

OPINION 8
WARNING FOR
DEMOCRACIES

NATION 10
PM WOOS GLOBAL FIRMS WITH
INVESTMENT-FRIENDLY BIZ ENVIRONMENT

SPORT 13
HOLDER, GABRIEL BUNDLE
OUT POMS FOR 204

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY JULY 10, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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I BELIEVE IN
MARRIAGE:
RAKUL PREET
12 VIVACITY

Dramatic end to Vikas Dubey chase

Gangster's arrest in Mahakal temple premises of MP's Ujjain sparks debate whether he surrendered for fear of being killed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/BHOPAL

After a week-long intense search operation spanning four states, the UP Police had egg on its face when Kanpur carnage mastermind Vikas Dubey dramatically surrendered at Mahakal temple in Ujjain on Thursday morning.

If police sources are to be believed, Dubey travelled nearly 800 kilometres from Faridabad to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh within 24 hours to surrender. He was later detained by temple guards and handed over to Ujjain police. While being huddled into a police jeep, the gangster screamed to onlookers, "Main Vikas Dubey hun, Kanpur wala" (I am Vikas Dubey from Kanpur).

Security cameras inside temple premises caught Dubey there around 8:50 am. The gangster went to a shop outside the temple and enquired about the darshan, when the shop owner identified him as he was not wearing a mask. The shop owner later informed a temple guard which later led to his detention and arrest.

Soon after his arrest, District Magistrate of Ujjain, Ashish Singh, told newsmen, "Vikas Dubey was going to Mahakal temple when he was identified by security personnel. Police later took him into custody and was interrogating him. Dubey confessed his identity after being pushed for it. Singh said that Dubey initially identified himself as Shubham and later came up with the PAN card of Naveen Pal, aged 27 years. "This sent alarm bells ringing and an argument followed between



Gangster Vikas Dubey, the main accused in killing of eight policemen in the Kanpur encounter recently, being apprehended by police personnel after a nearly week-long manhunt in Ujjain on Thursday

the temple guards and Dubey. Later the police arrested him. Two others have also been arrested," he said.

After slaying eight Kanpur police officers and personnel, Dubey was on the run since Friday last. Numerous police teams were despatched to net him in Haryana, Rajasthan, MP and Delhi. MP Home Minister Narottam Mishra was first to confirm Dubey's arrest and told reporters that the gangster was in police custody in Ujjain.

Confirming Dubey's arrest at Ujjain, ADG, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar told media persons in Lucknow on Thursday that a STF team was immediately dispatched to take custody of the wanted criminal in Madhya Pradesh.

2 more aides gunned down

PNS ■ KANPUR

The killing of Kanpur carnage mastermind Vikas Dubey aides continued on Thursday with two more of his cronies being gunned down in separate encounters in Kanpur and Etawah respectively.

In Panki area of Kanpur, Prabhat alias Kartikeya was shot dead when he tried to flee from police custody.

Praveen alias Bauwa Dubey was shot dead in an encounter in Etawah, the police said.

Prabhat was arrested by the Haryana and UP Police along with Shrawan and Ankur in Faridabad on Wednesday. They

were produced at a Faridabad court and were being brought to Kanpur on a transit remand.

As the vehicle reached Bhauti area of Panki in Kanpur, it had a flat tyre. As the occupants disembarked, taking advantage of the situation, Prabhat allegedly snatched the pistol of a sub-inspector and tried to flee. As the cops chased him, he fired at the cops. In retaliatory firing, he was killed while two Special Task Force (STF) personnel were injured.

Meanwhile in Etawah, Praveen alias Bauwa Dubey, accused in Friday's Kanpur ambush, was killed gunned down in an encounter on Thursday morning.

Dubey's arrest in Ujjain shrouded in mystery

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

The dramatic 'arrest' of Kanpur carnage accused Vikas Dubey from Mahakal temple of Ujjain on Thursday raised several questions and only buttressed the strong nexus between politico-criminal nexus and how cops serve their common interests.

Elusive since the carnage of eight Kanpur police officers and personnel at Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur on Friday early morning, Dubey surfaced in Faridabad on Tuesday. But he managed to flee just when the hotel was raided. Subsequently, security was beefed up in Delhi and Noida Film City after speculations over his possible surrender at a TV studio gained ground. Dubey, however, had his own plans of escape. He managed to cross UP and Rajasthan to travel hundreds of kilometres without any questioning to surface at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and later managed his own 'arrest'.

Sources pointed towards a series of coincidences that raise doubts over the veracity of the 'arrest'. After Dubey escaped from a Faridabad hotel where his three aides were arrested, SP of Ujjain, Manoj Kumar Singh, effected some transfers in which Mahakal temple police station in-charge Prakash Vashkaly was replaced by Arvind Singh Tomar.

Dubey visited the temple

for a 'darshan' and declared his identity and nativity. In the next 120 minutes he was detained by temple security and later handed over to the police. All the coincidence had an eerie commonality and hence certain questions need to be answered to clear the cloud of doubts.

Was it not possible that Dubey feared being killed in an encounter in the same manner his aides were snuffed out by the cops and hence he stage-managed a surrender in the temple?

Similarly, despite the STF and Kanpur police being on his tail till Wednesday and police on the alert in UP, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, how did Dubey reach Ujjain from Faridabad traversing hundreds of kilometres and who helped him in his transit without being questioned?

Another questions that crosses the mind is whether he was really identified by the temple security after which he shouted 'Main Vikas Dubey hoon' or did he identify himself with the purpose of being taken into police custody in a place where he had no crimes?

Likewise, photos of Dubey inside the temple premises surfaced shortly after his detention. Who clicked these photos? Also, whether some media outfits were tipped-off about Dubey's 'surrender' to prominently project that he was indeed taken into custody by MP Police 'alive' and result in his handover to UP Police?

Two-day curbs across state from tonight

Business establishments and offices to remain closed, only essential services allowed till Monday morning; public transport barred

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With a surge in coronavirus cases continuing, the Uttar Pradesh government imposed restrictions across the state for two days — Saturday and Sunday — when business establishments and offices, both government and private, will remain closed. The curbs will come into effect at 10 pm on Friday and will be lifted at 5 am on Monday.

Public transport will also remain off the road during this period.

Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, in a fresh directive on Thursday night, said that all markets, offices, mandis and other business establishments would remain closed from 10 pm on Friday to 5 am of Monday.

However, emergency services like hospitals, medicine shops, home delivery of essential goods would function normally and employees engaged in the duty would be allowed to move after showing their identity cards.

Inter-city buses would not run during this period along with other public transport but domestic flights and train services would continue normally. State buses would be engaged to help passengers coming by trains to head for their destinations.

The government has exempted big constructions, both government and private, from the purview of this

restriction. Industrial units in rural areas would function normally but in the urban areas, only those factories would be allowed to open run that have continuous production process.

The chief secretary directive states that during the 2-day restrictions, the district and police authorities would go for intensive patrolling to ensure that the curbs on movement were enforced in letter and spirit.

Public address system would be used to inform the people about the restrictions and make them aware of the preventive measures to counter coronavirus.

Several districts in the state have already announced 2-day restrictions in view of the rising coronavirus cases.

UP is carrying out door-to-door surveillance of coronavirus and contagious diseases and this restriction will help the medical teams to work more efficiently as people will stay in their homes, the chief secretary said in his statement.

For the past three days, UP has witnessed a sudden spurt in coronavirus cases, adding more than 1,000 fresh cases almost daily. The total count of coronavirus cases detected in the state reached 32,681 with 1,248 persons testing positive on Thursday. The state has so far witnessed 862 COVID-19 deaths.

India-China pullback nears completion

India reaffirms its stand that LAC must be 'strictly respected'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With withdrawal by both the Armies at the border in Ladakh proceeding without a hitch for the fourth day, India on Thursday reaffirmed its stand that the Line of Actual Control (LAC) must be "strictly respected" and neither side should take any unilateral action to alter it. It also stressed the need for continuing the dialogue process and China also echoed similar sentiments.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said both the countries will hold a new round of commander level dialogue and border issue consultation and co-ordination mechanism meetings. It also said in Beijing that the overall border situation

is stable and the border tensions have eased, according to the Global Times, the government mouthpiece of China.

As both the Armies, more or less, completed the pull back from all the four face-off sites in Eastern Ladakh which were on for the past eight weeks besides the bloody skirmish in the Galwan valley on June 15, New Delhi also said, "We remain convinced of the need for maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas and the resolution of differences through dialogue, at the same time, we are also strongly committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Enunciating the country's position, External Affairs

Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said here the diplomatic and military officials of both sides will continue their meetings to take forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation as agreed to by the Special Representatives National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The next meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China border affairs (WMCC) is expected to take place soon.

He also said, "We have also noted that there have been some inaccurate and uninformed comments about the disengagement process and its implications. Let me remind you that in the last few weeks,

we have made several statements spelling out categorically the position of the Government on different aspects of the current situation in the Western Sector of India-China border areas."

"They include our position that recent Chinese claims to the Galwan Valley area are exaggerated and untenable; that the LAC must be strictly respected and observed as this is the basis for peace and tranquility in the border areas; and that neither side should take any unilateral action to alter it. We remain convinced of the need for maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas and the resolution of differences through dialogue, at

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India-UAE repatriation flights from July 12

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief for Indians who are desperate to return to their work, homes, or families in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and vice versa, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and UAE have decided to operate repatriation flights to and from India starting July 12. The arrangement will be in place for 15 days, that is, until July 26, following which it will be reviewed, and changes may be introduced.

After that, Air India Express has opened ticket bookings for flights from India to the UAE under the Vande Bharat Mission. Many passengers have used social media to demand the resumption of international passenger flights from India to the UAE and other foreign countries.



The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) stated that charter flights operated by the UAE carriers to be Indian citizens from UAE to India will be allowed to carry ICA approved UAE residents returning to UAE from India on their return leg.

"Indian carriers operating repatriation flights to being

Indian citizens from UAE to India will be allowed to carry the ICA (Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship) approved UAE residents on the outwards journey from India to UAE," the ministry said.

"On India to UAE journey all these flights will carry only those passengers who are des-

tined for the UAE," it said.

AI on Thursday said as per an agreement between Civil Aviation Authorities of India and UAE, "AI and Air Express operating evacuation flights to bring Indian citizens from UAE to India will carry ICA approved UAE residents (returning to UAE from India) on the outward journey from India to UAE."

Earlier, UAE Ambassador Ahmed Al Banna said during a webinar organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce, the UAE has been talking and consulting with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) on this matter. India suspended all scheduled international passenger flights on March 23 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Chinese envoy tries to save Oli's head as alliance stares at split

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's ruling communist party appeared to be heading for a split as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and party executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' failed to iron out their differences despite holding over half-a-dozen meetings in a week, media reports said on Thursday. The political future of 68-year-old Oli is expected to be decided on Friday during a crucial Standing Committee meeting of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP), amidst the growing involvement of Hou Yanqui, the Chinese ambassador to Nepal, to save the prime minister, known for his pro-China leanings. On Wednesday, a crucial meeting of the NCP's 45-member Standing Committee was postponed till Friday.

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9 new States add to Covid surge, 25K +ve on 2nd day in row

Maha, Tamil Nadu and Delhi clock record spike on Thursday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With several States other than the worst-affected trio of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi, clocking record spikes on Thursday, India reported more than 25,000 cases and 400 plus deaths for the second consecutive day.

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala and Odisha in addition to Gujarat came with big numbers to push the overall tally of positive cases to 7,94,180 and death count to 21,622.

During the last few days, the virus has spread to the interior beyond the urban clusters and this is reflected in huge number of cases from across the country and emergence of several new hotspots. Maharashtra crossed 2.30 lakh-mark on Thursday, with as many as 6,875 people testing positive for the coronavirus,

while 219 more died of the pandemic in various parts of the State.

With the infections going up from Wednesday's count of 6,603 to 6,875 on Thursday, the total number of infected cases climbed up to 2,30,599. With fresh 219 deaths, the total deaths in the State went up to 9,667.

Of the total 219 deaths, Mumbai accounted for 68 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis to 5,132 now, while the total number of positive patients rose by 1,268 cases to touch 89,124.

Apart from 68 deaths in Mumbai, there were 66 deaths in Thane, 27 deaths in Pune, 17 deaths in Raigad, eight deaths each in Palghar and Solapur, seven in Jalgaon, four in Nashik, three in Satara, two each in Ahmednagar, Nandurbar and Nagpur, one each in Latur, Jalna, Amravati, Nanded, and one from another State. With 54,811 infected cases



Doctors and nurses work at a Covid-19 isolation centre in Mumbai on Wednesday

with 1,483 deaths, Thane has emerged as the second worst hit district in Maharashtra. Pune, which has emerged as the third worst affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 33,394 infections and 989 deaths till now. Delhi recorded 2187 new

cases and 47 deaths, which took its total count to 1,08,051 and death tally to 3248.

Tamil Nadu's seesaw battle with Covid-19 continued on Thursday as 4,231 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic across the State. There was no respite in the death toll

also. The day saw 65 persons succumbing to coronavirus in the State.

With 4,231 persons getting infected with the disease, Tamil Nadu has 46,653 active Covid-19 patients as on Thursday. Till date 1.26 lakh persons has

tested positive for the pandemic.

According to the medical bulletin released by the State, the number of laboratories to test the samples has gone up to 100, a sign that the Tamil Nadu Government is on an

aggressive testing mode. A total of 41,038 persons were tested on Thursday while the number of persons tested till date across the State crossed the 1.42 million mark. The bulletin said 3,994 persons were

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STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	2,30,599	9,667	1,27,259
Tamil Nadu	1,26,581	1,765	78,161
Delhi	1,07,051	3,258	82,226
Gujarat	39,280	2,009	27,742
Uttar Pradesh	32,362	862	21,127
Karnataka	31,105	488	12,835
Telangana	30,946	331	18,192
West Bengal	25,911	854	16,826
Andhra Pradesh	23,814	277	12,154
Rajasthan	22,563	491	17,070
Haryana	19,364	287	14,505
Madhya Pradesh	16,341	634	12,232
Assam	14,033	27	9,148
Bihar	13,978	109	9,792
Odisha	11,201	67	7,407
Jammu & Kashmir	9,501	154	5,695

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 7,94,196
DEATHS: 21,622
RECOVERED: 4,95,895
ACTIVE: 2,76,578

CM Yogi asks officials to ramp up tests to 40K/day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the number of coronavirus infections increasing with every passing day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to ramp up Covid testing to 40,000 per day so that infected people may be identified at the earliest and admitted to hospital.

"Officials should prepare a plan for 40,000 Covid tests per day in the state. Out of this, 30,000 tests should be carried out by RT-PCR

(reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) tests and about 10,000 by TrueNat and rapid antigen techniques," Yogi said while presiding over a high level Unleash review meeting at Lok Bhawan here on Thursday. He said that alertness at all levels was a prerequisite for prevention of COVID-19. "One can be saved by taking precautions and remaining alert," he pointed out.

The chief minister directed officials to send teams of expert doctors to Kanpur Nagar, Jhansi and Varanasi, adding that caution was required in view of the spread of infection in these districts. He also asked officials to increase the number of beds in Covid hospitals in the districts as coronavirus cases went up.

Yogi said that wide publicity should be made to spread awareness among people about prevention from coronavirus. "Mass awareness is a must on use of masks, observance of social distancing and avoidance of unnecessary movement from house. Apart from the

print and electronic media, posters, banners and public address systems may be used for publicity campaigns," the chief minister said.

He said that training programmes for medical teams engaged in treatment of COVID-19 should be continued while all steps should be taken for preventing PAC and police personnel from being infected by coronavirus.

Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said that there were 10,373 active cases in the state while 21,127 coronavirus infected persons had recovered in the state, including 796 who were discharged from hospitals today. He said there were 10,374 people in isolation wards of Covid hospitals and 3,983 in institutional quarantine. Prasad said on Wednesday, labs carried out tests of 32,826 samples and with it 10,36,106 samples had been tested so far. Out of the total tests on Wednesday, 1,964 5-sample pool tests and 364

10-sample pool tests, he said, adding that 260 5-sample pools and 74 10-sample pools had tested positive. The additional chief secretary said around 1.62 lakh health teams had covered 1.49 crore houses in the state to screen over 6.03 crore people in 26,988 areas.

Prasad said that Covid helpdesks were proving to be a major success in detecting people with coronavirus symptoms. "Till date, 35,809 Covid helpdesks have been set up in government and private institutions in which 14,763 people

have been detected with symptoms," he said.

The additional chief secretary said that very soon seven RT-PCR labs would start working in different district hospitals. He said these new Covid testing labs had been set up in Aligarh, Varanasi, Gonda, Bareilly, Moradabad, Mirzapur and Balrampur Hospital in Lucknow.

Those present in the meeting included Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Alok Tandon, Agriculture Production Commissioner Alok Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Information) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Sanjeev Mittal, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Renuka Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister SP Goyal, Director General of Police HC

Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajneesh Dube, Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (MSME) Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sanjay Prasad, Secretary to Chief Minister Alok Kumar, Director Information Shishir and other senior officers.

ATS arrests wanted arms supplier

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sluths of UP Anti-Terrorists Squad (ATS) arrested a key west UP arms supplier, wanted by Bulandshahr and Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) police for loot and murder.

The ATS said that the arrested person was actively involved in the supply of 32 revolvers to Khalistani militant groups and was also wanted by Punjab Police and National Investigating Agency.

The Punjab Police were informed of the development and he would now be handed over to them for legal action.

As per an ATS release on Thursday evening, a team acting on inputs from Punjab Police, nabbed wanted criminal Arshad Ali aka Munshi from Meerut on Thursday morning. Ali is a resident of Lakkhipur in Meerut.

During quizzing, the accused disclosed that in 2016, deputy chief of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of Punjab, Brigadier (Retd) Jagdish Kumar Gagneja was killed in which Khalistani militant Dharminder Singh aka Guggi of Ludhiana was arrested last year.

He claimed to have provided him weapons through aides Javed of Kithor (Meerut) and Asheesh Kumar of Tikari (Meerut).

The case was presently being probed by National investigation Agency.

Ali revealed that his name came up during probes by the Punjab Police and NIA and he was wanted by both. His aides, Javed and Asheesh were earlier arrested by UP ATS.

The gun runner further disclosed that besides Guggi, he and Javed also supplied arms to dreaded gangster Sukhpreet Singh aka Buddha of Moga in Punjab, due to which he was also wanted by the Punjab Police.

Sukhpreet Singh was a close aide of Guggi.

The ATS release said that cases of loot and murder were also registered against Ali with Khurja police station in Bulandshahr and Dadri police station of Noida.

It is hereby informed to everybody that allotment letter No. 4641 dated 10.08.1988 issued by U.P.A.V.P. in favour of Mr. Devi Prasad Yadav regarding house no. 8/588, Vikas Nagar, Lucknow has been lost. If anybody/institution has found or have it or have any claim or interest in above mentioned property, kindly contact within 7 days with documents / proof to Adv. A.K.S. Rathaur, 7 Krishna Tower, First Floor, Chakraborty Road, Quaiserbagh, Lucknow Mob- 9559811119.

NOTICE
A proposal for the mortgage residential Plot No. D-201, part of Khara No. 422/ka, measuring 167.286sq. mt. situated at Village - Raheem Nagar, District - Lucknow, is pending before LIC Housing Finance Ltd. The original sale - deed is registered at the office of Sub-Registrar, Lucknow, vide Book No. 1, Zild No. 3166 on pages-260, Additional Book No. 3220, Page-437/440, Doc. No. 11615 dated 04-06-1986, executed by Priti Nagar Co-opera-tive Housing Society, through its Secretary Shashi Abdul Mutalib, in favour of Rtd. Tandon D/o Anand Bhawan Tandon R/o A-1096, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. It is informed to you that the above noted original sale-deed was lost. If the original sale-deed is mortgage with any person(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s) or any other one, may inform immediately to LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Area Office, Main Branch, Metro Tower, 2nd Floor, Shaheed Road, Lucknow, Contact No. 0522-2622424 or Anoop Kumar Singh Advocate, LIC HFL, Mobile No. 9554472722, 9455032691, otherwise the above noted proposal shall be finalized immediately after the expiry of 15 days of this publication.

PM lauds UP for containing spread of coronavirus

Varanasi (PNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that despite a population of nearly 24 crore, Uttar Pradesh had managed to check the spread of coronavirus and had overcome apprehensions on how the pandemic would impact the state. He also cautioned that the fight against the deadly virus was so long that one had to work continuously to deal with it.

Interacting via video-conference with various non-governmental organisations of his parliamentary constituency who are providing relief during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Modi praised the people of the holy city for brimming with hope and enthusiasm, notwithstanding the corona pandemic. The PM said he was continuously getting information on how people were giving support to the needy with a sense of servitude and courage.

He said he was getting information of various steps being taken to prevent infection from spreading, the condition of various hospitals, the quarantine arrangements and the welfare of the migrant workers.

"There is an old belief that nobody in Kashi sleeps hungry as the city is blessed by Maa Annapurna and Baba Vishwanath. It is a great privilege for all of us that this time God has made us the medium

of service to the poor," Modi said and adding that despite a check on various religious activities in the city, the local people had proved that they were second to none in their fight against coronavirus and in supporting the poor and needy with continuous food and medical supply.

He praised the efforts of the NGOs for working in tandem with various government and local administration bodies.

He recalled that a 100 years ago, a pandemic had struck. Though the population of India was much smaller, it was among the countries that had witnessed maximum deaths, he pointed out.

This time too, during the outbreak of coronavirus, experts had raised concerns about India, he said, adding that issues such as rise in virus cases due to movement of migrants and food for the needy in Uttar Pradesh were flagged.

The PM said that creating an extensive network of food helplines and community kitchens in a short span of time, developing helplines, taking the help of data science, making full use of the control and command centre of Varanasi Smart City, everyone had full potential to help the poor at every level.

He elaborated how the Postal department came forward to help the district administration when they ran short of carts for distribution of food.

Quoting Saint Kabir Das, Modi said, "The one who does service does not ask for the fruits of the service, does selfless service day and night!"

"Several experts questioned India's capabilities to fight the pandemic, owing to its high population and many other challenges," he said, adding that the fear that Uttar Pradesh with a population of 23-24 crore could not mitigate the infection had been allayed due to the cooperation and the hard work of the people of the state. He expressed satisfaction that the pace of infection in UP now had not only been controlled but those who had coronavirus infection were recovering fast.

Modi said the Central government was providing various facilities to the needy and around 80 crore people were going to benefit from the schemes which were not just providing free ration but also free LPG cylinders.



INDIAN BANK
इलाहाबाद



INDIAN BANK
ALLAHABAD

Pt. J.L.N. Degree College Branch Banda
Zonal Office Hamirpur- 10/379, Ramerhi Hamirpur-210301 (U.P.)

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable property)

Notice is here by given under the SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) and 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 for security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 The Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount, notice is here by given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8&9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against each account.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for the amount and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor (Owner of the Property)	Description of the charged Mortgage Property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice	Date of Possession Notice
1	Pt. J.L.N. Degree College Banda	M/s Sardar Vallabhbbhai Patel Mahavidyalaya Vill-Hamirpur, Nareini Kalinjar road Teh-Nareini, Distt-Banda	1 Sri Antriksh Kumar Singh (Chairman, Manager & Guarantor 2. Smt Savitri Devi 3/0 Sri Shiphali Singh (Guarantor)	A non agricultural plot having area 1.100 ha or 2.71 acre situated at Khara No.-105, Kharsara No.-188, Vill-Hamirpur, Pargana & Tehsil-Nareini, District-Banda where in college building constructed	27.01.2020	Rs.89,29,755.00 + interest other charges	04.07.2020

Date : 10.7.20
Place : Civil lines, Banda

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank



INDIAN BANK
इलाहाबाद



INDIAN BANK
ALLAHABAD

Pt. J.L.N. Degree College Branch Banda
Zonal Office Hamirpur- 10/379, Ramerhi Hamirpur-210301 (U.P.)

