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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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I WANT TO DO SKYDIVING: VARUN SHARMA
12 VIVACITY

Desi Covid shots to secure 50% Indians

India leverages manufacturing capacity; after US, it is only country to pre-order 600 mn vaccines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as drug manufacturers are racing to develop a vaccine to combat Covid-19, India has already used its manufacturing capability to pre-order 600 million doses of the coronavirus shots and is negotiating for another billion doses.

This will be enough to vaccinate at least half the population, according to an analysis of purchasing agreements for Covid-19 vaccines by the US-based Duke Global Health Innovation Center.

After the US, India is the only country in the world which has pre-ordered such a large number of doses under negotiation.

The point about India was made by Andrea D Taylor, assistant director of programmes at the Duke Global Health Innovation Center.

"In terms of numbers of confirmed doses, the USA has pre-ordered the largest number (810 million confirmed, another 1.6 billion doses under negotiation), followed by India (600 million doses confirmed, with another 1 billion doses under negotiation), and the EU (400 million doses confirmed, another 1.565 billion doses under negotiation)," said Andrea D Taylor.

She went on to add that in terms of per cent of population covered by confirmed purchases, Canada has pre-purchased enough vaccine to cover 527 per cent population, followed by the UK at 277 per cent population. "Of course, it is important to remember that most likely only some of the vaccine purchases will come through, depending on regulatory approval," Taylor said.

The three potential vaccines undertrials in India are Bharat Biotech and ICMR's Covaxin, Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D and Oxford-AstraZeneca in partnership with Serum Institute. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Sunday said that it is planning to launch its vaccine for Covid-19 in the second quarter next year if it gets the requisite approvals from the Indian regulatory authorities.

Continued on Page 11

19 Indian fliers to Wuhan test +ve

New Delhi: At least 19 Indian passengers from New Delhi to Wuhan Air India flight tested Covid-19 positive on arrival in Wuhan on October 30. Among the 277 passengers who came on the flight, at least 39 were suspected to be "potentially asymptomatic" Covid-19 patients as tests found antibodies in them.

Continued on Page 11

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 82,62,478
DEATHS: 1,23,025
RECOVERED: 75,96,418
ACTIVE: 5,41,576

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,87,784	44,128	15,24,304
Karnataka	8,29,640	11,221	7,73,595
Andhra Pradesh	8,27,882	6,719	7,98,625
Tamil Nadu	7,29,507	11,183	6,98,820
Uttar Pradesh	4,83,832	7,051	4,53,458
Kerala	4,44,269	1,534	3,55,943
Delhi	3,96,371	**6,604**	3,56,459
West Bengal	3,81,608	6,957	3,38,075
Odisha	2,93,214	1,393	2,79,091
Telangana	2,40,970	1,348	2,21,922
Bihar	2,18,118	1,101	2,09,980
Assam	2,06,982	932	1,97,566
Rajasthan	2,00,495	1,926	1,82,680
Chhattisgarh	1,88,813	2,150	1,64,537
Gujarat	1,74,679	3,728	1,58,351
Madhya Pradesh	1,72,717	2,965	1,61,454

Second phase of Bihar polls holds the key

94 seats in this round to seal fate of Tej, Tejashwi, Nitish's ministers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an election fought by the participants with the aggressiveness of a real war, every seat and every phase matters, and yet the second round of the battle of Bihar holds far greater significance than the other two phases.

After all, the Tuesday's second phase has the highest number of seats, 94, at stake. The round will also decide the fate of Grand Alliance chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav, who is contesting from Raghopur in Vaishali.

The round is most crucial for the RJD, which had won 33 of the 42 seats it contested in 2010 polls in alliance with the JD(U) and Congress. The JD(U) had won 30 seats. On the other hand the BJP won 20 of the 63 seats it contested in 2010.

The RJD has 56 candidates in the fray this phase, the BJP 46, the JD(U) 43, the RLSP 36 and the Congress 24. CPI, CPI(M-L) and CPI(M) are contesting 14 seats. Mukesh Sahini-led Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP), an ally of the NDA, is contesting 5 seats out of total 11 seats allotted to them.

While Tejashwi Yadav is in the fray from Raghopur in Vaishali, his mercurial brother Tej Pratap is contesting from Hasanpur in Samastipur districts. Tej Pratap won from Yadava-dominated Raghopur in 2015. Incidentally, his mother and former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi had lost from there in 2010. Tejashwi should easily retain his seat, but Tej Pratap has a tough contest on his hand against two-time sitting MLA Rajkumar Rai of JD(U).

Continued on Page 11

Security personal carrying VVPATs and EVMs leave for polling booths from a distribution centre in Patna on Monday PTI

Festive season, laxity behind Delhi surge

People, flouting social distancing norms, visit a crowded Sadar Bazar market during the festive season, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in New Delhi on Monday PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Monday attributed the sudden surge in Covid-19 cases in Delhi to the festive season, greater movement of people along with laxity in adhering to safe Covid behaviour.

The Home Secretary said efforts will be made for testing, contact tracing and treatment, especially in critical zones of the city.

The meeting emphasised that Metro travel should be carefully regulated as per the strict Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as Delhi is witnessing a third surge in cases..

"The recent surge in the number of active cases was attributed to the festival season, which has witnessed greater movement of people, accompanied by laxity in adhering to the basic principles of safe Covid behaviour," said MHA in a statement.

The hospital bed situation was reported to be comfortable with 57 per cent of the 15,789 dedicated beds being vacant, it said. While the new Covid cases and total active cases are going up, the administration is focusing on testing, contact tracing and treatment.

Continued on Page 11

SC stays EC order stripping star campaigner status of Nath

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Election Commission order which revoked the "star campaigner" status of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for model code violation during the campaign for bypolls in 28 Assembly constituencies in the state.

The counsel appearing for the poll panel told a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde that Nath's plea has become infructuous as the campaigning has ended and the voting is to take place on Tuesday.

"We are staying it," said the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The SC was hearing Nath's plea challenging the October 30 order of the EC revoking his star campaigner status. While a political party pays for the expenditure of its star campaigner, the candidate concerned bears the expense of other campaigners. The SC issued notice to the EC seeking its response on Nath's plea.

Continued on Page 11

All 10 candidates elected unopposed to RS from UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After much political drama between the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party, the Election Commission declared 10 candidates elected unopposed in the biennial Rajya Sabha poll in Uttar Pradesh.

The announcement was made by the returning officer after expiry of the last date for withdrawal of nomination.

Eight Bharatiya Janata Party candidates who were elected were Union minister of state Hardeep Puri, party general secretary Arun Singh, senior leader Haridwar Dubey, former DGP Brij Lal, Neeraj Shekhar, Geeta Shakya, BL Verma and Seema Dwivedi.

SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav and BSP's Ramjee Gautam were also elected.

With this, the BJP wrested three seats from the SP and one each from the BSP and the Congress. During scrutiny on October 29, there was a political drama after five BSP MLAs who had proposed Ramjee Gautam withdrew and revolted against the party brass and even met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Even after the revolt, BSP candidate Ramjee Gautam's nomination was found to be in order. Samajwadi Party-backed independent candidate Prakash Bajaj's nomination was, however, rejected over anomaly in the name of his proposer.

Five dissident BSP MLAs, Aslam Chaudhary, Aslam Rainee, Mujtaba Siddique, Hakim Lal Bind and Govind Jatav along with two other MLAs were suspended by the BSP brass for anti-party activities.

Rajya Sabha members whose term would end on November 25, 2020, are Union minister and BJP member Hardeep Singh Puri, BJP general secretary Arun Singh, BJP's Neeraj Shekhar, SP's Ram Gopal Yadav, Ravi Prakash Verma, Dr Chandrapal Singh Yadav and Javed Ali Khan, BSP's Veer Singh and Rajaram and Congress member PL Punia.

Namaz at Mathura temple; one held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Mathura police registered a case against four persons after two of them offered namaz at a local temple last Thursday and arrested one of the accused from Delhi on Monday.

Besides, to avert any communal flare-up, a heavy police force was deployed in Mathura.

As per reports, Faizal Khan and Chand Mohammed offered namaz around 12:30 pm at Nand Baba temple in Nandgaon area of Mathura, while two others, Alok Ratan and Nilesh Gupta, clicked their pictures and then uploaded the video on social media.

Two days later, after watching the video, some Hindu outfits objected to the act after which an FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Mukesh Goswami, Shivhari Goswami and Kanha on Sunday night.

No security cover for Babri judge, rules apex court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to extend the security of former special judge SK Yadav who had pronounced the verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case and acquitted all 32 accused, including BJP veterans LK Advani, MM Joshi and Uma Bharti.

A bench, headed by Justice RF Nariman and also comprising Justices Navin Sinha and Krishna Murari, was considering the former judge's request to continue his personal security in view of the sensitivity of the case decided by him on his last day in office.

"Having perused the letter, we don't consider it appropriate to provide security," the bench said.

On September 30, the special court had acquitted all 32 accused in the case saying there was no conclusive evidence that they were part of any conspiracy to bring down the disputed structure in Ayodhya.

The 16th century mosque was demolished on December 6, 1992 by "kar sevaks" who believed that it occupied the site where Lord Ram was born.

25 dead in Kabul University attack

AP ■ KABUL

Gunmen stormed Kabul University on Monday as it hosted a book fair attended by the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, sparking an hours-long gun battle and leaving at least 25 dead and wounded at the war-torn country's largest school.

The ministry's spokesman, Tariq Arian, would not break down the casualty numbers for the attack at the campus in the Afghan capital, though local media reports were saying there may be as many as 20 killed. Arian also said there were three attackers involved in the assault, all of whom were killed in the ensuing firefight.

As the sun slowly set over the Afghan capital, there were few details though the Taliban issued a statement denying they took part in the assault.

The attack came as the insurgents are continuing peace talks with the US-backed government. Those negotiations, taking place in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, aim to help the US. Finally withdraw from America's longest war, though daily bloodshed continues and an Islamic State affiliate launches its own attacks on Shiites in the country.

Five hours into the fighting, sporadic grenade explosions and automatic weapons fire echoed down the empty streets surrounding the university's fenced compound. Afghan troops stood guard. Earlier, students were fleeing for their lives from the site.

"Unfortunately, there are casualties," Arian said as the assault unfolded, without elaborating.

Ahmad Samim, a university student, told journalists he saw militants armed with pistols and Kalashnikov assault rifles firing at the school, the country's oldest with some 17,000 students. He said the attack happened at the university's eastern side where its law and journalism faculty teach.

Afghan media reported a book exhibition was being held at the university and attended by a number of dignitaries at the time of the shooting.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

NEW J&K LAWS PROTECT OVER 90% LAND: GOVT

Jammu: The government has repealed 11 land laws that existed in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir replacing the old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people-friendly provisions. The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90 per cent of the land in J&K from being alienated to outsiders but will also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialisation, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K.

HINDU HOMES ATTACKED IN B'DESH ON RUMOURS

Dhaka: The houses of several Hindu families have been vandalised and burned by some radical Islamists in Bangladesh's Comilla district over rumours about an alleged Facebook post slandering Islam, according to a media report on Monday.

NIA ARRESTS AL-QAEDA CONSPIRATOR FROM WB

New Delhi: A madrassa teacher who was allegedly working as an al-Qaeda conspirator to carry out terror attacks in India was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from West Bengal, an official said on Monday.

Wind blows away pollution, Delhi's air still poor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Even as farm fires continued to rage in neighbouring States, the national Capital witnessed a dip in pollution levels on Monday with high wind speed aiding dispersion of pollutants.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 293, which falls in the "poor" category.

It was 364 on Sunday, with stubble burning contributing 40 per cent to Delhi's pollution and negating the effect of better ventilation.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said a "significantly" large number of fires were observed over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh on Sunday which is likely to impact the air quality in Delhi-NCR and northwest India.

Higher wind speed and better ventilation index will be favourable for dispersion of pollutants on Tuesday, it said.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution was 16 per cent on Monday. It had soared to 40 per cent on Sunday, the maximum so far this season.

Stubble burning accounted for 32 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on Saturday, 19 per cent on Friday and 36 per cent on Thursday.

Last year, the farm fire contribution to Delhi's pollution had peaked to 44 per cent on November 1, according to SAFAR data.

According to Punjab Pollution Control Board, the State has recorded 33,165 "fire events" this season so far, while Haryana has reported 6,034 farm fires during the period.

NASA's satellite imagery also showed a large, dense cluster of fire dots covering Punjab and parts of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. According to the India Meteorological Department, the predominant wind direction was westerly-northwesterly and the maximum wind speed was 18 kilometers per hour on Monday. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 10.8 degrees Celsius, the lowest in the season so far.

Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in dispersion.

Continued on Page 11

A worker sprays water on trees in an attempt to reduce dust pollution, in New Delhi on Monday PTI

Forces in J&K kill over 200 terrorists for 3rd yr in a row

Earlier 220 were killed in 2017 and 271 were gunned down in 2018

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The security forces in Jammu & Kashmir have scored a "hat-trick" by eliminating more than 200 terrorists for the third time in one calendar year in the last one decade.

Earlier 220 terrorists were killed in anti-terrorists operations in 2017 and the highest number of 271 was gunned down in 2018 by the security forces in J&K.

This year more than 200 terrorists, including over two dozen top commanders of Lashkar-e- Tayyeba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen and other terror outfits, have been killed by the security forces till October.

Director General of Jammu & Kashmir Police Dilbagh Singh late on Sunday told the media, "Since January 1, 2020 more than 200 terrorists have been gunned down which included 190 in Kashmir and over a dozen in Jammu region".

Over 30 top commanders — who were either number one or number two — have been eliminated in the last 10 months, after which their leadership structure has been broken to a great extent.

He said, the anti-terrorists operations like last year would continue even during the winter months and would be carried out with more vigour and severity.

Referring to the elimination of Chief Operational Commander of Hizbul Mujahideen Dr Saifullah in Rangreth area of Srinagar, Dilbagh Singh said after the killing of Reyaz Naikoo in May 2020, Hizbul Mujahideen had become leaderless and after the killing of Dr Saifullah, it has become leaderless once again.

Earlier in May 2020, Junaid Sehrai, the top Hizbul Mujahideen commander and son of Tehreek-Hurriyat chairman Ashraf Sehrai was killed in Nawakdal area in Srinagar.

In the last week of September 2020, Aijaz Ahmed Reshi, one of the longest surviving Lashkar-e-Tayyeba commander was eliminated. He was working as an over ground worker in 2015 and joined the ranks of a terrorist outfit before

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SCHOOOLSCAN

YOGA COMPETITION

Three students of City Montessori School, Asharfabad Campus — Akshara Saxena (class VII), Mohd Haroon Gani (class III) and Vanya Rastogi (class VII) — put up impressive performance at the Central Zone Yoga Sports Championship, bringing kudos to the institution. These students will now represent CMS at the state-level yoga competition. The competition was organised jointly by UP Yoga Association, District Lucknow Yoga and SR Group of Institutions. These skilled students ended up among the top ten performers. Students of several noted schoolsparticipated in the event and CMS students proved their mettle by showcasing various yoga asanas, actions and physical prowess.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

No. 29908894H Rank - Ex Hav Digvijay Singh, resident of Vill & PO-Karora, Dist. Bulandshahar UP, has corrected my daughter's name & date of birth in army service record for all purpose as Sachi Raghav (10/08/1997) from Kumari Sachi (27/09/1997) which was erroneously recorded.

NOTICE

I, Amitanshi Shukla Index Number - 5676362 daughter of Mr. Amit Shukla and Dr. Anamika Shukla declare that I have lost my ICSE marksheet for class 10th year of passing 2014 and my ISC mark sheet for class 12th year of passing 2016 from Seth Anandram Jaipuria School, Kanpur.

NOTICE

No. 29908894H Rank - Ex Hav Digvijay Singh, resident of Vill & PO-Karora, Dist. Bulandshahar UP, has corrected my daughter's name & date of birth in army service record for all purpose as Chhavi Raghav (20/05/2002) from Kumari Chavi (29/05/2001) which was erroneously recorded.

NOTICE

Notified that some daucments in my name Zafrul Hasan is written wrong due to mistake. But correct name is Syed Zafrul Hasan, in all purpose. Syed Zafrul Hasan S/o Syed Hasan, R/o 504/119 Nadwa Road, Behind ShababMarket, Taigore Marg, Daliganj Lucknw.

NOTICE

No. 29908894H Rank - Ex Hav Digvijay Singh, resident of Vill & PO-Karora, Dist. Bulandshahar UP, has corrected my wife's name & date of birth in army service record for all purpose as Pramila Raghav (05/07/1972) from Pramila Devi (03/04/1972) which was erroneously recorded.

