-old added.

Asked what he feels would be the Indian mindset after such a huge defeat, he said: “Again every individual is different, the way they take their dismissals, how they think about the game after it's finished.

“It's important to keep moving forward, look at yourself individually, what you could have done better.”

Star pacer Mohammed Shami's fractured wrist has dealt a double blow to India as talismanic skipper Virat Kohli will be on paternity during the last three Tests.

“Not thinking too much about India and how they're going to come back. For us, it's just about doing the things we need to do well. It's about just executing what we need to do out in the middle and doing it to the best of our ability,” Smith said. On Shami's absence, Smith said India still have some quality bowlers in Navdeep Saini and Mohammed Siraj.

“I think they're two quality

STEVE SMITH TEST CAREER							
	M	I	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50
Overall	74	133	7229	239	62.31	26	29
AT MCG	7	12	908	192	113.50	4	3
AT MCG vs India	1	2	206	192	103.00	1	0

bowlers who can have some good Test careers. Obviously they are missing Ishant (Sharma) as well, which is a big loss for them in terms of experience.”

Smith was out for one, deceived by a beautiful Ravichandran Ashwin delivery, in the opening Test and asserted that he has learnt his lessons.

“The spinners that do well here generally those who get over the top of the ball and beat you with more bounce or in the air as opposed to ones that come around the ball.

“It's about finding a way to adapt and that's what the best players do around the world. I'll hopefully learn something from that, move forward and play a little bit better in the next game,” he explained.

On the next match, the star batsman said he gets shivers down the spine from the thrill of batting in a Boxing Day Test.

Since his first Boxing Day Test appearance in the Ashes 2010-11, the talismanic batsman has smashed four centuries — three of them unbeaten — and three fifties in seven such games.

“I always remember watching the Boxing Day Tests at home and with the family after Christmas. It's sort of like a dream-come-true moment in a way. As a kid, I always wanted to play in a Boxing Day Test match,” Smith said.

“There's nothing like the thrill and you get the shivers down your spine, and the hairs on the back of your neck rise up when you walk out to bat on Boxing Day with the crowd yelling,” added the player, who averages an astonishing 113.50 at MCG.

“I like batting at the MCG on those sort of big occasions. I'd like to try and make the most of them.”

Smith not only contender for captaincy: CA

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Batting mainstay Steve Smith's disappointment as Australia's Test captain is far from certain as the sport's governing body in the country feels there are some ‘great young leaders’ coming through the system.

Smith was removed from captaincy due to his involvement in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, with Cricket Australia (CA) appointing Tim Paine to the top job.

However, there have been speculations recently that Smith could be reinstated as skipper.

Asked about the board's view, CA chairman Earl

Eddings told *ESPNCricinfo*: “First of all we've got three great captains in Meg, Aaron and Tim. We've got some great young leaders coming through. So it's not just about should Steve take over, it's about what's best overall.

“Steve's a great young man and he was a good captain when he was there. Like any succession there's planning in place. Have we sat down as a board specifically to discuss the next captain? No we haven't.”

Eddings said CA has given vice-captaincy to various players over the years and will go by the selectors' recommendation when the time comes to pick a successor to Paine.

After pep talk, expectant father Virat leaves for India

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Indian captain Virat Kohli left Australian shores on Tuesday after a pep talk with his beleaguered teammates, handing over the mantle of leading the side to Ajinkya Rahane in the remaining three Tests.

Kohli is coming back to India for the birth of his first child in January.

Before boarding his flight back home, the star batsman met his teammates and encouraged them to give their all in the remainder of the series, which the visitors trail 0-1 after the heavy defeat in the opening Test.

Long before setting foot on Australia, Rahane had been entrusted with the responsibility of leading in the team in Kohli's absence after the star had approached the BCCI for paternity leave.

The idea behind organising the pep talk was to boost the confidence of the players and keep them in a positive frame of mind heading into the crucial Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

The second Test is scheduled to be held at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) from December 26-30.