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1	Pt. J.L.N. Degree College Banda	M/s Lokhit Mahavidyalaya Vill-Gureh, Teh & Distt.- Banda	1 Sri Omkar Churasiya (Chairman & Guarantor) 2 Sri Ravi Kumar Chaurasiya (Manager & Guarantor) 3 Sri Shiv Prakash Singh (Cashier & Guarantor)	A non agricultural plot area 1.138 ha or 2.81 acre situated at Kharsa No.-1224, Vill-Gureh Tehsil & Distt. Banda where in college building constructed	05.12.2019	Rs.8781,075.00 + interest other charges	04.07.2020

Date : 10.7.20
Place : Civil lines, Banda

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No.: Dy.CEE/C/NB/20-21/Tender-109 Dated 06.07.2020

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), N.C. Railway, Kanpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Description of work	E-Tender No.	Approx Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender form (₹)
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 2x250 kVA, 11 kV/415 Volt Sub-station, Electrification of Station building, Platforms, Staff-quarters & OHE depot/PSI depot/AEE/ADSTE office in between Bahar-Etah section and Electrification of 220/132 kV Grid Sub-Station building & SwitchYard at Bhogaon in Prayagraj Division of NC Railway.	Dy.CEE/C/NB/20-21/Tender-109	₹ 1,96,90,111/-	₹ 2,48,500/-	₹ 5000/-

Date of closing Tender: 07.08.2020 12.00 Hrs. Date of completion / period from issue of acceptance letter: 12 Months. Validity of Tender: 45 days. Tender online can be submitted up to 12.00 hrs on 07.08.2020. For full details and submission of bid, please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. 747/20 FA

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in railway.northcentral@CPRONCR

DHFL National Office Address : HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051.
Branch Address : Dhraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00002254 of Kanpur Branch) Dinesh Kumar Shrivastav (Borrower) Kavita Srivastava (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 1008492 /- (₹ Ten lakh Eight Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Two) NPA (01-10-2019)	Part Of Pvt Plot No. 89 At Prazi No.1011 Mehranwar Singh Ka Purwa Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh - 208027
(LC No. 00000826 of Agra Branch) Arvind Shukla (Borrower) Kiran Devi (Co Borrower 1) Pradeep Kumar Sharma (Guarantor 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 1002376 /- (₹ Ten lakh Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six) NPA (01-11-2019)	H. No 77 -b Part Of Kharsa No 372, Keshav Vihar, Agra-aligarh Road, near Radha Vihar Braddh Ashram Gijroli Hathras Hathras Uttar Pradesh - 204101
(LC No. 00000607 of Allahabad Branch) Akash Sharma (Borrower) Kalawati Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 991183 /- (₹ Nine lakh Ninety One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Three) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot On Part Of Araz No. 884, Mauza Saha Uri Peepal Gaon, Pargana & Tehsil Sadar Near Ramnagar School, Allahabad, Allahabad-211005
(LC No. 00000978 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Ashok Singh (Borrower) Paramita (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 974735 /- (₹ Nine lakh Seventy Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Five) NPA (01-11-2019)	Flat No. F-4, As Per Local Builder No First Floor Rear Rhs, Plot No-B2/6 Of Dikur Vihar, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001
(LC No. 00002065 of Kanpur Branch) Manoj Kumar Singh Rathour (Borrower) Meenakshi Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 964530 /- (₹ Nine lakh Fifty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot No. 83 & 76 Part Of Araz No. 322 Mauza Pipauri, Kanpur, Kanpur-208027
(LC No. 00000230 of Delhi Branch) Pawan Kumar Nagar (Borrower) K Shashi Choudhary (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 / ₹ 955442 /- (₹ Nine lakh Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two) NPA (01-12-2019)	Flat No-344, 1st Floor Sector- Chi-phi, Near Aits Pradiso Green Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Gautambudh Nagar-201308
(LC No. 00000247 of Agra Branch) Dheera (Borrower) Neeraj Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 936800 /- (₹ Nine lakh Thirty Six Thousand Eight Hundred) NPA (01-01-2020)	Part Of Plot No 40 & 41, Kharsa No. 32, M L Estate, Mauza Kaulakha, Tajganj Ward Near St Xavier Convent School, Agra-282001
(LC No. 00001206 of Meerut Branch) Mohit Kumar (Borrower) Rajbala R (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 921243 /- (₹ Nine lakh Twenty One Thousand Two Hundred Forty Three) NPA (01-01-2020)	House On Kh No. 559 Moh. Satyalk Ashram Near Sh. Hans Charitable Hosp. Rawli Road, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad-201206
(LC No. 00002485 of Delhi Branch) Geeta Gera (Borrower) Vikash Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 / ₹ 915195 /- (₹ Nine lakh Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (01-08-2019)	M_MACHINE_NAME - Legato Qz Diode Laser Hair Removal System With 1 Hand Piece AP_MODEL_NO - Legato Qz Diode Laser Hair M_MFGNME - Transcend Health AP_INVOICE_NO - 20180508A
(LC No. 00001220 of Agra Branch) Ali Ahmed (Borrower) Irshad Ahmed (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 914203 /- (₹ Nine lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Three) NPA (01-01-2020)	Third Floor Flat No-10 Plot No. 104 Sec. 12a Satyam Multiplex Pt. Deen Dayal Uda Puram Avas Vikas Colony Sikend, Agra-282007
(LC No. 00000694 of Agra Branch) Prem Chander (Borrower) Vidya Devi (Co Borrower 1) Devendra Kumar (Co Borrower 2) Arun Kumar (Guarantor 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 908747 /- (₹ Nine lakh Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Seven) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot No. 11, Kharsa No. 1169, Narayan Vihar, Gadi Jeevan Ram, Mauza Narayach, Elmampur, Agra-282001
(LC No. 00000807 of Haidwani Branch) Nira Sharma (Borrower) Manoj Kumar Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 889074 /- (₹ Eight lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Four) NPA (01-10-2019)	Plot No. 289 Village Kharkapur Devipura Tehsil Kashipur dist U N Nagar Kashipur Udhamsinghnagar Uttaranchal - 244713
(LC No. 00000805 of Rohini Branch) Sushil Kumar (Borrower) Varun Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 849277 /- (₹ Eight lakh Forty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Seven) NPA (01-10-2019)	H No:108 A, Ff Sec-5, Kamma Viasahli Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No. 00000594 of Bareilly Branch) Rameswar Dayal (Borrower) Kamla Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 848873 /- (₹ Eight lakh Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (01-12-2019)	Part Of Kharsa No.393 Sanniya Dhan Singh Bareilly Bareilly Uttar Pradesh 243001
(LC No. 00042639 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Prabin Kumar (Borrower) Sushmita Singh (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 840937 /- (₹ Eight lakh Forty Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven) NPA (01-12-2019)	Plot No - B-44 Part Of Kharsa No 378 Pore Awasthi Purva/daryam Purwa/majra Juggaur Pargna & The Lucknow, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00003553 of Kanpur Branch) Naresh Tuli (Borrower) Ashu Naresh (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 775891 /- (₹ Seven lakh Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One) NPA (01-10-2019)	Plot No. S/ 5-186, Phase-7, Block Eves Scheme Gangapur Machharia, Kanpur Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh - 208001
(LC No. 00000407 of Jhansi Branch) Pista Singh (Borrower) Devendra Singh (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 767442 /- (₹ Seven lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two) NPA (01-01-2020)	A Plot On Part Of Araz No.796 Mouza Hasari Gird Mohalla Hasari Ward No.1 Near Punchmeshwar Mahadev, Jhansi, Jhansi-284001
(LC No. GUR01289 of Delhi Branch) MAYANK VATS (Borrower)	21-01-2020 / ₹ 745624 /- (₹ Seven lakh Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four) NPA (01-07-2017)	D-915, JALVAYU TOWER, SEC-56, GURGAON, -122001
(LC No. 00002382 of Lucknow Branch) Saeed Ahmad (Borrower) Saleem Ahmad (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 736912 /- (₹ Seven lakh Thirty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve) NPA (01-11-2019)	Plot No-35/2 Part Of Kharsa No-1127 Kambad Badhauli Pargana Mahona Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00041826 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Munshi Lal (Borrower) Mohini Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 719752 /- (₹ Seven lakh Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Two) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot No. 46, Part Of Kharsa No. 386, Gram-Chandanpura, Tehsil- Lakhimpur Pargana & District- Khiri, Kheri -262701
(LC No. 00000237 of Greater Noida Branch) Amit Prasad (Borrower) Sunam Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 707236 /- (₹ Seven lakh Seven Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No. - 93 A, First Floor Block- H, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar,, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201010
(LC No. 00001259 of Ghaziabad Branch) Mubank Ali Choudhary (Borrower) Rijavano (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 664571 /- (₹ Six lakh Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy One) NPA (01-01-2020)	H No: E-109, Ground Floor, Lig Block- E, Govindpuram,, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201011
(LC No. 00004428 of Lucknow Branch) Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Savita Gautam (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 657973 /- (₹ Six lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (01-11-2019)	Part Of Plot No. 33, Situated On Kharsa No. 125 Mf. Gram -Nizampur Malihara Pargana Tehsil & District Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00000978 of Noida Branch) R N Singh (Borrower) Prabha Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 657373 /- (₹ Six lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (01-12-2019)	Plot No 276 Sector 7 Wave City Plot Nh 24, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201010
(LC No. 00000756 of Delhi Branch) Sachin Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Sushama Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 / ₹ 635653 /- (₹ Six lakh Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three) NPA (01-12-2019)	Property Np-34/16, Ground Floor Madhuban bapudham Scheme, hazratpur, Ghaziabad-201001
(LC No. 00002941 of Agra Branch) Danish Rahis (Borrower) Bebi Rahis (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 / ₹ 631702 /- (₹ Six lakh Thirty One Thousand Seven Hundred Two) NPA (01-12-2019)	House on EWS Plot No 320 321 Block- F1 Tajnagri Phase 2, Agra, Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh 282001
(LC No. 00002139 of Haidwani Branch) Ibtal Singh (Borrower) Jyender Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 630093 /- (₹ Six lakh Thirty Thousand Ninety Three) NPA (01-01-2020)	Pvt Plot No. 95, Part Of Kharsa No 678 & 684 (old Kharsa No 259, 371) Village Kargina, Bareilly, Bareilly-243001
(LC No. 00008668 of Lucknow Branch) Rajesh Malik (Borrower) Krishna Devi (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 / ₹ 596936 /- (₹ Five lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (01-12-2019)	Plot No. 282, Part Of Kharsa No. 104/3 At Gram- Khasarwa, Pargana- Bijnour, Tehsil- Sarojinagar & Dist- Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226020
(LC No. 00001270 of Meerut Branch) Kusum Tyagi (Borrower) Nikhil Sharma (Guarantor 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 595253 /- (₹ Five lakh Ninety Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Three) NPA (01-01-2020)	House No. G-10 khasrana. 611.621/2& 622 Varika Estate, Village Shobhapur Rohta Road, Meerut, Meerut-250007
(LC No. 00000105 of Jhansi Branch) Ashish Saxena (Borrower) Anshasa Saxena (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 556891 /- (₹ Five lakh Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One) NPA (01-01-2020)	Arazi No 812, Mouza Jhansi Khansh Outside Unnao Gate, Mohalla Panchwati Ward No 46, Near Anji Mandir, Jhansi, Jhansi-284001
(LC No. 00041750 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Sudheshwar Prasad (Borrower) Pushpa (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 / ₹ 530286 /- (₹ Five lakh Thirty Three Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Six) NPA (01-10-2019)	Plot No. B-409 & E-410, Part Of Kharsa No. 73, Madhyam Green Extension, Gram- Lalaji, Pargana & Tehsil Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020
(LC No. 00001791 of Meerut Branch) Dinesh Kumar (Borrower)	20-02-2020 / ₹ 522212 /- (₹ Five lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred Twelve) NPA (01-12-2019)	House On Southern Part Of Plot No. -31 Kharsa No. -1335 A Yamuna Vihar Maliyana Pargana & Teh Meerut Meerut Uttar Pradesh 250103
(LC No. 00042995 of Delhi Branch) Urmila Devi U (Borrower) Gyander Chauhan (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 / ₹ 500957 /- (₹ Five lakh Nine Hundred Fifty Seven) NPA (01-12-2019)	Flat No -903, 9th Floor, Type T2 Spis Aawasiya Yojna , Jal Nigam Road, Govind Puram Extn. Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201001
(LC No. 00004049 of Lucknow Branch) Vijay Lakshmi (

Lko to be divided into sensitive, highly sensitive zones: CMO

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow is being divided into sensitive and highly sensitive zones for containment of coronavirus because of the spurt in the number of cases. Chief Medical Officer Dr Narendra Agarwal said the division will be similar to the manner in which the district is divided at the time of polling. He said permission was also being sought from the state government for the same.

"We are dividing the district into sensitive and highly sensitive zones and the mapping will be done on the basis of the number of cases and containment zones under local police stations," he said. "If there are more than 10 containment zones in an area, it will be a highly sensitive and if there 5-10 containment zones in an area, it will be a sensitive zone," he added. About the door-to-door surveillance, the CMO said its primary aim is to detect the patients early. "We have asked for the compilation of SARI (severe acute respiratory illness) and ILL (influenza-like illness) cases that have been detected and how many have tested positive so that an assessment can be made for the number of cases which come out positive," he said. He added that the spike in cases has been largely because of contact surveillance.

Additional CMO MK Singh said that on the third day of door-to-door surveillance, 1852 teams went out in the field, covered 1,17,535 houses and 4,85,707 people. The number of people having diabetes was 2,979, cancer 78, hypertension 1,881, kidney disease 266, kidney ailment 92, fever 177, cough 152 and breathlessness 87, he said, adding that approximately 5 lakh people were being covered everyday.

A senior official from the CMO office said many of the highly educated people testing positive were reluctant to provide information under contact surveillance. "We have been trying to contact a bank official for gaining information about his contacts but he has switched off his phone. Out of the ten people contacted, only two answered the phone on Thursday," he said, adding that in the last 24 hours, there have been 10 people who have not responded and have



Samples of employees at Vikas Bhawan, Indira Nagar, being collected for testing on Thursday

switched off their phones.

Meanwhile, Dr D Himanshu, who is the incharge of Infectious Diseases Centre at KGMU, said they opened a new ward for Covid-19 patients on Thursday. "We have a total of 80 patients and in addition to the two wards that were already operational, the third one has been opened today. The ward had already been set up and the manpower was activated as it became operational," he pointed out. The new ward is not in the IDH building but adjacent to it. Dr Himanshu said they are also doing a follow-up of patients who have been discharged from KGMU and getting a feedback of people not regaining their sense of smell and taste. "It is common for people to lose their sense of smell and taste after having recovered from Covid-19. It comes back in 3-6 months. In the beginning, the patients who recover will also find smells abnormal and anything good may smell bad. If they do not get it back in three months, it will happen in six months," he said. "As for the impact on brain functioning, we have received no such feedback from the patients who have recovered," he added.

Director of Lok Bandhu Hospital Dr DS Negi said they currently have 80 Covid-19 patients and they have the capacity to increase up to 120 beds. At the non-Covid Civil Hospital, regular announcements are made

85 fresh cases found

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 85 persons tested positive for coronavirus in the city while four died on Thursday. CMO Dr Narendra Agarwal said three persons died at KGMU while one at SGPGI, and two of the deceased were from Lucknow.

KGMU media spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said a 60-year-old man from Hardoi, admitted to the hospital on July 8 morning, died of acute respiratory distress and failure. A 56-year-old man from Lucknow, admitted on the same night, had respiratory failure and he died of cardiopulmonary arrest.

The CMO said those who tested positive included four from LDA Colony, five from Vrindavan Yojana, six from Gomti Nagar, 10 from 'Dial 108', two each from Rajajipuram, Nadarganj, Jetha road, Niralanagar and

Daliganj, and one each from Telibagh, Kalyanpur, Alambagh, Balaganj, Mehendiganj, Malihabad and Aliganj. As many as 38 people recovered in the city while 36 more areas were converted into containment zones. Twelve containment zones ceased to exist as ones.

Meanwhile, in the state, 1,248 persons tested positive, including 172 in Noida, 128 in Ghaziabad, 61 in Ballia and 27 in Jhansi, taking the toll to 32,681. There were 17 deaths in the state, including one each in Noida, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Rampur, Barabanki, Azamgarh, Prayagraj, Muzaffarnagar, Kannauj and Mainpuri, three in Kanpur, and two each in Amethi & Jhansi, taking the death toll to 862.

Besides, 796 patients recovered in the state, taking the figure to 21,127.

to see that the patients do not crowd and wear masks regularly to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash has cancelled the holidays of all officials and staff on Covid duty at district level along with

officials from other government departments who are also performing Covid-19 duties till August 31 for effective containment of the coronavirus. He said strict action would be taken against those who do not follow the directions.



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'Allow bars at restaurants, hotels to open'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Hotels and Restaurants Association of Uttar Pradesh has sent a representation to the Excise department for allowing the restaurants and hotels to open their bars. Association's secretary Girish Oberoi said it may bring more people to the hotels and lead to increase in liquor sales. He said they have sent a representation to the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary (Excise). The sale of liquor in bars is a key source of revenue and is also taken in account while calculating the operating cost of hospitality units, he pointed out.

"In fact, bars are an integral part of hotel and restaurant operations and seen as value addition in increasing sales. The sale of liquor in shops is already allowed in the state. Also, the Excise department has allowed drinking and service of liquor in model shops and country liquor shops of the state. Therefore, following the standard operating procedures for restaurants, the operations of bar should also be allowed at par with hotels, restaurants and liquor vendors to provide relief to the hospitality industry of the state," he said.

He added that due to lockdown and non-operation of bars till date, the excise fee paid by licensee bars, hotels and restaurants should either be refunded or adjusted for at least six months. "In case of adjustment, the excise fee should be carried forward till September 30, 2021. There is no revenue during the lockdown, yet the rentals and fixed expenses have to be paid. The establishments are spending more after the lockdown on hygiene and safety measures and social distancing rules may just cut the revenue into half. More than 35-40% of this industry may not exist and succumb," he said. He added that they have also brought to the notice of the state government that the industry has already seen over one quarter of accumulated losses which began from February onwards.

Govt reimplements roster system

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Following the surge in cases of coronavirus infection, UP government has reimplemented the roster system under which only 50 per cent employees of C and D categories will attend the office while the rest will work from home. The government has asked departmental heads to make fresh assessment for implementing the social distancing protocol in their respective offices.

The employees working from home will remain in touch with their respective offices through mobile phones or some other electronic means so that they can be summoned to office if the need arises. The government has directed all department, subordinate offices, and urban local bodies to furnish the data about the class III and IV employees to the department of personnel by July 14. All the employees of A and B categories will attend the office as usual. The employees of the departments rendering essential services and involved in Covid-related relief work will be exempted from this order.

UP Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, in the order issued on Thursday, direct-

ed the additional chief secretaries/principal secretaries to obtain approval for the roster from ministers concerned. He also directed all the departments to set up Covid helpdesks so that they may give required information to all concerned about the pandemic. The chief secretary also directed for sanitisation of offices if any employees was diagnosed with Covid-19.

Most of the government offices were closed for two weeks after the lockdown was imposed from March 25. Acting on the guidelines issued by the Union Home Ministry on April 15, the offices of the state government resumed normal functioning from April 20. During the first lockdown, there was no restriction on the attendance of employees in the offices of the police, home guards, fire department, emergency services, disaster management, jail, urban development. However, from April 20, only 33 per cent of the subordinate staff coming to office were asked to follow roster while the rest were asked to work from home. During the lockdown, the entry of non-officials in the Secretariat was also restricted.

Process begins for virus & therapeutics institute

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The process has begun for setting up of an institute of virus and therapeutics in the city at CDRI. Director of CDRI Tapas Kundu met Chief Secretary RK Tewari, who has directed him to submit a final proposal and given him a protocol in this regard. "The idea is now progressing," a scientist said.

The CDRI director made the presentation before the Chief Minister and proposed the Centre as a joint Central and state government project. The idea was conceived by the CDRI director, who approached the Chief Minister first on this issue on June 15 and then met him on July 3. It will be a centre inside the CDRI campus which will be open to all hospitals and if any hospital in any district has an outbreak of virus, it will be directly connected to the Centre and immediate measures will be taken for the same. The institute will use of all kinds of systems which include bio-informatics and other systems to predict the disease and to do its epidemiology. CDRI will be recruiting the faculty for this research and it will be the hub of research. Three institutes of the city, including CDRI, KGMU and AKTU, will establish this centre in the CDRI campus.

ICSE, ISC results to be declared today

Lucknow (PNS): The results of the Class X (ICSE) and Class XII (ISC) examinations will be declared at 3 PM on Friday (July 10). Chief executive and secretary Gerry Arathoon said the results of ICSE & ISC exams will be made available through Careers Portal of the Council, the website of the Council and through SMS. The results of individual candidates can also be received through SMS. The Council has made a provision for the candidates to apply for re-check directly through the Council's website (www.cisce.org). The re-check will be conducted only for those subjects for which written examinations have taken place. He said that the re-check charges will be Rs 1,000 per paper for ICSE and Rs 1,000 per subject for ISC.

Bank of Baroda E-Auction Notice

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 6(2)& 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s)/ Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Date & Time of Auction: 30.07.2020, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM **Status of Possession- Constructive**

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount.	Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD
1.	Borrowers: M/s Baba Shri Brahma Dev Gas Agency Through its proprietor Vishnu Dev Verma S/o Kamlesh Chandra Verma. Address- Village Pipariha, Post Hathaundera, District Barabanki 225405 Guarantors: -Kamlesh Chandra Verma S/o Uma Nath verma. Address- Village Pipariha, Post Hathaundera, District Barabanki 225405. Date of Demand Notice: 26.08.2019 Date of Possession Notice: 21.01.2020 Outstanding Amount: Rs.858179.31 +Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.08.07.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of closed godown over plot situated at Khasra no. 122M in Village Bhawanipur Khewli, Pargana Suryapur, Tehsil Ram Sanahi Ghat. District Barabanki in the name of Kamlesh Chandra Verma S/o Uma Nath Verma. Total Area: 0.101 hectare Bounded as under (as per sale deed): East: Khet of Kallu and Bhagauti, West: Chak Marg and thereafter Bagh of Bhaskaranand and Khet of Jagjiwan, North: Khet of Jageshar, South: Chak Marg and thereafter Khet of Jagmohan.	Reserve Price Rs. 14,70,000/- (EM) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 1,47,000/-	10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM
2.	Borrowers: M/s Balaji Trading Company Through its proprietor Arun Kumar Shukla S/o Devdutt Shukla Address- Visheshwarganj, Bahraich Guarantors: -Susheela Shukla W/o Arun Kumar Shukla. Address- Vill Kanchhar, Visheshwarganj Bahraich Date of Demand Notice: 07.12.2018 Date of Possession Notice: 06.04.2019 Outstanding Amount: Rs.527782.94 +Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.08.07.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of the property consisting of equitable mortgage of property at Gata number 820 situated at Mauja Kanchhar, Pargana Ikauna and Tehsil District Bahraich in the name of Arun Kumar Shukla S/o Devdutt Shukla. Total Area 201 sq.mtr. Bounded as under: East: Puraina Tiraha to Kanchhar Marg, West: Khet Sri Ram Kailash, North: Plot of Bhullar Kori, South: Plot of Mala Pandey	Reserve Price Rs. 16,40,000/- (EM) Bid Increase Amount Rs.1,64,000/-	10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM
3.	Borrowers: M/s Chhanga Khan Rice & oil mill Through its proprietor Chhanga Khan s/o Subhan Khan Address- Vill- Gulapurwa Post- Balha, Tehsil- Nanpara Distt- Behraich Date of Demand Notice: 20.03.2017 Date of Possession Notice: 30.07.2018 Outstanding Amount: Rs.1182175.31 +Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.08.07.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Registered Mortgage of land, khata no. 36, plot no 467 min. situated at vill Gulapurwa Balha, Nanpara, Distt- Behraich belonging to Chhanga Khan s/o Subhan Khan. Total Area 0.30 hectare Bounded by: East: Field of Arazi Ahad & others, West: Remaining land of plot no. 467 min, North: Field of Naseem Khan, South: Field of Hafiz Khan.	Reserve Price Rs. 3,53,000/- (EM) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 35,300/-	10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM
4.	Borrowers: M/s MB Industries Proprietor Sandhya Singh W/o Rakesh Kumar Singh Address- Village Veershapur, PO Amsin Distt Ayodhya Date of Demand Notice: 03.07.2019 Date of Possession Notice: 09.09.2019 Outstanding Amount: Rs.5608431.68 +Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.08.07.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice). Bounded as under: East: Landed Property of Ram Milan Verma, West: Landed Property of Sandhya Singh, North: 12 Ft wide Road, South: Landed Property of Sandhya Singh. (2). All that part and parcel of the property consisting of plot (gata no. 310 and building constructed over the said plot situated in Village Veershapur, Pargana Amsin, Tehsil Sadar, Distt Ayodhya owned by Sandhya Singh w/o Rakesh Kumar Singh. Total Area 0.203 hectare Bounded as under: East: Landed Property of Ram Milan Verma, West: Landed Property of Babu Ram Verma, North: 12 Ft wide Road, South: Agriculture Land of Pankaj.	(1). All that part of parcel of the property consisting of Plot/Gata No. 310 and building situated at Village Veershapur, Pargana Amsin, Tehsil Sadar, Distt Ayodhya owned by Sandhya Singh w/o Rakesh Kumar Singh. Total Area of 0.203 Hectare. Bounded as under: East: Landed Property of Ram Milan Verma, West: Landed Property of Sandhya Singh, North: 12 Ft wide Road, South: Landed Property of Sandhya Singh.	Reserve Price Rs.14,33,000/- (EM) Bid Increase Amount Rs.1,43,300/-	10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 10.07.2020 to 30.07.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm & <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9517599985.
Date: 10.07.2020 : Place: Ayodhya Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

Dubey's arrest: Priyanka demands CBI probe

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Casting aspersions on the dramatic surrender of Kanpur carnage mastermind Vikas Dubey at Mahakal temple of Ujjain, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra demanded a CBI probe to unravel the mystery.

Justifying her demand, the Gandhi scion said that in order to reveal the nexus between the gangster and higher-ups, a CBI probe was necessary.

"After the heinous murders of police officers and personnel in Kanpur, the promptness with which the UP government should have acted, proved to be a total failure. Despite the alert, the killer reached Ujjain which shows the laxity in the

security apparatus and also hints at connivance," Priyanka tweeted in Hindi on Thursday.

"In another tweet, she posted, 'The 'no action' on a three-month-old letter and the name of Vikas Dubey not being in the list of notorious criminals suggest that the connections are far-reaching. The UP government should conduct a CBI inquiry into the matter and reveal all facts and the protection-connections.' Earlier, Priyanka had attacked the Yogi Adityanath government, saying that it was hiding the actual figures of rising lawlessness and crime across the state. She averred that hiding crime figures was the main reason why 'criminals were unstoppable' in UP.

"They have complete pro-

tection from the government. Our hard-working and honest officers and jawans are paying a heavy price because of this," she added. The Congress leader has been unrelenting in her attacks against the UP government over the past few months and emerged as a very vocal opposition leader in UP.

Besides, several prominent leaders and parties attacked the UP Police and the state government over the dramatic surrender of Dubey and termed it as "staged surrender".

Taking a jibe at the state government and UP Police, politician Kumar Vishwas said, "Vikas Dubey is the product of an unethical alliance of politics, bureaucracy and government. In the last seven days, the way

this man has made the elected government and police of Uttar Pradesh dance to his tunes, it is very clear that UP was never free of an alliance between criminals and governments and is not free presently"

Congress leader Imran Pratapgarhi, called Dubey's arrest a "planned screenplay" and said that the in-charge of Mahakal Mandir police outpost was transferred just on Wednesday and the screenplay of Dubey's surrender was acted out. "Now the country will have to decide who is director of this screenplay," he said.

Several people questioned the presence of media outside Mahakal temple in Ujjain while Dubey was arrested. Rashtriya Lok Dal nation-

al spokesman Anil Dubey asked the UP government to clarify whether Bikru village carnage mastermind Vikas Dubey surrendered or was arrested by the Madhya Pradesh police.

He said it seemed that Vikas Dubey had political patronage of the UP government and demanded a high level probe monitored by a High Court judge to bring out the truth.

"Only a probe under the a High Court judge will reveal the truth related to the arrest drama of Vikas Dubey and the massacre of policemen in Kanpur," he said. Dubey said the arrest of Vikas Dubey in Ujjain exposed the politician, police and mafia nexus. "The families of the martyred policemen should get justice," he added.

LU gets ₹ 4.04-crore DTS-PURSE grant

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University has received over Rs 4.04 crore under the Department of Science and Technology Programme called Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE). Media spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said LU has the distinction of being the only state university to have been identified for this massive funding for developing scientific infrastructure in various departments of the Science faculty.

"The DST-PURSE grant is sanctioned only to those universities which have a proven track record of very good research work, substantiated by publications with very high impact factor and H-index. The second phase of the DST-PURSE programme was sanctioned after successful completion of the first phase in the year 2017, in which a total sum of about Rs. 8.37 crore was sanctioned for four years," he said. In the first install-

ment, a sum of Rs 2.87 crore was sanctioned, which was utilised by developing an advanced computation lab in the departments of Physics, Mathematics & Astronomy and Statistics. In the department of Botany, Electrophoresis for compact system for molecular level analysis, micro centrifuge, Clevenger apparatus and advanced sample processing laboratory have been established. In the grant of the first year, 10 positions of laboratory and technical staff were also provided employment.