NOTICE

I, Army No. 13992453 Y, Rank-HAV, Lal Chand, R/o 1- MT Bn, AMC C&C, C/o 56 APO Cantt Lucknow, Per. R.O. Vill, & Post Nalpur, Khetri Dist. Jhunjhunu (Raj) In my service record my Son name mentioned as Maneesh Kumar where as his correct name is Manish Kumar, his name should be corrected in service records.

NOTICE

No. 29908894H Rank - Ex Hav Digvijay Singh, resident of Vill & PO-Karora, Dist. Bulandshahar up, has corrected my son's name & date of birth in army service record for all purpose as Abhay Pratap Singh Raghuvanshi (07/01/2004) from Abhay Pratap Raghubanshi (07/06/2004) which was erroneously recorded.

NOTICE

I Syed Mohammad Haider Rizvi R/o Plot No. 69 Era's Medical College Road, Sarfarazganj, Lucknow declare that my name and my son's name is wrongly mentioned in the school record as Tabish Haider instead of SYED TABISH HAIDER and as well as father name is Syed Mohammad Haider mentioned in the school record instead of SYED MOHAMMAD HAIDER REZVI.

NOTICE

I HAV-JAYPRAKASH YADAV S/NO- 15612651M S/o Hiramani Yadav residing at vill-Parbatpur, Po- Gopiganj, Dist-Bhadohi, UP 221303. In my service record my son name was wrongly recorded as AADITYA YADAV (06/12/2009). It is rectified as ADITYA YADAV (DOB 06/12/2009) in all purpose vide an affidavit before the notary public.

Yogi: Governance sans bias is NDA's hallmark

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reiterating that governance without discrimination was the hallmark of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Narendra Modi government displayed empathy towards the harassed people during the coronavirus times, setting an example of how governments should work in times of crisis.

"Besides augmentation of health services, financial support to the people through a string of welfare schemes has been an administrative marvel," Yogi said while addressing public meetings in Valmikinagar, Raxaul and Sitamarhi during the last phase of campaign for the Bihar Assembly polls.

The UP chief minister said that the prime minister's Rs 1.76 lakh crore relief package for the people that included provisions of ration and pension came when it was needed the most.

"The government was also prompt in announcing Atmanirbhar package when migration started taking place," he added.

"Houses provided to about three crore persons under PM Awas Yojana, eight crore free gas connections, toilets to 10 crore villagers, Startup and PM Mudra Yojana to make lakhs of youths self-reliant, Jan Dhan accounts of 35 crore of the population and food grain distribution to 80 crore population during trying times of COVID-19, transfer of Rs 2,000 in the accounts of farmers, Rs 500 in Jan Dhan accounts, Rs 1,000 pension to divyang, old age persons and widow pension are some of the endeavours that the government made during the crisis," he said.

Yogi also said that all relief, financial support and economic help was extended to all the needy, irrespective of their caste, creed, language, religion and region.

Speaking about pro-people steps taken by the Bharatiya Janata Party government in UP, Yogi said that his government was the first to arrange trains and buses for migrants to bring them home.

"People of Bihar must have experienced that they were given the best possible treatment when they passed through UP," he said.

Giving a clarion call to defeat Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal, the chief minister said that it was what these parties deserved for what they did before Nitish Kumar's rule.

"The way Congress and RJD looted Bihar at the cost of the people's resources is absolutely unpardonable and should be condemned in all possible manners," he said.

Urging people to guard against any carelessness with regards to the novel coronavirus, Yogi said that the threat was not yet over.

"Beemari se, aag se aur nadi se bachav hi sabse uttam upay hai (Protection from diseases, fire and river during floods is always advisable)," he said while seeking to bring home the point of precautions from coronavirus till it was over.

Yogi claimed that the BJP fulfilled all promises it made before the elections.

"The pro-active action after Pulwama attack, construction of grand Ram temple at Ayodhya and the return of Wing Commander Abhinandan are some of the tasks which showed the might of India as a country under Narendra Modi," he said.

NCR on alert after Covid spike in Delhi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Alarmed over a spike in coronavirus positive cases in Delhi, the Uttar Pradesh government has alerted the districts in the National Capital Region (NCR) and has asked people to take precaution during festivals at public places.

"We are witnessing a rise in the number of coronavirus positive cases in districts adjoining Delhi. While the average positivity rate in UP is around 1.5 per cent, it is higher in districts adjoining Delhi and this is a cause of concern. The district administrations have been asked to comply with Covid norms strictly," said Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar in Lucknow on Monday.

On Monday, 142 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Ghaziabad, 158 in Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) and 146 in Meerut.

Meanwhile, there were 1,788 new COVID-19 cases across the state on Monday taking the tally to 4.85 lakh.

Till date, 4.55 lakh COVID-19 patients have recovered and 23,035 are under treatment in hospitals or in home isolation. On Monday, 2,040 COVID-19 patients recovered in hospitals or home isolation.

The recovery percentage in the state has touched 94 percent, which is higher than the national average.

Till date, 7,076 people have lost their lives to the lethal novel coronavirus in UP with 25 fatalities being reported in the last 24 hours.

On Sunday, a total of 1.34 lakh samples were tested for coronavirus infection, taking the total number of tests in the state to a record 1.51 crore.

Kumar said that the UP Health department was carrying out focused surveillance across the state and workers of sweet shops, parlours, mehndi studios, restaurants, auto drivers and others were being randomly tested for coronavirus infection and the tests would continue till Diwali.

Six pilgrims die in Bahraich road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Six pilgrims were killed in a road mishap in Bahraich.

Six persons were killed and 10 others were injured when the van they were travelling in rammed into a stationary truck in Prayagpur police station area on Gonda-Bahraich highway early Monday morning.

A total of 16 people, all residents of Lakhimpur Kheri, were returning to their homes from Kichhauchha dargah in Ambedkarnagar when the tragedy struck.

The injured were initially rushed to Prayagpur primary health centre and later to Bahraich district hospital for treatment where Chand Khan (51), Shakeel (8), Sohan (50) and his wife Shabana (48) and van driver Salim (60) succumbed to their injuries.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the deaths in the Bahraich road mishap and directed officials to provide adequate treatment to the injured.

Aditi Singh seeks EOW probe into Kamla Nehru Educational Society

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress president and Lok Sabha member from Rae Bareli, Sonia Gandhi, could face problems after party's rebel MLA from Rae Bareli Sadar, Aditi Singh, in a letter to the Economic Offences Wing has demanded an investigation into the alleged financial irregularities in the Kamla Nehru Educational Society, which houses many prominent Congress leaders.

Speaking to media persons here on Monday , Aditi Singh said, "I have written to the EOW to investigate the financial irregularities in the Kamla Nehru Educational Society. The society never served the purpose for which it was constituted and the land was never used to promote girls' education as mentioned in the bylaws of the society. Also, the conversion of land into freehold is unlawful as there are around 150 shops which provide daily bread to 600 people."

"People who question the transparency of the PM Cares Fund should also reveal what they have done through this society. I have written to the EOW, the UP Chief Minister's Office and the Home department to investigate the matter which involves financial irregularities worth hundreds of crores of rupees," Singh said, taking a dig at Congress leaders and members of the society.

The MLA tweeted the letter and in a subsequent post she said, "Ironically, my colleagues & seniors question PM Cares Fund but shy away from maintaining transparency & accountability in their own family run & controlled societies."

The Kamla Nehru Educational Society was set up in 1976 in the Civil Lines area of Rae Bareli at a yearly rent of Rs 1,135 from one Kailash Chandra hailing from Sidhauli. The society took the land on lease for 30 years for promoting education for girls. However, no construction activity has taken place on the land till date.

Eight members of the society have died till now, including former New Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit's father-in-law Uma Shankar Dikshit, former prime minister Indira Gandhi's personal assistant Yashpal Kapoor, and former minister Sheila Kaul, whose house was recently renovated in Lucknow to house Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra .

In 2003, a new committee was constituted which included members of the Kaul family along with former Union minister Salman Khurshid and senior lawyer Lalit Bhasin.

The Kamla Nehru Educational Society converted the land into a freehold property in 2003 and decided to sell the land in 2016. As per a rough estimate, there are around 150 shops which are the source of income for approximately 600 people.

PGV's dig at BJP after Adani takes over Amausi airport

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a jibe at the handing over of operation of Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport in Amausi to the Adani group, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that on Diwali eve, the Bharatiya Janata Party regime had gifted the public inflation and six airports to its corporate friends.

In a tweet on Monday, Priyanka posted, "BJP's Diwali gift to people: frightful inflation, BJP's Diwali gift to corporate friend: six airports, poonji patiyon ka saath, poonji patiyon ka vikas."

Notably from November, the Adani group will operate the Amausi airport and manage financial matters for the next 50 years.

Meanwhile in Jalaun, District Congress chief Anurag Mishra was arrested for sexual harassment of a junior party colleague on Monday.

On Sunday, Mishra was beaten up with shoes by two women who accused him of sexually harassing them. The accused leader denied the charges and termed it as a conspiracy to tarnish his image.

Mishra claimed that one of the women was an office-bearer of the party's women cell and was miffed after being removed from the post. He also claimed that he had paid for some construction work at her house and when he asked for a return, she started misbehaving and beat him up.

SP of Jalaun, Yashveer Singh said that the police took cognisance of the matter after a video went viral on social media. "A case of assault or criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty was registered at the local police station and Mishra was arrested," he said.

Meanwhile, the UP Congress has formed a five-member team led by former Union minister Pradeep Jain Aditya to probe the matter.

Annu Tandon joins Samajwadi Party

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Congress MP from Unnao, Annu Tandon, joined the Samajwadi Party in the presence of party chief Akhilesh Yadav at a function in Lucknow on Monday, days after resigning from the Congress.

Speaking on the occasion, Tandon praised Akhilesh terming him as a "young, progressive and visionary" leader having all qualities expected from a leader.

Earlier on October 29, Tandon along with UP Congress general secretary Ankit Parihar had resigned from the Congress expressing her dissatisfaction with the functioning of UP Congress unit.

Bypolls to 7 UP Assembly seats today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission will be webcasting the poll process from 371 critical booths in seven Assembly seats of Uttar Pradesh where by-elections will be held on Tuesday.

The Election Commission said that an adequate security force had been deployed in all 3,655 polling booths of these constituencies.

As per the Election Commission, around 24.34 lakh voters, including 13.3 lakh males, 11.30 lakh females and 130 of third gender, would be eligible to vote from 7 am to 6 pm.

There are 88 candidates, including nine women, in the fray in the seven seats. Due to Covid protocol, not more than 1,000 voters will be allowed in one booth. The poll officials have been directed to ensure compliance with Covid protocol like social distancing, face masks and other precautions.

To ensure law and order, there would be 301 sector magistrates, 46 zonal magistrates and 76 static magistrates along with 333 micro observers. Besides, seven general and seven expenditure observers will oversee proceedings during the polls.

Polling will be held through 5,127 electronic voting machines (EVMs), 6,710 ballot units and 5,492 VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) machines while counting of votes would be held on November 10.

The bypolls were necessitated in Ghatampur (Kanpur) as sitting MLA and minister Kamal Rani Varun died of COVID-19 while in Tundla (Firozabad), sitting MLA SP Singh Baghel was elected to Lok Sabha. The Bangarmau (Unnao) seat fell vacant following conviction of Kuldeep Singh Sengar in a rape case.

Bypolls in Bulandshahr, Deoria and Malhani are being held due to the demise of sitting MLAs Virendra Singh Sirohi, Janmejay Singh and Parasnath Yadav (SP) respectively.

A maximum of 18 candidates are in the fray from Bulandshahr while only six candidates are locking horns in Ghatampur. There are 16 candidates in the fray from Malhani (Jaunpur); 14 each from Naugawan Sadat (Amroha) and Deoria; 10 each from Bangarmau (Unnao) and Tundla (Firozabad).

On bypoll eve, Maya distances herself from BJP to mollify Muslims

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After announcing to "even support Bharatiya Janata Party in the Legislative Council polls" to get even with Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati chose to distance herself from the BJP on the eve of bypolls to seven UP Assembly seats, ostensibly to appease the Muslim voters.

Blaming the Samajwadi Party and the Congress for trying to misguide Muslims over the issue, Mayawati clarified that her party would never align with any such party even if she had to retire from politics.

Despite issuing the clarification, the BSP chief cannot wish away the fact that her party formed the government with the support from BJP thrice in UP.

"My October 29 statement is being misused by Congress and Samajwadi Party to spread rumours of alliance between the BSP and the BJP. As per tit for tat policy, I had said that our party would vote to defeat the SP in the MLC elections. Be it BJP or any other candidate, the BSP will vote for him. But these two parties used this as a conspiracy and are trying to trick Muslims," Mayawati said in Lucknow on Monday.

"Our ideology is of 'sarvajan hitay sarva dharma sukhay (benefit of everyone and all religions) which is contrary to the BJP's ideology. The BSP cannot forge an alliance with those having communal, casteist and capitalist ideology," the BSP chief said.

Mayawati said she would rather retire from politics than ally with such parties. "I will fight on all fronts with communal, casteist and capitalist forces instead of bowing before them," she added.

"I gave away power but did not bow down to the BJP. I was the CM four times, but there was never a Hindu-Muslim riot. Even after the BJP used CBI and ED to pressure me, I refused to bow down. Our ideologies are entirely different," she claimed.

BLAMING THE SAMAJWADI PARTY AND CONGRESS FOR TRYING TO MISGUIDE MUSLIMS OVER THE ISSUE, MAYAWATI CLARIFIED THAT HER PARTY WOULD NEVER ALIGN WITH ANY SUCH PARTY EVEN IF SHE HAD TO RETIRE FROM POLITICS

Mukhtar's wife urges Prez for security to hubby, sons

Lucknow (PNS): After the Yogi Adityanath government cracked down on mafia elements and razed their illegal properties across the state in recent weeks, donturned-Bahujan Samaj Party MLA Mukhtar Ansari's wife Afsa Ansari wrote to President Ram Nath Kovind, seeking security for her husband and her family.

In the letter that was released to the media by Afsa in Ghazipur on Monday, she apprised Kovind of Mukhtar Ansari's background and claimed to be related to former Vice President Hamid Ansari, former Congress chief Dr Mukhtar Ansari, Brigadier Usman and freedom fighter Shaukatullah.

Afsa claimed that the official machinery was being misused against her family due to political rivalry and that she perceived threat to the lives of her husband Mukhtar Ansari and two sons Abbas and Umar, during the Bharatiya Janata Party regime. She also appealed to the President to issue a directive that trial of all cases against her husband be held through video conferencing from Punjab, where he is doing time. Afsa Ansari wrote the letter after the district authorities razed Hotel Gazal owned by her family in Ghazipur district on Sunday.

Earlier, a house owned by Abbas Ansari was also razed in Lucknow by the Lucknow Development Authority while properties and assets of supporters of Ansari were attached by the government.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No.: 4620202021
Dated: 28.10.2020

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Office of Divisional Railway Manager North Central Railway, Prayagraj

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) / North Central Railway / Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS on prescribed form for the following work up to **13.30 hrs.** on **25.11.2020.** The details of the Tender are as under:-

SN	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost of work (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Date of Opening of Tender
1	144	Formation widening for raising speed uplo 160 kmph in the section of Sr. DEN/V/PRYJ).	₹ 35208682/-	₹ 326100/-	25.11.2020

Completion Period: 18 Months. **Eligibility Criteria for similar work:** Earth work in formation / cess repair. **Note: (1)** The complete Information along with tender document of above E-TENDER is available on Website **www.ireps.gov.in** upto **13:30 hrs.** on the due date of tender opening i.e. **25.11.2020. (2)** Blds other than in the form of E-Blds shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with **IREPS** website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by **CCA** under **IT Act-2000. (3)** The tenderers shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. **(4)** In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of **IREPS** may be approached.

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRO NCR 1159/20 (A)

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Situation in dist under control: Kumar

220 more test Covid positive

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The pandemic situation in Lucknow is under control with nearly 200 new patients emerging on a daily basis while the number of patients under home isolation is decreasing, Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar said on Monday.

As many as 220 people tested positive for coronavirus in the city on Monday while 249 patients recovered. The new patients included 28 from Indiranagar, 25 from Gomtinagar, 19 from Rae Bareli road, 12 each from Chinhat, Jankipuram & Talkatora, 11 from Madiaon, and 10 each from Vikasnagar, Alambagh and Chowk. There were four deaths in the city and two of the deceased belonged to Lucknow. Across the state, 1,788 persons tested positive, including 158 in Gautam Buddhnagar, 142 in Ghaziabad and 74 in Prayagraj, taking the UP tally to 4,85,609.