Kohli, who has been leading the Test team since 2014, urged his players to show

intent and express themselves on the field without any inhibition.

While Kohli has departed for India, his white-ball deputy Rohit Sharma is quarantining in Sydney.

Kohli deserves credit for taking paternity leave: Smith

Adelaide: Australian batsman Steve Smith on Tuesday said Virat Kohli deserves credit for prioritising the birth of his child over cricket as “there would have been a lot of pressure” on the India skipper to stay for the entire duration of the ongoing Test series.

Kohli head for home on Tuesday for the birth of his first child next month with actor wife Anushka Sharma.

“Obviously, it's a big loss for India, not having him for the rest of the series. We just have to look at the way he played in the first innings.

That was a pretty class display against some good bowling on a wicket that was doing a bit,” Smith told reporters.

“I just fist-pumped him at the end (of first Test) and said ‘Mate safe travels, hope everything goes well with the baby, and pass on my best to your wife.’ That was about it,” Smith said.

“I'm sure there would have been a lot of pressure for him to stay but to stand up and want to go home for the birth of his first child, it's a credit for him. It's a milestone that he certainly wouldn't want to miss.” PTI

MCG pitch will suit Shaw a lot more: Hussey

IAN S ■ ADELAIDE

Former Australia batsman Michael Hussey believes the Indian team management should support underfire opener Prithvi Shaw and include him in the playing XI for the second Test starting from Saturday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Shaw was bowled for a second ball duck in the first innings of the first Test and had his stumps rattled in the second innings at the Adelaide Oval in the pink-ball match.

“I think that selectors should show some faith in Prithvi Shaw. Yes, he didn't get any runs in this Test match but it's one Test, against some quality bowling of a difficult pitch to bat,” Hussey told *ESPNCricinfo*.

Citing Joe Burns' example, Hussey added: “Joe Burns was averaging less than seven in FC cricket. The selectors showed faith in him. He got out cheaply in the first innings but he slowly got his confidence back,



worked his way through it and you see the character of the guy and he ended up scoring 50 not out.”

Shaw had failed to get a fifty in both the warm-up games prior to the first Test, making just 62 in four innings at an aver-

age of 15.5, prompting both Allan Border and Sunil Gavaskar to say that with a loose technique he shouldn't be playing the pink-ball Test.

His competitors for the opening spot, KL Rahul and Shubman Gill have fared better in recent times.

“For Prithvi Shaw, find out about his character. Show that faith in him, give him that belief and tell him ‘look, we're backing you.’ The Melbourne pitch will suit him a lot more. It certainly won't have the same pace and bounce. He's obviously got enormous talent,” Hussey said.

“What it does is that it sends a great message to the rest of the team. It's like ‘Look guys, even if you have a bad Test here or there, we're not going to lose faith in you.’ We know you're good players and we'll back you. I firmly believe that selectors should stick with Shaw despite not looking in great touch in the ‘Test match,’ he added.

New CAC formed at AGM will conduct interview of selectors

New Delhi: The BCCI's general body on Tuesday will form a new Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which will pick three national selectors ahead of the series against England, starting February.

It is learnt that the committee headed by Madan Lal was appointed for one meeting and after the Board's upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Ahmedabad, a new CAC will take over and conduct the interviews.

“Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh and Sulakshana Naik were appointed for one meeting where Sunil Joshi and Harinder Singh became selectors,” a senior BCCI source told PTI.

“Since all cricket committees will be formed after the AGM, the new CAC will be formed and then the interview process is expected to start after that,” he added.

There are some prominent names who have applied for the post of selectors from three zones.

The biggest among them happens to be former India pacer Ajit Agarkar, who has played more than 200 internationals across formats.

Agarkar is a candidate from west zone while the two big names from north zone are Maninder Singh and Chetan Sharma. Former Test opener Shiv Sunder Das is a prominent applicant from the east zone.

PTI

Pak avoid T20 clean sweep

AFF ■ NAPIER

Mohammad Rizwan celebrated his elevation to the Pakistan Test captaincy in style on Tuesday, smashing a career-best 89 to stop New Zealand claiming a series sweep in the third T20 in Napier.