"Unfortunately, more than Rs one crore of this grant could not be utilised in the first two financial years of the programme and it was returned to the DST. Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai pursued the matter with the DST through Prof Vibhuti Rai, who presented the progress report before a high-powered expert committee at IIT-Delhi in February earlier this year. The impactful presentation, along with the key

achievements of the Science departments, by way of high-quality publication records, placed LU as one of the best DST-PURSE funded universities in the country in terms of performance. This performance not only allowed to get the sanction for the next year's grant, but also allowed utilisation of the last year's lapsed grant," Srivastava explained.

He further said that in a recent sanction order, LU was sanctioned a sum of Rs 4.04 crore for this financial year.

"This is a great achievement on the part of the university as under the present scenario of coronavirus pandemic, all other government-funded projects have been put on hold for release of grants at least for a year. The university is soon going to constitute a steering committee of experts from the Faculty of Science to proceed for procurement of equipment in order to develop state-of-the-art laboratories in the 100th year of its existence," he added.

Akhilesh takes dig at UP govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a dig at the arrest of Kanpur carnage mastermind Vikas Dubey on Thursday, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that the government should clarify whether it was a surrender or arrest. He also demanded that Dubey's call detail record (CDR) be made public to unravel the politico-criminal nexus. "It is being reported that the prime accused of Kanpur incident is in police custody. If this is true, the government should clarify whether it was surrender or arrest," said Akhilesh in Lucknow on Thursday.

"The high drama in the arrest of Vikas Dubey in Ujjain is definitely part of a well-planned conspiracy. The accused crossing the boundaries of four states was impossible without active nexus with the police and politicians," the

SP chief said.

"The Kanpur incident not only ripped off the mask of civility of the BJP regime, police and intelligence network of UP also stand exposed. The active cooperation given to the accused by cops after he committed the heinous crime of killing eight policemen has also brought to the fore the rot that has gripped the police and state machinery. Law and order has been reduced to mockery as criminals are controlling police stations and policemen are at the beck and call duty of the mafia," said Akhilesh.

In the early hours of July 3, eight Kanpur police officers and men were killed in an ambush at Bikru village of Chaubepur (Kanpur) by history-sheeter Vikas Dubey and his gang. Teams of three police stations were approaching Dubey's house for arresting him when they were attacked. Dubey absconded after the gory killing after which the state government

increased the bounty for his arrest four times in the last six days from Rs 25,000 to Rs 5 lakh.

EXPOSE DUBEY'S POLITICAL PATRONS, SAYS MAYAWATI

Expressing satisfaction on the arrest of fugitive Vikas Dubey, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said that she had faith that the Yogi Adityanath government would expose his political patrons.

In a tweet, Mayawati said, "UP and the people of the country are waiting for the truth to come out about various criminal activities and 'mafia-giri' after the arrest of most wanted criminal Vikas Dubey in Madhya Pradesh."

"Not only this, the people of the country are also waiting that the UP government to give strict punishment at the earliest to all government and political patrons and conspirators related to Dubey and his heinous crimes."



Shops remained closed on the directions of Vyapar Mandal in Lucknow on Thursday

Pioneer

Class X pass girl found hanging

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Class X pass girl ended her life at her house in Saadatganj on Thursday. Police said they were yet to ascertain the reason. As per reports, the girl, identified as Mansi of Moazzamgarh, was all alone in the house after her father and other family members left for work. Her father Rajesh Kumar Kashyap said he was informed that Mansi was not responding to the calls, and he reached the scene.

"She was found hanging from an iron grill in the courtyard with a saree tied around her neck," he said. The police said they did not get any suicide note and the body was sent for autopsy. Mansi passed High School exams earlier this year.

In another incident, a 26-year-old Assamese youth ended his life at his shanty in Matiyari slum area on Thursday morning. Identified as Javed, he worked as a rag-picker. Reports said Javed was found hanging by his brother Zakir Hussain with a gamchha tied around his neck. Javed belonged to Dhamaji district of Assam. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation.

Meanwhile, a police team nabbed a dreaded criminal, who was wanted in several cases of contract murder and robbery, and his close aide in an encounter on the intervening night of Wednesday and

Youth arrested for raping, threatening minor girl

Lucknow (PNS): A youth was arrested on Thursday for allegedly raping a 16-year-old girl and threatening to kill her. Police said the accused, identified as Samratnagar of Kakori, was nabbed from Jhakhraabad crossing in Kakori following a tip-off. Lalu was named in the case on July 7 after the girl's father lodged a case accusing him of rape and threatening.

The police said they registered a case under sections 376/504 of IPC and also booked him under POCSO Act. "During investigation, the charges against Lalu were examined and found to be true. The girl was sent for a medical test and the report confirmed rape. After these findings, the police launched a manhunt for

Lalu and nabbed him on Thursday," he said.

Meanwhile, the Kakori police on Thursday arrested a person for his involvement in dacoity at the house of a retired Secretariat employee. The accused was identified as Laddu aka Mohammed Ghufuran of Saadatganj. The police recovered a country-made pistol, two live cartridges, three silver coins, a silver anklet and Rs 1,200 in cash from his possession. The police had announced a cash reward of Rs 25,000 on his arrest. A police spokesman said eight miscreants had committed dacoity at the house of the retired employee on June 14 and the cops had nabbed seven of them while Ghufuran was absconding.

Thursday. The prime accused, who was absconding for the last 12 years, suffered bullet injuries in his left leg.

Those arrested were identified as Sooraj Singh aka Naan Singh aka Fauji of Basti and his aide Raj Bahadur of Barabanki. The police recovered an illegal pistol, two country-made pistols, cartridges, an SUV, and Rs 3,100 in cash from the possession of the accused. Police said they got a tip-off that the

accused were passing from under a bypass in sector 12 of PGI police station area, and they were challenged. The accused reportedly opened fire and the police retaliated. The police said Sooraj suffered bullet injuries and surrendered. Later, Raj Bahadur also surrendered. The police said Sooraj had over a dozen crime crime cases registered against his name while his aide was also named in several cases.

शुद्धि-पत्र
पायनियर अंग्रेजी के दिनांक 09.07.2020 के अंक में पृष्ठ 4 पर प्रकाशित कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियान्ता, जोन-3, जलकल विभाग नगर निगम, लखनऊ के विज्ञापन में त्रुटिपूर्ण पत्रांक संख्या-2457/EE-3/ दिनांक 23.01.2020 गलत छप गया है, जिसे पाठकगण सुधार कर पत्रांक संख्या- 463/EE-3/GL/720-21, दिनांक 08.07.2020 पढ़ें।

MADHYANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
HEAD OFFICE 4-A, GOKHLE MARG LUCKNOW.
DATE EXTENSION NOTICE
The date of Tender submission and Technical Bid (Part-I) opening for supply of 33 KV 3X120 Sq. MM XLPE Cable against T.S.No. MEDCO/2488/2020 is being extended as per details given below : Sr. No. 1, T.S.No. MEDCO/2488/2020, Last Date & Time for Bid Submission 17.07.2020 till 13:00 hrs., Technical Bid opening Date & Time (Part-I) 18.07.2020 after 14:00 hrs. Please visit website <https://etender.up.nic.in> for further details, Corrigendum / Amendment and further up to date details before submission and date of opening of bids. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM) MVVNL, Lucknow. No.: 159, Date : 09.07.2020, "Save Electricity & Use LED Bulbs in place of Bulbs in national interest, Helpline No. 1800-1800-440 / 1912

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. TENDER NOTICE
Sealed Tenders are hereby invited in two parts (containing earnest money in 1st part and rates terms & condition in 2nd part) from manufacturer / authorized supplier / experienced contractors as details given below. This can be down load from the website www.upptcl.org Tender No. 05/2020-21 Providing of One No. diesel vehicle along with driver for Ten months for departmental work at E-400 KV S/S Division Kasara Mau as per tender specification. Earnest money for tender No. 05/2020-21 Rs. 2000.00 (Two Thousand) Only in shape of F.D.R. / C.D.R. / D.D. / Cash in favour of Executive Engineer, Electy. 400 KV S/S Kasara Mau. The above tenders will be opened on date : 05.08.2020
TERMS & CONDITION :
1. Tender document can be obtained from this office by paying tender fee against tender No. 05/2020-21 for Rs. 200 +36=236.00 in shape of cash / D.D. in favour of undersigned upto 13:00 hrs. at the office till opening date. Tender fee is non refundable. 2. The above tender should be reached to this office on the date of opening at 14:00 hrs. & shall be opened at 16:00 hrs. before all tenders / representatives. 3. If the opening date falls on holiday, tender shall be received & opened on next working day. 4. The undersigned reserves the right to reject, split, cancel any or all the tenders and accept in full or part without assigning any reasons thereof. 5. Tender documents will be sold only to those firms / contractors who are registered in GST & Income tax department and have past 6. Tender part-II will be opened after receipt of part-I in complete form. **Executive Engineer, Electy. 400 KV Substation Division, U. P. Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. Kasara Mau. No. 525, Date 08.07.2020 SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION**

GPPC
GSPC PIPAVAV POWER COMPANY LIMITED
E-PUBLIC BID
Online bid is invited from Indian bidders for following work at GPPC's 702 MW CCPP, village: Kovaya, Dist Amreli, Gujarat, India

No.	Name of Work/Supply	Last date of Bid Submission
1.	Rate Contract of Design, Manufacturing, Testing, Supply, Transportation, Packing, Forwarding, Unloading, Installation & Performance Test of FRP Louver along with Frames for Cooling Tower (3 Louvers in each Frame) in existing Induced Draft Cooling Tower -1 & 2 cells	21st July, 2020

For more details, download and online submission of the tender please visit our website <https://gppc.nprocure.com>
No. JINFVPN2020/GI417 **AGM (Commercial)** GSPC Pipavav Power Company Limited

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Notification Notice: C/99/STBA/Izatnagar/2020-21 Date 07-07-2020 (This Notification is not for employment)
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, N.E. Railway, Izatnagar, Bareilly On behalf of president of India invites application for the Allotment of Station Ticket Booking Agent (STBA) on 40 station on NSG-6 & 12 stations of NSG-5 over Izatnagar Division to issue computerized unreserved ticket through UTS (Unreserved Ticket System). Interested persons fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format.
Name of stations (STBA) for which Applications are invited: NSG-6
1. Uttaripura, 2. Arol Makaanpur, 3. Kampil Road, 4. Khuda Ganj, 5. Jasoda, 6. Marhara, 7. Pipalsana, 8. Shaahbaz Nagar, 9. Augsauli, 10. Gularbhoj, 11. Bitrol, 12. Sethal, 13. Dohna, 14. Rati Ka Nagla, 15. Deorania, 16. Schramau, 17. Mandhana Jn., 18. Bijoria, 19. Mala, 20. Shamshabad, 21. Mendu, 22. Shahgarh, 23. Ghatpuri, 24. Manpur Nagria, 25. Bhopatpur, 26. Bilaspur Road, 27. Makrandpur, 28. Banbasa, 29. Shahi, 30. Dudhiya Khurd, 31. Kasganj City, 32. Haldi Road, 33. Chamraa, 34. Majhola Pakria, 35. Neoria Hussainpur, 36. Sonai, 37. Pant Nagar, 38. Bdhari Klan, 39. Chohepur, 40. Banbasa. **NSG-5**
1. Kalyanpur (Only for counter No-01), 2. Bazpur (Only for counter No-01), 3. Roshanpur (Only for counter No-01), 4. Sikandra Rau (Only for counter No-01), 5. Shawar Town, 6. Patyali, 7. Daria Ganj, 8. Rudain, 9. Soron Sukar Kshetra, 10. Kamalganj, 11. Khatima, 12. Aliganj. Period: 03 Year. Application form cost: ₹ 1,000/- + 18% (GST) = ₹ 1,180/- (Rs. One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Only) for each station. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,000/- (Rs. Two Thousand Only) for each station.
(1) Sale of application form: Form the office of Divisional Railway Manager (commercial) North Eastern Railway Izatnagar Bareilly in any working day between 10:00 to 16:00 pm from 14-07-2020 to 20-08-2020 on payment of Application form fee which will be deposit in cash in booking office at Izatnagar station. **(2)** Application submission date & time: 10-08-2020 to 20-08-2020 up to 14:00 Hrs. **(3)** Application Opening date & time: 20-08-2020 at 15:30 Hrs. **(4)** This application notice & documents (Terms & conditions etc.) is also available on North Eastern Railway & Government website "www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in" The person who are interested to submit their application from website he can download the documents from websites. The cost of application form (not refundable) & Earnest Money Should be Deposit Necessarily With application Form through Demand Draft issued by nationalized bank in favour of F.A. & C.A.O., North Eastern Railway, Izatnagar paid in Bareilly. Application form not accompanied with above mentioned demand drafts will not be considered.
Sr. Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Izatnagar
CPRO/Vanijya-13
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Do not smoke Bid/Cigarette in train.

Thieves strike at medical store, bakery

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thieves struck at a medical store and a bakery in Ashiyana and decamped with thousands of rupees. Police initially tried to hush up the incident but later disclosed details to mediapersons. As per reports, owner of Ashiyana medical store, located in a shopping complex in the area, Kuldeep Verma said his employee Suresh Kumar informed him about the theft in the morning.

"Suresh reached the shop to open it on Thursday morning and found the shutter jacked up. I checked the cash and found Rs 45,000 missing," he said. In another incident, Jai Kumar of sector-H informed the police that thieves made off with Rs 10,000 in cash from the chest box put in the shop, which is located in his house. Theft at the medical store and a bakery came as a surprise to locals. "The medical store is located in a commercial complex housing several shops and stores. There are people who run a motorcycle stand outside the commercial complex. The police have no details about these persons," sources said.

Meanwhile, the Jankipuram police arrested a youth who had uploaded his video in which he was seen sitting atop his car and opening fire in the air on the occasion of a friend's birthday. The accused, identified as Akash Yadav of Purania, owned up his crime and disclosed that he and his friends had taken out a procession to celebrate the occasion. The police recovered a country-made pistol and cartridge from Akash and were searching for others involved. The police were mulling to seize the vehicles involved in the procession and slap Gangster Act on the accused.

CITYBRIEFS

BED ENTRANCE TEST ON AUG 9

The entrance test for UP State BED-2020 will be conducted on August 9. The decision was taken in a meeting through video-conferencing which was presided over by Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma. The meeting was attended by all vice-chancellors of state universities, DMs and education officers. LU media spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said that 4,31,904 candidates are scheduled to appear for the entrance test. "For the smooth conduct of the exam, 19 nodal centres have been made in 73 districts of the state. No private college or school has been made a test centre this time," he added.

BID DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Lucknow division of North-Eastern Railway (NER) has set up a

business development unit. DRM (NER) Monica Agnihotri said the aim is to double the freight loading by 2024. She said that BDU will coordinate with representatives of different business groups and industries to brief them about the facilities which the NER's Lucknow division is providing to them to ease out their problems. The committee will work under the supervision of ADRM (Operation) Praveen Pandey while senior divisional manager (Operations) Harish Rairtoliya and senior divisional engineer (Coordination) Sanjay Yadav, Sr DCM AP Singh, Sr DFM Ratnesh Kumar Singh and Sr DME (Carriage and Wagon) Ranvijay Pratap Singh will be in the team. A spokesman said one can get information by contacting Harish Rairtoliya on mobile number (8127555577).

SCHOLARSHIP

Ravija Chandel, a student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus 1, has been selected for Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (K V P Y Fellowship) of the Government of India. She will be receiving a scholarship of Rs 5,000 per month and Rs 20,000 as the annual contingency grant during her graduation period. At MSc level, Ravija will be getting a monthly stipend of Rs 7,000 per month and the annual contingency grant of Rs 28,000. Thus, she will be getting a scholarship of Rs 4,64,000 during the five years of higher education.



Municipal Commissioner Indramani Tripathi and SDM (Sadar) planted saplings in Buddeshwar temple premises on Thursday

Pioneer

COVID-19: Varanasi crosses 700-mark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has seen the biggest spike in the number of COVID-19 patients as 38 patients were found positive here on Thursday and with this, the total number crossed 700-mark as it reached 723. It was the biggest number of patients detected during a day in the district as earlier on June 3, as many as 30 patients were found positive in a day. Besides, 25 patients have been discharged from the hospitals and with this, the total number of patients who have been recovered has increased to 422. The death toll has increased to 25. The number of active patients is 276.

According to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh, earlier a mustard oil trader (52) from Visheshwarganj (Kotwali) died. He was suffering from cough, fever and breathlessness. He was originally a resident from Mughalsarai (Chandauli) but at present lived in Visheshwarganj



area. Meanwhile, the finding of more cases in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) continued. In Mau, as many as 12 new patients have been found corona positive, increasing the number to 194 with 104 active patients and three deaths, while 87 have been discharged from the hospitals. Earlier, the entire region was shocked when Ballia saw a biggest spike as 63 corona positive patients were found. During the last 24 hours by Wednesday, the region also saw a large number of 147 new cases and with this, the total number of COVID-19 patients has increased to 3,169 in 10 districts of three divisions. Due to increasing in the number of active patients, the per cent reached 34.99 with 1,109 patients, while the recovery rate has declined further to 62.95 per cent (1,995) and mortality rate is now 2.08 per cent with 66 deaths.

Security at hotspot Daranagar (Jaitpura) in Varanasi on Thursday

COVID-19 patients being treated at DLW Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district administration has named the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) located Central Hospital as level-1 hospital to treat the COVID-19 patients. A total of 90 beds are available in the hospital for coronavirus patients and at present, a total of 39 patients have been admitted there. In the hospital as per standard operating procedures (SOP), all the admitted patients are being treated.

The hospital has nine dedicated toilets for the patients, which are also being regularly cleaned and sanitised. Along with this, cleaning and sanitisation of wards is also being done regularly as per rules. The food of patients is being arranged by the district administration regularly and on time. In addition to this, immediate availability is being ensured by the demand of hot water etc. by the patients.

Simultaneously, coordination is also being established by the district administration in relation to the treatment and arrangements of the patients.

Earlier, a quarterly meeting



COVID-19 patients being treated at DLW Hospital in Varanasi on Thursday Pioneer

of the DLW Official Language Implementation Committee was held on Wednesday in the General Manager's Assembly Room. Presiding over the meeting, GM of DLW and CORE Yashpal Singh, in his

address through video conferencing, said that DLW is playing the role of a guide for other offices in the technical field by appreciative use of Rajbhasha (official language).

'It is a matter of pleasure

that in DLW, even in the adverse situation, compliance of the Official Language Policy is being done smoothly,' he said, adding that it was suggested to conduct work training, technical seminars and workshops in e-office through online mediums.

Singh said that officers and employees should write technical articles for the magazine 'Dereka Darpan' to be published by Rajbhasha department in Hindi.

The progress reports of Hindi were presented by heads of various departments and officers present in the meeting discussed the same. On this occasion, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer SK Kashyap, Principal Chief Materials Manager DS Jangpangi, Principal Financial Advisor JN Pandey, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer DK Mandal, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Pradeep Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Engineer Rajesh Agarwal, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr Devesh Kumar, Deputy General Manager-cum-Secretary Vaibhav Sohane were also present in the meeting.

8 new coronavirus cases reported

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With eight new cases of COVID-19 being reported in the Prayagraj city late on Wednesday night, a total 12 infected patients beat the corona and were discharged from the Covid Hospital on the same day.

The number of corona patients is increasing in each passing day but with it, corona positive patients are also becoming increasingly negative. As many as 12 patients were discharged from Covid hospital Kotwa and SRNH. So far, a total of 437 patients of corona in the district have been affected by corona, in which 294 patients have also been cured.

According to Dr Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for COVID-19, eight positive cases of corona have been found, but the relieving news is that the report of 418 samples has been negative. Similarly, 57 patients have been admitted in L1 COVID Hospital, Kotwa Bani, 25 infected in L2 Beli COVID Hospital and 61 corona positive patients have been admitted in L3 Covid Hospital SRN.

The nurse working in Dufferin Hospital, admitted to Kotwa Bani, was referred to Beli Hospital, with more abdominal pain. Similarly, another patient has been referred for SRNH.

Meanwhile, an officer posted in Tehsil in Phulpur has tested corona positive. His wife is posted in the Collectorate's record room. The wife's report did not come yet but the administration had sanitised and sealed the record room as a precaution. In the past, the officer posted in Phulpur got



his sampling done on being a corona suspect. On Tuesday, when reports came positive, those who had met him were panicked. While sanitising the Phulpur Tehsil campus, where he sits, it has been sealed.

His wife is posted in the Collectorate's record room. Sampling was done after her husband became infected. But the report has not come yet. Nevertheless, she has been quarantined at home as a precaution. Apart from this, the Collectorate premises including the record room were sanitised. It was then sealed.

On the other hand, a woman running a canteen at the airport has also tested for corona. She is admitted to Beli Hospital. After she was found infected, the canteen of the airport was closed and sanitised together. Others are also horrified to find the woman corona positive. At present, the

movement of aircraft is not impacted due to this.

ANTIGEN KIT NOT BROUGHT FOR TESTING: Six city centres were marked for immediate testing of the coronavirus, but the arrangement regarding this fell flat. At many centres, including Beli Hospital, the antigen kit was not brought for the testing, the prospective patients who came for testing the coronas stood in the line for hours, but their sampling could not be done and they returned without getting tested.

The department claimed that corona testing of 145 people has been conducted at all the six centres.

The department is claiming to test more and more prospective patients but the effect is not visible. On Wednesday, it was decided late in the night that corona patients will be screened at six

different centres in the city. Arrangements were made to check the corona at TB Sapru Hospital, Allahabad Degree College Kydganj Branch, Allahabad Degree College Beniganj Branch, Majidia Islamia Inter College, Urban Primary Health Centre Daraganj I and Urban Primary Health Centre Abubakarpur (Bhola ka Purva) in the city.

The Nodal Officer for corona, Dr Rishi Sahai said that on Thursday, all the tempo, rickshaw and bus drivers of the city were tested for COVID-19. CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that only sampling has been done at these six centres but he had no information about non-availability of kits.

Dr Rishi Sahai further said that only Beli Hospital had some technical snags. Now better arrangements were being made there, added Dr Sahai.

Bridge water level monitoring system installed at 10 major bridges of NCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

North Central Railway has taken serious steps towards safe train operations during Monsoon and one of these steps is Bridge Water Level Monitoring System installed at 10 major bridges of North Central Railway.

These include Yamuna, Tons and Some bridges of Prayagraj division, Yamuna bridge in Agra division and Chambal, Yamuna Kalpi, Bagin, Yamuna South Bank and two bridges on Betwa river in Jhansi division.

Based on design, flow and other technical parameters regular level, high flood level and

danger level of water are identified for all railway bridges and in event of water reaching critical level precautionary action is initiated including regulation or stoppage of trains till water recedes below the threshold level.

In this advanced and human intervention free water level monitoring system, the water level measuring instrument (WLM) continuously sends ultrasonic waves which reflect back from top of the water flowing in the river. Time taken for ultrasonic waves to return back to the instrument gives accurate measurement of water level in the river and equipment compares

it with prefixed reference level to assess actual level w.r.t. danger level of water. Water level measuring instrument along with the intelligent field device (IFD) that communicate with WLM and transmits the water level data to a central server from each bridge. This system records water level at every 5 minutes and data is available to authorised personnel in tabular as well as graphical format which is effectively used for forecasting purposes thus preventive measures can be planned in a better way based on the trend of water level increase at these major Railway bridges. Besides these 10 systems functional over NCR, 5

major bridges in Jhansi division are identified additionally for provision of water level monitoring systems.

North Central Railway has also started keeping monsoon reserve materials at strategic locations to tackle any damage to track formation in event of heavy rains, deployment of stationary watchman at vulnerable locations, monsoon patrolling of critical locations and sections, daily monitoring of rainfall in each area, water pumping arrangements from LHS, intensive cleaning of drains in yards, critical audit and deployment of watchman at all worksites near running track.

Treatment with 'plasma therapy' to begin in BHU from today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Treatment of the COVID-19 patients with 'plasma therapy' will begin in the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) from Friday. This will help in treating the patients who are in critical condition and have been kept on the ventilator. The District Magistrate has appealed to the patients who recovered from COVID-19 and whose first samples of coronavirus have completed 28 days, to come forward for their plasma donation to the blood bank of the university.

The Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma held a meeting with administration of the BHU on Thursday on varsity premises

here and discussed about plasma therapy. After the meeting, the DM informed that the meeting decided to start the treatment of COVID-19 with plasma therapy from Friday.

Under the plasma therapy, the patients who recovered from COVID-19 and whose first samples have completed 28 days, could donate their blood to the blood bank in BHU, informed the DM adding that the plasma would be separated from blood donated by recovered COVID-19 patients and it would be transfused to patients who are in critical condition and have been kept on the ventilator. The DM made an appeal to the recovered patients of this category to come forward and donate their blood to the blood bank of the BHU to save the lives of a num-

ber of patients.

The meeting also discussed about the Remdesivir medicine to be made available at Amrit and Umang Pharmacy for the COVID-19 patients, informed the DM adding that both pharmacy shops were directed to apply to the company in format. The Remdesivir medicines would be available at these both medical stores of the university but the patients would have to make payment to buy the medicines. This medicine is not available in the district in the present time and the patients have to purchase from Delhi, informed Sharma.

The meeting also decided to bring the super-specialty hospital of the BHU in the operation with full capacity and directed the hospital authority to ensure the arrangement of

required manpower and other necessary things. The super-specialty has been reserved for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, said the DM.

The meeting also asked the varsity administration to make demand of fund if required for speeding up the test process and making the maximum sample testing so as the amount could be made available to the varsity administration from SDRF Fund, said the DM. Sharma informed that after the blood donation, the plasma would be separated from the blood and thereafter, it would be transfused to patients and added that between that matching of donor and recipient blood and titers will be done at KGMU and thus it will take one day extra in this process.

Jaypee Cement much sought after in UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Jaypee Cement marched ahead and reached milestones by overcoming all the obstacles faced. This is possible when the motivation is high and there is a strong will to overcome the problems.

The employees of Jaypee Cement be it officers, scientists, engineers have worked tirelessly day and night to maintain its quality product and the cement manufactured by it is much sought after in the Uttar Pradesh market. With the high motivational workforce, the company has been able to keep its flag flying high.

To capture the Uttar Pradesh market, it has established Churk Cement at Sonbhadra district. To meet the



growing demands, it has come up with another venture, Chunar Cement plant at Mirzapur district and then the production of Jaypee Cement started at full swing.

With the rising demands of its product in other states the company has commissioned a plant at Bhilai in Chhattisgarh and has revived its Nigri

reckoning name in the Uttar Pradesh market and elsewhere.