There were 25 deaths in the state, including three in Meerut, two each in Prayagraj & Varanasi, and one each in Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Barabanki, Deoria, Jaunpur, Kushinagar, Pratapgarh, Bulandshahr, Basti, Gonda, Sultanpur, Farrukhabad, Bijnore, Kannauj and Mirzapur.

"The scientific approach which we adopted to check the spread of virus will continue. We are also alert for a likely second wave," Kumar said at an extensive meeting to take stock of the pandemic situation. He said evaluation of data which they receive is carried out daily. "Covid management essentially consists of identifying the patients and then separating them. All the systems established are in place. Surveillance teams have been increased and we are directly in touch with the medical set-up. We just have to maintain everything and not do anything other than that. We are increasing the surveillance teams so that we can achieve zero coronavirus conditions at one point. We are also focusing on the quality of home isolation, contact tracing and sample collection. Separate surveillance of areas is being carried out where there are more number of cases," Kumar said. "We are also working on some centres within the city in small localities so that they can be connected directly with the CHCs," he added.

There have been some changes in the pattern of problems which were being faced earlier. "The problem of delayed arrival at the hospitals has come to a nought while that of late referral of patients by private hospitals has also been reduced to a great extent," Kumar said.

The divisional commissioner said that the patterns which could have increased the number of cases have also been reduced to a large extent. "We are carrying out rigorous monitoring in non-Covid hospitals to make them infection-free by testing the staff members and those at the dialysis centres, and thus we are adopting scientific measures," he said.

Meanwhile, KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri said they have developed 2-3 non-Covid ICUs for patients who have recovered from the disease but continue to require critical care.

"Many of the Covid-19 patients who have recovered continue to require critical care. The number of patients complaining of post-Covid complications is has been huge and we are concentrating on these issues be it from cardiology, critical care or neurology. A lot of bone marrow cases have also come up. We are looking at all these issues in a different setting. Covid cases have dropped but post-Covid complications continue to be a cause of concern," he said.

He added that though the number of coronavirus cases has come down, people have thrown caution to the winds and are moving around without masks. "This is alarming and with the weather change, it is a cause of concern. Epidemiologists say that there is dissipation in summer because the hot air rises upwards but it doesn't in winter, which can lead to a spike in the number of cases yet again, and hence one needs to be very cautious," Dr Puri said. He said the thrust is now on quality care because they are getting Level-3 patients with massive pneumonia and these patients are required to be put on ventilators.

Meanwhile, Dr AK Singh took charge as director of director of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences on Monday. Taking stock of the situation, he said though the cases have been on the decline, they expect another spike and thus better preparedness is needed.

"We have 135 beds in total and the plan is to have 60 more. We have 60 ICU beds and 90 more have to be added. However, there are certain constraints too. The available of oxygen will be enhanced by the middle or end of this month. Certain equipment are also required, tenders for which should be ready in the next two to three weeks," he said. He added that additional manpower is also required for the handling of augmented facilities. "We had intimated the government and while we had an administrative approval, we are waiting for the financial approval," he pointed out.

Adani Group takes over CCS Airport operations

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The operations of the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport have been handed over to Adani Enterprises Limited with effect from 12 am on Monday with exchange of memorandums between the Adani Group and Airport Authority of India.

Airport director AK Sharma said the Airport Authority of India would look after air navigation services while the public area would be taken care of by Adani Group.

He said everything would be maintained by Adani group with AAI securing revenue from the group. "Development work will also gather pace at the airport now," he said. Regarding the public interface, he said the whole mechanism was in place with the public grievance officer working as previously. "These arrangements will continue in future," he added.

Sharma said it would be a profitable venture for them because the expenditures would go down considerably. Regarding the employees already working under the AAI , he said they would be working with the same company for the next three years. "If they want, they will be absorbed in the company, otherwise we will transfer them to another place," he said.

Poet Munawwar Rana booked over remarks on France killings

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An FIR has been registered against Urdu poet Munawwar Rana for allegedly defending the recent killings in France over a caricature of Prophet Muhammad, police said on Monday.

The case has been lodged against Rana at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow under various Indian Penal Code sections, including 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), an officer said.

The poet has also been booked under IPC Section 505 (statements conducing public mischief) and Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, the officer said. In a purported video clip of an interview to a news channel that went viral on social media, Rana can be heard saying: "If any person makes such a bad cartoon of my father or mother, then I will kill him." When specifically asked if he is supporting the entire incident, he said: "I will kill him..."

Rana's comments came after three people were killed in a knife attack at a church in Nice last week. A few weeks ago, an assailant decapitated a French middle school teacher who showed caricatures of Prophet Muhammad for a class on free speech. Police have lodged the FIR taking cognisance of the interview and a probe is on, the officer said.

LDA demolishes 2 buildings

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

LDA on Monday demolished two buildings — one on Dr Souza road and another in Thakurganj — for violation of UP Urban Planning and Development Act, 1973. DM Abhishek Prakash, who is holding the additional charge as LDA vice-chairman, sent a team to raze Dragon Mart on the campus of Lalbagh Girls' College on Dr Souza road and another to Thakurganj to pull down Al Zair complex where a hookah bar was being run unauthorisedly.

The five-storey mart was constructed on 60,000 square-feet land and consists of a basement which was used as a parking lot. The land is meant for college students, a dormitory for female staffers and official residence of college principal. LDA had given a notice to the college management in July earlier this year.

Man accused of duping domestic help of ₹19L

Lucknow (PNS): A man was accused of duping a domestic help of Rs 19 lakh on the pretext of purchasing a plot from her in Gudamba. However, the woman said she was not sure justice would be meted out to her.

As per reports, Sujata of Alambagh works as a domestic to feed her family. She was allotted a small plot in Sector-J of Jankipuran under Gudamba police station some time back and she was paying instalments from her meagre savings. However, as she needed money urgently for some work, she decided to sell the land and met Vinod Jaiswal, who told her that one Ved Prakash was interested in purchasing the plot. The deal was sealed for Rs 19 lakh. Ved Prakash gave the woman Rs 21,000 in cash and transferred Rs 50,000 and later got a paper signed by her. Three months later, Sujata met Ved Prakash and Vinod and reminded them of paying the remaining amount. To her surprise, they told Sujata that they had paid Rs 21.5 lakh to her and asked her to register the plot in Ved Prakash's name. Ved Prakash also started construction work on the plot after which Sujata sought police help. She alleged that she lodged a complaint on August 5 but her case was yet to be taken up. She suspected that the buyer might get the house constructed as he is an influential person.

Shop of minister's kin among two burgled; cash, valuables stolen

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Owner of a utensils shop said his shop is located in Yahiyaganj market and that the thieves decamped with Rs 2,000 and 4-5 silver coins

Thieves made off with cash and valuables from two shops, one of which owned by a cabinet minister's relative in Chowk, on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday.

Owner of utensils shop Anuj Gupta, who lodged a case in this connection, said his shop is located in Yahiyaganj market and that the thieves decamped with Rs 2,000 and 4-5 silver coins. "Owner of the adjacent shop Kailash Nath Sharma said the thieves made off with Rs 500. Sharma is the relative of a Cabinet minister," he said. The ADCP said the police were carrying out investigations and details would be shared with mediapersons soon.

Meanwhile, the Krishna Nagar police on Monday arrested a miscreant who had lodged a fake case of scooty theft and later attempted to claim insurance benefit. The accused was identified as Kuldeep Pal of Bakshi-Ka-Talaab police station area. The police said Kuldeep lured his friend Chandrashekhar aka Bihari of Patna into purchasing a scooty on finance. Since Chandrashekhar did not have documents to secure bank loan, Kuldeep submitted his papers and the loan was sanctioned for the scooty. Chandrashekhar kept paying the instalments. Later when Chandrashekhar asked Kuldeep to hand over the scooty to him, the latter told him that it had been stolen. He later lodged an FIR. Chandrashekhar also sought police help and an investigation into the case exposed Kuldeep's fraud. He confessed that he had sold the scooty to Sanjay Sharma of BKT for Rs 14,000 and later applied for insurance benefit.

BBAU prof receives Maharshi Samman

Lucknow (PNS): Dean of Academic Affairs, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Prof Rana Pratap Singh received 'Maharshi Samman-2020', conferred by RASSA India for his contribution in academics, research and efforts for social outreach towards rural development.

The award is given to those who have made outstanding contributions towards public welfare in their respective areas. This year, three awards have been given by RASSA India and Singh is one of them. The award carries a citation and a medal. RASSA India is a national professional society of scientists, engineers, academicians, students and farmers that organises seminars, adopts villages for rural development, works on awareness programme for agricultural, environmental, social, technological and cultural advancement of people with more than 300 members, statewise chapters and local networks.

Commissioner inspects digging work resulting in pollution

Lucknow (PNS): Municipal Commissioner Ajay Dwivedi carried out a physical inspection of complaints received by LMC regarding increasing pollution because of digging work for laying of sewer lines and pipelines by Jal Nigam.

While carrying out inspection at River Bank Colony, around Balrampur Hospital, Lalbagh and near Naaz cinema road, it was found that the construction agency delayed the work for a long time and there was no exercise being carried out to prevent pollution. After the digging work, road repair is also taking a lot of time, which is further increasing pollution.

The municipal commissioner expressed dissatisfaction at the prevailing conditions and issued directions that under the Smart City Limited, a penalty of Rs 50,000 would be imposed on Jal Nigam for each of the site and FIR would be lodged against respective contractors. He also inspected the shelter home at Laxman Mela for the poor in view of the approaching cold weather conditions and found the arrangements satisfactory.

The municipal commissioner also carried out an inspection of Faizullahganj area to take stock of the fogging being carried out since the area has been witnessing a spurt in dengue cases. He found a pile of garbage behind Vaishnavi Complex and was informed that it was collected by Lion Security Agency. He ordered a fine of Rs 50,000 on the agency. There was waterlogging in several parts of the area and the municipal commissioner directed the chief engineer to prepare a drainage plan which would be forwarded to the state government.

Lt Gen Lamba superannuates

Lucknow (PNS): Lt Gen Navdeep Singh Lamba, Commandant, AMC Centre and College and OIC Records, superannuated from active service on October 31. On the day of his superannuation, Lt Gen Lamba paid tributes to the brave soldiers of Army Medical Corps who made the supreme sacrifice in their line of duty in a solemn ceremony by laying a wreath at the war memorial at AMC Centre and College. The ceremony was attended by officers, junior commissioned officers, jawans and recruits of Army Medical Corps. Earlier, Lt Gen Lamba also addressed a special 'Sainik Sammelan' at the open air auditorium of AMC Centre and College on October 29.

NIPER director top-ranked scientist in Stanford study

Lucknow (PNS): In a detailed subject-wise analysis conducted by a team of scientists at Stanford University, ten scientists from National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research found a place in the world ranking of top 2 per cent scientists in India. The Stanford University team has created a database of over one lakh top scientists of the world. In preparing the list, different scientific impact parameters such as number of citations and H-index have been taken into account. The categorisation has been done for various streams of science and classification adopted in the study.

SJS Flora, currently the director of NIPER, Rae Bareli and Mohali (additional charge), has featured as the top Indian scientist (ranked 1 in India and 44 in the world) in the subject category of toxicology. Dr Flora acknowledged the success of his research students who contributed immensely to his professional career. He also congratulated the fellow scientists from different NIPERs such as those in Mohali and Ahmedabad and other institutions of the country and said that Indian science is well poised to be at the centre space of global scientific excellence.

He said that the last few years have been especially significant for the country both in terms of infrastructure development and scientific accomplishment. A number of young scientists have also featured in the list. Dr Flora said that the presence of young scientists in the list is a very good sign.

NIPER, Rae Bareli, was established in 2008 and is running a transit campus in Lucknow. Dr Flora became its first director in November 2016. The institute has achieved many milestones under his leadership, a significant one being a highly credible 18th rank in NIRF ranking released by MHRD this year.

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NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 (Listing Regulation), Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of directors of the Asian Fertilizers Limited is scheduled to be held on 7th November, 2020, interalia, to consider and approve the unaudited financial results of the Company for the half year and quarter ended 30th September, 2020.

The said notice may also be accessed on the Bombay Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com and company's website at www.asianfertilizers.com

FOR **ASIAN FERTILIZERS LIMITED**
SD/- Ashok Kumar Matanhelia
Managing Director
Din: 01763776

Place: Gorakhpur
Date: 02/11/2020

Members of Christian community observed All Souls Day at Nishatganj Paper Mill Colony and Sadar Mall Avenue graveyards. People lit candles on the graves of their loved ones in their remembrance
Pioneer

Ration kits distributed, Mission Shakti awareness programme organised

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Regional centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University organised ration kits distribution and a 'Mission Shakti' awareness programme in the adopted village, Bindova in Mohanlalganj, in collaboration with other organisations. Over 200 people were benefited by this programme.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Archana Singh spoke in detail about the 'Mission Shakti' campaign. She highlighted the importance of Women Power Line and Dial – 112 for women security. Regional director, IGNOU, Kirti Vikram Singh highlighted the importance of education and self-defence training in reducing crimes against women.

Regional director, IGNOU, Manorama Singh spoke about the steps taken by them for women empowerment while IES Shivam Katiyar about schemes related to women empowerment launched by Central government.

Pravesh Dwivedi, secretary of a social organisation, said his foundation was distributing ration kits with the support of United Nation World Food Programme and 14,000 families below poverty line have been benefited till date. Innovation officer Sandeep Dwivedi spoke about the schemes related to skill development launched by the Cenral government.

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Bank of India
Zonal Office 78 - A Rajbhavan, Complex, Canal Road, Kanpur - 208004

Requirement of Premises on Lease Basis

Bank of India requires premises for undermentioned branch / Office. Front area of premises should have approximate 9 meter with free parking space.

Sl. No.	Branch/ Office	District	Category	Place	Carpet Area in sq.mt.	Floor of the Premises
1	Kasturba Marg	Kanpur Nagar	Urban	Birhana Road	233 - 260 Sq. Mtr. (2500-2800 Sq.ft)	Ground Floor
2	Zonal Office with SMECC and RBC	Kanpur Nagar	Urban	Kanpur City	603 - 640 Sq. Mtr. (6500-6900 Sq.ft.)	Ground Floor / First Floor

Premises owner has to submit his proposal by 3:00 p.m. till 23.11.20 at Zonal Office Kanpur in 2 sealed envelopes with following details -
Envelope No. 1 : (Technical details) Approved Map of commercial premises/site by concerned Development Authority with full details of proposed premises and free parking space and available space for generator, interested parties with proposed construction may also apply.
Envelope No. 2 : (Financial details) Financial details of carpet area with per square meter rent (Inclusive of all liabilities) and lease period option and total period of lease details and making availability of V set / RF (Antina) / solar Panel space on roof of premises. All Present and future, taxes such as house tax and other taxes of the Premises to be born by land lord only.
Both Performa can be obtained from bank of India website (bankofindia.co.in)/ Zonal Office/related branches, free of charge. Bank reserves right to cancel any proposal or all proposals at any time without disclosing any reasons.
Date: 02.11.2020
Zonal Manager
Kanpur Zone

Governor addresses meeting on NTEP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Governor Anandiben Patel stressed the need for making the National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme (NTEP) more effective in view to make the nation free from tuberculosis disease. She was addressing a programme at Circuit House here on Monday on the first day of her three-day visit to this holy city. The meeting was also attended by UP Ministers Swati Singh, Neelkanth Tiwari and Ravindra Jaiswal. Besides, them the dais was also shared by Mayor Mridula Jaiswal.

Earlier, the Governor arrived here to participate in several programmes under Mission Shakti and others. She reached Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur around 2.30 p.m. by a state plane and later on, her motorcade reached Circuit House where she addressed a meeting on NETP. During her three days staying here, the Governor will inspect Anganbadi cenres at Matuka and Amini village in Sewapuri block, selected by NITI Aayog as an ideal block.

Governor Anandiben Patel addressing a meeting on NTEP in Varanasi on Monday Pioneer

During her visit there, she will meet the mothers of children suffering from malnutrition apart from assistants and supervisors of the Anganbadi centres.