Pakistan reached New Zealand's target of 174 with two balls to spare, ending on 177 after Iftikhar Ahmed sealed the win with a six in the final over.

But it was Rizwan's 89 from 59 balls, with support from 41-run Mohammad Hafeez, that inspired the victory.

It was a hard-fought win for the tourists, who suffered heavy defeats in the two opening matches after a rocky preparation that included Covid-19 quarantine in Christchurch with no training.

The win was particularly sweet for Rizwan, who was named on Monday as captain for the first Test against New Zealand starting December 26 after regular skipper Babar Azam was ruled out with a broken thumb.

“I never thought I'd be made the captain of Pakistan and I can't



explain my happiness,” he said after his man-of-the-match T20 performance.

Rizwan said the T20 victory was an important morale booster ahead of the two-Test series against the Black Caps.

“We want to take momentum from this into the Test match, so this is very important for us,” he said.

After two losses when batting first, Pakistan changed tactics and opted to bowl when they won the toss, restricting New Zealand to 173 for seven, with Devon Conway top-scoring on 63.

Faheem Ashraf was the pick of the Pakistan attack, taking three for 20.

The strategy of chasing down New Zealand's total paid off as Rizwan and Hafeez forged a 72-run partnership that laid the foundation for the win.

Hafeez, who was stranded on 99 in Hamilton, made 41 from 29 balls including three sixes.

Rizwan's innings, the sixth-highest by a Pakistan batsman in T20s, included a booming six that bounced off the roof of a stand and out of the ground, forcing the umpires to select a replacement ball.

Daryl Mitchell, on as a fielding substitute for the injured Martin Gupthill, took three catches for the Black Caps and Pakistan made a nervy finish to the match.

But the solid start to the innings ensured the middle order had enough breathing space to steer the tourists home.

Raina regrets ‘unintentional’, ‘unfortunate’ incident in Mumbai

Mumbai: Former India cricketer Suresh Raina, who was among 34 people arrested and released on bail by Mumbai Police for violating Covid-19 social distancing norms at a club here, has regretted the “unintentional and unfortunate” incident.

A statement issued by the former batsman's management team said the 34-year-old was not aware of the local timings and protocols at the time of the incident.

“Suresh was in Mumbai for a shoot which extended to late hours and was invited by a friend for a quick dinner post the same prior to him taking his flight back to Delhi. He was not aware of the local timings and protocols,” said the statement.

“Once pointed out, he (Raina) immediately complied with the procedures laid out by the authorities and regrets the unfortunate and unintentional incident.

“He (Raina) always holds rules and laws laid down by governing bodies with the highest regard and will continue to do so in the future as well,” it added.

Thirty-four people including Raina and Bollywood celebrity Sussanne Khan were arrested after a raid at a posh club near the Mumbai airport on Tuesday for violating social distancing norms.

According to the police, those arrested in the raid at the Dragonfly Experience included seven staffers of the club.

The 13 women, who were arrested, were allowed to leave after being served notices. The men were shown as arrested and granted bail later.

Police said the raid was conducted after the club remained open beyond the permissible time limit and violated Covid-19 norms.

PNS

LOCAL EVENTS



KALYANKIA, RISHI FASTEST

Kalyanika and Rishi Mishra clocked the fastest timings to win the 100m races in the under-18 girls' and boys' category respectively in the District Athletics Championship. Kalyanika clocked 13.92 seconds while Rishi took 11.44 to claim the yellow metal. Kalyanika also bagged the 400m gold. Earlier, UP Olympic Association general secretary Anandeshwar Pandey inaugurated the event.