The senior vice-president of Jaypee Cement, SKP Gupta said Jaypee Cement is known for its quality product and best customer service in the country and he attributed the success to the motivational workforce of the company. The Jaypee Cement has contributed successfully in the construction of houses which are not only strong but can stand like a rock in all weather conditions.

He further stated that the company also trains the contractors, civil engineers and all those skilled workers associated with the construction in the correct use of its cement for the other projects.

Online discourse on education concludes

VARANASI (PNS): Director of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Prof HK Senapati said that teacher education, which prepares the teacher, should show its accountability towards the society and its institutions should shift to content mastery to competency. 'If we want to change the school education then our teacher education should focus on curriculum transactional strategy at BEd level,' he said while addressing the valedictory session of two-day online national discourse on foundations of education, organised by Faculty of Education in BHU on Wednesday.

Prof Senapati further said 'Med. institutions should focus on the research on curriculum development, pedagogical innovation and other emerging areas that are essential to enrich the teacher education.' Dean of the faculty Prof SK Swain presented his valedictory remark. Both coordinators Prof Seema Singh and Prof Anjali Bajpai also presented their remarks and proposed the vote of thanks. Organising secretary Prof Nagendra Kumar welcomed the guests, while joint organising secretaries Dr Chaaya Soni and Dr Pankaj Singh conducted the session and looked after the technical aspects respectively.

Earlier, in the fifth academic session, Joint Director of

Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) Prof Amrendra P Behara, while throwing light on pedagogy, said 'the parents are the real pedagogues and we should apply their knowledge in school as being a teacher.' He also emphasised on that use pedagogy according to learning outcomes. 'We should respect the diversity of students, deal with the class with this philosophy that doesn't impose knowledge but construct the knowledge with the help of students,' he added. Prof Sudhanshu Bhusan of National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), while delivering his talk on policy foundation of education, said 'policy is an

idea and it has theoretical (episteme) and practical foundation.' The online discourse was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar who said that education has a very vast perspective and elementary education should be strengthened. 'In higher education, research should be unique and it should be profitable to mankind and society,' he suggested. Former V-C of JP University (Chhapra) Prof Hariresh Singh said that philosophy is the foundation of cosmos. 'It is the process of thinking which generates all the knowledge. Philosophy is the foundation of the nucleus, metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology, the four pillars of education,' he said.

Gang illegally transporting sand busted

ALLAHABAD (PNS): The Khulabad police of Prayagraj busted a gang involved in illegally transporting sand from Kaushambi district and got those vehicles passed in a wrong manner. The cops nabbed 17 people in the case and had recovered five dumpers, three cars and ₹ 1.5 lakh in cash from their possession.

According to the police, the main accused are Ram Singh of Kokhraj in Kaushambi and Israr Ali alias Munna and Monu of Jhalwa in Dhumanganj. The trio used to walk in the night with sand-loaded vehicles from their cars. The trio used to inform the truck drivers about the presence of police so that they

could change the way to reach its destination. On Wednesday night, CO First and Inspector Khulabad Vineet Singh laid siege with the force near Karbala Tiraha and apprehended all the culprits involved in it. Police said sand loaded in overloaded vehicles was illegal. The Mining department is also investigating it. Among the arrested accused, 14 people are drivers and Khalasi, who are from Prayagraj and Kaushambi. A case has been filed against all in Khulabad police station. Police arrested 17 people and recovered 5 dumpers, 3 cars and ₹ 1.5 lakh in cash from their possession.

Meanwhile, a case of demanding extortion money from Ajay Kumar Bansal, who

is a contractor, has come to light over the phone and threatening to kill him for failing to give money by the caller posing himself as an engineer of the Railway Board. The Kydganj police are collecting information about the threat after filing a case against unidentified goons on the basis of the written complaint made by the victim. Ajay Bansal, a resident of old Bairahana, works as a contractor in the railway. He alleged that two days ago, he received a call from an unknown number on his mobile phone. The caller identified himself as a member of the Engineering department of the Railway Board, New Delhi. After this, he demanded for money saying that if the

money is not paid, the work taken up by him will be stopped in the railway on some basis or other, by blacklisting it.

The accused also threatened to kill him if he complained about the case. The contractor also alleged that earlier, the caller had demanded the extortion money posing as member material of Railway Board from different numbers. Then he complained to the railway officials about it.

Inspector Kydganj Ganesh Shishupal Sharma said that prima facie the matter seemed to be a dispute between two contractors. A case was registered against unidentified miscreants on the ground of the written complaint given by the victim.

DM concern over rise in Covid deaths

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate BR Tiwari asked the officials concerned to increase coronavirus testing. Addressing a meeting on Thursday, the district magistrate expressed concern over the rise in the death of COVID-19 patients and said this engendered the need for increasing Covid tests to check the spread of coronavirus.

He said all pregnant women should be tested for coronavirus infection without fail. He directed that all the surveillance teams visit each and every house and carry out a survey to find out how many people were ill in a house and their symptoms and maintain a proper record. He said all the people who were infected with

49 test +ve, five die of COVID-19

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 49 more coronavirus positive cases in the last 24 hours, taking the number of infected persons detected in the city so far to 1,565.

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Shukla said on Thursday that the 49 new cases were reported from Lakhnupur, Panki, Gangaganj, Sisamau, Fazalganj, Jajmau, Krishna Nagar, Santnagar, Naubasta, Shivkatra, Patkapur, Teachers' Colony, Ghatampur, Juhi, Baradevi, Kidwai Nagar, Yashoda Nagar, Nawabganj, Anand Vihar, Vijay

coronavirus and were cured should be sent a special appreciation letter.

The district magistrate said it had become essential to find out the reason of the rise in

deaths of COVID-19 patient and assigned the task of finding out the basic reason to ADM (Civil Supplies) Basant Agarwal and Ursula Hospital CMS Dr Shailendra Tiwari.

He directed the officials to trace each and every COVID-19 patient and their contacts and ensure proper and timely treatment. Tiwari said the top priority was on Covid test of all

pregnant women. He said reflector boards should be put up at least one kilometre prior to CHCs and PHCs.

Tiwari said the surveillance teams need to be equipped with thermal scanners, pulse oximeter and other related material. He said all the contract health workers should have health insurance which was made mandatory. He warned district administration and health officials that laxity and dereliction of duty would not be tolerated and said there was certainly some reason for the sharp rise in coronavirus positive cases and Covid deaths. CDO SK Singh, ADM (F&R) Virendra Pandey, CMO, Dr AK Shukla and officials of various departments attended the meeting.

DM inspects works being done under MGNREGA

CORRESPONDENT ■ BANDA

DM Amit Singh Bansal said that he had inspected works being carried out under MGNREGA in Mahuwa village on Wednesday and found labourers and authorities concerned present there. DM told 'The Pioneer' on Thursday said that he saw MB of the works and got them measured on the spot. He said that he did not find the works as shown in the MB. DM said that the authorities concerned had committed irregularity in it. He said that he had questioned secretary



gram panchayat regarding the irregularity and he was suspended as he could not give any satisfactory answer. DM said that the excess money which was shown given to the labourers in the MB would also be recovered from the suspended secretary of gram panchayat.

Bansal said that he later visited the training programme for women in Jakhani village. He said that women were being trained to make threads and it was a good initiative for making them self-reliant. DM said that he had directed the official concerned to send a request to the government to provide thread-making machines to women who were being given training. He said that he also inspected natural spring at Turra village under Naraini block. He said that this natural spring would be developed as a tourist spot. He added said that this place could attract tourists.

Experts laud govt's welfare services for uplift of girls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, Vice Chancellor Dr Neelima Gupta said the aim behind the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign launched by the Bharatiya Janata Party government was to promote girls' education and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls with especial emphasis on states with low child gender ratio.

Addressing the virtual seminar on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', Dr Gupta stressed on promoting this campaign in Uttar Pradesh. She said the efforts of the District Legal Advisory Authority and the university in this regard were worth appreciation.

Kanpur Nagar DLAA Secretary AP Singh, who was the key speaker, spoke on the 'son preference syndrome', especially in Hindi heartland. He said even Indian women craved for at least one son.

Singh said it would be no exaggeration to state that India had the highest percentage of son preference and this was mainly because of lack of education and socio-religious constraints.

He said the DLAA was making sustained efforts to ensure that the welfare services meant for girls were delivered in an efficient way.

The DLAA secretary said as per National Commission for Protection of Child Rights' (NCPCR) report, in India,



AP Singh, Secretary, District Legal Advisory Authority holding a virtual meet on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' on Thursday.

around 39.4 per cent of girls in the age group of 15-18 did not have access to basic education and around 65 per cent of them were forced into handling household chores, were dependants or had been engaged in beggary. He said the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', campaign was an effort was to improve the situation of the girl child as there was so much more that was needed to be done in this direction to help the women in India lead a better quality of life.

Prof Mamata Rao, an

expert on PCPNDT law, praised the efforts of the judiciary for making every effort to ensure girls were not only saved but educated as well.

She said an educated woman with the right skills and knowledge had the power to bring socio-economic changes in society. Rao said there was also the need for more women participation in education and the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', scheme helped to keep a check on obsolete practices as the success of a country was measured by the quality of life of its

female citizens.

She said with the initiative of the government, today a girl child could open an account to become financially secure and improve financial literacy. She said this account was exempted under the IT Act 1961 under section 80C hence the account of the girl child was tax-free, which meant that no money would be deducted from the account in the form of tax.

Rao said the world was changing at an unprecedented rate and women across the globe were breaking the stereotypes and were doing some phenomenal work. She said though India was making rapid progress, women and girls still were not able to enjoy their rights despite being guaranteed social justice, dignity and gender equality, including the right to education.

She said there was a wide gap between female literacy (65.46 per cent) and male literacy rates (82.16 per cent), which further reduced in the rural parts of the country (58.75 per cent). She added that as per the Census of 2011, there were still about 32 million children aged between six and 13 years who had never attended any educational institution.

Rao said poor educational opportunities for girls, especially in rural areas, also increased the vulnerability of girls to be forced into child marriage. She said in rural India, a majority of girls were engaged in agricultural activities or household chores.

Govt scheme for crop residue management

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has decided to introduce agricultural mechanisation plan in a big way in the state. The special scheme is meant for farmers of Uttar Pradesh with the objective to address air pollution issues and to subsidise machinery required for in situ management of crop residue.

This was disclosed by Joint Agricultural Production Commissioner Pramod Awasthi while addressing a meeting at Vikas Bhawan here on Thursday.

He said the government would set up farm machinery banks for custom hiring of in situ crop residue management machinery.

Awasthi said under this scheme, a financial assistance of 80 per cent of the project cost would be provided to co-operative societies of farmers, FPOs, self-help groups, registered farmers' societies, farmers' groups, private entrepreneurs, groups of women farmers etc.

He said district-wise tokens would be generated for the fixed targets till July 15 and once the required number was reached, a list would be prepared.

The JAPC said for farm equipment worth ₹ 10,000, there shall be no need for guarantee while for projects between ₹ 10,000 and ₹ 1 lakh, the token guarantee money would be ₹ 2,500 and for above ₹ 1 lakh equipment, the token guarantee money would be ₹ 5,000.

Three teenagers drowned

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Three teenagers drowned in a pond behind Ramlala temple in Rawatpur under Kalyanpur police station late Wednesday evening.

According to reports, the development of the historical Kumargarah pond behind Ramlala temple as Ram Sarovar Park is being carried out by the Kanpur Development Authority for the past two years.

On Wednesday evening, five teenagers, identified as Shivanshu (14) son of Chhotelal, Vishal Kushwaha (15), Virendra Kumar alias Viru (16), Tilla and Kukku, went to the pond for bathing. However, while bathing, they went deep into the water and started drowning. On hearing

their screams, some local residents rushed to the spot and brought all the five teenagers, out of water in unconscious state. They were taken to a nearby private hospital where the doctor referred them to LLR Hospital ((Hallet Hospital). Doctors at the LLR Hospital pronounced Vishal, Shivanshu and Virendra dead.

The condition of Tilla and Kukku was stated to be critical.

All the three deceased youths were the only sons of their parents. The kin of the deceased staged a protest with the bodies and demanded compensation. Local corporator Jitendra Gandhi, with the help of KDA officers, gave them Rs 35,000 each as compensation.

BJP MLA Surendra Maithani said he had a talk with the SDM and recom-

mended payment of compensation to the kin of the deceased.

He said an inquiry would be ordered against the guilty contractor and officers concerned of the KDA into delay in development of Ram Sarovar Park. The bodies were sent for autopsy.

IT-K ASST PROFESSOR ENDS LIFE

An assistant professor of computer and engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence on the institute's campus on Wednesday evening.

His wife, Preeti, is also an assistant professor in the computer science department here.

A native of Bengaluru, assistant professor Pramod Subramaniam was with the IIT Kanpur for the past two years. He was allotted Type-3 house on IIT campus and lived there with his wife and two-year-old child.

After lunch on Wednesday, he went to sleep in his room. Preeti was sleeping with the child in another room. After some time, when Preeti did not get any response from the room of Pramod, she called the security guards who broke open the doors and found Pramod hanging from the ceiling fan. The doctor at the campus medical centre pronounced him dead.

Kalyanpur Inspector Ajay Seth said the reason for committing suicide was not yet known.

OEF develops antibacterial tent

KANPUR (PNS): The Ordinance Equipment Factory (OEF) has developed a tent which is antibacterial in nature due to which wounded patients can be treated without the fear of bacterial infection. The tent is made of cloth and is coated with antibacterial fabric. The temperature inside the tent does not rise above 10 degree celsius and the bacteria are not able to enter the tent and die outside. The tent is four metre high and 2 metre wide and two patients can be treated comfortably inside the tent. When the hospitals are filled with patients then this tent can be used for treatment of patients in an open area. The wounded patients due to accidents in rail or roadways are susceptible to bacterial infection and during that time antibacterial tent emerges as a boon.

CSAUAT to have organic food testing laboratory

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology Vice Chancellor Dr DR Singh said on Thursday that the government had given a green signal to the university to set up an organic food testing laboratory at a cost of Rs 10 crore and thus very soon the project would take off.

He said the need for the organic food testing laboratory arose as the market was flooded with products that

claimed to be organic although there was still no yardstick to find out if a product was organic or grown with the help of chemical fertilisers.

With the laboratory in the university it would give the state an upper hand to not only promote organic farming but to also prove its expertise in the whole country.

Dr Singh said once the university had the facility, it would provide its services of organic food testing so that claimed organic foods could

be tested and their nutrition content and the accrued health benefits could also be cross checked.

He said food testing assured consumers that the products they were purchasing, often at premium prices were authentically organic. He said there was a belief that organic products were good but the consumer had to purchase it at the face value.

He said organically grown produce could not be grown with the use of chemical-based fertilisers or synthetic

pesticides. He said in order to be considered organic, animal products need to come from animals that were fed with an organic diet and were raised under certain conditions that promoted animal health and welfare. He said organically raised animals could not be fed antibiotics or other growth hormones.

He added that the food grown in kitchen garden could be considered organic if one did not use synthetic pesticides and one stuck with natural fertilisers.

One nabbed

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIUN

The police apprehended one accused along with 1.1 kg ganja on Wednesday. Incharge Kotwali Orai JP Pal said that during a drive launched on the directive of SP Satish Kumar and ASP Dr Awadhesh Singh the police arrested the accused during patrolling. He was identified as Rohit alias Chiddan, son of Gyan Singh, a native of Gopalganj Moholla in Orai under Kotwali Orai police station from Galla Mandi gate on Rath Road, Orai. While giving details, he said that the criminal was wanted cases registered against him under Sections 323, 504, 506, 145, 149, 307 and 379 of the IPC and Section 3/25 Arms Act. Inspector JP Pal said that an FIR under in Section 8/20 NDPS Act had been lodged against him. Meanwhile Madhogarh police confiscated 15 packets of illicit liquor from an accused Harendra Tomar, son of Ahiwara, a native of Kailor village under Madhogarh police station. Police had lodged an FIR against the accused under Section 60 of the Excise Act. On the other hand, the police recovered a lost child. The personnel of PRV-1580 found a girl named Ritu, daughter of Gyan Singh, during patrolling at Gandhinagar and handed her over to her parents.

SEIZED: On being tipped off by an informer the Vindhya police recovered 15 gm heroin from the possession of Geru Passi, a resident of Bada Bageecha Vindhya. and sent him to jail. The accused was identified as SUICIDE: A youth committed suicide in his own tent house in Hansapur village under the Adalhat police station. As per the reports, Brijesh Singh (24), a resident of Naithi Pachvan village was running

Jewellery, cash stolen

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Jewellery and cash was stolen from Tiwaripur village under Kachhawan police station. Pradeep Dubey, a resident of the village, had constructed his house in a field away from the locality. His three sons lived in Mumbai along with their families. On the said night when he was asleep when the thieves sneaked into it and committed the theft. He came to know about it in the morning when he saw an almirah lying in the field. He said ₹ 5,000 in cash besides jewellery and other valuables worth around ₹ 3 lakh had been stolen.

MEANWHILE Pradeep Singh (25) of Pachokhara village was run over by a train in Bhojpur Pahadi when his was going to his field. Padari police took his body for completing legal formalities.

CASE REGISTERED: Following a complaint Halia police has registered a case against two persons, Sonu and Monu, under the POCSO Act and SC/ST act. SNAKEBITE DEATH: Suryalal Maurya (45), a man died when a snake bit him in Bhenwarkamanpur village under Padari police station. His family took him to the district hospital but he was referred to Varanasi and died on the way.

Masks, sanitisers distributed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

MLA City Ratnakar Mishra distributed masks and sanitisers among the people at Vindhya temple on



Wednesday. On the occasion he urged the priests along with the devotees to maintain social distancing and adopt safety norms for leading a healthy life. During the distribution of sanitisers and masks the MLA was accompanied by president Vindhya Panda Samaj, Pankaj

Lightning kills man

CORRESPONDENT ■ HAMPIRUR

A man died when lightning struck him in an area under the Sumerpur police station. Devidayal Nishad (25), son of Asaram Nishad, a resident of Manna Dera village was going to his inlaws' house in Patala Dera on Wednesday evening when the weather changed suddenly due to which he stopped on the way and was struck by lightning. His family took him to the Mauhar PHC on an ambulance where the doctors declared him dead.

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

India has not yet reached community transmission stage: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Even as cases are fast spreading like wildfire in India to touch to 8 lakh mark, making it the third-worst hit nation in the world, the Centre on Thursday said India has not yet reached the community transmission stage of Covid and asserted that there have been localised outbreaks in some geographical areas.

The Government pointed out that eight states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Karnataka and Telangana, account for around 90 per cent

of the active Covid-19 cases in the country and 80 per cent of the active cases have been reported from 49 districts.

Similarly, six states — Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal — account for 86 per cent of the deaths caused by COVID-19 and 32 districts account for 80 per cent of such fatalities, the Union Health Ministry said. The death toll in India has climbed to 21,129.

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said that there is no community transmission in India. "During our discussions today, experts again stated that

there is no community transmission in India. There may be some localised pockets where transmission is high but as a country, there's no community transmission," the Minister said while addressing a press conference after chairing a Group of Ministers' meeting to review, monitor and evaluate the evolving situation on Covid-19 in the country.

Noting that though India has become the third most affected country by the Covid-19 pandemic, he asserted it was important to understand this in the correct perspective.

"We are a country with the

second highest population in the world. Our cases per million are 538, while world average is 1,453," Vardhan said.

Later in the day at a presser here, Health Ministry's OSD Rajesh Bhushan too asserted that there was no need to worry for India which has managed well and healthcare is not unduly burdened.

"When we talk of caseload of Covid-19 in India, it is 2,69,000 people. This tells us that at the end of the day we've managed a situation where our health care infrastructure is not unduly burdened and is not creaking due to the pressure," he

said. Today, we have 538 cases per million population, it's as per WHO situation report. Case per million population in some countries are at least 16-17 times more than what it is in India. We have 15 deaths per million population whereas we have countries where it is 40 times as much, the official added.

ICMR on its parts said that the number of tests has increased, on an average, we are testing more than 2.6 Lakhs of samples per day. We hope to see a further rise by the use of the antigen test, said an official from the ICMR.

Deadly virus more fatal to elderly, says Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Of the over 21,000 deaths being reported in the country, at least more than 12,000 ie around 53 per cent is of those above 60 years of age, said the Government on Thursday highlighting that the deadly virus is more fatal to the elderly.

In contrast, just one per cent of the deaths in India are among 14 years of age, 3 per cent among people between 15 to 29 years of age, while 11 per cent between 30 and 44

years of age, 32 per cent among 45-59 years of aged and 39 per cent among people who are aged between 60 and 74, said an officer from the Union Health Ministry at a press conference here.

Data also showed that persons with co-morbidities like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are also prone to the virus which can damage organs in such patients.

When asked on Union health Ministry's August 15 deadline for Covid-19 vaccine and why has it been expedited, Bhushan clarified,

"Please don't read something which is not there in DG-ICMR's letter. Letter's intent is only to expedite duly approved clinical trials without compromising on safety and security concerns."

The Ministry also said Bharat Biotech and Cadila Healthcare are developing vaccines for the virus. Both vaccines completed animal toxicity studies after approval.

"DCGI has permitted these two vaccines to go in for phase one and two clinical trials. Trials are yet to begin," he said.

YES BANK PMLA CASE

ED attaches assets worth ₹2,203 cr of Kapoor, others

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 2,203 crore of Yes Bank promoter Rana Kapoor and others in connection with a money laundering case.

The present market value of the attached assets is more than Rs 2,800 crore and include immovable properties in India and abroad, bank accounts, investments and luxury vehicles, the ED said in a statement.

Besides Kapoor, these assets belong to DHFL's Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan and the entities controlled by them.

The attached assets of Kapoor and related entities are worth Rs 792 crore (present market value Rs 1,400 crore) which include an independent residential building "Khursidabad" at Cumbala Hill, three duplex flats at Napean Sea Road, Mumbai, residential flat in NCPA, Nariman Point, eight flats in India Bulls Blue, Worli, Mumbai.

Besides a bungalow belonging to Kapoor at 40 Amrita Shergill Marg in New Delhi having market value of Rs 685 crore has also been attached.

The attached assets belonging to Wadhawans and related entities are worth Rs 1,411.9 crore which include 12 flats in Khar (West), Mumbai; one flat in New York and two flats in London, two land parcels in Pune and Mulshi, one commercial property in Australia; five luxury vehicles and 344 bank accounts.

The ED had initiated investigations against Rana Kapoor, Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan besides others under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of FIR registered by CBI under IPC Sections relating to criminal conspiracy and cheating besides provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act.

The ED had earlier attached bank deposits to the tune of Rs 115 crore of various companies of Rana Kapoor and seized jewellery worth Rs 22.87 crore and seven high end luxury cars worth Rs 12.58 crore belonging to the Wadhawan family.

Kapoor and Wadhawans were arrested by ED for their role in the money laundering case and all of them are in judicial custody.

It was alleged that, during April to June, 2018, Yes Bank Limited had invested Rs 3,700

crore in the short term debentures of DHFL, a company belonging to Wadhawans for which kickback of Rs 600 crore was paid to Rana Kapoor and his family members in the garb of loan.

In addition, Yes Bank Ltd. had also sanctioned a loan of Rs 750 crore to one of the RKW Developers Group company, beneficially owned by Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan and their family members, for their Bandra Reclamation Project in Mumbai. But the whole amount was siphoned off by Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan through their shell companies and was never used for the declared purpose, the ED said.

Further, a separate case was recorded against Rana Kapoor, Gautam Thapar and others under PMLA on the basis of another FIR registered by CBI on similar charges under IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act.

This CBI FIR alleged that Rana Kapoor obtained illegal gratification in the form of a property in a prime location in New Delhi at much less than the realizable market value, belonging to Avantha Realty Ltd. (ARL).

Mere existence of NDRF doesn't prohibit setting up of PM-Cares: Centre to SC

New Delhi: The Central Government also apprised the court that the transfer of funds received in PM-CARES to NDRF is "not maintainable" as the former is created under separate provisions.

Defending the formation of PM-CARES fund, the Centre Thursday told the Supreme Court that the existence of the statutory National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) "would not prohibit the creation of a different fund".

In an affidavit filed before the apex court on PM-CARES fund, the central government said, "It is submitted that there are several funds which are either established earlier or now for carrying out various relief works. PM Cares is one such fund with voluntary donations. It is submitted that there exist a fund stipulated under section 46 of the DMA which is called NDR Fund. However, mere existence of a statutory fund would not prohibit in creation of a different fund like PM Cares Fund which provides for voluntary donations."

The Centre's response in the top court comes after a PIL was filed by an NGO seeking transfer of funds from PM-CARES to NDRF.

The petition urged the court to direct the government to prepare, notify and implement a national plan under the Disaster

Management Act to deal with the pandemic. It claimed that the Centre has been "refraining from divulging information about the money 'contributed to the PM CARES Fund till date'".

The central government also apprised the court that the transfer of funds received in PM-CARES to NDRF is "not maintainable" as the former is created under separate provisions.

"It is submitted that a prayer being made seeking a direction of this Hon'ble court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India directing the funds received by PM CARES Fund to be credited to NDRF is neither maintainable on merits nor is otherwise maintainable under Article 32 as all funds other than the funds stipulated under section 46 of DM Act, 2005 are separate, different and distinct created separately under separate provisions," the Centre told SC.

The PM's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM-CARES) Fund was set up in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund has been subject to scrutiny from Opposition parties that say details of the funds must be made public.

Earlier this month, the Congress party had accused the government of "wasting" lockdown by not ramping up health infrastructure and procuring "substandard" ventilators. PTI

SC pulls up Maha Govt for claiming there's no problem related to migrants

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday pulled up the Maharashtra Government on the migrant workers issue and refused to accept its claim that there was no problem in the state on this front, saying it is its duty to find out the lapses and act on them.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, SK Kaul and MR Shah asked the state to file a fresh affidavit listing the steps taken to mitigate the problems of migrants wanting to return to their homes amid the Covid.

It is not an adversarial litigation, the bench said, posting the matter for further hearing on July 17. During the hearing of the case taken up suo motu (on its own) by the top court on the miseries of migrant workers during the COVID-19 lockdown, the bench said, "What is happening in Maharashtra? Large number of migrant workers are still in the state."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state, said that the latest affidavit has been filed on July 6 in compliance with the apex court's order. PTI

HRD Minister slams critics for portraying false narrative over revised CBSE syllabus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Thursday hit back at critics who alleged a conspiracy in reducing the syllabus of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The CBSE has reduced the syllabus up to 30 per cent for nearly 190 subjects from Classes 9 to 12 only for board exams of the 2020-21 session. The board has said no question will be asked from the reduced syllabus in the exams.

"There has been a lot of uninformed commentary on the exclusion of some topics from #CBSEsyllabus. The problem with these comments is that they resort to sensationalism by connecting topics selectively to portray a false narrative," the Nishank shared on twitter.