On the last day of her stay on Wednesday, Anandiben will visit Kashi Vishwanath temple and offer prayer. On the directives of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Anandiben is looking after the Anganbadi centres of Sewapuri block falling under the parliamentary constituency of the PM. According to information, these Anganbadi centres will be modernised with the support of some private companies who are expected to support in this bid through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.

During her visit, elaborate security arrangements have been made in the city.

NCR proposal on tender committee structure implemented across Rlys

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Proposal of the North Central Railway on tender committee structure has been implemented across Indian Railways. Railways' big projects are normally executed through composite contracts involving execution of multiple works through a common agency to achieve swift, quality and economical delivery of works. Framing technical conditions and evaluation of such tenders requires expertise in various technical streams, however, in the existing three member tender committee it was not always possible to incorporate experts from all technical wings. To overcome this bottleneck, changes proposed by North Central Railway Construction Organisation for a four-member Tender Committee for composite tenders having elements of three technical departments has now been accepted by Railway Board for implementation across Indian Railways.

This important change in tender committee structure was raised by GM Rajiv Chaudhry at Railway Board level and it has now been implemented across the Indian Railways and CRIS has made changes in IREPS software enabling four- member tender committee to have technical experts from three streams besides one member from finance. This will improve quality and pace of delivery of important projects on Indian Railways and it will also bring economy through faster decision making process and improved technical inputs. Using this modified provision the first four member tender committee of Indian Railways has been nominated by North Central Railway in an important tender for the work in Khairar-Yamuna South Bank section.

Besides registering the highest ever loading in a month, North Central Railway has achieved many other milestones in safe and efficient train operations in October 2020. Important safety related achievements on NCR include, 99 per cent crew fetch as per rule in October-2020 for booking of crew using crew management system (CMS). NCR is on top among all zonal railways as per percentage of crew fetched as per rule in crew booking through CMS software. This will ensure better compliance on duty and rest cycle of crew thus enhanced safety in train operations. Improving export loading substantially, seven foodgrain rakes and four DOC (De oil cake) rakes to Bangladesh were loaded on North Central Railway in October 2020. Capturing new traffic stream, two automobiles rakes were loaded from Dadri on Prayagraj division and Agra division crossed the last year loading level in October 2020.

This overall improved performance on North Central Railway could be achieved through collective and coherent efforts of 60,000 Railway men and women involving functionaries at all levels under the leadership of General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry.

56 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 56 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Monday, increasing the total number of cases to 16,982. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 273. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 95 and out of them, 93 have been recovered from home isolation while two cured from the hospital, increasing the number to 13,311 and 2,827 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 16,138, leaving 571 active cases. The recovery has improved to 95.03 per cent and the mortality rate has remained at 1.60 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 34 positive patients were found out of 2,428 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,31,007 and the results of 2,848 are awaited. Out of them, 3,14,047 were negative while 16,960 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,48,275. Earlier, a female aged 22 from Pahadi Gate (Rohania) succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sundarlal Hospital (SSH), Banaras Hindu University (BHU). With the addition of three new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,332 including 203 red zones. There are 2,129 green zones with six new ones.

Meanwhile, in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP), comprising 10 districts of three divisions, overall recovery rate has improved remarkably further to 94.71 per cent by Sunday as 51,338 patients out of 54,201 have been cured either at home isolation or from the hospitals and the mortality rate is 1.46 % with 796 deaths. The COVID-19 cases have continued declining as just 135 new positive patients were found with maximum of 47 (total 16,926) in Varanasi, followed by 18 in Sonbhadra (3,813), 16 in Chandauli (3,825), 14 in Jaunpur (5,856), 10 each in Ballia (6,381) and Ghazipur (4,454), six in Azamgarh (5,356), five each in Mirzapur(2,890) and Mau (2,761) and four in Bhadohi (1,939).

Two held with fake currency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a joint operation the Nawabganj police and the Crime Branch arrested two persons with fake currency notes worth ₹ 6.5 lakh on Sunday night. One more person was involved in this racket, but he could not be nabbed as yet because he was not present at the time when the two were arrested.

The police had set-up a checking barrier on Sunday night at Patna Uparhar highway. Seeing the police two persons riding a motorcycle tried to run away from the scene. The police gave them a chase and nabbed the two—Rajendera Kumar Gautan and Ajay Kumar Saroj, both the residents of Sarai Mahasingh in Pratapgarh. When the police searched their belongings, fake currency notes worth ₹ 6.5 lakh from recovered from their possession. The notes were in 2000 and 500 denomination.

Rajendra Kumar Gautan is the resident of the Sarai Mahasingh village and was involved in a cheating case for extracting money from the villagers in the name of providing houses to them. The police recovered fake currency notes worth ₹4 lakh from his possession. The other arrested person Ajai Kumar Saroj is also the resident of the same village and was carrying fake currency notes worth ₹2.5 lakh with him. Govind is the third person involved in this racket, who is still absconding.

ADMISSION TO BCOM IN AU: During the first phase of counselling for admission to BCom in Allahabad University, 240 candidates registered themselves and 213 of them uploaded their educational records online.

In the first phase of online counselling, all the candidates belonging to ST category having 192 or more marks in all categories were invited. Notification of seat allotment will be issued on November 3 from 10 am to 12 pm. After this, the candidates will be able to submit the online fee till 5 pm on November 5.

With this, the admission process of the first phase will be completed. The second phase of the process will also start in BCom from November 3. For this, all the candidates who have scored 149 or more in SC category, 192 or more in all categories and all candidates of ST class will have to complete the online subject selection and uploading of records from 9 am to 5 pm.

The process of admission for BA and BCom first year in Arya Kanya Degree College is going to start from November 3. Both online and offline options have been given to the students for admission. Students should contact the college from 11 am to 2 pm with the marksheet, admit card, original marksheet of the graduate entrance examination.

Akashdeeps lighted in memory of martyrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Continuing the two decades long tradition, Ganga Sewa Nidhi lighted Akashdeeps at Dashaswamedh Ghat in memory of martyrs of army and para-military forces here on Sunday evening and these Akashdeeps will remain lighted till the festival of Dev Deepawali, falling on Karthik Purnima. Though this is an old tradition being observed on the occasion of Sharad Purnima to pay homage to heavenly people in memory of ancestors, this festival was started by the Nidhi in 1999 to commemorate the Kargil War victory by honouring some army personnel with Bhagirath Shaurya Samman on the concluding day, symbolising it as a confluence of spiritualism and nationalism.

It is believed that Bhishma had started the tradition here offering such tributes to those who died in the Mahabharata War. The festival was observed since long at the most important Panchthirtha Ghats (Dashashwamedh Ghat, Panchganga Ghat, Adikeshv Ghat, Kedar Ghat and Assi Ghat) in this holy city and it was maintained always at Panchganga Ghat which is known as a confluence of invisible five holy rivers where since ancient time, the people paid homage to their ancestors lighting Akashdeeps in bamboo made baskets throughout the month of Karthk. Continuing the tradition following several COVID-19 guidelines, the Akashdeeps were lighted at Dashashwamedh Ghat which would continue to remain lighted till November 30.

Akashdeeps being lighted at Dashaswamedh Ghat in Varanasi on Sunday evening

Through these Akahsdeeps, homage was paid to martyr soldiers including Dev Prakash Singh, Paras Nath Saroj, Tarabez Khan, Himananthu Kumar Pandey apart from all others of Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, Border Security Force, NDRF, Police Force and corona warriors who lost their lives in the recent time. The organisers also recalled the founder of the organisation Pt Satyendra Mishra. The chief guest was the commandant of 95th CRPF Battalion Narendra Pal Singh who was welcomed by Ashish Tiwari. Cultural programme was presented by Uday Raj Adhikari. The programme was also attended by Pt Indushekhar Sharma, Hanuman Yadav, Pankaj Agrawal and Shankar Singh. The vote of thanks was proposed by Surjit Kumar Singh.

Earlier, at Old Dashaswamedh Ghat, a similar function was organised under the auspices of Gangotri Sewa Samiti when Akashdeep was lighted in memory of Police-PAC's martyrs including cops who lost their lives in Bikaru case in Kanpur district recently. On the occasion, the founder president of the Samiti Pt Kishori Raman Dubey, Kanhaiya Tripathi, Ganesh Dutt Shastri, Dinesh Shankar Dubey, Brigunath Dwivedi, Rajesh Shukla and Shanti Lal Jain, along with other committee office-bearers and others were present.

Couple held for killing daughter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Pratapgarh police claimed to have arrested a couple on the charges of killing their young pregnant daughter whose body was found on the railway tracks in the district recently. Police claimed that the couple, parents of the victim, committed the crime after discovering that their unmarried daughter was pregnant and unwilling to share the name of the person who impregnated her. The axe used in committing the murder has also been recovered, police said.

SHO of Nawabganj police station Akhilesh Pratap Singh informed that the body of an unidentified young woman, aged 20 years, was found on the railway tracks near Alapur on October 25. Even as efforts were underway to identify the woman, one Kamlesh Kumar Yadav, a resident of Kishundaspur village of the area identified the body as that of his daughter. He also alleged murder and submitted a complaint to the police against an unidentified killer. An FIR was registered at the Nawabganj police station, he added.

The SHO said that investigations revealed the possible hand of Kamlesh Kumar Yadav and his wife Anita Devi in the crime and the duo was arrested on Saturday. During interrogation, the two told the police that on October 24, they took their unwell daughter to Unchahar and got an ultrasound done on the advice of a doctor. The test showed that the daughter was six-months pregnant.

Taken aback, they tried to find a doctor for getting an abortion done but could not succeed. They then returned home and asked the girl to name the person who impregnated her. She refused to reveal the name. "The duo then took their daughter to the railway tracks in the night near Alapur and murdered her. The two threw the body on the tracks hoping for it to get run over by trains in the night hiding the real cause of death,' Singh said. He said that the murder weapon had been recovered based on the information provided by the couple.

EXCISE DEPT TO ANALYSE SANITISERS: Maintaining appropriate hand hygiene plays a pivotal role in battling COVID-19. However, counterfeit and substandard hand sanitisers which have flooded the city market play havoc with your health.

Now, the Excise department has been ordered to analyse sanitisers in all the districts on behalf of the Additional Chief Secretary, Excise. A team of the Drug Control department and Excise department has jointly undertaken a drive against the illegal trade, which is risking thousands of life.

This comes after a team of the Excise department recently bought a sanitiser from a medical store at Balson Crossing and analysed it at its headquarters at Mumfordganj. The test revealed that the alcohol content in the sanitiser was only 51 per cent, while the bottle claimed to have 80 per cent alcohol.

Recently, a factory manufacturing fake sanitisers was unearthed in Kautaula area of the district under Pipri police station and one person was arrested in this connection.

The Excise department uses a digital meter to determine the volume of alcohol in hand sanitiser. The department has labs in five districts in the state, where the quality of sanitiser can be checked. The districts include Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Agra and Meerut.

Excise Inspector Indrajit Garg said any company earns crores of rupees by reducing the amount of alcohol to 30 per cent. The companies get alcohol at ₹300-400 per litre. If anyone is selling a sanitiser at ₹500 per litre, the alcohol content should be 80 to 70 per cent.

However, there are instances where people are buying alcohol at ₹120 per litre, so one can very well imagine the quality, he added.

Dr OP Tripathi, senior consultant, Beli Hospital said that virus does not die if the alcohol content is less than 70 per cent in the solution. Whatever you eat or drink, the virus will enter the body, added Tripathi.

District Excise Officer, SB Modwell, said, a letter is being written to the departments for this.

The matter will be investigated at every level and an intensive campaign will be carried out to make the seller and buyer more aware.

PNB holds awareness rally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Punjab National Bank (PNB), Zonal office on Monday organised an awareness rally under the Vigilance Awareness Week.

The bank staff took out an awareness rally from Varanasi Trade Centre and it culminated at the same venue by covering various areas. The zonal head Rajendra Kumar Vashisth led the rally and informed, "The aim behind taking out the rally is generate interest among people to make transactions with the bank and also to make the customers conscious about forgery'.

Vashisth asked the staff to make customers aware of making financial transactions and economic behaviour being conscious. Prominent among those present on the occasion were sub-zonal head Pramod Ranjan Tufan, Deputy General Manager Himanshu and Iftikar Ahmed.

MGKV CONTRACT TEACHERS ON SATYAGRAH: Angry with the Vice-Chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV), the varsity teachers on contractual basis on Monday started an indefinite 'satyagrah' at Gandhi statue in front of administrative building of the university, here demanding their salary of four months withheld by the varsity administration.

PNB employees taking out an awareness rally in Varanasi on Sunday Pioneer

'The government at Centre had issued guidelines for not withholding the salary of anyone during the lockdown but despite this, the administration of MGKV is making exploitation of as many as 78 teachers working on ad-hoc basis (core faculty) by withholding their salary of last four months from July', the agitated teachers on contractual basis said adding, 'The contract of core faculty ended on June 30 last but their contract itself get extension under the government order issued March 13, 2020 in the compliance of the order of the HC on March 1, 2013 and which also got approval in the meeting of executive council of the university'.

The information regarding this has also been made available to the government but the V-C of university is not only defying the government order but also disobeying the decision of executive council, they charged adding, the core faculty is being exploited just to make appointments of his candidates.

The e-content uploaded by them during the lockdown, had been deleted from the varsity website illegally under a conspiracy, they charged further.

They had already forwarded the letter regarding the high-handedness by the V-C and their four month salary withheld by varsity administration to the Governor and Chancellor of university, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary and finding no option they have to start an indefinite satyagrah, the annoyed core faculty said threatening, they would continue their agitation until the varsity administration pay their pending salary. They said that they would also meet the Governor during her visit to the city if their demand is not met at the earliest.

Dr Manik Chandra Pandey, Dr Shashikant, Dr Shailesh and others joined the satyagrah.

82 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

At the beginning of the month of November, corona infection appeared to be relieved. It is because as many as 82 new corona cases were found in the last 24 hours, including a judicial magistrate. With this, the number of corona infected so far in the district has crossed 24,000. At the same time, in 24 hours, 169 people just doubled from the infected ones beat Corona. During treatment, a patient infected with Covid died.

According to CMO Dr. GS Bajpai, on Sunday, 4,973 samples of Covid testing were conducted across the district. In this, 3,111 people got their test conducted through antigen, 1,710 RTPCR and 88 people got their corona test done by truenat. There were 63 people who got Covid screened from private centres. According to the CMO, the relief from Covid infection is that People recovering from Covid are much more than being infected.

So far 24,018 people have been infected with Covid. The number of active patients has steadily reduced to 1,132. A total of 169 people beat corona on Sunday.

Infections with minor symptoms are prioritising home isolation. He said that most of the 80 infected are admitted to SRN Hospital at L3.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, the newly infected included the Judicial Magistrate along with GGIC Principal, PWD supervisor.

Among the other infected, a report from a Georgetown police constable, a pharmacist from CHC Holagarh, a basic teacher, a constable from Naini Central Jail, a clerk at the Directorate of Education, a manager of the Milan Hotel, the GM of a diagnostic centre have also come positive.

NCC 'B' certificate exam held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On Sunday NCC Group Headquarters, Prayagraj conducted 'B' certificate examination for NCC cadets of 10 districts in Prayagraj, Fatehpur, Banda, Pratapgarh and Ayodhya, in which a total of 3,200 cadets participated. Out of eight centres four were set up in Prayagraj and one each in other districts.

This examination is conducted every year in the month of February / March, but this year it is conducted late due to COVID-19. During the examination, all the necessary instructions regarding prevention from COVID-19 were followed. It was mandatory for all the cadets to wear a mask with uniform. They were also instructed to bring their own sanitiser and water bottle.

The written examination of 'B' certificate was conducted from 10 am to 1 pm, and then practical examination was conducted. The practical examination included drill, weapons training, field craft, battle craft, map reading and communication etc.

NCC Officers of the Group Headquarters, Prayagraj inspected the centres during the visit. Training Officer of Group Headquarter, Lt Col Damodaran PP said that along with 2,278 boy cadets, 922 girl cadets also participated in the said examination and the cadets showed great enthusiasm about the examination. NCC cadets have to do hard work and rigorous training to get a B certificate. This training and certificate is beneficial in their moral, character and career building.

DC orders third party quality check of Circuit House construction by IIT-K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar made a surprise visit to the Circuit House on Monday to review the progress of the construction work being carried out there.

After the physical inspection, the divisional commissioner directed the authorities to get the third party quality check of the construction done by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in the next 15 days.

He also directed the officials to prepare a plan for setting up a solar lighting system in the building in collaboration with the NEDA (Non-conventional Energy Development Agency).

He also directed the authorities to complete the construction work by May 2021.