Winners: (Under-18 boys)- Samroz (Long jump, Triple Jump), Brijesh (3000m), Medhanj Saxena (400m), Indresh Verma (1500m), Puraskar Rai (800m), Rishi Mishra (100m), Kuldeep Kumar (200m), Debashish Verma (Shotput), Arya Singh (Discus), Abhishek Siddiqui (Javelin), Shyam Kashyam (10,000 walk) **(Girls)-** Kalyanika (100 and 400m), Mamta Jaiswal (800m), Tarranum (Long jump), Farwa Rizvi (200m), Tarranum Akhtar (1500m), Rashikha Kushwaha (shotput), Prashasti Gupta (Discus), Kirti Sharma (Javelin), Yashi (5000m walk).

VIKAS SHINES IN ASCA WIN

Vikas Gupta claimed nine wickets to help ASCA crush Aryavrat Academy by 159 runs in a league match of Ram Naresh Memorial Cricket Tournament at NDBG ground on Tuesday. Batting first, ASCA scored 260 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 65 overs with Ritesh Shukla (81) being the top scorer. In reply, Aryavrat Academy bundled out for 101 runs in 38.4 overs.

BRIEF SCORES: ASCA: 260 (Ritesh 81, Krishna 40, Vishal 39, Yuvraj 32; Vishal 44/3, Abhishek 47/2) AA: 101 (Abhishek 48, Aniket 20; Vikas 45/9)s

UP TIMBER BEAT SOUND IMAGES

UP Timber defeated Sound Images by 41 runs in a league match of the 3rd Saghar Khayami Memorial Cricket Tournament at Chowk Stadium on Tuesday. Batting first, UP Timber scored 180 runs for the loss of five wickets in 35 overs. In reply, Sound Images could managed only 139 runs in the allotted overs.

SELECTED



Itisha Singh of Seth Anandram Jaipuria School has been selected to participate in the World Taekwondo Partnership program (level-2 Intermediate). Unlike every year, the program will be conducted via online meeting (lecture) in Muju South Korea. In this program she'll learn from Korean professors about Korean language culture, poomsae, fighting techniques, physical training in taekwondo and taekwondo gymnastics.

Tammy's double whammy sinks Hammers

AFF ■ LONDON

Tammy Abraham hit a quickfire late double on Monday as Chelsea beat West Ham 3-0 to reignite their Premier League challenge after a consecutive defeats.

The Hammers proved tricky opponents at an empty Stamford Bridge but lacked the firepower to hurt Frank Lampard's men, who led early through Thiago Silva's bullet header.

Chelsea enjoyed a strong start to the season before losses to Everton and Wolves checked their progress but the victory at the London Stadium lifts them into fifth spot.

Champions Liverpool have opened up a five-point gap at the top of the table but behind them, just seven points separate second-placed Leicester from 11th-placed Wolves.

“It was nice to see that at the end because we had a period at 1-0 where it was tough, we dealt with that well,” Lampard told the BBC.



“We dropped off slightly and it was important tonight we came back,” he added.

West Ham had the ball in the net in the seventh minute after a cleverly worked free kick but Declan Rice was denied by the off-side flag after an impressive finish from a tight angle.

Three minutes later Chelsea were in front when Silva powered home a header from Mason Mount's corner.

Timo Werner, who has not

scored for Chelsea since early November, had a golden chance to double their lead in the closing minutes of the first period but got the ball caught under his feet and Fabianski saved comfortably.

David Moyes's team made life uncomfortable for the home side after the break but did not make the most of their regular forays forward despite the introduction of forward Said Benrahma.

They were made to pay

when Abraham, back in the starting XI, doubled Chelsea's lead with 12 minutes to go, settling their nerves and ending his own drought.

Two minutes later Chelsea were 3-0 up when Abraham fired home from a tight angle after Fabianski had done well to keep out Christian Pulisic's header.

The win lifts Chelsea to 25 points — one behind fourth-placed Everton — while West Ham stay in 10th place.

BURNLEY WIN

Earlier Burnley rediscovered their sharpness in front of goal to beat Wolves 2-1 and climb out of the relegation zone.

Scoring has been a headache for Sean Dyche's men, who had netted just six goals in 12 top-flight games before the match.

But goals from Ashley Barnes and Chris Wood extended their unbeaten league run to four matches, lifting them to 16th in the table.