Key chapters like Democratic Rights, Food

Security in India, Federalism, Citizenship and Secularism have been dropped from school courses. The national education board has said it seeks to reduce burden on students amid the pandemic.

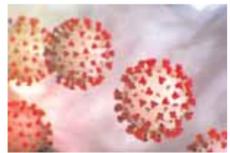
The move led to criticism that the centre was tweaking the syllabus to suit a certain narrative. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was among those who criticised the CBSE's move to remove those chapters.

The CBSE clarified that "each of the topics that have been wrongly mentioned in media as deleted have been covered under Alternative Academic Calendar of NCERT, which is already in force for all affiliated schools of the board."

Following up on the CBSE's clarification, the HRD Minister said schools have been asked to follow the Alternate Academic Calendar of the National Council of Educational Research and Training or NCERT.

4,231 afflicted, 65 die in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI



Tamil Nadu's seesaw battle with Covid-19 continued on Thursday as 4,231 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic across the State. There was no respite in the death toll also. The day saw 65 persons succumbing to coronavirus in the State.

With 4,231 persons getting infected with the disease, Tamil Nadu has 46, 653 active Covid-19 patients as on Thursday. Till date 1.26 lakh persons has tested positive for the pandemic.

According to the medical bulletin released by the State, the number of laboratories to test the samples has gone up to 100, a sign that the Tamil Nadu Government is on an aggressive testing mode. A total of 41, 038 persons were tested on Thursday while the number of persons tested till date across the State crossed the 1.42 million mark.

The bulletin said 3,994 persons were discharged from hospitals across the State on Thursday, taking the number of persons discharged till date to 78, 161.

The news from southern districts continued to be grim while the northern districts showed some abatement in the number of cases. Chennai Metropolis registered 1,216 coronavirus cases while neighbouring districts of Chengalpatt (169) and Kancheepuram (67) too showed slight decrease in the number of persons tested positive. But in Thiruvallur, another neighbouring district of Chennai, 364 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic. The district had tested only 300 cases on Wednesday.

CM issues alert in Kerala on community transmission

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan issued an alert to the people of Kerala that community transmission was starting the State and anytime from now it would become a reality. The State diagnosed on Thursday 339 persons with Covid-19, the highest number to be recorded in Kerala since the first citing of the pandemic in January.

While Chief Secretary Viswas Mehta opted to stay in his house as part of observation following the diagnosis of his driver with Covid-19, Poonthura, one of the coastal suburbs of the capital city saw the Government deploying armed commandos to prevent the spread of the pandemic. "We are experiencing super spread in Poonthura and the coastal area has been cut off from the rest of the district," said Vijayan. Super Spread is the term used to denote unprece-

dent rate of infection, a step closer to community transmission, the chief minister explained.

Thiruvananthapuram, which has been described as a volcano by Kadakampalli Surendran, Minister for Tourism, on Thursday tested 95 persons with the pandemic. Out of the 339 persons diagnosed with coronavirus on Thursday, 117 were expatriates, 74 were those who returned to the State from other parts of the country. "What is of concern is that 133 persons got infected through contacts and this is a warning sign. It was from the fish and vegetable market in the capital city that the pandemic spread to other parts of the district which forced the administration to declare Triple Lock Down. If we turn a blind eye to this experience, we would be forced to declare Triple Lock Down in more areas," said the chief minister.

Film industry to shoot at protected sites: Ministry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after opening up the ASI monuments for general public, the Union Culture Ministry has decided to allow the film industry to shoot at the protected sites.

"It would be difficult for the film industry to go to foreign destinations at this time when world is swept with Coronavirus pandemic, so we have suggested that they could go to the Northeast states," Union Tourism and Culture Minister Prahlad Patel said at a FICCI event here.

He assured the film indus-

try that that they will get permission to shoot at monuments within 15-20 days of filing their online applications.

"It would also fulfil the Prime Minister's appeal to people to visit various places in the country. I told them we will give permission in 15 to 20 days. They just have to apply online. I have appealed that it would be great if other than the high footfall sites, they could also shoot at less popular monuments suggested by us to give them a boost as well," he said.

The ASI has over 3,000 monuments and sites that were reopened on July 6 after

remaining shut during the coronavirus lockdown.

Currently, filming at ASI sites is permitted, but it involves a lot of paperwork and is time consuming, officials said.

"Since now the film industry cannot shoot abroad, the ministry will help in facilitating permissions from the states. If necessary we will coordinate with the Information and Technology ministry as well," the Minister said.

Presently, the request for filming/ video shoot along with camera crew is to be made by the applicant at least 15 days prior to the proposed date of shoot.

Remdesivir makers asked to come clean on price, output

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has asked the pharma companies selling anti-viral injection Remdesivir to set up helpline and make available their drug distribution network to the people looking out for the life saving drugs used for treatment of the Covid-19 patients.

The move followed complaints from various quarters that the drug whose MRP is between Rs 4,800 to Rs 5,400 per vial is in acute short sup-

ply and being sold in black market at as high as upto Rs 80,000 per vial.

Union Health Ministry OSD Rajesh Bhsuhan said that they have received reports of shortage of drug in the market. "In this connection, the top drug regulator has asked the concerned companies to set up helplines and make available their drug distribution network to help the people access the injection easily and at MRP," he said at a presser here.

Doctors have been blaming increased demand and limited supply of the medicine for its

shortage. On June 13, the Ministry had allowed its emergency use for treating Covid-19 patients with moderate symptoms. An increase in cases around the country has seen more doctors prescribing the drug , but supply hasn't increased proportionately. Patients prescribed the drug are typically given five vials. The DCGI on June 1 had allowed Gilead Sciences, which holds the patent for Remdesivir, to start importing the medicine. Three Indian manufacturers - Hetero, Cipla, and Mylan- have since been allowed to manufacture the drug in India.

West Bengal re-imposes strict lockdown in containment zones

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal on Thursday entered into its second phase of lockdown only with a stricter application while large posses police personnel descended on the streets with a sense of purpose far more intense than what was seen in the first phase.

The lockdown started in all the containment zones from Thursday evening in large parts of the State, Home Department sources said.

While North 24 Parganas has largest number of containment zones at 94 there are 25 such zones in Kolkata. South 24 Parganas has 54 and Howrah has 56 containment zones, officials said.

While East and West Midnapore have 21 and 23 such zones respectively Coochbehar, Jhargram and West Burdwan districts have none. However there are 25 and 21 such zones in Nadia and East Burdwan whereas Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum have 13, 9 and 9 extended containment zones each.

In North Bengal,

Alipurduar and Kalimpong have 4 and 3 containment zones respectively while three police stations comprising almost the entire Malda city have been put under lockdown. Dalkhola in North Dinajpur which stands at the junction of Bihar and Bengal have been put under full lockdown. Murshidabad too has 4 such containment zones.

The decision to impose a seven-day second phase lockdown was taken by Chief Minister following a sharp spike in the number of cases whence she went on record on Thursday saying the "the poorer people living in slums are following the rules more seriously than the rich and the middle class which is evident from the data base" showing only 13 out of 255 cases coming from the slums.

The police on Thursday evening were seen imposing the lockdown with far more intensity and purpose not only putting up barricades in designated areas but also pulling up and sending commuters back home for not wearing masks. In parts of Malda the

cops were seen resorting to mild lathi-charges to discipline the citizens.

All the shops, government offices and other institutions save essential services were closed in the containment zones police said.

During the lockdown local authorities will try and arrange home delivery of essential commodities for the residents of these areas, a senior official said.

Informing that containment zones and buffer zones have been amalgamated into forming extended containment zones an order issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Alapan Bandyopadhyay earlier had said, "these broader containment zones may be subjected to strict lockdown and all offices, government and private, all non-essential activities, congregations, transportations and all marketing, industrial and trading activities be closed."

Any extension of the lockdown beyond seven days will depend upon the progress made in the given areas, the Chief Minister had earlier said.

Brain complications linked to Covid: Lancet

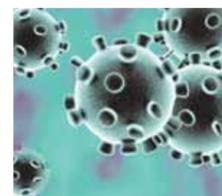
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 may have been associated mostly with problems like difficulty breathing, fever and cough, but cases of brain complications linked to deadly virus are being reported from across the countries.

These include confusion, stroke, inflammation of the brain, spinal cord, and other kinds of nerve disease, said a study published in the journal The Lancet Neurology.

"It is really important that doctors around the world recognise that COVID-19 can cause encephalitis and other brain problems, which often have potentially devastating, life-changing consequences for patients," said study co-author Ava Easton, CEO of the Encephalitis Society in the UK.

A recent Liverpool-led study of Covid-19 patients hospitalised in the UK found a range of neurological and psychiatric complications that may be linked to the disease. To get a sense of the wider



the overall number of patients with neurological problems is likely to be quite large," said study researcher Suzannah Lant. According to the researchers, one of the complications found to be linked to Covid-19 is encephalitis, which is inflammation and swelling of the brain.

"We are currently pooling data from individual patients all around the world, so that we can get a more complete picture. Doctors who would like to contribute patients to this analysis can contact us via the Global Covid-Neuro Network website," the study authors wrote.

Recently another study, published this week in the journal Brain, showed that Covid-19 can cause severe neurological complications, including delirium, brain inflammation, stroke and nerve damage.

The research team had identified one rare and sometimes fatal inflammatory condition, known as ADEM, which appears to be increasing in prevalence due to the pandemic.

No lessons to be learnt

CBSE drops core concepts like democracy and secularism from its syllabus on the pretext of crunching an academic year



The pandemic has undoubtedly given Governments across the world reason enough to be supremacist and a pretext to decide what their people need instead of what ideally should be working for them. In general, the democratic spirit has been undermined as the leadership revels in its moment of totalitarian control. And as examples in the US, Russia and China have shown, governments here have used the crisis profitably to push policies that have nothing to do with public health but everything that's justifiable under the umbrella term of "distressed times." Even India isn't an excep-

tion. But what is exceptional though is the Modi Government's decision to drop the very ideas and philosophies that form the basis of our Constitution, ethical integrity and Indic identity from the CBSE syllabus as part of crunching an academic year. So Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal justified the decision, saying, "Considering the importance of learning achievement, it has been decided to rationalise the syllabus up to 30 per cent by retaining the core concepts." It matters little that the core concepts have been themselves dropped, the Ministry completely deleting sections on citizenship, nationalism, federalism, secularism, understanding Partition and democratic rights across multiple subjects. In other words, he has transposed the BJP's idea of education, rather its manifesto, on our national education policy. This involves the acquisition of clinical learning skills and a moronic submission to a COVID-modified brain factory that upends the very idea of seeking knowledge, that of the spirit of inquiry. And it reverses the civilisational truths about our plurality and the nation-state. Anything that remotely legitimises the idea of debate, dissent and inclusivity has been dropped rather unceremoniously. Among five chapters scrapped from Social Science in Class IX is Democratic Rights, something that is integral to grooming future citizens. For Class X, chapters on Democracy and Diversity, Gender, Religion and Caste, Popular Struggles and Forest and Wildlife have been done away with. For Class XI, chapters on Peasants, Zamindars and the State, Understanding Partition and sections on riots and revolts, which are based on farmers' agitation against moneylenders, have been removed. And the Class XI political science syllabus has conveniently dropped subjects like Federalism and The Need for Local Governments, all of which usually feature under a section titled Indian Constitution at Work. Citizenship, Nationalism and Secularism, too, usually form a part of this section but were clearly found to be antithetical to the BJP's idea of a monolithic India and its brand of identity politics. Additionally, sub-sections like 'Why do we need Local Governments?' have been merrily chopped so that we do not talk about devolution of power at the grassroots level but only believe that rights are given as a largesse, not earned, and real power flows from the top. Chapters on Social Structure, Stratification and Social Processes and Environment and Society have been scrapped from the Class XI sociology course simply because they encourage a holistic life philosophy and the need for a harmonious co-existence. Of course, should a student question the teacher about subjects left out, the CBSE has made a minor concession and left it to the teacher to explain their relevance but not test the student's understanding of it. That, too, would be administered like a clinical dose.

If one thought that the pandemic would lead to ennobling self-realisations, then our policy-makers are clearly an exception. Of course, CBSE defended itself saying this was just for the current academic year but it is unmistakably a test run for an ambitious overhaul of the education system. If we had thought that cooperative federalism — which was on display the last three months with the Prime Minister consulting Chief Ministers and each sharing templates — would prevail, then we were highly mistaken. Or perhaps many State Governments have stolen the Centre's thunder. And if we thought that dialogue would be the order of the day going forward, the brutal and targeted crackdown on protesters against the citizenship law and student agitators in the middle of a pandemic shows that the BJP has not wincing on pushing its core divisive agenda. The BJP's ideological anchor, the RSS, has been pushing for a cultural shift in the country's education policy ever since the NDA had assumed power. In the Modi years, it has made several recommendations to the NCERT on the removal of English, Urdu and Arabic words, the thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore, extracts from painter M F Husain's autobiography, references to the Mughal emperors as benevolent or to the BJP as a "Hindu" party. Its goal has consistently been to justify medievalism as *Bharatiyata* and undermine scientific temper as its gravest enemy. Yet *Bharatiyata* will always be bigger than the BJP's forced imposition of it, based on the very tenets it would like to dissolve. The voice of democracy can perhaps hardly be heard as we try to live through the pandemic but it doesn't mean it is silent. It is for us to decide to be force-fed and literate or educated in the real sense.

Don tracked down

Looks like Dubey has chosen jail over the risk of getting killed in an encounter. We need him to expose the politico-criminal nexus



In a big slap to the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Police, the dreaded don of Shivli, Vikas Dubey, was arrested from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh (MP) six days after giving his State police the slip post the massacre of eight cops by him and his henchmen. Though the UP Police tried its best to nab the don, who was tipped off about a raid on his premises by traitor cops, he remained elusive. Till he himself decided to surrender somewhat by shouting out his name. Dubey, who is a product of the political-bureaucratical-criminal nexus, has clearly cut a deal that allows the police to save whatever little face is

left of it and probably negotiate his jail term *vis-à-vis* the bounty on his head. The last would have definitely resulted in his death, sooner rather than later. Always one step ahead of the police, the don wanted to ensure his survival as five of his aides, Amar Dubey, Prem Prakash Pandey, Atul Dubey, Prabhat Mishra and Praveen Dubey have so far been killed in separate gunfights in multiple locations.

Dubey's surrender in MP and the encounters of his close aides are raising many questions. Why kill? Why not capture alive? In the normal course of things these men would have been more valuable to the police alive than dead as they would have been able to shed light on the don's activities, modus operandi and connections, both in the police and in political circles. But that exposure would be too damaging. So it is better to have dead men, who can tell no tales. Another question that is being raised repeatedly is how, with a ₹5 lakh bounty on his head, his face plastered in posters put up across several States, 25 special UP Police teams on his heels and a massive manhunt across Delhi, Haryana, UP, MP and in the Indo-Nepal border areas, did Dubey manage to travel? He covered 700 km traversing UP, Haryana, Rajasthan and then MP by road in a car undetected. In fact, even the senior UP cops find this an incredible feat and IPS officer Amitabh Thakur has sought a probe into how "we could not arrest him even after such a huge incident and he kept travelling around?" Yet another question that needs to be asked is that if pictures of Dubey at a hotel in Faridabad were doing the rounds of social media, how come the police were not aware of it? Would the police have us believe that this was just plain luck? Logic would dictate that he did have some help in escaping the police net. So the obvious question is was this help from the police or his political mentors? Only time will tell.

Warning for democracies

Beijing has banned Joshua Wong's books but they show us the shape of the terrible struggle ahead and can teach us what we urgently need to know



WILLIAM HAGUE

The first response we should always make to the banning of authors by an authoritarian system is to read their works. As it happened, I was reading the latest book by the young Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong titled, *Unfree Speech: The Threat to Global Democracy and Why We Must Act, Now*, when news emerged that his previous works were being seized from booksellers under the new security law imposed by Beijing.

If we want to understand the world-wide collision of ideas, which seems increasingly inevitable, events in Hong Kong are a good place to start. It is here that Western values of free speech, openness to ideas and belief in the rule of law have come into direct conflict with a fundamentally opposing idea: That unity and success of a major civilisation is incompatible with such dangerous notions. If that conflict requires the Chinese security officials to rummage around in bookshops, gathering up all the books by writers such as Horace Chin, Tanya Chan, Wong and Jason Y Ng, it is not a bad idea to start reading them. We will find the world's future battlegrounds illuminated in their pages.

What do we learn from Wong's new book that helps us understand why an immensely powerful State wants to suppress the thoughts of a 23-year-old activist and has previously held him in prison? Why is he such a threat that his every word has to be hunted down, pulped or burned? The answer is partly that we gain inspiration from the determination with which Wong has pursued ideals we know and hold dear, with an integrity that would shame many people in the West, unwilling to make his sacrifices.

Also, we can find in his pages a clarity of perception that explains what has happened in Hong Kong and cuts through the baffling confusion of world affairs. He recounts the warming feelings towards China among his generation at the time of the 2008 Olympics, accompanied by the hope that "one country, two systems" might actually work. But then he explains how this went sour as the commitment to universal suffrage in Hong Kong was abandoned and Xi Jinping, "a wolf in panda's clothing," came to power. A new political identity of "unbelonging towards the motherland" was thus forged.

My main reflection on Wong's book, however, is that the central weaknesses of both Western democracy and Chinese totalitarianism are exposed. In the case of the West, that weakness is our complacency, our indifference to growing dangers and our easy assumption that we are too smart to be undermined from outside. It takes a young activist from the



other side of the world to point out to European and American readers that autocratic regimes, including Russia, are mounting a serious threat to free societies.

There has been extensive reporting of the huge and systematic effort by the Russian State under Russian President Vladimir Putin to sow discord in Western countries and corrode their unity. That effort appears to have included the financing of nationalistic political parties, the use of media outlets to spread false information and, in particular, the exploitation of social media to foster distrust. In Britain, for instance, Cardiff University researchers found in 2017 that fake social media accounts linked to Russia set out to exacerbate hatred after terrorist attacks.

China's undermining of democracy is more subtle and almost a by-product of becoming the world's first or second economy with centralised control of huge enterprises and cutting-edge technology. As China's stake in Western economies increases, their political leaders become less willing to confront an aggressive foreign policy or human rights abuses. As China becomes an indispensable market for Western corporations, they feel ever more bound to refrain from criticism. And now, if a student from Hong Kong wishes to speak freely at a British

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MY MAIN REFLECTION ON WONG'S BOOK IS THAT THE CENTRAL WEAKNESSES OF BOTH WESTERN DEMOCRACY AND CHINESE TOTALITARIANISM ARE EXPOSED. IN THE CASE OF THE WEST, THAT WEAKNESS IS OUR COMPLACENCY, OUR INDIFFERENCE TO GROWING DANGERS AND OUR EASY ASSUMPTION THAT WE ARE TOO SMART TO BE UNDERMINED FROM OUTSIDE
”

university, he/she will be under the watchful eye of China and will be liable to arrest when back home. Slowly, inexorably, the freedom to think or speak differently globally is being eroded.

Democracies are slow to perceive when they are threatened as the 20th century showed. Now some of them are stirring. In the UK, the Government is rightly working on a new legislation to block foreign takeovers affecting key technologies and national security. It promises a consultation on closing loopholes on foreign spending in elections and the establishment of a new Counter Disinformation Cell.

It has taken the commendable decision to open borders to many residents of Hong Kong. Far more will need to be done — by many more countries and in coordination with each other — for these efforts to be successful. American leadership, paralysed by the White House's refusal to accept the scale of Russian involvement in the last presidential election, will be vital. The idea of a G7 working with Asian democracies such as Japan, South Korea and India is a right step. But at the moment, most people in advanced democracies do not realise what is happening and those hurling abuse at each other on social media are oblivious as to how they are

manipulated from afar.

Wong says he is "sending out a distress signal to the world so that counter-measures can be taken before it is too late." We should listen to him, for in focussing on our tardiness in protecting ourselves, he is spot on. Yet his diagnosis of the ultimate flaw in autocratic regimes is also correct: That they continually have to double down on repression at home and showing strength abroad. He argues that such a two-front strategy is the only way to retain power, "however invincible and invulnerable they appear to the outside world." This is indeed China's problem. The price of pushing forward the border with India on land, clashing with Vietnam at sea, bullying Australia on trade and suppressing dissent in Hong Kong with arbitrary law is mounting alarm around the world.

So from even one book of a banned author, much can be learned. A Chinese diplomat once tried to persuade me that Chinese people were not suited to democracy as the West knows it — "they would elect a peasant as President and declare war on Japan." But in the books that have emerged from Hong Kong, we can see they are just as suited to it as the rest of us and can teach us what we urgently need to know. (Courtesy: Daily Telegraph)

SOUNDBITE

Indians have the spirit to achieve what is believed to be impossible. No wonder that in India, we are already seeing green-shoots of economic recovery.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

Last night we lost another gem. One by one they (my colleagues) all go away... leaving the industry bereft and deprived of their immense contribution.



Actor — Amitabh Bachchan

Following the consensus reached at the commander-level talks, China, India border troops have taken effective measures to disengage at the frontline in the Galwan Valley.



Chinese official — Zhao Lijian

We don't want to expose players. Our country is so large and our domestic cricket is so robust that everyone has to travel and play. Till the time it is not safe, it will not happen.



BCCI chief — Sourav Ganguly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remain vigilant

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Truce for now" (July 7). There is no denying the fact that it has been the Government's resolve, determination and commitment to hold status quo which have forced the Chinese troops to retreat from the positions it had occupied at Galwan Valley.

However, we must be cautious about celebrating prematurely. The Chinese are not to be trusted and the disengagement and pull-backs need to be verified. The stalemate between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has considerable regional and international implications.

The China-Pakistan nexus is alive but it has not become a military threat. The prevailing global mood about Chinese aggression is in India's favour though only the US, Japan and Australia have condemned Chinese unilateralism in Ladakh. India's former best friend Russia is neutral, selling weapons to both China and India. India needs to tread cautiously.

Venu GS
Kollam

America must be kind to foreign students

This refers to the editorial, "New immigration curbs" (July 9). The US' decision to deny visas to international students whose universities shift to online classes has come as a rude shock to scores of Indians who had enrolled over there for undergrad and graduate programmes. Earlier, in bid to curb the inflow of migrants, the Trump Administration had paused the H1B visas. It is well-known that the US is the world's favourite destination for higher studies. One of the greatest assets for it has been that it attracts the finest minds from other countries.

The present decision will be hurtful to both Indian students and America as well. As for the former, students will be left scrambling in search of an alternative university offering regular classes. We can very well imagine the cost of such a prospect, especially in times when economies are suffering on account of the pandemic. As for America, not only will its universities suffer as they remain heavily dependent on the fees paid by international students. But it will also

Worse is yet to come

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Truce for now" (July 7). As a result of smart and under-the-radar diplomacy on the part of India, China has withdrawn its troops from the Galwan valley for now and a bigger crisis has been averted. However, there should be

no room for complacency as China can never be trusted. It wouldn't be surprising if China intrudes again into Indian territory. In fact, China's latest transgression must teach us a lesson to remain vigilant about any Chinese manoeuvres along the border.

Moreover, this is just the first phase of de-escalation and India must keep a watch on each and



Kavya Shah
Ujjain

lose the exceptionally diverse student community over there, which is its biggest strength, fostering innovation and enterprise to expand its soft power. For its own sake, the US must not treat foreign students in a cavalier manner and reverse its decision at the earliest.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Ill-thought decision

Sir — The University Grants Commission (UGC)'s decision to not cancel the final semester examination for graduating batches and instead conduct them by the end of September raises many questions. One, is there any surety that the COVID-19 pandemic will end by September? It must not be forgotten that students from various States apply to the universities and every State has its own set of admission rules with regard to outsiders. Two, what was the Home Ministry doing when States were cancelling the examinations? Third, is there any guarantee about job creation?

Autonomous universities, including the IITs, have already decided to pass final year students on the basis of their performance from previous semesters. This means students of these institutions can start their jobs/new courses while those under the UGC will have to wait.

Ayush
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Strategy for the two-front war

India has rightly decided to deal with the crisis at the domestic front with a human touch and with economic and physical might with China



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Data is the great Panoptes (the Greek giant with many eyes) to make sense of the present while promising a potent vaccine for future risk-case scenarios. Random, unconnected sets of data when put on a piece of paper begin to intimately engage with each other to give birth to a larger reality on most issues around us. Today I aim to put together a mix of data sets in a petri dish for an alchemic moment of truth. First, a recent report by TeamLease suggests that an average business entity in India has to adhere to at least 25,537 Central Government compliances and 43,696 additional compliances, if the entity is a pan-India operator with business presence in every State. Hence, technically a pan-India enterprise would have to adhere to 69,233 compliances governed by 1,536 Central and State Government Acts. Some of these Acts may date back to the pre-Independence era, which perhaps only a historian along with a legal expert and linguist would be able to decipher. If you thought that relatively more industrialised States have lesser compliances, consider this: Maharashtra has 67 Acts and 3,657 compliances, Tamil Nadu 53 Acts and 2,414 compliances and Gujarat has 38 Acts and 3,043 compliances. If we try to look at this compliance universe sector-wise, a major chunk is shared between labour and industry-specific Acts, adding up to 947 with close to 50,000 compliances followed by commercial, finance and taxation-related regulations. Leaving this data dashboard aside, let's look at the world of unicorns. As of June, the US tops the list with 228 unicorns, followed by China with 122, UK 25 and India 21, as per a report by CB Insights. Of course, one can contest the way to define unicorns i.e. by \$1 billion in valuation or EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) margins and also on time, as this year may not be a great benchmark. But we will still park this data set.

Now take a look at foreign investments headed towards India. If we stick to newspaper headlines, a bunch of multi-billion dollar investment funds, private equity funds and technology companies have announced close to \$20 billion in cross-border deals in India in the last three months. Sliced this way, it seems the promise of huge capital inflows to India fleeing from China was not a pipe dream. However, a closer look reveals that a major part of this money and equity stake buyouts was captured by less than five Indian business conglomerates. That brings us to the original task of engaging the three data sets into an alchemic reaction and the new hard truth emerges. India continues to be a regulatory and compliance nightmare for any enterprise, domestic or foreign, to function. Yes, India has jumped 79 places from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. However, talk to the business head or unit supervisor of a factory, a major portion of whose time is still consumed trying to fix yet-to-be-broken compliance audits. To simplify, it means there is a huge regulatory overload, human capital and paper money spent. Compliance costs for India are the highest in the world and perhaps the inspector raj still casts a long shadow on enterprises, where every Government department wants to have a rule in the functioning of a business.