The divisional commissioner was accompanied by PWD's chief engineer and executive engineer (building division).

The chief engineer informed the divisional commissioner about the project cost of the new Circuit House building,

He said the estimated cost of the entire project was ₹18 crore.

He said the project was sanctioned in principle in the year 2017 but the construction took off in 2018 only.

When the divisional commissioner questioned the delay in starting the construction work, the chief engineer said the project was revised twice with changes in structural design and the proposed additional facilities.

The chief engineer said the building would have a presidential suite, a governor suite, four VIP suites and two conference halls, one small and one big.

He said in addition to this, in view of the importance of water conservation, this project would have rain water harvesting system as well.

He said the physical progress of the project was around 70 percent as on date. He added that the revised estimate was pending for sanction at the PWD headquarters level and would be sanctioned soon.

He said after the sanction of the revised estimates, the project will take six months for its completion.

44 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 44 more coronavirus positive cases on Monday evening.

According to a report 44 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Sunday evening and Monday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,005 cases. Forty four had been discharged from hospital taking the total to 7598, while 65 recovered from home isolation taking the total to 19041.

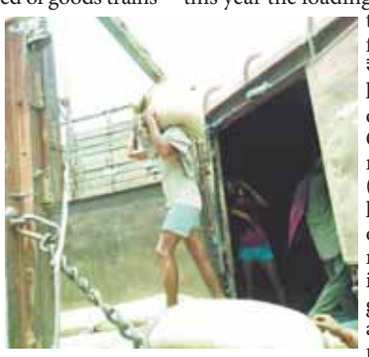
No COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Monday evening keeping the death toll to 734.

At present 632 active cases were undergoing treatment.

Increase in goods loading on NER

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The North Eastern Railway (NER) has performed well in the area of increase in the speed of goods trains. The average speed of goods trains in October this year was about 51 (50.59) kmph which is the result of concerted efforts at every level. During the corresponding period last year the average speed of goods trains was 25 kmph. The average speed of goods trains on October 31 was about 52 (51.8) kmph, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. Owing to it the goods reach their destination quickly which benefit traders and industry and they give priority to transport goods through the rail system. With the doubling of speed of goods train the wagon of the railway becomes available for reloading in half the time than before which has also increased the efficiency and capacity of the railway. Safe transportation of goods is the specialty of the rail system along with it the movement of goods trains at a fast speed doubled their commercial interests the benefit of which comes in the form of railway revenue. The NER is rapidly moving towards achieving the goal of doubling goods loading by the year 2024. In October this year on NER including both revenue and non-revenue 0.297 million tonnes (MT) goods loading was done which is 58.82 per cent more than the same period last year. It may be pointed out here that 29.13 per cent more goods loading was done than the target set for October this year. Last month 0.255 million tonnes of revenue and 0.042 million tonnes of non-revenue loading were done. The efforts of the Business Development Unit (BDU) set up at headquarters and divisions to attract goods transportation on the railway system are getting expected results. Izzatnagar division of NER has made an all-time record by loading 0.159 million tonnes of goods in October this year. Similarly from various goods shed in October this year the loading of about 97 (96.5) rakes is the best performance so far. The railway revenue of ₹21.70 crore received from loading of goods is the second best record so far. In October the loading of 23 newly modified goods (NMG) rakes is also the best high level yet. In the month of September this year 19 rakes were loaded. The increase of four rakes in goods loading in a month is a commendable achievement in itself. In the financial year 2020-21 till October goods loading was done in a total of 63 rakes which is 13 rakes more than the same period last year. It is worth mentioning in this perspective that on October 31 this year the goods train in Izzatnagar division the goonds trains was run at the speed of around 64 (63.82) kmph. The Izzatnagar division's exemplary performance in loading of goods is the result of guidance of BDU at the headquarters and untiring efforts of the one at the division. In view of the increasing demand for automobile traffic, the conversion of conventional coaches into NMG wagons was going on at NER workshops. This year so far 100 coaches have been converted into NMG wagons. The transportation of automobiles is done through NMG wagons which is safe as well as economical.



Flats allotted under PM Awas Yojana

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The lottery draw for allotment of flats under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, organised by the Kanpur Development Authority (KDA), concluded on Sunday.

In five-day lottery draw, the flats were allotted to the beneficiaries selected by the State Urban Development Agency (SUDA).

On the last day, the lottery was drawn to select the beneficiaries of the Ramganga, Mahavir Nagar and Sakrapur schemes.

First, the lottery was drawn for allotment of 122 flats among 256 applicants in Ramganga and Mahavir Nagar schemes. Thereafter, lottery was drawn for allotment of 18 remaining flats in the Sakrapur scheme.

Thus, 1677 flats were allotted during the five-day lottery draw. There were 2,582 applicants under the Bhagirathi-Janhvi, Sakrapur, Ramganga Enclave and Mahavir Nagar schemes.

KDA Secretary SP Singh thanked the development authority team, the district police, the administration and the applicants for the success of the programme and declared the event closed.

Officials present during the lottery draw included KDA Secretary SP Singh, representatives of ADM (Land Acquisition) and DUDA project officer, executive engineers Ashu Mittal, Atul Misra, Manoj Upadhyaya, RRP Singh, OSD Alok Kumar Verma, Under Secretary KCM Singh, officers and employees of KDA.

KDA's lottery programme concluded on Sunday. Pioneer

Drivers of ADG, CO challaned for not wearing seat belt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The drivers of ADG and CO (LIU) were challaned on Monday for not wearing seat belt while driving the cars of he two officials. Both the drivers were found violating the traffic rules while driving their bosses to take part in the inaugural ceremony of the Traffic Month 2020 on Sunday where ADG Jai Narain Singh was the chief guest. When pictures of their drivers violating the traffic rules were published in the media on Monday, the traffic department was alerted and it rectified its mistake by immediately issuing e-challans against the guilty drivers.

It may be recalled that the traffic police had organised a function to inaugurate the Traffic Month 2020 at the Reserve Police Lines here on Sunday. ADG Jai Narain Singh was the chief guest at the function. Other senior police officers including SSP Pritinder Singh, SP (East) Raj Kumar Agarwal, SP (West) Anil Kumar and SP (South) Deepak Bhuker were also present in the programme. It was observed that the drivers of most of the officers visiting the inaugural function were violating the traffic rules by not using the seat belts.

ROAD MISHAP

A printing press owner was killed when a speeding car hit him in Kalyanpur police station area on Monday morning.

Appeal to follow traffic rules

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Traffic Month was kicked off by Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Singh at Police Lines on Sunday with lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

Speaking on the occasion the SP said that by following traffic rules road accidents could be reduced. He appealed to people as well as police personnel to follow the traffic rules first then be associated with the month-long traffic awareness drive. He said on the occasion that speed breakers would be made at the accident-prone spots. ASP Sanjay Kumar said that school children were very important for the success of the drive so during the period not only them but NGOs as well social organisations would be involved in it. About the drive he said that cartoon, painting, speech, essay and quiz competitions would be organised and 'nukkad natak' (street play) would be staged for the success of drive apart from the 'Yatayat Jagrookta Chetna Rath.' He said that the 'rath' would help in making the awareness drive more effective among common people. During the function the school children staged street plays pertaining to traffic awareness drive. The programme concluded with the flagging off the traffic awareness rally by ADM UP Singh. The function was conducted by inspector Seema Singh.

TRAINING CAMP: MLA city Ratnakar Mishra at the valedictory session of the training camp organised by BJP at Gaipura on Sunday as the chief guest said that a worker of the smallest unit of the party was its foundation. MLA said that being the largest political party of the world they had more responsibility towards the society so the party decided to train the workers. He said the training camp aimed at learning ways to strengthen the party, becoming capable to represent it at public platform and make available materials about its ideology to the workers. He appealed to workers to go to the people and publicise the achievements of the government.

Vigilance an integral part of management function: Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Bank of India Regional Manager Prashant Kumar Singh said that it was the duty of every Indian to ensure that they not only remained honest towards the nation but also contributed to the fight against corruption.

Addressing the closing function of the Vigilance Awareness Week, which had 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India' as its theme, at the bank's regional office on Monday, Singh said vigilance must be an integral part of the management function and the Bank of India took pride in following it in the right earnest.

He said the bank's vigilance department had adopted a pro-active approach to create incorruptibility in the day-to-day working of the administration, and a strategy of preventive vigilance was drawn and implemented to evolve an environment of integrity and to add values to the system for increasing transparency and accountability in the working.

He said steps had been taken to empower the officials, staff and the clientele to approach the authorities concerned for redress of their complaints, if any.

He said the vigilance department worked for systems' improvement and simplification and

codification of rules and procedures for the smooth functioning of the bank towards achievement of its mission and thus the culture of taking independent initiatives and decision-making at all levels was constantly strengthened.

To improve the intellectual capital base of the bank and society, vigilance seminars were organised and the executives were exposed to the views of the leading vigilance functionaries of the country.

Singh said it was the endeavour of the vigilance department of the bank to create an ethos of 'organisational citizenship among all the bank employees so that there was voluntary compliance of rules and procedures to achieve the organisational goals.

The bank had all through the week organised various events like declamation, debate, essay writing, painting, drawing, poster-making. The entire officials and the staff took oath also on the occasion.

Others present were Akhilesh Kumar Gupta, Satya Prakash, OP Maheshwari and many other staff members.

The Regional Manager, Bank of India, Prashant Kumar Singh and staff taking part in Vigilance Awareness Week closing function on Monday. Pioneer

IIT-K researchers asked to improve robotic surgery technology

KANPUR (PNS): Prof Subin Sukeshan from Sree Chitra Triunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Kerala, while addressing a virtual session on robotic surgery, especially relating to heart, lungs and trachea, said research scholars of IIT-Kanpur could help in improving the technology and making it even better and foolproof.

He said currently around 36 percent of robotic surgeries were being performed out of the total surgeries and once perfection was reached, it would certainly be the most preferred surgery in the times to come.

He said robot-assisted surgery allowed the surgeons to perform many types of complex procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than was possible with conventional techniques.

He said robotic surgery was usually associated with minimally invasive surgery procedures performed through tiny incisions. He said despite its significant costs, demand for robotic surgery continued to grow exponentially, with surgeons and patients alike increasingly gravitating towards health systems that provided access to robotic surgery.

Prof Sukeshan said robotic surgerycontinued to develop its competitive advantage and it was imperative for the modern health care systems to remain well-informed on the current state of robotic surgery and its role in improving health care quality and providing value to the system.

Cleanliness month concludes

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The cleanliness month which was being observed at Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) since October 2 concluded at its headquarters on Sunday. Due to Covid-19 the programme was broadcast through video conferencing. In the function which was held at headquarters, NCL Chairman--cum-Managing Director Prabhat Kumar Sinha, Director (Personnel) Bimlendu Kumar, Director (Technical/Operations) Dr A Sinha, Director (Finance) RN Dubey, Director (Technical / Project & Planning) SS Sinha were present. CMOAI secretary Sarvesh Singh and general manager of the headquarters, officers and employees and trade union representatives were also present. CMD Prabhat Kumar Sinha was the chief guest on the occasion said that big and positive changes had taken place in every area of NCL . He said that good welfare activities had a direct impact on production and productivity. He once again congratulated Team NCL on the foundation day of Coal India. On the occasion Bimalendu Kumar said that cleanliness ranking of Singrauli was improving. He said it was a matter of pride that the colonies of NCL were one of the best colonies of Coal India, yet we have to continue to renew and modernise them. Director (Technical/Operations) Dr A Sinha said that cleanliness on our campus, surrounding areas and environment was our responsibility. Those present during the programme took a cleanliness oath.

GMC principal honoured

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUN

Principal Government Medical College (GMC), Jalaun, Dwijendra Nath was honoured by Jila Panchayat chairman on National Unity and Integrity Day. DM Mannan Akhtar at an event organised by Jila Ekikaran Samiti to mark the 145th birth anniversary of Iron Man of India Sardar Vallahbhai Patel appreciated principal Dr Dwijendra Nath for his active role during corona phase and said more than 2,500 corona patients had recovered at GMC. Earlier DM Mannan Akhtar inaugurated the event by lighting a candle. Jila Panchayat chairman Suman Niranajan handed over a certificate of merit to principal Dr Dwijendra Nath. Among those present were MLAs Gauri Shankar Verma and Moolchand Niranjan, SP Yashveer Singh and CDO Prashant Srivastava.

Accused arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the direction of SSP Jogendra Kumar and supervision of SP Dr Kaustubh and under the guidance of CO Cantt Sumit Shukla, SHO Cantt police team comprising Padleganj outpost incharge S-I Kamlesh Kumar Yadav during checking arrested a criminal near Cantt intersection under Cantt police station along with a stolen motorcycle. During interrogation he disclosed his name as Puneet Ojha, son of Gautam Kumar, a resident of Siddharth Enclave 81-B Taramandal Road Central Academy under Ramgarhtaal police station. When police were questioned him strictly another motorcycle kept in hiding was also recovered. In addition to the above the police team which made the arrest included Jatepur outpost incharge S-I Ityanand Pandey along with constables Rakesh Yadav, Bhupendra Mishra, Rajeev Yadav and Krishna.

All Souls' Day observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

All Souls' Day was observed by the Christian community at the Chunniganj cemetery on Monday.

The members of the community, maintaining social distancing and sporting masks offered floral tributes and lighted candles and incense sticks at the graves of their family members.

The combined clergy of various churches performed a special mass for the dead.

The entry into the cemetery had been divided into several slots starting from early morning till 8:00 pm so that there was no crowd, which could violate the COVID-19 norms.

Thermal scanning of those who entered the cemetery was done by the committee representatives.

All Souls' Day is observed by the Christians on November 2 across the world. This day is meant to pay homage to the people who have died and the members of the community pray on the graves of their near ones so that them may rest in peace.

The Christian community cleans, scrubs and washes the graves a few days in advance and then on November 2, they offer their respect to the departed souls.

The cemetery members had made special arrangements like water, light, cleaned the entire pathways, cut the wild unwanted growth which normally appears after the monsoon.

Webinar on export promotion

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the guidance of Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) Chairman Siddh Nath Singh to educate members and spread awareness among them about various trade practices and restrict import of machine-made carpet and other floor coverings, CEPC organised a webinar on 'Trade remedies and export promotion measures' recently. CEPC Chairman Siddh Nath Singh, COA member, CEPC, Umesh Kumar Gupta, ADG, Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Government of India, Satish Kumar, Joint DGFT, Kanpur, Amit Kumar, Executive Director, CEPC, Sanjay Kumar, and member exporters were present in the webinar. In his welcome address Siddh Nath Singh raised the issue of import of machine-made carpets from Turkey and the need for imposing higher import duty up to 200 per cent on import of carpets and other floor coverings to safeguard the domestic industry. Satish Kumar made a presentation on trade remedies measures and informed about the formation of DGTR a quasi-judicial body in the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry which conducts research and investigations on anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard issues of products and makes recommendations to the Central Government (Ministry of Finance) for imposition of duty. He informed in detail the procedures and technicalities of anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard issues. Amit Kumar made a presentation on global import of carpets and provided market analysis data to the participants. He mentioned that there was a need for diversification and to have more discussions and focus to find out which products are more in demand and our share in global market. Sanjay Kumar thanked the speakers for sharing valuable information with members.

90% of J&K land cannot be sold to outsiders: Govt

Jammu: The Government has repealed 11 land laws that existed in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir replacing the old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people-friendly provisions.

The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90 per cent of the land in J&K from being alienated to outsiders but will also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialisation, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K.

This was stated by the Principal Secretary, Information and government spokesman, Rohit Kansal at a press conference in Jammu on Monday.

Kansal made these comments while interacting with the media on a host of issues related to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Fifth Order, 2020.

Elaborating, Kansal remarked that the repealed laws were made to serve the old agrarian-based economy and were required to be modified for modern economic needs. Besides, they were beset with ambiguities, contradictions and redundancies and in many cases, were clearly regressive. For instance, a number of laws had contradictions leading to scope for discretionary interpretation and rent seeking.

An official statement said the Prohibition of Conversion of Land and Alienation of Orchards Act, 1975 not only prohibited alienation of orchard lands; it surprisingly restricted creation of new orchards too. Similarly, the old Agrarian Reforms Act prohibited the selling of land distributed to tillers even after 44 years. The Right of Prior Purchase Act severely constrained an owner's right to dispose off his own property.