Second, India despite liberalising since 1991, opening up its doors and markets for foreign companies and funds, still has a huge protectionist hangover. This gets flared up or sometimes wrongly-equated with patriotism under stressful circumstances. This has led to a "Made in India foreign investment format" emerging where the multinational firm has traditionally entered the country through a minority stake with a large local business tycoon, slowly getting into the swampy regulatory pool, to either sink or develop deep mangrove roots.

Third, these regulatory loads are stifling innovation and growth as is reflected in the unicorn data set. India, despite having one of the world's largest talent pool of smart coders, bright software techies and most important the world's largest, most diverse, digitally-savvy, addressable open market, brimming with customers, ends up way behind China. We need to acknowledge the two realities India is facing right now. A menacing pandemic tearing its way through densely-packed neighbourhoods and metros of India, burning deep holes in the economic fabric, while a hostile neighbour is closing in physically on our borders threatening our sovereignty. India has rightly decided to deal with the crisis at the domestic front with a human touch and with economic and physical might with China. Early indicators on both issues point towards India having an edge over the pandemic and China. But remember, in battle you must never celebrate early. This battle with China is for the long haul. Only social distancing and compulsory wearing of masks in public places can drastically reduce transmission of the deadly virus. Similarly, drastic cutting down of regulatory compliances would ensure a sustainable and secure inflow of capital into the country. Yes, global supply chains would switch to India and provide the much-needed money for a V-shaped rebound and put back millions into jobs. The Indian consumer market still could be the world's most attractive place for any multinational to try out their 'Made for India' products and services. But a mindset change is necessary for citizens and the Government to win the battle.

(The writer is a senior policy analyst)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

POLICE VAN CARRYING PRABHAT MISHRA BROKE DOWN. HE SNATCHED A PISTOL, FIRED AT OUR MEN AND TRIED TO ESCAPE. OUR MEN RETALIATED, AND HE WAS KILLED.

—KANPUR ADG
JAI NARAIN SINGH



PRABHAT MISHRA'S ENCOUNTER WHILE UNDER ARREST IS PROOF THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT ANYONE ALIVE TO TELL THE REAL STORY.

—CONGRESS LEADER
JITIN PRASADA

Get on the right track

The Indian Railways' progress is replete with classic cases where the full potential of the investment is not reaped because assets/inputs are not aligned to a common performance level



NAVEEN KUMAR SHUKLA

For many years now, Indian Railways has been facing flak for low efficiency, poor operating ratio and massive inertia. None would deny that despite lakhs of crores having been invested, the system is stressed and shaky and the market share stands eroded. Yet, a severe capacity crunch exists on the main routes and high outlays have driven up overall logistic costs. There is no denying that there are positives and strengths on the quantitative side. Globally in network size, it is the fourth-largest system. In freight turnover, too, it is the fourth and in passenger output it ranks first. The daily system sustains a run of 23,000 trains, 9,000 freights and 13,000 passenger trains, including 5,000 suburban ones. Daily transport of 3.20 metric tonnes (MT) of cargo and 23 million passengers across a network of 64,000 route km and 7,300 stations is no mean feat. So is a modern passenger reservation system, freight operation system, unit train operation, proliferation of electric traction system, transition from mechanical to electronic/solid state signalling systems, transition to higher axle loads, higher capacity rolling stock, heavier trains, longer trains and so on. Another distinction has been human capital formation to equip the mammoth cutting-edge workforce with requisite skill sets to adopt and operate the new technology and systems.

But a major disconcerting dimension has been the lopsided development, which has been eroding productivity of investment and operational efficiency, thus making it a regressive, expensive system, telling on the overall logistic costs of the economy. The network is saddled with serious infrastructure deficiencies. The bulk of the routes, about 75 per cent, are fit only for a maximum speed of 110 kmph. Barely about five per cent routes can sustain the speed of 130 kmph. The Golden Quadrilateral and Diagonal (GQD), six routes which with 15 per cent route share bear 60 per cent of the traffic, are no better. Of the total 10,000 km route on the GQD, only 2,740 kms is fit for the speed of 130 kmph. The most prestigious Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes still have 35 per cent length below 130 kmph. Shockingly, three important GQD routes viz. Howrah-Chennai, Howrah-Mumbai and Mumbai-Chennai are entirely unfit for 130 kmph.

Mismatch in the top speed potential of the modern rolling stock and the network speed is another drag. Due to modern technology, new rolling stock viz. Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB), Tejas, the recent entrant Vande Bharat T18 generation coaches and WAP5 generation electric locomotives are all 160 kmph fit. We find a bizarre scenario of a Vande Bharat train operating at a speed of 130/100 kmph in the Allahabad-Varanasi sector. Similar is the story of all Tejas and LHB stock trains.

It is ironical that there is a solitary 160 kmph train, Gatimaan Express on the Nizamuddin-Agra route. All Rajdhani and LHB stock trains in Delhi/Agra are fit stock-wise for 160 kmph, the signalling system is compliant, the operating protocol is in position but the available traction power capacity can sustain only one 160 kmph train on that stretch. The Indian Railways' progress is replete with such classic cases where the full potential of the investment is not reaped because assets/inputs are not aligned to a common performance level.

Likewise the freight ecosystem also has a self-defeating feature. Progressively, higher axle load wagons are being inducted to increase payload per wagon and load per train. It's an initiative to check the need for additional line capacity for meeting higher traffic demand and also contain the per unit transportation cost. But due to speed sustainability of tracks,

“ACCOMPLISHING THE RAFTAAR VISION BY STICKING TO THE CHARTED COURSE IN MISSION MODE DESERVES TO BE THE FOCAL POINT. HIGHER TOP SPEEDS, SCALED-UP AVERAGE SPEEDS, BESIDES SPURRING MOBILITY AND MARKET, THROUGH A MULTITUDE OF ASSOCIATED POSITIVES WILL RENDER THE SYSTEM SYSTEMATICALLY SAFE AND STATE-OF-THE-ART. THIS WOULD SURELY LAUNCH RAILWAYS ON A TRAJECTORY OF VIABILITY, VITALITY, VIBRANCY AND FAST GROWTH TO BECOME AN ENGINE OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY”



these wagons are pegged at speeds of 45 kmph and 60 kmph for 25 ton and 22.9 ton axle loads. This is a drag as compared to the 75/100 kmph speed for lower axle load generation of wagons. Surely the average speeds will get depressed, nullifying the gains intended from higher axle load wagons. The economics of higher axle load wagons will turn unfavourable. Again, it is a classic case of absence of alignment in performance features of inputs/assets.

Another disquieting feature is that over several decades, the average speeds of passenger and freight trains are hovering at the pathetically low levels of around 45 kmph and 24 kmph. Transit duration critically influences choice of the mode of travel due to its cost and time implications. Both passenger and freight transport markets have progressively become more time and cost-sensitive.

A lot is amiss. Huge capital outlays on doubling/tripling, new lines, tracks, signal, traction, rolling-stock and technology upgrades have failed to catalyse railways. The problem lies in severe flaws in the pattern of investment planning and implementation. The maximum speed on the route is conditioned by the most limiting input. Technical stipulations exist for tracks, signals, traction, level crossings, fencing and so on, for different speeds. Ad hoc inputs given over a period of time have led to gross inconsistencies. It has been a success for a part but not the whole.

Unfortunately, a comprehensive view has been lacking. Departmental goal-seeking has led to suboptimal input spread in infrastructure, assets and technology, causing lopsided outcomes. Failures and inordinate delays occur due to multiple agencies working from sanction to implementation in an uncoordinated manner.

The Railways took a big step forward to fix these pitfalls through Mission Raftaar. A strategy was evolved for route-wise investment with a modular input package and upgrading important routes

to a top speed of 160 kmph. It was marked as a vision to set up express railroads akin to expressways with a balanced dosage of inputs to upgrade tracks, signals, traction, train protection and warning systems, modern diagnostics for assets, fencing, elimination of level crossings, all directed at an ideal approach to make the route seamlessly speedier and safe, hence viable.

Based on this new approach, 160 kmph upgradation projects were approved for Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes that carry 29 per cent of passenger and 20 per cent of freight traffic. This is a harbinger of an era to commission all GQD routes as express railroads having speeds of 160 kmph.

For reaping the full-scale benefit, concurrent, fast-paced action is required for induction of speedier rolling stock and resolution of trade-off between axle load and permissive speeds, all through a coherent thought process.

The need is for methodical investment planning and synchronised implementation, harnessing economies of scale, state-of-the-art technology, skill sets and synergy to keep the train track time minimal. The only way to do these projects within meaningful timelines is a paradigm engineered by the collaborative inventiveness of a team of multi-disciplinary specialists of the Mobility Directorate. A nodal unit have must be set up to carve out a roadmap and achieve the Mission Raftaar goal of doubling the average freight trains speeds and a 25 kmph increase in average speeds of passenger trains over a five-year period.

A drastic cut in travel time holds the key to reducing the cost of operations, conserving asset demand and restoring competitiveness. It is reckoned that premium trains like the Rajdhani will take 10-12 hours between Delhi-Mumbai-Howrah. The journey time of all coach trains will be slashed up to half and freight trains will register up to two-fold jump in average speeds. A one kmph increment in average

speed of all freight/passenger trains has the potential to save about 3,000 wagons, about 70 locomotives, unleashing a latent revenue of about ₹1,400 crore and ₹900 crore from freight and passenger traffic.

Now Indian Railways is venturing into private operation of coaching trains to induct the much-needed new technology rolling stock with a target speed potential of 160 kmph. Underneath reverberates the implied commitment and urgency for 160 kmph. Indian Railways has miles to go as at present only about 190 route km of the total network are 160 kmph-compliant.

The railway leadership, which is passionate to reform, must also recalibrate decisions about how much to invest and on what. Endeavour ought to be for optimisation, accelerated outcomes and to rid the railway of the woes of disproportionate and dispersed investments.

A crystal clear goal and a strategy to strike will ensure that every penny spent is well-directed, has the right mix of involved assets, infrastructure and technology required for fructification of the intended result. Given the intertwined interplay of departmental inputs in the railways, outcomes such as a turnaround are possible only if a unified, empowered, multi-specialist body steers investment and is held accountable from conception to commission. Accomplishing the Raftaar vision by sticking to the charted course in mission mode deserves to be the focal point. Higher top speeds, scaled-up average speeds, besides spurring mobility and market, through a multitude of associated positives will render the system systematically safe and state-of-the-art. This would surely launch railways on a trajectory of viability, vitality, vibrancy and fast growth to become an engine of the Indian economy's progress.

(The writer is former Principal Executive Director, Mobility, Ministry of Railways)

China will not stop its aggression

Xi Jinping's imperialism is expanding, and is, therefore, the greatest danger to world peace



MARKANDEY KATJU

In the recent talks between the Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the two sides agreed on disengagement and de-escalation, but this can only be temporary. The Chinese are bound to intrude again into further areas in Ladakh in the future in their insatiable lust for more power, land and raw materials for their industries. In fact that is why they have always refused to delineate the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on a map.

The truth is that this "disengagement" agreed upon by the two sides is in essence an agreement that the Indian Army shall not patrol or occu-

py areas that China had accepted as Indian all these years, as explained in great detail by Rahul Bedi in his article titled *Chinese pullback at Galwan comes at a cost; Indian retreat shifts LAC to its disadvantage*.

Consequent upon the new alignments agreed upon, some three kilometres of territory regarded for years to be under Indian control becomes de facto "no man's land." So what this really means is that the Chinese had intruded two steps into Indian territory but have agreed to withdraw only one step. And one can be sure that they will keep applying such "salami tactics" in the future too.

In an article, *China and India are super-populations — They have to be super responsible*, Victor Gao, Professor of Soochow University, and Vice President of Centre for China and Globalisation, writes, "The two countries need to be more keenly aware of their responsibilities to the world, and stand firmly together in opposing conflicts and promoting peace and devel-

opment." Professor Gao further writes that both China and India are ancient civilisations and for millennia were the richest in the world but were later impoverished by colonialism. He states that China and India are the only two countries in the world having a population of over one billion each, and with super populations come super responsibilities.

He states, "Ideally, super-populations should be known not only for their size, but also for the quality of life of their people, the contribution they make to the world, and the sense of responsibility they exhibit towards it. This means that China and India need to be more keenly aware of their responsibilities to the world; their need to stand firmly together in opposing wars and conflicts and promoting peace and development in the world and between themselves in particular. In sum, super-populations should not be super in numbers alone, but also worthy of the special status to which their size entitles them."

With all due respect to Professor Gao, this is either an utter lack of understanding of realities or deliberate obfuscation. In order to understand politics one must see the economic forces behind it, because politics is concentrated economics.

China may have been socialist at one time but today it is not. It is imperialist and with its huge industrial base and \$3.2 trillion foreign exchange reserve is hungrily seeking markets, raw materials and avenues for profitable investment, like an imperialist power.

There are two kinds of imperialisms, expanding imperialism and defensive imperialism. The former, being aggressive, is much more dangerous than the latter. For example, in the 1930s and early 1940s, Hitler's imperialism was expanding imperialism, whereas British and French imperialism were defensive imperialism.

While the latter only wanted to hold on to their colonies, the former wanted to conquer and enslave other

countries. So Hitler's imperialism was the real danger to world peace.

Today Chinese imperialism is expanding imperialism, and is, therefore, the greatest danger to world peace. It has penetrated the economies of Asia, Africa and Latin America, apart from the developed countries. Mountainous areas like Tibet and Ladakh may appear barren but are full of valuable minerals and other natural wealth, which the Chinese greedily covet as raw materials for their growing industry. This is the real reason for the recent Chinese intrusion across the LAC in Ladakh into Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Demchok, Five Fingers and so on.

One must understand that politics is concentrated economics and there are certain iron laws of economics which operate independent of any individual's will. It is in the nature of capital that it seeks avenues for profitable investment. The Chinese have built a massive industrial base and amassed about \$3.2 trillion foreign

exchange reserves, which is a huge amount of hot money hungrily seeking avenues for investment, markets and raw materials. In other words, China is a huge aggressive expanding imperialism and independent of the will of its leaders like President Xi or Foreign Minister Wang it must aggressively keep expanding.

So all the talk of peace is empty rhetoric. Hitler, too, often spoke of peace while pursuing his path of conquest. Like Nazi Germany, China will keep expanding, as it is doing economically all over the world by capturing markets and raw materials and militarily in the South China Sea, Ladakh, and so on.

The only way for India to stop this is by creating a united front along with other powers like the US to confront Chinese imperialist expansionism, like the united front of Great Britain, US and the Soviet Union created in World War-II against Hitler.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India.)



FOREIGN EYE



RIGHT FOCUS, WRONG POLICIES

The pandemic has exposed a bust British economic model and a broken social contract. Chancellor Rishi Sunak showed no interest in changing either, in seriously greening UK industry or making jobs better. His chief objective was in getting back to business as usual as quickly as possible. Given what lies ahead, he is unlikely even to achieve that. (The Guardian editorial)

PM woos global firms with investment-friendly biz environment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Woos global companies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said his Government's self-reliant India campaign is not about being closed to the world and Asia's third-largest economy continues to be one of the most open in the world that offers investment-friendly and competitive business environment.

Speaking at the India Global Week 2020, he said Aatmanirbhar Bharat, or self-reliant India, is "not about being self-contained or being closed to the world."

"It is about being self-sustaining and self-generating. We will pursue policies that promote efficiency, equity and resilience," he said.

In response to the biggest economic crisis since 1979 triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown - one of the harshest in the world, the Government announced a ₹20.97 lakh crore fiscal relief package that encompassed free

ration and cash to poor and structural reforms with a call to boost domestic capabilities so as to cut imports.

"India remains one of the most open economies in the world. We are laying a red carpet for all global companies to come and establish their presence in India. Very few countries will offer the kind of opportunities India does today," Modi said in his address through video link. Sectors such as agriculture, defence, and space have been opened up for investments.

"We are making the economy more productive, investment-friendly and competitive," he said citing deep structural reforms undertaken during the pandemic.

With reforms and calibrated opening of the economy, green shoots of revival are already visible. "In India, we are already seeing green-shoots when it comes to economic recovery," he said.

While the COVID relief package used technology to deliver benefits directly to

needy, the government launched one of the world's largest public works programmes to provide employment to millions of workers as soon as lockdown restrictions were eased. "This will not only re-energise the rural economy but also help in creation of a durable infrastructure in the rural areas," he said. He cited reforms in micro, small and medium enterprises as well as relaxation of foreign investment norms in the defence sector and opening up of commercial space technology for private investment.

"There are investment opportunities in the defence sector. With relaxed FDI norms, one of the world's biggest militaries invites you to come and make products for it," he said. "Now, there are more opportunities for private investment in the space sector."

Also, reforms in agriculture provide a very attractive investment opportunity to invest in storage and logistics.

"We are opening the doors to investors to come and invest



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers the inaugural address at India Global Week 2020 via video link in New Delhi on Thursday

directly in the hard work of our farmers," he said. "There are many possibilities and opportunities in various sunrise sectors in India."

Modi said it was natural to link global economic revival with India, as "there is faith that the story of global revival will have India playing a leading

- It is about being self-sustaining and self-generating. We will pursue policies that promote efficiency, equity and resilience
- We are opening the doors to investors to come and invest directly in the hard work of our farmers
- It has played a leading role in reducing the cost of medicines, especially for developing countries. Vaccines made in India are responsible for two-thirds of the vaccination needs of the world's children

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

role." The combination of talent and the country's ability to reform and rejuvenate are factors for this thought.

"Indians are natural reformers! History has shown that India has overcome every challenge, be it social or economic. India has done so with a spirit of reform and rejuvenation. The same spirit continues now," he said adding the country talks of revival that is caring, compassionate, and sustainable.

The Prime Minister cited reforms of the past six years including the rollout of GST to state that the gains from them

have set the foundations for the next round of development initiatives.

The pandemic, he said, has once again shown that India's pharma industry is an asset not just for India but for the entire world.

"It has played a leading role in reducing the cost of medicines, especially for developing countries.

Vaccines made in India are responsible for two-thirds of the vaccination needs of the world's children," he said adding Indian companies are active in the international efforts for development and

production of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I am certain that India will have an important role in developing and in scaling-up production of the vaccine once it is discovered," he said. India, he said, is ready to do whatever it can to further global good and prosperity.

"This is an India that is reforming, performing, and transforming.

This is an India that offers new economic opportunities. This is an India that is adopting a human-centric and inclusive approach to development," he said. "India awaits you all's

Ruckus at Samba quarantine centre

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The miseries of thousands of migrant workers, farm labourers returning from their villages to earn their livelihood in Jammu & Kashmir are far from over.

On Thursday, hundreds of these workers stranded at a quarantine centre in Vijaypur area of Samba district created ruckus after they were denied Covid-19 testing facility.

In a free for all situation, the stranded passengers uprooted counters, stalls and other furniture kept there at a makeshift testing facility inside the quarantine centre. Security personnel deployed at the quarantine centre, were outnumbered by the rush of stranded workers. According to official sources, "around 2300 passengers were present in the area at



Ruckus inside the quarantine centre located in a Vijaypur ashram, Samba

the time of the incident". Official sources said, "for the last five to six days an average number of 500-600 passengers, majority of them brick kiln workers, farm labourers were reporting at the quarantine centre".

In the absence of adequate testing facilities, more than 2000 migrant workers were stuck there. They were blaming the local officers for not having adequate testing facilities to clear the rush of stranded workers from the centre.

Soon after the incident, video footage of the ruckus went viral on various social media platforms where security personnel were seen struggling to contain the situation for a long time. Senior district and police officers were rushed to the spot to prevent the situation from taking any ugly turn.

Incharge nodal officer of the administrative quarantine centre Kamalpreet Singh told *The Pioneer*, "ruckus started around 1.30 p.m on Thursday after the testing team exhausted their daily quota of 200-250 tests as per the availability of testing kits".

He said, "as per the guidelines, no passenger can be granted permission to proceed further to their destination without undergoing mandatory Covid 19 screening".

I have no role in gold smuggling: Swapna Suresh

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Even as Opposition parties, the Congress and the BJP continued with their protest marches and demonstrations across Kerala demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan whose office has come under the scanner following the seizure of 30 kg smuggled gold at Thiruvananthapuram airport, Swapna Suresh, the kinglypin behind the smuggling approached the Kerala High Court seeking anticipatory bail on Thursday.

Swapna filed the bail petition through her lawyer and this may be listed for Friday. Meanwhile, an audio message, purportedly belonging to Swapna was being aired by all Malayalam news channels in which she has claimed that she was innocent and was being hunted by certain people with ulterior motives. Interestingly, she said in the message that it was because of the request made by the UAE Consulate, her former employers, that she rang up the Customs officials requesting them to release the consignment without delay.

"I do not have anything with the Chief Minister or any other Ministers. It is true that I have met them as part of my job in the UAE Consulate to invite them for official functions held by the Consul General. Beyond this I have no dealings with anybody," said Swapna who also claimed that she rang up the Customs officials at the instance of the UAE Consulate attache to get the consignment released.

Swapna also claimed that the detractors of the Chief Minister and other ministers were making use of her name to tarnish their image.

"You will not win in this battle as the ministers are all beyond doubt. But what you people are trying to do is to force me to take my own life," she said in the voice recording.

Earlier in the day, Sarith, who was taken into custody on Tuesday morning from Thiruvananthapuram was sent to the Customs' custody till July 15 by the Economic Offences Wing Court in response to a plea filed by the Customs Department.

BJP leader's killing stokes fear of terror revenge

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The killing of a BJP leader Sheikh Wasim Bari and two of his close relatives on Wednesday coincided with the fourth death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen's poster boy Burhan Wani, raised serious questions about the role of the police, and stoked fears of return of the militancy in the valley.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir last year on August 5, it is one of the major incidents of targeted killing of a political leader.

Earlier on June 8, a Kashmiri pandit sarpanch from Anantnag was killed by the terrorist. The J&K police have launched a manhunt to nab the killers though 10 of their own cops have been arrested for negligence.

These cops were assigned to protect Bari, but at the time of attack no one was present with

him. According to the preliminary investigation reports a local Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorist along with a foreign terrorist from Pakistan, came on foot and targeted the BJP leader and two others late Wednesday night from a very close range and shot them in their heads. Bari along with his father and brother was sitting inside their shop-cum-office, located steps away from the Bandipora police station.

Meanwhile, J&K police have also initiated a high-level inquiry into the incident after suspending all 10 personal security officers (PSOs) deployed on security duty at the residence of former district president, Bandipora.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar Thursday said, "all the security personnel will be dismissed from their services for this security lapse".

He said 10 PSOs were deployed on security duty (eight from district police and two

from security wing) which is more than enough. "Even if two of his PSOs had remained with him they would have killed the terrorists. All the PSOs were suspended yesterday and arrested. They will be dismissed from their services for this security lapse," he said. Vijay Kumar also visited the location in Bandipora along with senior army and CRPF officers to scan the CCTV footage of the incident recorded in the cameras fitted outside the police station building.

The IG told reporters that the JP leader stepped out of his house around 7.45 p.m and returned after visiting his in-laws house. On returning home, he first went inside the home and then visited the shop where his father and brother were already present. The personal security officers (PSOs) of the three men then went upstairs. One terrorist walked into the shop and shot the three men from close range. All three were shot in their

heads, the IG said.

IG Kumar said, "we have scanned the complete CCTV footage. One thing is clear, the BJP leader was being stalked. When he left his house early in the evening for his in-laws house, a person could be seen in the CCTV footage and when he returned, the same person was there. It was a planned attack. We have identified the terrorists and they will be neutralized very soon." The BJP leader was actively involved in party activities in the Kashmir valley and was very popular among the local residents in the area. He was working hard to build the party network and often labeled as 'BJP's Tiger in Kashmir' valley.

BJP state president, Ravinder Raina and general secretary Ashok Koul along with other party leaders and local workers visited the house of Sheikh Wasim Bari and consoled the family members of the BJP leader.

Terrorists target Army QRT in J&K's Awantipora

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A quick reaction team (QRT) of the Indian Army was targeted by the terrorists late Thursday evening near Lethpora area of Awantipora.

One Indian Army jawan along with a civilian woman received injuries in the crossfire.

The Army jawan was rushed to the Base hospital in Srinagar while a civilian lady was shifted in the nearby hospital.

The condition of both the injured soldier and a civilian woman was stated to be stable. According to Col Rajesh Kalia, a Srinagar based Defence PRO, "An ambulance with QRT moving from Khrew was fired upon by terrorists from near a Mosque at Laddoo Mor, Lethpora, Awantipora at 6 PM today".

He said, one soldier received injuries in the attack and was evacuated to 92 Base hospital. His condition was stated to be stable, Defence PRO added.

Meanwhile, one civilian lady also sustained injuries in the crossfire and her condition was also stated to be stable.

Maha crosses 2.3 L mark with 6,875 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra crossed 2.30 lakh-mark in terms of Covid-19 infections on Thursday, as many as 6,875 people tested positive for the coronavirus, while 219 more people died of pandemic in various parts of the State.

With the infections going up from Wednesday's count of 6,603 to 6,875 on Thursday, the total number of infected cases climbed up to 2,30,599.

With fresh 219 deaths, the total deaths in the State went up to 9,667.

Of the total 219 deaths, Mumbai accounted for 68 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis to 5132 now, while the total number of positive patients rose by 1,268 cases to touch 89,124.

Apart from 68 deaths in Mumbai, there were 66 deaths in Thane, 27 deaths in Pune, 17 deaths in Raigad, eight deaths each in Palghar and Solapur, seven in Jalgaon, four in Nashik, three in Satara, two each in Ahmednagar, Nandurbar and Nagpur, one each in Latur, Jalna, Amravati, Nanded, and one from another state.

With fresh 219 deaths, the total deaths in the State went up to 9,667

With 54,811 infected cases with 1,483 deaths, Thane has emerged as the second worst hit district in Maharashtra.

Pune, which has emerged as the third worst affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 33,394 infections and 989 deaths till now.

Meanwhile, the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year touched 1,27,259. The recovery rate in the state stood at 55.19 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 4.19 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 93,652.

Out of 12,12,487 samples sent to laboratories, 2,30,599 have tested positive (18.77%) for Covid-19 until Monday. Currently, 6,49,263 people are in home quarantine while 48,191 people are in institutional quarantine.



Passengers travel by a crowded ferry as monsoon clouds hover above the Hooghly River in Nadia district on Thursday

PTI

FROM PAGE 1

Chinese envoy tries to save Oli's head as alliance stares at split

The meeting was deferred for the fourth consecutive time in a bid to provide enough time for Oli and Prachanda to sort out their differences amidst the heightened intra-party rift.

In her latest bid to mediate between Oli and Prachanda, Hou met the former prime minister on Thursday at his residence, the Kathmandu Post reported.

An aide to the former prime minister confirmed the Chinese envoy's meeting with Prachanda at his residence in Khumaltar but stopped short of providing details, the report said.

According to sources, Hou held one-on-one talks for about 50 minutes, the report said. Prime Minister Oli is known for his leaning.

Over the past days, Hou has met with President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister Oli, two senior leaders of the ruling party and former prime ministers Madhav Kumar Nepal Jhalanath Khanal and some government ministers.

The meetings come at a time when the ruling party has seen deep rifts, with a faction led by Prachanda and Nepal pressing Oli to resign both as party chair and prime minister.

Hou had made similar rounds to ruling party leaders' residences back in May as well when the ruling party was in a deep trouble. Meeting with Oli, Prachanda, Nepal and other senior party leaders, Hou had then advised party unity.

A number of political party leaders have termed the Chinese envoy's series of meetings with the ruling party leaders as interference in Nepal's internal political affairs.

The Prachanda faction has been demanding Oli's resignation, saying his recent anti-India remarks were "neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate".

The differences between the two factions of the Nepal Communist Party recently intensified after the prime minister unilaterally decided to prorogue the budget session of Parliament and over to the government's lackluster response to the COVID-19 pandemic and his unilateral actions, bypassing the party.

There were sporadic demonstrations across the country on Wednesday in support of Oli, despite an agreement with Prachanda not to direct any street protests.

According to a Standing Committee member, the protests in Oli's support have not made things any better.

In Kathmandu alone, at least seven sporadic demonstrations took place on Wednesday, followed by others in different parts of the country, including Saptari

where the Oli rally was confronted by a Dahal rally.

"Oli's supporters are coming out on the streets instead of supporting rapprochement inside the party. We are firm in the belief that the party should not split as it would be a betrayal of the people's mandate," NCP spokesperson Narayan Kaji Shrestha said.

According to party insiders, this indicates the failure of dialogue between the two warring party chairs.

Despite holding close to six one-on-one meetings in a week, Oli and Prachanda have failed to make any headway, the Post quoted party leaders as saying.

On Wednesday evening too, they held a two-hour-long one-on-one meeting at the Prime Minister's Residence but failed to reach any consensus, according to

9 NEW STATES ADD TO COVID SURGE, 25K +VE ON 2ND DAY IN ROW

discharged from hospitals across the State on Thursday, taking the number of persons discharged till date to 78, 161. Gujarat, the fourth in the list of worst affected States, recorded relatively less 861 cases which added to total of 39,978 coronavirus cases in the State and 15 new casualties taking the death count in the State to 2,009.

Karnataka continued to cause worry with emergence of 2,228 fresh coronavirus cases in the State taking its total count of virus positives to 31,105 and 17 more deaths taking the fatalities due to pandemic to 488.

West Bengal had 1,088 new cases taking its tally to 25,911 with 27 new deaths making casualty count to 854 as Andhra Pradesh registered 1,555 new cases with total of 23, 814 count in the State and 13 fatalities taking the death count to 277.

Relatively smaller State of Haryana had 674 new cases adding to total of 19,364 count with five new deaths taking the toll to 287. Bihar registered 704 new cases reaching the total number in the State to 13,978 and nine deaths kicking up the death count to 109.

In Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan issued an alert to the people that community transmission was staring the State and anytime from now it would become a reality. The State diagnosed on Thursday 339 persons with Covid-19, the highest number to be recorded in Kerala since the first reporting of the pandemic in January.

While Chief Secretary Viswas Mehta opted to stay in his house as part of observation following the diagnosis of his driver with Covid-19, Poonthura, one of the coastal suburbs of the capital city saw the Government deploying armed commandos to prevent the spread of the pandem-

ic. "We are experiencing super spread in Poonthura and the coastal area has been cut off from the rest of the district," said Vijayan. Super Spread is the term used to denote unprecedented rate of infection, a step closer to community transmission, the Chief Minister explained.

INDIA-CHINA PULLBACK NEARS COMPLETION

the same time, we are also strongly committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

Giving the sequence of events in the last five days, he said the Special Representatives (SRs) of India and China had a telephone conversation on July 5.

"As we have noted in our press release issued on July 6, the two Special Representatives had a frank and in-depth exchange of views on the recent developments in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas.

During the conversation, the NSA conveyed categorically India's position on the recent developments along the LAC including in the Galwan valley area. The NSA emphasised in this context that the Indian troops had always taken a very responsible approach towards border management and at the same time, our forces were deeply committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and security.

During their conversation, the two Special Representatives agreed that peace and tranquility in border areas was essential for the overall development of bilateral relations. In this regard they also shared the view that it was necessary to ensure at the earliest complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC and descalation in the India-China border areas for full restoration of peace and tranquility in accordance with the bilateral agreements and protocols. One of the key provisions of these bilateral agreements is the commitment by two sides shall strictly respect and observe the LAC. The two Special Representatives have also agreed that the two sides should work together to avoid any incident in the future that could disturb peace and tranquility in border areas, Srivastava said.

Meanwhile, the two Corps Commanders are likely to meet early next week to review the pace of disengagement from the stand-off sites and from the operational or "depth areas." These places on both sides of the LAC have seen amassing of additional troops and heavy weaponry for the last two months leading to a volatile situation on the LAC. The two commanders will devise modalities to mutually thin out these additional troops from the operational zone and return to peacetime locations as soon as possible, sources said.

Australia suspends extradition treaty with Hong Kong

Offers 10,000 visas to students, skilled workers

Melbourne: Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Thursday announced the suspension of Australia's extradition treaty with Hong Kong over the controversial Chinese national security law imposed there and offered visas to 10,000 students and temporary skilled workers from the former British territory to start a new life in this country.

The move came after Chinese President Xi Jinping last month signed a controversial legislation to impose a national security law in Hong Kong that allowed Beijing to crack down against dissent, criminalising sedition and curtailing protests with punishments up to life in prison.

Morrison said the new national security laws imposed by China in Hong Kong represented a "fundamental change of circumstances" for many governments around the world.



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison speaks at a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra on Thursday

"Our decision to suspend the extradition agreement with Hong Kong represents an acknowledgement of the fundamental change of circumstances in relation to Hong Kong because of the new security law, which in our view undermines the 'one country, two systems' framework, and Hong Kong's own basic law and the high degree of autonomy guaranteed in the Sino-British Joint Declaration that was set out there," Morrison said in Canberra.

Hong Kong is governed under the principle of "one country, two systems", under which China has agreed to give the region a high degree of autonomy and to preserve its economic and social systems for 50 years from the date of the handover.

The former British colony became a special administrative region of China on July 1, 1997, when Britain's 99-year lease of the New Territories, north of Hong Kong island, expired.

The new national security law imposed last week following violent anti-government protests in Hong Kong in 2019 makes secessionist, subversive, or terrorist activities illegal, as well as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs.

Morrison said immigration has been a pillar of the strength of Australia and it has been a very welcoming country to such people from all around the world.

He said the Australian government will also extend Hong Kong-based businesses to relocate to the country and prioritise highly skilled applicants through existing streams from the Chinese territory.

"As a result of the changes that have occurred in Hong Kong, that there will be citizens of Hong Kong who may be looking to move elsewhere, to start a new life somewhere else, to take their skills, their businesses and things that they have been running under the previous set of rules and arrangements in Hong Kong, and seek that opportunity elsewhere," he said.

"It has the best controls, it has the best targeting, it has the best focus, and immigration as a result has been a pillar of the strength of our nation, not just our economy but our society as well," he said.

Morrison, who last week said he was disturbed by the crackdowns on protesters in Hong Kong, highlighted Australia's long history of attracting Hong Kong's best and brightest who have contributed to the economic growth and job creation.

"We are committed to ensuring this is further strengthened. That's why Australia will introduce new measures for students, temporary graduates and skilled workers from Hong Kong who want to live, work and study in Australia," he said.

Morrison said the new visa arrangements will provide further opportunities for Hong Kong passport holders to remain in Australia, with pathways to permanent residency.

There are approximately 10,000 citizens of Hong Kong in Australia, according to media reports.

Consequences will be borne by Aus: China

Sydney, Australia: Australia offered pathways to permanent residency for thousands of people from Hong Kong on Thursday in response to China's crackdown on dissent, drawing a furious reply from Beijing.

Beijing shot back, condemning the Australian announcements as violations of "fundamental principles of international relations".

"China... reserves the right to take further reactions, all consequences will be borne by Australia," warned Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian.

"Any attempts to suppress China will never succeed."

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said China's moves in Hong Kong were discussed earlier Thursday with Australia's so-called "Five Eyes" security partners — New Zealand, the United States,

Britain, and Canada.

The new law, which followed sometimes-violent pro-democracy protests, is the most radical change in Hong Kong's freedoms since Britain handed the city back to China in 1997 under an agreement designed to preserve its way of life for 50 years.

China has bristled at widespread global criticism of the law.

Beijing in recent months has imposed tariffs on some Australian imports and impeded trade in other key commodities in response to Australian steps to counter Chinese interference in the country.

China, Australia's biggest trade partner and a competitor for influence in the Pacific, was notably infuriated when Canberra led calls for a probe into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

US lawmakers seek probe into efforts made by China to exploit virus outbreak

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A group of 14 US lawmakers have introduced a bill in the Congress which demands the government to identify, analyse and combat alleged efforts made by the Chinese government to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic for nationalistic gains.

Introduced by Congressman Jared Golden and co-sponsored by 13 other congressmen, the 'Preventing China from Exploiting COVID-19 Act' would mandate the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to investigate the ways in which the Chinese government intends to seize on the COVID-19 pandemic to promote its interests on the national stage and evaluate the risks to the United States.

Heavy rain hits scenic central Japan, more damage in south

Tokyo: Flooding and mudslides have stranded hundreds of people in scenic hot springs and hiking areas in central Japan, while rescue workers searched Thursday for more people missing in rain-related disasters that have already killed more than 60 people. Parts of Nagano and Gifu, including areas known for scenic mountain trails and hot springs, have been flooded by massive downpours that have lasted for nearly a week. More than 300 people, including hotel employees and visitors, were trapped in Kamikochi, as floods and mudslides hit a main road connecting the town to Matsumoto, another tourist destination in Nagano.

Serbia eyes restrictions; virus spreads in US, Brazil

BELGRADE, Serbia: The European nation of Serbia mulled how to curb accelerating coronavirus infections following two nights of clashes involving anti-lockdown demonstrators, while the virus showed no sign of slowing Thursday in the countries with the highest case loads — the United States, India and Brazil.

The three nations on separate continents are accounting for more than 60% of new confirmed cases, according to recent tallies from Johns Hopkins University. India on Thursday reported 25,000 new cases; the United States on Wednesday reported just short of the record 60,000 cases set a day earlier, and Brazil reported nearly 45,000.

Much of Europe appeared to have put the worst of the crisis behind it, at least for now. But Serbia has emerged as a new focus of concern — and of unrest. The country's crisis team was expected to reimpose a ban on gatherings in the capital, Belgrade and to limit the cafe and night club operations following a spike in infections that officials say threatens the Serbian health system.

It wasn't clear whether officials would reintroduce a weekend curfew, the initial announcement of which triggered violent protests in Belgrade and other cities. Critics accuse President Aleksandar Vucic of letting the crisis spin out of control by lifting an earlier lockdown to allow for an election that tightened his grip on power.

Rock-throwing demonstrators this week fought hours-long running battles with special police forces who used tear gas to disperse them. Vucic said in an Instagram post on Thursday that the government would control the unrest.

Flare-ups of new virus cases are causing concern in several parts of the world, and in some cases leading to the reintroduction of restrictions on public activity.

In France and Greece, officials warned that residents were too frequently ignoring safety guidance. The French government's leading coronavirus adviser, Jean-Francois Delfraissy, lamented that "the French in general have abandoned protective measures."

WHO chief taps ex-leaders to head Covid response panel

Geneva: The head of the World Health Organisation said Thursday that former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark will head a new panel tasked with giving "an honest assessment" of the global response to the coronavirus pandemic.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, whose agency is facing a US pullout following Trump administration complaints about its early handling of the virus emergency, announced the appointments to the newly created Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

"I cannot imagine two more strong-minded, independent leaders to help guide us through this critical learning process to help us understand

what happened — an honest assessment — and to help us understand also what we should do to prevent such a tragedy in the future," Tedros said.

The WHO chief reiterated his calls for global unity and decried a general lack of leadership, but he made no reference to the Trump administration giving formal 1-year notice this week of its intent to withdraw the United States from the UN health agency.

The United States is the WHO's biggest donor, contributing \$400-\$500 annually in recent years.

"My friends, make no mistake: The greatest threat we face now is not the virus itself. Rather, it's the lack of leadership and solidarity at the global and national levels," Tedros said at a weekly meeting of member states.

SC says Congress can't get Trump records, for now

Washington: The Supreme Court on Thursday kept a hold on President Donald Trump's financial records that Congress has been seeking for more than a year.

The ruling returns the case to lower courts, with no clear prospect for when the case might ultimately be resolved.

The 7-2 outcome is at least a short-term victory for Trump, who has strenuously sought to keep his financial records private.

The decision came after the court upheld a prosecutor's demand for Trump's tax returns as part of a criminal investigation that includes hush-money payments to women who claim they had affairs with Trump.

The court ruled 7-2 in a case in which it heard arguments by telephone in May because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The records are held by Trump's longtime accounting firm, Mazars USA, which has said it would comply with a court order.

It probably will be at least several weeks before the court issues a formal judgment that would trigger the turnover of the records.

The court rejected arguments by Trump's lawyers and the Justice Department that the president is immune from investigation while he holds office or that a prosecutor must show a greater need than normal to obtain the records.

Trump's two high court appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, joined the majority.

Rishi Sunak warns of significant recession and job losses in UK

London: British finance minister Rishi Sunak on Thursday reiterated his previous warnings that he would not be able to save every job and that the UK was headed towards a "significant recession" hit by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

A day after he tabled a mini-budget in Parliament, the Indian-origin Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted that despite his 30 billion pounds package of measures he won't be able to "protect every single job" as businesses reopen following a three-month shut-

down.

"I am absolutely anxious about the state of the economy," he told 'Sky News'.

"We are, as I've said before, entering into a very significant recession. We know that that is happening," he said.

He said the forecasts of mass unemployment "weigh very heavily on me".

But on a note of optimism, he added: "We don't want people to be left without hope or opportunity."

He urged Britons to "have the confidence" to return to eating out "because of the

measures restaurants have taken" as he plugged the new Eat Out to Help Out discount scheme to help out the hospitality industries with government backed discounts on dining out.

He, however, admitted that some of the 1,000 pounds bonuses being offered to take back furloughed staff would go to firms that were already keeping workers on.

In his summer statement to the House of Commons on Wednesday, Sunak said the "jobs retention bonus" could cost as much as 9 billion

pounds if every worker currently furloughed, on forced leave, is kept on.

Sunak repeated a Conservative Party manifesto pledge to extend free hospital parking for the disabled, frequent outpatient attendees, and parents of sick children who are staying overnight and night-shift workers.

Addressing businesses who still have to stay closed under lockdown rules, such as the beauty industry, Sunak said an announcement will come "very soon" on which firms can reopen next.

Missing Seoul mayor's body found after massive search

Seoul: Police say the body of the missing mayor of South Korea's capital, Seoul, has been found.

They say Park Won-soon's body was located in hills in northern Seoul early Friday, more than seven hours after they launched a massive search for him.

Park's daughter had called police on Thursday afternoon to report him missing, saying he had given her a "will-like" message before leaving home.



News reports say one of Park's secretaries had lodged a complaint with police on Wednesday night over alleged sexual harassment.

MUSLIM TEEN GOT STARBUCKS CUP WITH 'ISIS' WRITTEN ON IT, FILES COMPLAINT

ST. PAUL, Minn.: A Muslim woman in St. Paul, Minn., has filed a discrimination complaint against Target after she said a barista at an in-store coffee shop allegedly wrote "ISIS" on her drink order instead of her name. The 19-year-old woman - who asked to be identified by only her first name, Aishah, out of fear for her safety - said she was wearing a hijab and face mask when she ordered a beverage July 1 at the Starbucks inside the St. Paul-Midway Target. She repeated her name slowly and multiple times to the barista, according to Jaylani Hussein, executive

director of Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, who provided The Washington Post with a copy of the complaint filed Monday with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights. But when her drink was ready, the acronym for the terrorist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria had been written on the cup. Aishah raised the issue with a supervisor, but Hussein said her grievance was dismissed. The cafe's supervisor told her, "Mistakes sometimes happen with customers' names," according to the complaint.

Markets resume upward march

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Resuming their upmove after a day's breather, equity benchmarks posted smart gains on Thursday as buyers flocked to finance and banking counters amid buoyancy in global markets.

After touching a peak of 36,806.30 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 408.68 points, or 1.12 per cent, higher at 36,737.69. Similarly, the NSE Nifty jumped 107.70 points, or 1.01 per cent, to finish at 10,813.45.

Both the indices closed at four-month highs. Bajaj Finance was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurting 3.93 per cent, followed by SBI, Tata Steel, HDFC, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech and Axis Bank. In value terms, HDFC, Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank contributed to most of the gains on the Sensex.

On the other hand, ONGC, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, TCS, HUL and ITC were among the laggards, skidding up to 1.66 per cent. Meanwhile, wooing glob-

al companies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said Asia's third-largest economy is one of the most open in the world and offers investment friendly, competitive business environment and immense opportunities.

Speaking at the India Global Week 2020, he said green shoots of economic revival are already visible in India that is coming out of coronavirus lockdown.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services at Geojit Financial Services, said, "In spite of rising concerns regarding the spread of the virus infections, markets continued to focus on the path to recovery in the economy. With liquidity giving adequate support, investors are looking towards the start of the earnings season." "With the lockdown and the economic activity coming to a standstill in the last quarter, investors will be looking forward to the earnings commentary, to understand the outlook," he added.

BSE metal, finance, bankex, basic materials, ener-



gy and telecom indices surged up to 2.13 per cent, while FMCG, power and capital goods ended with losses.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices rose up to 0.49 per cent. On the global front, Chinese equities led other Asian markets higher. Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with significant gains.

Stock exchanges in Europe too opened on a positive note.

₹ recovers to 74.99 against \$ amid gains in equity markets

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The ₹ pared some of its early gains to settle marginally up by 3 paise at 74.99 against the US \$ on Thursday tracking weakness in the green-back and gains in the domestic equity market.

Forex traders said positive domestic equities and weak US currency supported the local unit, while foreign fund outflows and concerns over rising COVID-19 cases weighed on investor sentiment. The ₹ opened at 74.94 against the US \$ and touched a high of 74.91 to the dollar in day trade.

The local unit finally settled at 74.99 against the US \$, up 3 paise over its previous close of 75.02.

UTs to ensure safety of bank staff, take stern action against unruly people

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has requested states and union territories to ensure safety and security of bank officials as well as take stern action against those who indulge in unruly behaviour with the officials.

The development comes against the backdrop of incidences of bank staff coming under attack in some parts of the country in recent weeks. In a letter written to the chief secretaries of states and union territories (UTs), the Department of Financial Services (DFS) has said that incidences of unruly behaviour of anti-social elements against bankers need to be responded with stern action taken against such elements, according to sources.

Last month, a female employee with Canara Bank was attacked by a police constable at the bank's Saroli branch in Surat, Gujarat. Few incidents, including attack on Bank of India staff in Maharashtra, were also reported after the Surat attack.

Citing recent news reports, the department said those have highlighted instances of anti-social elements behaving in an unruly manner with bankers within bank premises.

"You would agree that such incidents need to be responded to proactively and with a firm hand, stern action taken against such elements with full force of law so that bankers are protected and the public assured of secured access to banking services," the department said in a

letter said dated July 7. Securing the availability of banking services to the public at all times is essential for households to meet their expenses. It is also required for traders, farmers and industries to carry on regular economic activities. Delivery of essentials services, including banking, is all the more important in the present context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the letter said.

The DFS has requested states to appropriately sensitise and instruct district magistrates and the state police to take all necessary measures for prevention of timely and effective response and deterrent actions. "Public communication of the state's resolve and actions to deal firmly with miscreants would also help in deterring and instilling confidence in the public and the banking community," it said. About the letter, All India Bank Employees Association General Secretary CH Venkatchalam said the matter has finally received the attention of the Government.

Pointing out that banking services are very important for the economy in these difficult times, he stressed on the need to take measures to deal firmly with miscreants who indulge in such attacks. Following the Surat incident, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had assured that the safety of all members of staff in banks is of importance.

"Amid challenges, banks are extending all services to our people. Nothing should threaten their safety and dignity," she had said.

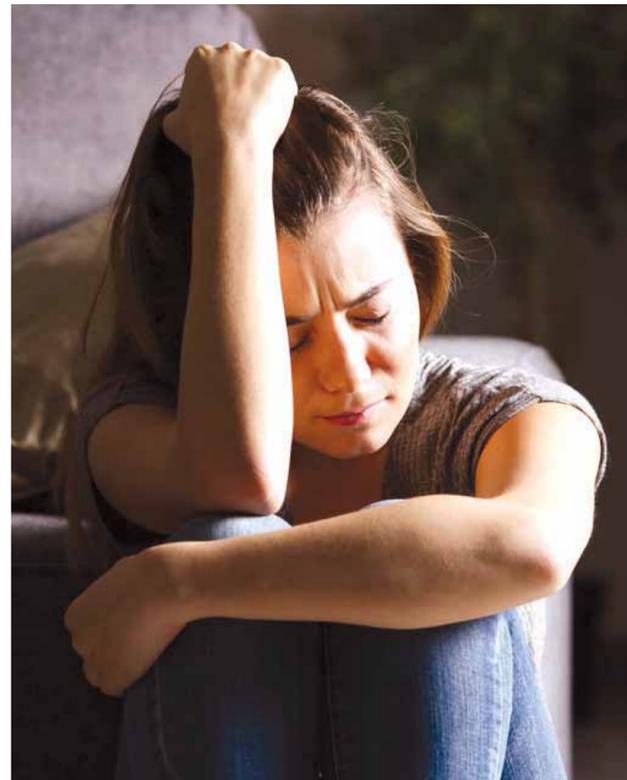
Trend
Slazer

Believe in institution of marriage: Rakul

Actor **RAKUL PREET SINGH** believes in love and the institution of marriage and says that she doesn't understand how people think of it as "some sort of pressure."

"I have changed as a person. What I was isn't what I am, and for me the meaning of love is what I see in my parents. I totally believe in the institution of marriage and love. I think it is beautiful. When you love someone, you love them with all your heart and that's the kind of person I am," said she.

She also stated the qualities that she looks out for in a guy. "The guy has to be tall. Even in heels, I should still be able to look up to my man. He should have an intellect, and lastly some purpose in life," added she.



TIME FOR SOME SELF-LOVE

With so much uncertainty around and people losing jobs, it's hard finding a new one. Here are some ways to effectively stay motivated and reaffirm what you already know



'It's really sad for me, a personal tragedy. I was a huge fan of Jagdeep ji. He had worked in

my father's film Hum Panchhi Ek Daal Ke. When I directed my first film Ghayal, he played a part but the track had to be removed due to the film's length. I'd always think of him while casting for films.'

—Rajkumar Santoshi

Actor **ADITI RAO HYDARI** revealed how she turned down a fairness cream ad in the start of her career.



She said, "Our generation of celebrities has stood up for a world that is more inclusive. At the beginning of my career, I got an offer to be a part of a fairness cream ad campaign that could have given me a great deal of visibility, followed by entries into the film business. But I didn't take the opportunity. I come from a family where I was taught to look at an individual beyond caste, region, colour, religion or even appearance. I can't stand by and endorse an idea of beauty that is discriminatory."

'Important to show women in a team'

Actor **NAOMI SCOTT** says it is important to show women on screen coming together and working as a team.



"I think it's important to see women on screen, coming together, as a team, solving problems and being the ones that make a difference because that is what women do every day," Scott said. That's what made the recent version of *Charlie's Angels* with fresh perspective important to her. Scott starred in the Elizabeth Banks directorial along with Kristen Stewart and Ella Balinska.

osing a job is one of the most stressful experiences. Whether you've been laid off, downsized or forced to take an early retirement, not only does it affect your pocket and other finances but it may also take a toll on your mental and emotional health.

We don't do a job merely to make a living. For many, it is so much more. It's not only a medium to complete our career goals but it also shapes our perspective towards people, changes how we see and interpret the world and influences our decisions to a great extent. It helps us explore ourselves, our interests and potential. Suddenly, finding oneself out of work can be hurtful or depressing. One might even start questioning one's own identity and potential, even losing self-belief and confidence at times.

Given such testing times like today with a pandemic at hand, when the market is starved of funds and adequate resources, it has become even harder for millennials to plan their way ahead. And due to so much uncertainty, while many are facing pay cuts, many have already lost their jobs.

Talking about my personal experience, I really miss the feeling of seeing my account getting credited at a partic-

ular time each month. I understand the pain and distress people are feeling upon losing jobs at the moment. The prospect of not knowing when your next paycheck will come is a daunting one.

Well, it's never the best feeling if you lose a job. However, that doesn't mean you give up. In fact, it means that now is the time to work harder than ever and look for that silver lining. Here are some ways to effectively stay motivated when you're unable to find a new job.

DON'T GIVE UP

It's time to dust yourself off, get your act together and get back in the game. Give yourself some recovery time to get over the shock, but then, get serious. Give yourself some love and reaffirm what you already know. Think about it: is this your opportunity to change your career (and life)?

FOCUS ON YOUR FUTURE

Experts suggest that creating a plan for your future is a good way to start. Think of the things you can do and how you're going to get your next job. Focussing on the future will help you get a new job much faster than concentrating on the past and any mistakes you may have made.

ASK FOR SUPPORT FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Unemployment doesn't just affect you, it affects your entire family as well. Instead of keeping the problem to yourself, ask for support from your friends and family members. Your support group will help you get through this awful part of your career and propel you forward.

STAY HEALTHY

Mental and physical health are interlinked. It is highly recommended not to host a pity party for yourself, daytime TV and junk food. Being physically fit as well as mentally strong will help you remain focussed on the challenge at hand. Now is a good time to indulge in some online workouts or healthy cooking experiments. Doing something other than job-hunting will serve you well.

STAY POSITIVE

I know it is not easy but it is possible. Getting into a negative cycle will probably be the most counter-intuitive thing to do at the moment. Instead of allowing yourself to feel negatively about your job loss, you can list everything you did well at your recent job and use it to keep yourself positive while

looking for a new job or opportunity.

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES

Every challenge brings its own set of opportunities. You might not be able to see them at the moment but keep looking irrespective. Some of the world's biggest businesses started during some sort of crisis, The Great Depression, Subprime and others.

EXPLORE A HOBBY

While you are at home, finding work, dig in what you really like and develop the hobby as you have the time to do it, which you never had or had limitations for. This will help you explore a new reason to keep yourself occupied and happy. Hobbies related to art also help you be at peace and have a stable mind.