It further added the new Land Laws are modern and progressive even while affording adequate protection against alienation of land to outsiders. A number of protections have been built into the new land laws on similar lines as has been enacted in other states such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. To begin with, no agricultural land can be transferred to any person from outside the UT of J&K but can only be sold to an agriculturist from within J&K. No land used for agricultural purpose can be used for any non-agricultural purpose.

The terms agricultural land and agriculturist have been unambiguously defined to include not just agriculture but horticulture and allied agro-activities as well. Agriculturist has been defined as ".. a person who cultivates land personally in the UT of J&K..". The safeguard on agricultural land alone would ensure that more than 90 per cent of land in the UT which is an agricultural land remains protected and with the people of J&K. The statement said the new provisions not only address the infirmities in the old set of laws but also provide for modern and enabling provisions to aid in the agricultural and industrial growth of the UT of J&K. While progressive provisions of the repealed laws have been retained by including them in the modified Land Revenue Act, new provisions have been added to modernise existing laws.

There are now provisions for setting up of a Board of Revenue, Regional planning for regulating use of land, alienation and conversion, land lease, consolidation and Contract Farming. The Board of Revenue comprising senior officers will not only be the Developing Authority for preparing regional plans but can notify a scheme of consolidation of land holdings and also a scheme for restricting and regulating the fragmentation of agricultural land holdings to make agriculture viable. ***IANS***

Vijayan hits out at Centre, probe agencies for violation of federalism

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday lambasted the Central agencies investigating various corruption charges against his Government and alleged that all these probes were as per script prepared by forces outside the State.

"Certain forces want to tarnish the image of my government and they are discrediting the good works done by us during the last five years. This is against federalism and an open violation of the Constitution," said Vijayan who read out a statement from a prepared speech.

Addressing the media as part of briefing the Covid-19 situation in the State, Vijayan came down heavily on Enforcement Directorate for exceeding its brief and interfering in the affairs of the State. The ED is probing charges of money laundering and gold smuggling scam in which the Chief Minister's Office is allegedly involved.

M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary to the Chief Minister who is also his close confidante has been arrested in connection with the case and is under the custody of the agency. Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of party secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan too was arrested by the agency for his role in narcotic smuggling and money laundering. The two arrests have brought the opposition parties to the streets and has put the CPI(M)-led government in a dilemma.

Chief Minister blamed both the central agencies and the media for selective leaking and publishing of certain reports which he said was against all norms. "The State Government is observing the norms specified in the Constitution. But these agencies are investigating the cases with ulterior motives as they have a hidden agenda," charged Vijayan. He read out a list of encomiums bestowed on his government by some NGOs and media houses and said that it proved that Kerala was the best managed State in the country. Though the Chief Minister did not point out the kind of trespass made by the central agencies, he alleged that certain forces were behind the the attempts to sabotage LIFE Mission and K-Phone projects, two flagship programmes of the State.

The K-Phone Project (Kerala Fibre Optic Network) is a joint venture between two public sector undertakings, Kerala State Electricity Board and Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd, which envisages internet connectivity to 2 million houses free of cost.

There were reservations expressed by the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission which questioned the viability of such a project while the Centre's Bharat Net mission was on the verge of completion. The GST Intelligence Wing of the Centre had seized some of the documents including details of cable purchase agreement from the KSEB. The CPI(M) polit bureau in its statement had demanded the other day that the CBI should not be allowed in Kerala.

Great sales but wait before celebrating

The automotive sector had a bumper October, but everyone should hold off the celebrations just yet

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

Before we get into the lacunae of this column, one should know that the auto sector will likely also declare record sales for the month of November 2020. This is primarily because in 2020, the festive season has been later than most years and is split almost equally between the two months with Diwali taking place on November 14. That said, how much should one read into the massive domestic sales announced by all major automobile, two-wheeler and commercial vehicle manufacturers? First things first, while sales in October 2020 are significantly higher than October 2019, one should remember that this time last year, the automotive industry was hurting as sales had declined sharply since the 2017-2018 time period. Yes, sales are up from last year, but in many cases sales have not recovered to pre-downturn levels, and pretending that the brakes hadn't been applied in 2019 will be a disservice to everyone.

The other major thing to remember for all automotive categories is that despite the sales bump in October and expected bump in November, sales for the year are still down on last year as there were no sales in April and the months of May, June and July barely existed as well.

Even after October, if one looks at 'Year To Date' sales for this fiscal year over last year, sales are down between 15-25 percent for most automakers and while there are a few who have bucked the trend, notably Kia, that is because they are a company in a growth phase in India.

There are also a couple of other things to keep in mind right now, for companies like Hyundai Motor India Limited which had record domestic sales of 56,000 units in October, that has come at the cost of exports. Of course, exports are up significantly for some companies, notably Bajaj Auto whose exports have climbed dramatically thanks to their operations in Africa, a continent notably less affected by the pandemic, but four-wheeler exports are down significantly across the board. Predicting the rise of global demand is going to be difficult and for a nation like India, which has become a major aut export hub, this is something to keep an eye on. Thanks to Maruti-Suzuki, India's largest carmaker being a listed company, there are some other learnings that one can glean from their results and conference as well.

Sales of cars that operated commercially, mainly as taxis for the likes of Ola and Uber, sales have nosedived. Maruti-Suzuki said that from as much as seven percent a few quarters ago, sales of such vehicles account for just 2.4 percent of volumes today.

From this one can glean that the recovery for the likes of Ola and Uber may be a long and drawn out one. And if private car sales are up, that is also an indication that the trust levels for such app-based operations have crashed. Let us be honest, a plastic sheet between the driver and passenger will make little of no difference when the ventilation system is the same.

There are also some positives for the market here. The average ticket size of a sold car for one large manufacturer has gone from Rs 4 lakh/unit to Rs 8 lakh/unit from 2014 to 2020. People are spending more money on their cars and they want more features on cars. This means buyers want more features - touchscreens, safety and more - in their cars. That is a good thing and a higher ticket size usually means more work for component manufacturers as well.

But all this is no indication of how things will play out in 2021, and here Maruti-Suzuki Chairman RC Bhargava might be precinct, the company does not know how sales will be in 2021 as the real impact of the Coronavirus might be next year as people really tighten their pursestrings.

Those who have to buy a car or motorcycle due to the collapse of app-based taxis and public transport would have already done so, and attracting people into the market next year with job growth being minimal and next to chance of salary increments will be tougher than most people expect.

3 infants die in UP shelter home in 48 hrs, probe ordered

IANS ■ AGRA

Three infants, all under six months of age, died at an Uttar Pradesh government-owned children's home and pre-adoption centre between October 24 and 26, almost a month after an inspection at the centre revealed that the children were not being provided adequate nutrition.

According to an official communication, four-month-old Sunita died on the way to SN Medical College on October 24, three-month-old Prabha and two-month-old Awani, died within hours of being admitted to the hospital on October 25.

At present, two workers take care of 44 children for eight hours in each shift a day.

An additional district sessions judge had conducted an inspection at the Siroli village centre in mid September. There were 13 children then all below five years of age. He had sent a letter to the district probation officer (DPO) citing lack of proper care or nutrition for them.

However, the superintendent at the centre has blamed the sudden weather change in the city and the premature births of the babies for the deaths that started on October 24.

"I was told by the centre management that two children were lodged there in a critical condition. They were thrown away by their parents. Another child was having health complications and died during treatment," District Magistrate Prabhu N. Singh said.

At present, 44 children below 10 years of age are lodged at the state government's shelter facility in Agra for children who have no known guardians to look after them.

There are six women contractual workers on duty at the centre to take care of kids in three shifts which means that at a given time, there are only 2 workers to look after 44 kids.

"I have asked chief development officer J. Reebha to conduct an inspection at the centre. We will ascertain if the death of the children is due to nutritional deficiency or certain medical conditions. I have also ordered medical check-up of all the children lodged at the centre," Singh added.

In his letter dated September 19, Additional District Sessions Judge Sarvjeet Kumar Singh had written, "By looking at children, it does not seem that they are getting an adequate amount of milk/nutritious powder.

"The children look extremely weak. The centre in-charge was not able to give any satisfactory answer when asked about the lactogen powder and food purchase register. Children are not provided milk and nutritious food as per the norms, which is objectionable."

The judge, who is also the head of the committee for inspection of shelter homes in the district, had asked the DPO to "act as per the rules so that any adverse situation does not develop at the centre".

"The three kids were born premature. Their health deteriorated following a sudden change in weather conditions. Proper care and nutrition are being provided to the children lodged at the centre," Vikas Kumar, superintendent of the state government-owned children's home, said.

POLICE BEGIN PROBE

Baba Ka Dhaba owner files plaint against food YouTuber of fund misuse

New Delhi: The Delhi Police is investigating the alleged misappropriation of donation funds for Malviya Nagar-based 'Baba ka dhaba' after Kanta Prasad, the owner of the popular eatery, filed a complaint against Instagram influencer Gaurav Wasan for misappropriation of funds.

Prasad, 80, had shot to fame after a video of him tearfully recounting the desperation of the months since the lockdown was shared widely across social media platforms recently. Prasad's plight had come to light when Gaurav Wasan who runs a page - Swad official - captured the eatery owner breaking down as he talked about his struggles in a video shared on the YouTuber's social media account.

Soon, the video went viral and hundreds of people flocked at the dhaba taking selfies with the old man and offering him monetary help. "We have received a complaint and are probing the matter. We will register an FIR after preliminary inquiry and only if the allegations are found true," said DCP South Atul Thakur. In his complaint to police, Prasad said Gaurav Wasan shot his video and posted it online, asking the public on social media to donate money to the eatery owner. He further alleged that Wasan "intentionally and deliberately shared only his and his family/friends bank details and mobile numbers with the donors and collected huge amount of donations through different mode of payments - bank account/wallets without providing any information to the complainant." Wasan, who had posted the Baba ka Dhaba video of an elderly couple running a dhaba in Malviya Nagar, has also shared his bank statement after people accused him of online scam.

"Transparency link verified by bank. Anybody who donated can go and verify and re-verify. Thank you for supporting," he wrote. ***IANS***

6 killed, 10 injured as SUV crashes in Bahraich

Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh): Six persons were killed and 10 injured in a road accident in Bahraich district on Monday morning. The accident took place near the Shivdaha crossing when the SUV they were travelling in crashed into an unidentified vehicle. Six persons died on the spot and ten have been admitted to the hospital in a serious condition.

All the passengers belonged to Lakhimpur Kheri and were returning from a shrine in Ambedkar Nagar.

Station officer of Payagpur, Mukesh Singh, said the bodies had been sent for post mortem and their families had been informed of the incident. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief at the accident and has directed officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured persons. ***IANS***

Man held from Assam for harassing Delhi-based woman on social media

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 24-year-old man from Assam for allegedly harassing a Delhi-based woman on social media and threatening to defame her by making her pictures viral on WhatsApp.

The accused has been identified as Chandan Nath, who is a graduate in Political Science and works in a mobile shop at Mangaldoi village in Darrang district in Assam. Police said that the accused used to harass the Delhi-based woman via chat and video calls and later threatened her.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, the matter came to light on September 30 after a woman lodged a complaint at Malviya Nagar police station.

"She alleged that an unidentified man was harassing her through chats and video calls on social media. He had also threatened to make her pictures viral on WhatsApp to defame her," said the DCP.

"Based on her complaint, a case was registered under section 354 A (sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code and IT Act and the probe was taken up," said the DCP.

"During investigation, through surveillance and technical analysis, the police managed to locate the mobile number of the accused and he was zeroed down at Mangaldoi village. A team was sent there and the accused, who was later identified as Chandan Nath, was arrested. The mobile phone used by the accused has also been recovered," said the DCP.

"The accused disclosed that he had a habit of making friends on social media. After befriending them, he later intimidated them by threatening to make their chats and pictures viral on social media platforms to defame them," the DCP said.

Agra's Covid recovery rate nears 93%

Agra: With 48 fresh cases in the district, Agra's Covid-19 tally now stands at 7,281. So far there have been 148 deaths while the number of discharged was 6,763 as per the state health department.

District Magistrate P.N. Singh said the recovery rate in the district was 92.89 per cent. This is above the national recovery rate of 91.54 per cent.

He said the number of samples collected for testing had reached 2,68,718 .

The health department officials said the statewide campaign to randomly test groups of people by their vocations, continued on Sunday. Of the 549 restaurant workers tested only two were found positive.

The fall in temperature and increase in the air pollution load continue to worry doctors as they see a surge in the number of cases in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the OPD at the S.N. Medical College opened on Monday after almost eight months. ***ANS***

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 21/2020
Division Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Izatnagar for and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work. **S.N. :- 1., Description of works:-** Balance work for Provision of 2nd washing pit of 600 m long & shifting of catch siding at Lalkuan station., **Approx. Value (Rs.):-** Rs. 2,87,88,020.89, **E.M.D. Money (Rs.) :-** Rs. 2,94,000.00, **Cost of Tender Forms:-** Rs. 10000/- Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter 08 Month. **1.** On line e-tender can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs of dated 04.12.2020. **2.** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in**.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) Izatnagar
CPRO/W-125
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

उ0प्र0 पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि0 निविदा संख्या 09/2020–21
एतद्वारा पृथक – पृथक मोहरबन्द निविदायें दो भागों में ख्यातिलब्ध/अनुभवी ठेकेदारो से विद्युत 400 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र, सरोजनी नगर, लखनऊ के उपयोगयार्थ एक हल्का डीजल चलित वाहन चालक सहित 09 माह के लिए किराये पर लिए जाने हेतु आमन्त्रित की जाती है। भाग–1 में निविदा के साथ अनुभव एवं रु0 2000.00 (रूपये दो हजार) मात्र की धरोहर धनराशि जो एफ0डी0आर0 / सी0डी0आर0 के रूप में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पक्ष में बन्धक हो, संलग्न करना आवश्यक है अन्यथा निविदा अस्वीकार कर दी जायेंगी। भाग–2 में रेट व अन्य शर्ते होनी चाहिए। निविदायें दिनांक 02.12.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक ही स्वीकार की जायेंगी जो उसी दिन सार्वजनिक रूप से 15.00 बजे खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र इस कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में रू0 560.00 (कर सहित) के डी0डी0 द्वारा निविदायें खुलने के एक दिन पूर्व तक ही प्राप्त किये जा सकते है। निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश की दशा में निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेंगी। अधोहस्ताक्षकर्ता के पास बिना कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा को अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।
अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत 400 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र खण्ड सरोजनी नगर, लखनऊ।
पत्रांक–1137, दिनांक–02.11.2020, **राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"**

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD., **E-TENDER NOTICE**, Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/ reputed contractors for the execution of following works:- For more details login on website www.etender.up.nic.in. **1, E-Tender No. 47/AETC/2020-21 :-** Diversion of 132kV Phoolpur-Atraulia line for construction of Gorakhpur link Express Way by UPEIDA including construction of line and dismantling work of old line under etd, azamgarh. Earnest Money : Rs. 32000.00 (Rs. Thirty Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost : Rs. 3776.00 (Rs. Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS/NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Electy. Transmission Circle, UPPTCL, Azamgarh. Tenderers can upload their tender bids against E-tender No. 47 upto 17.00 hrs. of 07.12.2020 and the same will be opened on dated 08.12.2020 at 14.00. Intimation regarding opening of Tender Bid Part-II i.e. Price Bid will be given on above e-website in due course of time. Please visit website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/down load and for any other corrections/ amendments/modification/time extension till the date of submission of tender. In case the tender opening date is a holiday or the undersigned remains out of head-quarters, the date of opening of the tender will stand extended to the next working day. Undersigned has the right to reject/ divide any tender without assigning any reason thereof. Conditional tenders shall not be accepted. **Superintending Engineer (Trans.) UPPTCL, Hafizpur, Azamgarh** No. 1342, Date 02.11.2020 **SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION.**

मध्यॉचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि0, अल्पकालिक ई–निविदा सूचना
अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा ई–पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 17.11.2020 को समय 12:00 बजे तक ई–निविदा अपलोड की जानी है, ई–निविदा का प्रथम भाग दिनांक 17.11.2020 समय 14:00 बजे खोली जाएंगी। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी उत्तर प्रदेश की ई–पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर अवलोकित एवं डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये अथवा निविदा निरस्त करने/संशोधन करने/विभिन्न फर्मो के मध्य विभक्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।
1–निविदा सं0 100/वि0वि0मं0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, गोला खीरी के क्षेत्राधीन शाहजहां. पुर–मोहम्मदी–गोला राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग सं0 93 के अन्तर्गत मोहम्मदी टाउन के आबादी क्षेत्र में 33 के0वी0 अण्डरग्राउण्ड केबिल शिफ्टिंग (टर्नकी आधार पर) का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 590.00 मात्र एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू0 240000.00 मात्र। (ए0के0 सिंघल) **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल लखीमपुर**
पत्रांक–1658 दिनांक :– 02.11.2020
"राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"।

कार्यालय जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी, सुलतानपुर
पत्रांक–222/निर्वाचन (सं0 पुनरीक्षण–2021)/2020 दिनाक–29 अक्टूबर, 2020
अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना
मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, उ0प्र0 लखनऊ के पत्र संख्या–950/सी0ई0ओ0–4–21/4–2020 दिनांक–07 अक्टूबर, 2020 के क्रम में अर्हता तिथि 01.01.2021 के आधार पर विधान सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों की निर्वाचक नामावलियो का विशेष संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण हेतु एवं कार्यालय उपयोग हेतु निम्न कार्य के लिये राज्य कर विभाग श्रम विभाग में पंजीकृत तथा आयकरदाता फर्मों से निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र पर सीलबन्द निविदा जिला निर्वाचन कार्यालय, सुलतानपुर में दिनांक 09.11.2020 को अपराहन 1.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :–

कार्य का विवरण	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य समस्त करों सहित	धरोहर धनराशि रू0	जमानत धनराशि रू0
प्रपत्रों की छपाई	100.00	2,000.00	10,000.00

प्राप्त निविदाएं उपस्थित निविदाताओं के समक्ष दिनांक 09.11.2020 को अपराहन 2.30 बजे निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र उल्लिखित शुल्क जमा कर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 09.11.2020 को मध्याहन् 12.00 तक कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते है। प्रत्येक निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ निर्धारित धरोहर धनराशि (अर्नेस्ट मनी) का बैंक ड्राफ्ट, बैंकर्स/राष्ट्रीय बचत पत्र/सावधि जमा पत्र जो उप जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के नाम देय हो, संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।
उप जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी सुलतानपुर।
उ0प्र0 156621, दिनांक–02.11.2020, विज्ञापन वेबसाईट **www.up.gov.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है।

नीलामी सूचना
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैसर्स आई0एफ0एफ0डी0सी0 कृषक सेवा केन्द्र देवकलिया के यहाँ से प्राप्त उर्वरक डी0ए0पी0 18:46 ब्राण्ड इफको 281 बोरी, डी0ए0पी0 18:46 ब्राण्ड नवरत्ना कम्पनी पी0पी0एल0 60 बोरी, की नीलामी की कार्यवाही दिनांक– 07.11.20 को की जानी है। नीलामी के समय अधोलिखित निर्देशों एवं शर्तों का ध्यान से पढ़कर उनका अनुपालन करना सुनिश्चित करें :–
1. नीलामी जिला कृषि अधिकारी, सीतापुर की अध्यक्षता में जिलाधिकारी महोदय द्वारा गठित कमेटी के समक्ष की जायेगी।
2. नीलाम की जाने वाली उर्वरक को विज्ञापन जारी होने के उपरान्त कभी भी देखा जा सकता है।
3. नीलामी के बाद किसी भी प्रकार का प्रत्यावेदन स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा।
4. नीलामी में भाग लेने से पूर्व क्रेता को जमानत के रूप में 1000.00 (एक हजार रूपये) मात्र नकद जमा करना होगा। जिस व्यक्ति की नीलामी अधिक मूल्य की पायी जाती है, को छोड़कर अन्य व्यक्तियों की जमानत राशि वापस कर दी जायेगी।
5. सामग्री जैसी जिस दशा में है, वैसी ही उठानी होगी। इस उर्वरक का प्रयोग केवल कृषि कार्य में तत्व के आधार पर ही किया जाय, तथा उक्त अमानक उर्वरक को कृषकों में बिक्री न की जाय।
6. नीलामी के समय अधिकतम बोली पाये जाने वाले व्यक्ति को तत्कालपूर्ण धनराशि जमा करनी होगी।
7. नीलामी समिति के अध्यक्ष को किसी भी अथवा सभी नीलामकर्ता को पूर्ण/आंशिक रूप से निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रहेगा।
अतः आप समस्त क्रेतागण नीलामी के समय उपस्थित होकर नीलामी की कार्यवाही में भाग लेने का कष्ट करें।
उ0प्र0 156575 दिनांक 30.10.2020
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।
जिला कृषि अधिकारी, सीतापुर

BIHAR POLLS

1,201 candidates face criminal cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 1,201 of the 3,722 candidates (over 32 per cent) in the Bihar Assembly elections have criminal cases pending against them, of which 915 are serious. Atleast 73 candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section-302) while 278 candidates have declared cases related to Attempt to murder (IPC Section-307). Tejaswavi Yadav led Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) had maximum candidates with criminal cases, followed by the BJP, Congress and LJP. There are 1,231(33%) are crorepatis in the fray.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report on Bihar Assembly polls, a total of 98 of the 141 RJD candidates whose affidavits were analysed face criminal cases, followed by the BJP with 76 out of 109 candidates. The report said that 45 out of 70 candidates of the Congress have pending criminal cases, followed by 70 of 135 from Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), 56 of 115 from Janata Dal-United, and 29 of 78 candidates from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). As per the report, 72 out of the 141 RJD candidates face serious criminal cases, followed by 55 of the 109 BJP candidates, 33 of the 70 Congress candidates, 55 of 135 LJP nominees, 36 of the 115 candidates from Janata Dal-United and 23 of the 78 BSP candidates. Of the total tainted candidates, 115 declared cases related to crime against women, including 12 who declared cases related to rape. A total of 73 candidates declared murder cases and 278 others attempt to murder.

All major parties contesting the Bihar Assembly elections gave tickets to 37 per cent to 70 per cent candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves.

During the 2015 assembly polls, 1038 (30 percent) had declared criminal cases. Of them, 796 (23%) candidates had declared serious criminal cases. Serious criminal cases are non-bailable offences attracting over five years of imprisonment.

According to report, 1231 (33 percent) of the total 3722 candidates, are crorepatis. In 2015 860 (25%) crorepatis had contested the polls. "Among the major parties 94(86%) of 109 candidates from BJP, 120(85%) of 141 candidates from RJD, 96(84%) of 115 candidates from JD(U), 99(73%) of 135 candidates from LJP, 51(73%) of the 70 candidates from the Congress and 33(42%) of 78 candidates from BSP have declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore," the report said.

In the third phase, of the 1,195 candidates, 31 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves.

About 282 or 24 per cent have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. As many as 361 or 30 per cent of these candidates have stated their financial assets to be worth crores of rupees, the report said.

Out of 1,195 candidates analyzed, 371 or 31 per cent have declared criminal cases against themselves, it said. According to the report, 32 (73 per cent) out of 44 candidates analysed from the RJD have declared criminal cases against themselves and 22 (50 per cent) of them have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.The report said 20 candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section-302) against themselves and 73 candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder (IPC Section-307) against themselves.

The Bihar assembly elections are being held in three phases for a total of 243 seats — the first phase for 71 seats on October 28, the second phase for 94 seats on November 3 and the third phase for the remaining 78 will be held on November 7. The results will be announced on November 10.

Rajya Sabha panels see improvement in meeting duration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs) of Rajya Sabha have reported a marked improvement in their functioning in respect of duration of meetings and attendance during 2019-20, as per an analysis done by the Parliament of functioning of its eight committee.

The secretariat has analysed the functioning of the Committees of Rajya Sabha during the last three years as desired by the Chairman M.Venkaiah Naidu. Naidu has been regularly reviewing the functioning of these committees and shared some of his concerns with the Chairmen of these committees.

"The average attendance in the total 117 meetings of these 8 committees comes to 49.20 % during 2019-20, again the best of the last 3 years. The average attendance crossed the halfway mark with 50.73% for the first time during the first half of 2019-20," said a Parliament source.

It has, however, come down to 41.15% in the meetings held in the second half during the pandemic period, marking a decline of over 9.50%. However, the committees met for an average duration of 2 hours 23 minutes during the pandemic.

During this year, the number of meetings held with attendance of 50% or more members in each committee increased to 46.15% of the total as against 14% and 30% during the previous two years respectively. The number of meetings held without the required quorum has declined to 10% this year, the lowest of the last 3 years.

These 8 committees met for a total duration of 254 hours 27 minutes this year, the longest of the last 3 years. During the 3 year period of 2017-20, the 8 committees of Rajya Sabha held a total of 300 meetings over a duration of 571 hours 22 minutes. The 3 year average duration of meetings has been 1 hr 54 minutes and the average attendance being 45.35%.

During 2019-20, the Committee on Home Affairs met for the longest duration of 47 hours 27 minutes followed by the Committee on Health & Family Welfare-42 hrs 22 minutes and the Committee on HRD-40 hrs 44 minutes.

During 2017-20, the Committee on HRD met for the longest duration of 100 hrs 05 minutes followed by Home Affairs -87.17, Transport, Tourism & Culture-80.11, Health & Family Welfare- 76.15, Commerce- 70.17, Science & Technology and Environment, Forests & Climate Change-68.47, Pensions, Public Grievances, Law & Justice-52.19 hours and Industry-36 hours 11 minutes.

NIA arrests Al-Qaeda conspirator from West Bengal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested Al-Qaeda conspirator of West Bengal, Abdul Momin Mondal of Murshidabad district, West Bengal, in connection with the Al-Qaeda case of West Bengal and Kerala.

"Yesterday (01.11.2020), NIA arrested accused Abdul Momin Mondal, aged - 32 years, son of Rejaul Mondal resident of village Nazrana, PS Raninagar, District Murshidabad, West Bengal in connection with the Al-Qaeda case of West Bengal and Kerala," the NIA said in a statement here on Monday.

The NIA further said, "The case was registered on September 11, 2020 and relates to anti-national activities by a group of Jihadi terrorists consisting of more than 10 members inspired by globally proscribed terrorist organisation Al-Qaeda, who were planning to carry out anti-national and terrorist activities at different locations in India including but not limited to West Bengal, Delhi and Kerala."

Investigation revealed that accused Mondal was working as a teacher in Raipur Darur Huda Islamia Madrassa in Murshidabad district and was allegedly found to be involved in a series of conspiratorial meetings convened by the members of the Al-Qaeda module, the agency said.

He was also trying to recruit new members for the group and was raising funds for furthering its terrorist activities, it alleged.

Delhi, Jaipur, 28 others to face water shortage in next 30 yrs due to urbanisation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi, Jaipur, Indore, Amritsar, Pune, Srinagar, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kozhikode and Vishakhapatnam are among the 30 cities in India which will face increasing water risks in the next few decades owing to rapid urbanisation, climate change, and lack of appropriate infrastructure , according to a World Wide Fund (WWF) study.

The WWF has called for an urgent action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. China accounts for almost half the cities plaguing with acute water shortage, said the WWF's report as it estimated that hundreds of millions of people in cities across the globe could be at danger. Other cities are Jakarta, Johannesburg, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Mecca and Rio de Janeiro.

According to the scenarios in the WWF Water Risk Filter, the 100 cities that are expected to suffer the greatest due to rise in water risk by 2050 are home to at least 350 million people, including important national and global economies.

Globally, populations in areas of high-water risk could rise from 17 per cent in 2020 to 51 per cent by 2050.

"The future of India's environment lies in its cities. As India rapidly urbanizes, cities will be at the forefront both for India's growth and for sustainability," Sejal Worah, Programme Director, WWF India, said.

"For cities to break away from the current vicious loop of flooding and water scarcity, nature-based solutions like restoration of urban watersheds and wetlands could offer solutions. This is our chance to re-evolve and re-imagine what the future of the cities could be," Worah said.

The Smart Cities initiative in India could offer an integrated urban water management framework combining urban planning, ecosystem restoration and wetland conservation for building future-ready, water-smart and climate-resilient cities.

Urban watersheds and wetlands are critical for maintaining the water balance of a city, flood cushioning, micro-climate regulation and protecting its biodiversity. The future of our cities and sustainability lies in the efficiency in closing the loop by integrating water supply, demand management.

"Cities across the world have paid a high price in recent years due to worsening water risks. From acute risks that have seen historic floods to chronic risks that have seen their taps running dry, the water challenges cities are facing are only going to increase in the coming decades because the impacts of climate change will primarily be felt through water," said Alexis Morgan, WWF Global Water Stewardship Lead.

Cong seeks probe by SC Judge into MLAs' resignations in Gujarat ahead of bypolls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day before the bypolls for eight Gujarat Assembly seats, the Congress on Monday demanded an inquiry by a Supreme Court Judge into the resignations by party MLAs "in lieu of money" ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections in that State in June.

A Congress sting allegedly showed Somabhai Patel claiming in a video that he was paid money to resign in March ahead of elections to the four Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat.

State Congress leader Arjun Modwadia told the media: "All central agencies are working at the behest of the Union government. So, an inquiry by a Supreme Court Judge should be done into the matter." The 45-second video was earlier released by Gujarat Congress in Ahmedabad.

"It is a big issue. Election laws should be amended to such defections through resignations," Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said at a Press conference.

He also demanded a case be registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code.

Congress state affairs incharge Rajeev Satav alleged that the BJP was misusing central agencies and adopting other methods to get MLAs into its camp.

The eight Congress MLAs had resigned, which led to the defeat of one Congress candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls. Eight Assembly seats will go to the bypolls in Gujarat on November 3, while the counting of votes will take place on November 10.

BJP's Velayudhan breaks down during press meet, alleges insult

KOCHI: A day after Sobha Surendran, vice-president and senior BJP leader came out in the open accusing V Muraleedharan, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and K Surendran, president of the Kerala unit of conspiring to finish her political career, P M Velayudhan, senior BJP leader and national executive member too lambasted party leadership for insulting him.

Velayudhan started sobbing while describing the humiliation he is undergoing in the hands of the party leaders. "I joined the party only to serve Bharat Matha and not expecting any position or power in return. After dedicating my entire life for the growth of the party in the State, I feel that I have been dumped in an old age home," said Velayudhan who was seen sobbing uncontrollably.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Velayudhan, a Dalit leader, compared himself to aged parents dumped to old-age homes by their children who consider them a burden. "Surendran became party president because I voted for him. But he started ignoring me the day he was appointed as party president. Though he comes to my town regularly, he never bothers to call me or even attend my calls," said Velayudhan who was seen weeping despite the efforts of his aides to console him.

According to party insiders, Kerala BJP is a house divided along caste and communal lines. While Muraleedharan and Surendran represent the powerful Eezhava lobby, leaders like Krishna Das and former Mizoram Governor K Rajasekharan lead the Nair faction in the party. Sobha has said that Muraleedharan, who could not win any election from anywhere in the State, is out to destroy the emergence of new leaders.

"Despite his indifference to party cadre, we stood with him when scams involving Arun Raveendranath, a fraudster from Kottayam and reportedly a close friend of the minister and a woman by name Smitha Menon jolted the party. But both Muraleedhatran and Surendran have their own interests and party workers feel let down," said a senior BJP leader in Kerala. ***PNS***

Maha recovery rate crosses 90%

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The recovery rate crossed 90 per cent in the country's worst Covid-19 affected State of Maharashtra on Monday, as the infections plummeted to 4009 and deaths dropped to 104 in various parts of the state.

Maharashtra -- which has been witnessing a steady increase in the recovery rate for the last several days – saw the recovery rate increase from 89.92 per cent to 90.31 per cent.

The development came on a day when 10,225 people returned home from various hospitals, taking the total number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 15,24,304.

The number of "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,25,109 to 1,18,777. The mortality rate in the state stood at 2.61 per cent.

Currently, 25,33,780 people are in home quarantine while 12,195 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, a day after the daily infections dropped to 5369 and the deaths came down to 113 in the state, Maharashtra witnessed the daily infections come down to 4009. Monday's was the second lowest number of infections in five months, Earlier on October 26, infections plummeted to 3645.

With fresh 4009, the total number of infections jumped from 16,83,775 to 16,87,784. Similarly, the Covid-19 toll in the state mounted from 44,024 to 44,128.

Of the 104 deaths reported in the state on Monday, Pune accounted for a maximum of 31 deaths, followed by 30 deaths in Mumbai, 9 in Sangli, 8 in Gadchiroli, 7 in Thane, 5 in Solapur, 3 each in Ahmednagar and Satara, 2 each in Raigad and Osmanabad and one death each in Palghar, Nashik, Aurangabad and Chandrapur.