TAKE A SHORT TRIP

Well, during a lockdown it is suggested to take a trip only if safe, otherwise it's good to space out between two jobs, as it gives an individual a clarity of thought and helps to be more productive at the same time. The job you will be applying for might come your way when you are not waiting for it but approaching it.

READ MORE

While I know, it sounds cliché, reading e-books, blogs and books definitely help your mind to declutter and create space for you to perform. Read motivational stories and books like *The Secret*, *F@ckKnows*, and other such.

TAKE AN APTITUDE TEST

When on a break, or no job mode, it's better to go back and explore the reason why you ended up where you are. Aptitude tests are available online and are super effective, as it helps you to believe in yourself again and guide you to what are the different avenues you can do/ be at rather sulking over the same.

UNLEARN AND LEARN

Unlearn the negative aspects of yourself and learn a new course on writing, digital management, website making, profile building. There are over 1000s of different digital courses available on Google. Get certified while you are looking for a new job. As you have something to look forward to your day which is time bound!

(The author is *Devashree Sharma Tiwari*, co-founder, *The Glutton and The Owl*.)

Turbo lover

Maybe Judas Priest can have a renaissance as well. Just like turbocharged petrol engines have



One has to give credit where it is due. Hyundai-Kia has in the past year dramatically changed the image as well as the demand for turbocharged petrol engines in India. The Hyundai Venue was the first vehicle to feature the three-pot one litre and the Kia Seltos had the four-cylinder 1.4 litre engine. The Hyundai Verna, i10 Nios also have the smaller engine, which will also undoubtedly see service on the new Hyundai i20 and the forthcoming Kia Sonet. And the 1.4 does service on the new Hyundai Creta and I am expecting it to do service on some other cars as well soon.

But I hear you say that Hyundai-Kia wasn't the first group to fit a small terrier of an engine under the hood. And you'd be right, Ford's EcoBoost on the Ecosport at launch and Volkswagen group's one litre TSi on the Polo, Vento and Rapid were there earlier. Heck, so was Maruti's Boosterjet on the Baleno RS. But Hyundai-Kia has to be given credit for not only putting turbos across their range but also making them in India. And they have been helped immensely by the government's battle against cheap diesel, which none

of the earlier contenders had to deal with. The success of these new engines alongside the slow death of diesel demand is encouraging other manufacturers to look at turbocharged petrols in a post-COVID setup. So a quick primer on turbochargers — they work by using some of the exhaust gases to drive a propeller to draw in more fresh air into the engine, thus increasing the power output of the vehicle. Of course, this is a simplistic explanation because the size and shape of turbos can lead to dramatic differences in performance. There is something called turbo-lag, which is the amount

of time it takes for the turbo to spool-up from the exhaust of the engine. On some cars, particularly older ones, this "lag" could be noticeable. In today's era of computer-controlled engines, this lag has reduced considerably yet modern turbo engines can manage the lean fuel economy of a small, naturally aspirated engine. Basically a turbo engine provides more bang for the buck and a modern turbo manages to do that without the fuel penalty of the past.

But is it worth it? I recently drove the facelifted Hyundai Verna with the 120PS one-litre GDi Turbo, just a few days after driving the naturally aspirated Honda City. Both the cars were automatics and had similar power outputs. Long story short — the Verna was much more fun to drive. The City was definitely the more practical car but sometimes you want to have fun in your car even if you're a bit grown up and older. And the Verna Turbo? Well, I'd say it isn't as economical as the City but so much more fun.

And today, I believe, having fun is getting out of fashion. That is kind of silly, because life demands that we have some joy, a joie d'verve to life. And these turbo engines allow you to do that!



Sound of the valley

Folk-fusion artiste **AABHA HANJURA** creates her signature, *Nundbane*, as an ode to Kashmir

Kashmiri folk-fusion artiste Aabha Hanjura has unveiled *Nundbane*, the fifth single of her awaited album, *Sound of Kashmir*. The singer's latest release is a festive song centered on Kashmiri traditions and history. The groovy folk-pop track borrows lyrics from the works of Mahmud Gami, a renowned poet of Kashmir's golden age, conveying the abstract effects of love and romance.

Hanjura, a Qyuki creator, presents her signature 'valley sound' through *Nundbane*, melding the traditional, exultant rhythm of the track with evocative vocals. The accompanying contemporary instrumentals lend a unique folk-meets-pop vibe to the song. It perfectly captures the earthy, breezy and pleasant scenery of beautiful valley and Hanjura renders a transcendent image of "Heaven on earth: Kashmir."

Excited about the release of *Nundbane*, Aabha said, "I am excited about bringing out yet another single from my album *Sound Of Kashmir*. This album is a love letter to Kashmir, every song in it explores my beloved land, through a musical soundscape.

It is rich with strings of love and romance that's authentic to Kashmiri folklore. Yesteryear poet Mahmud Gami's words build beautiful visual metaphors that transport one to the bygone era, where the idea of romance was pure and simple."

Shot in Jaipur, the music video creates a powerful atmosphere of tenderness and warmth. It unfolds through the eyes of a travelling musician, who is singing the song of her native land, in a glorious, faraway city. The visuals ring euphoric as the diverse cultures of Kashmir and Jaipur are united for *Nundbane*. The music video's pictorial storytelling is only elevated by its vivid cinematography. *Nundbane* forms the perfect confluence of rustic Indian folk music and modern-day realities.

Hanjura added, "I wanted to make a song of my own and render it the way we play it live. We have been performing this version with my band for some time now, and everywhere we've played the song, the crowd seems to love it. I'm excited about its release, and for the fact that it is now going to be live for the world to enjoy it!"

Record-breaking REDS

Mo's brace helps Liverpool set English record of most number of wins after 34 games in 3-1 win over Brighton

AFP ■ BRIGHTON

Mohamed Salah kept Liverpool on track to set a new Premier League points record as the champions won 3-1 at Brighton, while Manchester City bounced back to form with a five-goal rout of Newcastle on Wednesday.

Jürgen Klopp's side are hoping to break the 100-point record established by Manchester City in 2018 and they remain on course after securing their first away win since February.

Liverpool have 92 points and need nine more from their remaining four games against Burnley, Arsenal, Chelsea and Newcastle to clinch the new record.

Asked about the record chase, Klopp said: "It's not important for me. I'm not interested in any of this but I want to win football games."

"For sports people in general it might be important. We are champions and it could be softening but it is not. The boys go with everything."

Liverpool have reached 30 wins in a season faster than any other in English league history and Klopp added: "We now have 92 points and last season we had 97! That's unbelievable, I have no idea how we did that."

Salah punished poor defending in the sixth minute, grabbing his 22nd goal of the season and Liverpool's first away from home since February.

Jordan Henderson increased Liverpool's advantage with a curling finish from the edge of the area three minutes later. Leandro Trossard got one back with a powerful strike in first-half stoppage-time.

But Salah's 76th-minute header from Andrew Robertson's corner ensured Liverpool's five-match winless run on their travels came to an end.



CITY BACK ON SONG
Second-placed City lost for the ninth time in the league this season at Southampton on Sunday.

But Pep Guardiola's men have now won all four games at the Etihad since the restart by a combined score of 17-0 after thumping Newcastle 5-0.

Gabriel Jesus was one of the main culprits when it came to missed chances at St Mary's, but the Brazilian needed just 10 minutes to score against Newcastle as he steered David Silva's cross into the far corner.

De Bruyne then picked out Riyad Mahrez for a simple finish. There was more than a hint of fortune to City's third as Matt Ritchie's attempted clearance ricocheted off Federico Fernandez into his own net.



Silva's appearances at the Etihad are running out, with the Spaniard ending his 10-year stay in Manchester when City's season finishes in August.

He left another reminder of why he will be so missed with a sumptuous free-kick to make it four. And Silva turned provider again in stoppage time for Raheem Sterling to round off the scoring.

"His performance today and in the last games, the level he is having is the best of the season," Guardiola said of Silva. City will find out next week if the club's appeal against a two-season ban from European competition to the Court of Arbitration for Sport has been successful.

But they have almost done the job on the field to qualify for the Champions League for a 10th consecutive season with a 14-point lead over fifth-placed Manchester United, who have five games remaining.

Elsewhere, Wolves' Champions League aspirations stumbled again in

FIGURATIVELY

30 Liverpool have won 30 of their 34 Premier League games this season (D2 L2); this is the fastest any side has ever reached 30 wins in a season in the history of the English Football League

536 James Milner's 536th Premier League appearance has seen him move into fifth place all-time for most games in the competition

100 Mo Salah has reached 100 goal involvements for Liverpool in the Premier League (73 goals, 27 assists in 104 apps), becoming just the fourth player to do so for the Reds after Steven Gerrard (212), Robbie Fowler (158) and Michael Owen (148)

127 After going 7 hours and 47 minutes without scoring a goal away from home in all competitions, Liverpool scored twice in the space of 127 seconds courtesy of Salah and Henderson

10 David Silva has now reached 10 assists in all competitions in all 10 of his seasons with Manchester City, with his second in this game his 121st in total for the club

10 Manchester City are the first English top-flight side to have five different players score at least 10 league goals in a single season since Everton in 1984-85.

1 David Silva (34) is the first player aged 34 or older to both score and assist in a Premier League game since Zlatan Ibrahimovic (35) for Manchester United against Sunderland in April 2017

a last-gasp 1-0 defeat at Sheffield United. Nuno Espirito Santo's men fell to a second straight defeat when John Egan's powerful header won it for the Blades in stoppage-time.

Victory moved United up to seventh, within one point of Wolves, who remain seven points adrift of the top four.

At the bottom of the table, West Ham failed to give themselves more breathing space from the bottom three with a 1-0 home defeat by Burnley.

Jay Rodriguez's header seven minutes before half-time moved the Clarets into the top half of the table.

MSG connection

Suarez teams up with Messi & Griezmann to score winner in Catalan derby

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona kept their faint title hopes alive and doomed Espanyol to relegation on Wednesday as Luis Suarez's goal proved the winner in a pivotal Catalan derby at the top and bottom of La Liga.

A cagey contest at Camp Nou exploded into life for six frantic minutes at the start of the second half as Ansu Fati and Pol Lozano were sent off, leaving each side with 10 men before Suarez struck.

Suarez profited after another superb contribution from a reinvented Antoine Griezmann, his backheel setting up Lionel Messi to shoot, with Suarez turning in the rebound.

This 1-0 victory was a far cry from the sparkling 4-1 win over Villarreal on Sunday but it moves Barca to within a point of Real Madrid, who play their game in hand at home to Alaves on Friday.

Espanyol, rooted to the bottom of the table, will be relegated. They sit 11 points adrift of safety with only three games left to play.



"Life or death" read the front page of *Mundo Deportivo* on Thursday morning — for Barcelona, who had to win to stay in touch with Madrid, and for Espanyol, given they needed a victory to prolong their survival effort.

Griezmann's combination with Suarez and Messi, coming after his sumptuous chip against Villarreal, sustains the Frenchman's momentum but this was more of a gritty win against an Espanyol team that hit the post at 0-0 and had chances.

Pellegrini named new Real Betis manager

Madrid: Real Betis have appointed former Real Madrid and Manchester City coach Manuel Pellegrini as their manager from next season on a three-year contract, the La Liga side said on Thursday.

Pellegrini, who won the Premier League with City in 2013-14 as well as two League Cups, returns to Spain where he had successful spells with Villarreal and Malaga.

Pellegrini replaces coach Rubi who was sacked last month after Betis failed to win any of the first three matches in their return to action. Sporting director Alexis Trujillo was placed in interim charge until the end of the season. Agencies

With the superior head-to-head and a kind last four fixtures, Real Madrid remain firm favourites.

"We have to win our next three games," said Suarez. "What Madrid do is up to them. If they drop points, fantastic. We just have to be there if they do."

Holder, Gabriel bundle out Poms for 204



AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

West Indies captain Jason Holder took a career-best 6-42 as England was bowled out for 204 on the second overcast day of the first Test at the Ageas Bowl on Thursday.

Shannon Gabriel nabbed the first three wickets, Holder the next six including England counterpart Ben Stokes for a team-best 43, and Gabriel grabbed the last wicket to finish with 4-62.

England, at 174-9, didn't look like reaching 200 but Dom Bess hit 31 not out and shared 30 with fast bowler James Anderson, the last man out.

An early tea was taken with England set to repay the West Indies' batting lineup in ideal bowling conditions.

Gabriel and Holder reduced England to 106-5 at lunch.

But the break evoked Stokes and Jos Buttler, who came out punchy and riding some luck.

Stokes, dropped on 14 by Kemar Roach on the run, was dropped again on 32 off Roach to a simpler chance by Shamrah Brooks at extra cover.

Stokes and Buttler combined for 67 and 13 boundaries in the empty arena until Holder drew Stokes forward on 43 and earned an edge behind.

Buttler, on 35, was out to another seaming ball by Holder and a low, one-handed catch behind by wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich.

When Jofra Archer was out for a duck after a West Indies review showed his front pad blocked his leg

Bairdstone, Moeen included in 24-member training group

LONDON: Wicket-keeper batsman Jonny Bairdstone and spin bowling all-rounder Moeen Ali were on Thursday named in England's 24-member training group for the three-match ODI series against Ireland starting later this month.

White-ball skipper Eoin Morgan will lead the side in the three day-night matches to be played behind closed doors at Ageas Bowl on July 30, August 1 and August 4.

Others in the side include wicketkeeper batsman Sam Billings, who missed out on the World Cup last year due to a dislocated shoulder, and all-rounder David Willey. Liam Dawson, Liam Livingstone, James Vince, Ben Duckett & Reece Topley will also be return to the side. PTI

stump, Holder had his fifth wicket and taken 3-1 in 14 balls.

The five-wicket haul was Holder's seventh, and sixth in his last 10 Tests. Mark Wood on 5 slashed at Holder straight to Shai Hope at gully, and Holder would finish the innings with career-best figures of 20-6-42-6.

Bess and Anderson gave England a little lift to get past 200, but Anderson lost his off stump trying to defend Gabriel, who removed opener Rory Burns (30) and Joe Denly (18) in the morning.

India's FIH Pro league campaign to restart in April

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

The Indian men's team will resume its FIH Pro League campaign in April next year with an away tie against Argentina, according to a revised fixtures announced by the International Hockey Federation on Thursday.

India will play Argentina on April 10 and 11 next year in the revamped Pro League.

The first match in both the men's and women's division will see Germany hosting Belgium on September 22 and 23. India will then face Great Britain away from home on May 8 and 9 before travelling to Spain to play matches on May 12 and 13.

They will then take on Germany away on May 18 and 19 before finally playing a home tie on May 29 and 30 against New Zealand.

The FIH was forced to make a new schedule because of the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected all sporting events across the world.

Langer wants Australia to tour England

SYDNEY: Australia must tour England in September "for the health of world cricket", and players should then be released to join the Indian Premier League, coach Justin Langer said on Thursday.

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, Langer said Australia had to play its part in getting cricket moving again, even if it meant enduring quarantine, biosecurity restrictions and time away from family.

"My personal view is we have to go. For so many reasons," Langer told *News Corp Australia*. "I think we have to go to England. There's lots of challenges of course but we have to find solutions to make sure that can happen if possible."

Australia's limited-overs series scheduled for this month in England was postponed because of the coronavirus, and September has been raised as an alternative. Cricket Australia, which has laid off 15% of its staff during the pandemic, is also desperate to host a money-spinning Test series against India later this year.



"I think for the health of world cricket, Australia's tour of England must go ahead. As much as we'd like India to come over here, I think we need to reciprocate that with England if we can." Langer believed releasing Australia's big names to join the IPL — whose revised dates are yet to be announced — was also essential as a goodwill gesture, to make sure India go ahead with their Test tour.

"I think we have to. Talking frankly," Langer said. "I hear a different story about the IPL's plans every few days. It varies. So until there's some clarity and we can work out how it affects the domestic season, how it affects our players, how it works with quarantine... there's a lot of considerations here." AP

Have not offered to host IPL: NZ Cricket

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has refuted reports that it has offered to host the now-postponed Indian Premier League this year, terming them as "inaccurate" while affirming its commitment to the Future Tours programme.

NZC spokesperson Richard Boock said the cricket board has not expressed its interest to host the IPL. "This rumour is inaccurate. New Zealand would not be in a position to host the IPL — even if we were asked, which we haven't been. The dates, and NZC's commitment to honouring its Future Tours programme, means the timing would not allow this to happen," Boock said.

Boock's statement came after a BCCI official stated that New Zealand have also joined along with UAE and Sri Lanka the race to host this year's IPL if it is shifted out of India because of the pandemic. PTI

Googly will be my most important weapon in England: Yasir

PTI ■ LONDON

Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah believes the googly will be his "most important weapon" in England and said he is also eyeing a century with the bat against the hosts during the upcoming Test series beginning next month.

The three-Test series begins with the opening match on August 5 in Manchester, followed by the second and third Tests at Southampton.

The 34-year-old has been working on his googlies with Mushtaq Ahmed, who was appointed as the spin bowling coach ahead of the England tour by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"My googly is coming out well," said Yasir, who has so far captured 213 wickets in 39 Tests for Pakistan.

"In the two-day match, all the googlies I bowled landed well and spun well. I think it will be my most important weapon," he added.

Yasir, the fastest bowler to pick up 200 Test scalps, is expecting dried wickets during the series to help the spinners.



Yasir said, adding that he is "hopeful that the wickets will assist the spinners."

He has scored just 707 runs in 39 Tests for Pakistan but that includes a 113-run innings against Australia in Adelaide last year and Yasir said he is looking to notch up another ton in England.

SINGLES

'SHAW NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND HIS GAME BETTER'

MUMBAI: Former India batsman and Uttarakhand Ranji team head coach Wasim Jaffer has lavished praise on Prithvi Shaw, comparing the young opener to legendary Virender Sehwag. "I think he is a special player, without a doubt. The shots he hits, if he gets going, he has the ability of Virender Sehwag I feel," Jaffer told Akash Chopra on his show *Aakashvani*. "He can completely demolish an attack. But somewhere I feel he needs to understand his game better, where he needs to take a backseat."

DEVINE CONFIRMED AS PERMANENT NZ CAPTAIN

WELLINGTON: All-rounder Sophie Devine will be the new captain of the New Zealand women's cricket team, taking over from Amy Satterthwaite, who will be her deputy once she returns from maternity leave. Devine took over the captaincy in an interim capacity last season, and her strong leadership led to her being offered the captaincy on a full-time basis. "It's a huge honour and privilege to be awarded the White Ferns captaincy," said Devine.

CLIJSTERS READY TO KEEP COMEBACK ROLLING

NEW YORK: Four-time Grand Slam singles champion Kim Clijsters is all-set to ramp up her professional comeback when she participates in the World Team Tennis (WTT) tournament starting on Sunday. Clijsters, who returned to professional tennis in February this year after a gap of eight years, will team up with Mardy Fish, Jack Sock, Sabine Lisicki, Neal Skupski and Kveta Peschke for the New York Empire.

NO BLACK LIVES MATTER LOGO DURING 3TC MATCH

JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa will be discussing ways to express support for the *Black Lives Matter* movement but it may not be possible for having a *BLM* logo on the jerseys for the 3TC match as they have already been made. CSA Director of Cricket Smith said that there will be a discussion with players about how to go about it.

NO INT'L SPORT EVENTS IN CHINA IN 2020

BEIJING: China will not hold most international sporting events for the rest of 2020 as part of measures to stop the spread of coronavirus, the Government said on Thursday, dealing a potential blow to the likes of F1 and tennis. The General Administration of Sport said in a statement that, except for Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic test events "and other important events, in principle, no other int'l sports events will be held this year." It did not specify which competitions will be hit, but *Xinhua* news agency said that "lots of international sport events will be affected".

INDIA ONLINE POKER C'SHIP SEASON 2 KICKS OFF

BENGALURU: The much-awaited online poker tournament, India Online Poker Championship (IOPC) 2020, finally got underway and is off to flying start with a total GTD of 76 lakhs on the opening day. The thrilling two weeklong journey will run from July 09 to July 26, 2020 and host 113 tournaments with buy-ins starting from ₹550 to ₹1.05 Lakh. Also this time, Spartan Poker will create history by awarding a luxurious 'crown' to the most skillful player with a whopping 25 Crores prize pool.

ATK-MB TO KEEP GREEN-MAROON COLOURS

KOLKATA: The iconic green and maroon jersey of the Mohun Bagan in all likelihood will be ATK-Mohun Bagan's primary jersey, a decision that will get green light at the first board of directors meeting on Friday. While ATK that have acquired a majority 80% stake in Mohun Bagan will have their say in the club's name, the Mariners' iconic green and maroon hues is likely to replace the red and whites of ATK as the first-choice home shirt. Agencies

Domestic cricket will only happen when travelling is safe: BCCI Prez Ganguly

MUMBAI: The Indian domestic season will only start when it is safe for young players to travel within the country for their Ranji Trophy matches, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said.

There is a huge uncertainty with regards to India's domestic tournaments as IPL will be happening in October leading to a curtailed season due to coronavirus.

The 2020-21 domestic season would have started with Vijay Hazare in late August followed Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Last season's Irani Cup was cancelled due to announcement of Lockdown 1.

Asked about domestic cricket and junior cricket, Ganguly told *Sports Tak*, "It is necessary, but it will happen only after coronavirus. When it is safe, only then, especially junior cricket."

Ganguly reasoned that India was a large country and teams needed to travel from one place to another for their matches and hence domestic cricket won't start till everything is safe.

"We don't want to expose young players. Our country is so large and our domestic cricket is so robust that everyone has to travel and play. So till the time it is not safe, it will not happen," clarified the BCCI boss. Similarly, there are various tournaments for age group cricket.

India on Thursday recorded single-day spike of 24,879 COVID-19 cases as the overall tally mounted to 7,67,296. The death toll stood at 21,129 with 487 new fatalities, as per the Union health ministry.

Shahid Afridi Foundation logo on Pak kits

KARACHI: Struggling to find a main sponsor for the national team, Pakistan cricketers will be sporting the logo of the Shahid Afridi Foundation on their jerseys during the upcoming series against England.

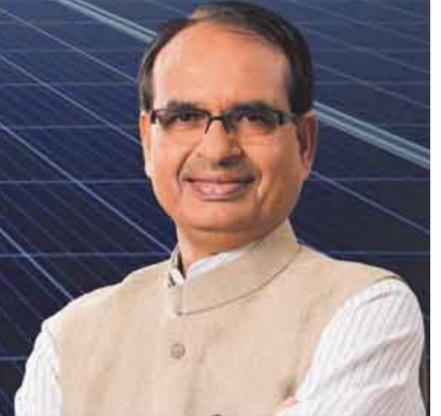
"We're delighted that the @SAFoundationN logo will be featured on the Pakistan playing kits, since we are charity partners to @TheRealPCB. Thanking #WasimKhan & the PCB for their continued support & wishing our boys all the very best with the tour," former skipper Afridi tweeted. PTI

"I am working on my batting in the nets. When the team needs you, you need to step up. So I do have a target, of scoring a century in England. If I can hit a hundred at Adelaide, I can do it here as well."



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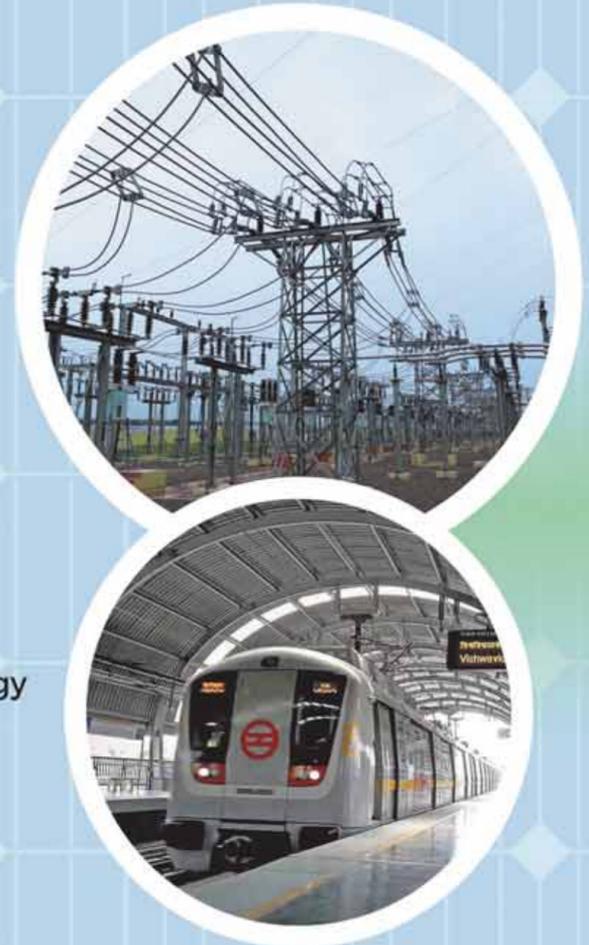
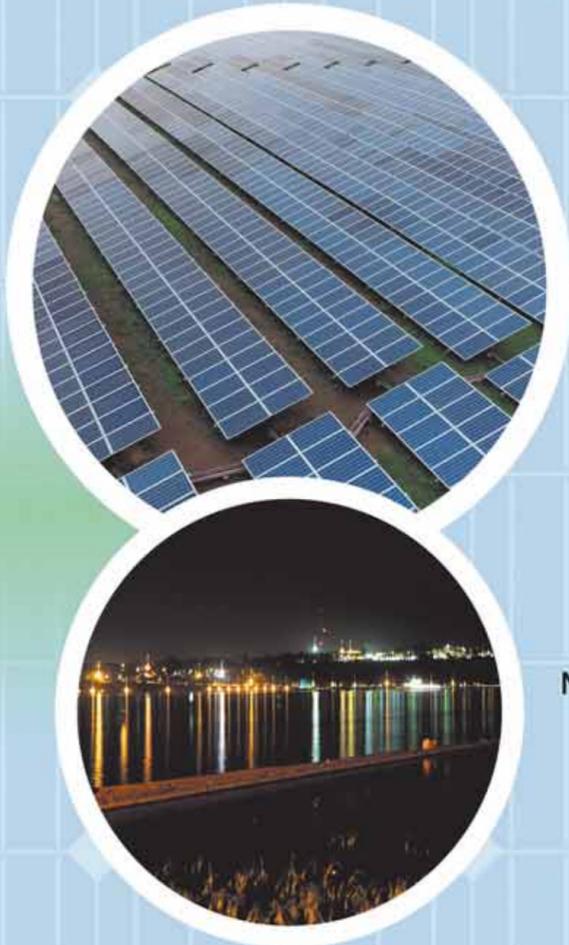
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