With 30 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai shot up from 10,318 to 10,348 while the infected cases rose by 706 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 2,58,405 to 2,59,111.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,34,719 to 3,35,094 while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 6703 to 6734.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai – after the total number of infections rose from 2,23,802 to 2,24,300 while the pandemic toll climbed from 5345 to 5352.

Meanwhile, out of 90,65,168 samples sent to laboratories, 16,87,784 have tested positive (18.62 per cent) for COVID-19 until Monday.

Rising vegetable prices upset household budget

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Retail prices of essential vegetables, especially tomato, potato and onion, have skyrocketed across India in the last two months, upsetting household budgets. According to a survey by community social media platform LocalCircles, 71 percent households say they are paying more than ₹50/kg for Tomato, ₹40/kg for Potato and ₹50/kg for Onion. As per the daily rate quoted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs on November 2, if you buy one kg Aloo (potato), Pyaz (onion) and Tamatar (tomato) each, it will cost Rs 150-235 depending on the cities.

LocalCircles conducted a survey to understand how much extra are people spending to purchase per kilogram of onions, potatoes and tomatoes. This comes as consumers show discernment over the rising price of these vegetables since the last two months.

To the first question that asked, "What best describes the per kilogram price that your household paid for buying onion, potato and tomato in the latest purchase?", 8,273 responses were received from citizens. Notably, 71% citizens said they are paying more than ₹50 per Kg for tomato, ₹40 Kg for potato, and ₹50 per Kg for onion. In comparison to a similar survey by LocalCircles published on September 11, 2020, 61% households had said they were paying more than ₹ 60 per per Kg for tomato, ₹30 per Kg for potato, and ₹25 per kg for onion. This means that while an average retail price majority of households paid per kilogram for potatoes rose by 30% and onions rose by 100%, while the price for tomatoes fell by 15% in just one month.

The individual data on these three vegetables suggests that 42% citizens bought "tomato at ₹60 or higher, potato at ₹ 60 or higher, and onions at ₹70 or higher." Whereas, 29% citizens said they bought per Kg of "tomato at INR 50-59, potato at ₹40-59, and onion at ₹50-69", while 11% said to have bought "tomato at Rs 30-49, potato at ₹20-39, and onion

at ₹30-49". Only 6% citizens said they bought "tomato at ₹20 or lower, potato at ₹19 or lower, and onion at INR 29 or lower" in some places.

The report further noted that 70 per cent of households said they paid 25-100 per cent higher prices this year for buying per kilogram of tomato, potato, and onion. Whereas, only 5 per cent of citizens said they "paid the same as last year", while 1 per cent of citizens said they paid less in comparison to last year. 11 per cent voted for "can't say."

This comes as many households have faced a significant loss of earnings or loss of employment during the pandemic. Sectors like tourism, hospitality, and restaurants have also faced severe cutbacks.

While the price per kilogram for tomato paid by majority of the citizens marginally reduced in the last 30 days, the price per kilogram for potato rose by 30% and the price per kilogram for onion rose by 100% upsetting the household budget for essentials. The second question asked citizens, "Overall, in 2020, how much higher price has your household paid on average for tomato, potato and onion in comparison to 2019?" 7,904 citizens responded. Notably, 70% households said they paid 25-100% higher prices this year for buying per kilogram of tomato, potato, and onion. Whereas, only 5% citizens said they "paid the same as last while 1% citizens said they "paid less in comparison to last year," and 11% voted for "can't say".

This is indicative of a significant squeeze given the fact that many households have faced significant loss of earnings or loss of employment during the pandemic.

Sectors like tourism, hospitality and restaurants have faced severe cutbacks as people continue to limit movement because of the fear of COVID-19. Those employed in many such sectors are dipping into savings, taking high interest loans just to make ends meet.

The survey received more than 16,000 responses from citizens across 242 districts of India. Of which, 58% were from tier 1, 23% from tier 2, and 17% respondents were from tier 3, 4 and rural districts.

It also tried to understand an average amount a household paid this year for buying these vegetables as compared to 2019.

SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT'S DEATH

Why is CBI still silent on AIIMS forensic report: Maha Cong

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the CBI for its delay in the investigations into the Sushant Singh Rajput case, the Maharashtra Congress on Monday demanded to know from the investigation agency as to "why there is so much silence" on its part on the forensic report submitted to it more than a month ago by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which had "concluded" that the actor committed suicide.

"It's been a month since the AIIMS report was submitted to the CBI and there is neither any action nor any official statement issued by CBI as yet. Why is there so much silence?," Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee's general secretary and spokesperson Sachin Sawant asked.

Sawant said that the investigations into the Sushant Singh Rajput death case was handed over to the CBI after "some people raised questions" about the probe carried out earlier by the Mumbai police.

"But, even the CBI has not been able to reach any conclusion. Suspicion was also raised on the autopsy report given by the Cooper hospital. The AIIMS team said in its report that Sushant committed suicide The AIIMS panel also confirmed the findings of the autopsy report prepared by the Cooper Hospital and it was concluded that Sushant had committed suicide," the state Congress spokesperson said, as he questioned the CBI as to why it had not spoken anything about the report.

Raising questions on the CBI's role in the investigations, Sawant wanted to know if the CBI was following the election code of conduct imposed due to the Bihar elections. "Or has Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked them not to act until the elections are over?, he asked.

"We have been saying from the very start that the Sushant case has been politicised and was being used to serve political interests of BJP. The Supreme Court too has validated the investigations done by the Mumbai Police in the case," Sawant said.

Sawant said he had a reason to believe that the Narendra Modi government might have asked the CBI to remain silent as the "conspiracy hatched by the BJP" had fallen on its face.

"A conspiracy was hatched to discredit the Mumbai Police and the Maharashtra government by playing dirty politics over Sushant Singh's death. That is why it has now been proven that three central investigative agencies, including the CBI, were used politically. Sawant also said that the CBI may have been asked to remain silent as the plot that the BJP hatched has fallen on its face," the Congress spokesperson said. It may be recalled that Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput was found hanging to a ceiling fan in his closed room of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14.

Having registered a case of Accidental Death Report (ADR) in connection with Sushant's death, the Bandra police had collected all documents and pieces of evidence, including autopsy and forensic reports and recorded 56 statements as part of the investigations carried out by it under section 174 of Cr PC. After substantial investigations, the Mumbai police had inferred Sushant's death was a case of "suicide".

In the third week of August, the Supreme Court transferred the investigations in the case to the CBI.

In its crucial forensic report submitted to the CBI in the first week of October, the AIIMS -- which studied Sushant's autopsy report, the injury pattern on Sushant's body and correlated it with circumstantial evidence and also examined the preserved viscera – had ruled out the possibility of a "murder" and said that it was a clear case of "suicide".

Antigen test good to rule-in patients within 5 days of illness: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers from AIIMS in Delhi have concluded that the rapid antigen test showed an excellent specificity to 'rule-in' Covid-19 patients within the first five days of illness with a moderate sensitivity.

The overall sensitivity and the specificity of the test was 81.8 percent and 99.6 percent respectively, and the test accuracy was 95.4 percent. The sensitivity of the test was higher (85.9 percent) in participants with the duration of illness lesser than five days, said the cross-sectional study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research.

The study was done on 330 patients admitted at AIIMS, Delhi, between May 31 and July 24. Researchers included symptomatic patients and asymptomatic/pre-symptomatic contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases with exposure between 5 and 10 days.

"The analytical performance…depends on the mixing of NP swab with buffer and the viral load in the sample, but clinical performance of the test may be variable which depends on the technique of sample collection and duration of illness of patients. Hence, the sensitivity will be average in asymptomatic patients because it is difficult to analyze pre-test probability in asymptomatic patients," stated the paper.

Of the 330 participants, 77 were RT-PCR positive for Covid-19. Sixty-four of them also tested positive in the rapid antigen test. The most commonly presented symptoms among screened participants were fever (31.5 percent), cough (25.4 percent), fatigue/malaise (11.8 percent), headache (3.3 percent) and runny nose (3.3 percent). As many as 57 participants presented with sore throat but only two of them (3.5 per cent) had Covid-19.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

America votes

The choice between Donald Trump and Joe Biden is one that will determine the rest of the 21st century

It is remarkable that the United States, possibly the most diverse nation, is choosing between two old, White men to lead it out of the tailspin that the Coronavirus pandemic has caused. This is a time when the US and the rest of the world need leadership, and if America does not choose wisely, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his lackeys are just waiting in the wings to dictate a new world order. But what is the wise choice? Should the US vote for a man who has been divisive and broken ethical and moral norms, even though he did correctly call out China's hypocrisy? Or should the US vote for a man who by all accounts is a nice guy, but has clear signs of age-related mental degeneration? Frankly, this is not a choice that the US needed to make; there are far better, healthier and smarter people on both sides of America's political spectrum. In fact, the 2020 election in the US is possibly a horrible advertisement for democracy, American style. Its electoral system is deeply flawed and while the very basic first past the post system in India and many other nations has its issues, the concept of the electoral college, where a candidate can lose the plurality of the nationwide vote by a massive margin and yet win the right to sit in the White House, is one that the rest of the world finds bizarre. At the same time, the enforced duopoly in the US system has led to extremist views gaining more traction within both parties and although the death of centrism is not only an American phenomenon, it is most starkly experienced in the US where, like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, the Republicans and Democrats have foiled any potential rival from emerging. For a nation that famously "exports" democracy, American democracy is the worst in any large democratic nation.

From an Indian perspective, Trump and the Republicans have usually been kinder towards us since the times of Ronald Reagan although it was Bill Clinton who started to reset the Indo-US relations at the fag end of his term. The Trump administration's more hawkish view of China has been more than welcomed by the Narendra Modi Government, which had good chemistry with the Democrat President Barack Obama, too. And given the geostrategic importance India has vis-a-vis China, its vanguard capabilities and Pakistan's somewhat fall from grace, the Indo-US partnership will not only continue but is expected to become stronger. With India's growing concern about China's imperialistic agenda and territorial greed, especially in the border areas and the Indian Ocean Region, the Trump administration has already assigned India an important role in its framework, especially with the free and open Indo-Pacific region. Our Quad initiative, with the US, Japan and Australia, has been activated with Trump's pressure. This has further laid the basis for defence and security cooperation. On the other hand, India's economic dependence on the US has increased. For the fiscal year 2019-20, bilateral trade between the two nations stood at $88.75 billion, making the US India's top trading partner. However, Biden is known to have expressed a softer stance on trade with China. He even hinted at ending the tariffs that Trump had imposed on Chinese imports. So, if Biden is elected, some of the economic gains that India expects might not come true. Having a Vice-President, who has an Indian heritage and speaks Sanskrit and Tamil, might appear as a plus point. But the Democratic Party has often fallen prey to the wiles of separatist elements and religious freedoms could be on the agenda. However, American pragmatism might mean a more nuanced approach to the relationship with India even in a Biden-Harris victory despite Modi personally investing heavily in Donald Trump, although that was before the Chinese contagion ripped the global economy asunder. By the time you read this, voting might have started in several US States, and by all accounts, there is going to be a whole load of chaos across the nation with different States setting different standards for the election with no federal electoral body. Whatever happens, Indian foreign policy objectives might win but the American people will be reminded that they live in a deeply flawed democratic nation.

Stand by women

A-G argues for gender sensitivity in rulings on sexual assault survivors in SC, recommends training judges

There is no doubt that the judiciary has been quite insensitive and vacillating when it comes to handling rape cases and their survivors, sometimes forcing a reconciliation, at other times becoming sexist and overall being guided by a patriarchal mindset. So instead of assuring and encouraging the abused girls, the courts fail them, few of whom anyway register cases with fewer still fighting it out till the end. This is exactly what happened when the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed a man accused of sexual assault to get a *rakhi* tied by his victim as a condition of bail, implying that any man can absolve himself of guilt and recompense a girl's dignity by posing as a brother without her consent and changing the predator status at will by becoming the protector. This is worse than the *khap* mentality that we love to rile about, which advocates that rapists get married to the violated girl in the name of preserving honour. The justice system then becomes equally guilty of violating a girl's rights. Worst, it destroys her integrity by easing bail instead of denying it altogether. So Attorney-General KK Venugopal has rightly raised the issue in the Supreme Court, saying judges seem to have been "carried away" while passing the order and that they need to be educated. He further called for adding a part on gender sensitisation in the judges' recruitment exam. It is a sad comment that judges, who are considered learned, informed and seen as notables, are woefully inadequate when it comes to not just gender rights but ensuring humane and equal standards. Unfortunately, this isn't the first time that such bizarre statements have been made in a sexual assault case by the sitting judge. On June 22, while granting bail to a rape accused, Justice Krishna S Dixit of the Karnataka High Court said he found the woman's statement "a bit difficult to believe" and asked her why she had gone to her office at 11 pm and why had she not objected to consuming drinks with the accused, as if proximity implied consent for sex. The judge even felt that it was unbecoming of the woman to have fallen asleep after she was raped, undermining the severity of the physical assault. In July, a civil court in Bihar's Araria district sent a 22-year-old gang-rape survivor to jail on charges of obstructing court proceedings. In 2015, the Madras High Court, in a highly criticised order, granted bail to a convicted rapist and advised a "compromise" between him and his unmarried victim, who had become pregnant. Such rulings have only prejudiced the affected woman, making her look like a revenge-seeker than a credible victim. Worst, her trauma has only multiplied because the justice system rarely individualises the woman on a case-specific basis but defines her in feudalistic terms and judges her under the cultural umbrella of a desired behaviour of Indian womanhood.

Trivialising verdicts on sexual offences means that rape adjudication and sentencing are still subject to stereotypes despite legislative reform. It is not like the A-G's suggestion for gender awareness lessons is new. Training and sensitisation of judges have been recommended and followed since 2013, post the December 2012 gang-rape and murder of Nirbhaya. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 explicitly stated that lack of physical resistance is immaterial for constituting an offence and even broadened the scope of sexual assault. But correspondingly, the judicial sanctification of virginity, chastity and honour being a woman's most prized possession, in turn, places the burden of proof on victims. So, while the demand for swift justice continues to echo throughout the country, we should also call for the reformation of the judiciary and the restructuring of the Provincial Civil Services (Judicial) exams. With the conviction rate in rape cases abysmally low at 27.2 per cent, archaic rulings do not settle cases but unsettle women further.

Beheadings in France

As Indians, we need to stand by France and wage a united war against terrorism while upholding our secular and democratic values

A SURYA **PRAKASH**

The decision of the French President Emmanuel Macron to defend freedom of speech in his country, following the barbaric beheading of a school teacher and some others by radicalised Muslims, has led to violent protests across Islamic nations. The perpetrators of these violent acts in France, it is believed, were seeking to avenge the caricaturing of Prophet Mohammed in a French magazine. So it has become a blasphemy versus free speech issue in a nation that rests on the foundation of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Most of the protesters in the Islamic world are justifying the beheadings and baying for the blood of the French President. The biggest culprit is the former Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Bin Mohamad, who said that Muslims have the right "to be angry and to kill millions of French people for the massacres of the past". This is an open encouragement to bloodshed and must easily be the most outrageous and irresponsible statement made by a person who has held an important public office in a big nation. It is surprising that Twitter has only deleted Mohamad's tweet and restrained itself from taking more severe action.

While all this is on in the Islamic world, how should citizens of India respond to the developments in France? Several Indian cities have seen angry protests by Muslim citizens against the caricaturing of the Prophet. There is legitimacy for these protests so long as they are peaceful and non-violent and do not cause any disturbance to the normal run of life. That is why the conduct of Farhan Zuberi, a student leader from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), who has justified the beheadings in France and held out an open threat to behead anyone speaking against Islam, deserves to be condemned.

India, given its democratic credentials, has taken the right stand against this kind of violence. The Foreign Ministry condemned the beheading of the school teacher in Paris and said there can be no justification for terrorism "for any reason or under any circumstances". For once, the Ministry put aside its weakness for prevarication and "strongly deplored" the personal attack on the French President and said it is a violation of the most basic standards of international discourse. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also taken a firm stand. In a tweet, he strongly condemned the terrorist attacks, including the heinous attack in Nice inside a church. "India stands with France in the fight against terrorism", he tweeted.

This is where all Indians have to draw the line. They cannot behave like the citizens in the Islamic States where everything revolves around religion and the space for public discourse is severely constricted.

For the moment, it can be said that the violent outbursts of the AMU student leader are an aberration. It is not the rule. All those who value democracy speak a different language. That is why the statement of one hundred Indian personalities, who "unequivocally and unconditionally" condemned the recent killings in France by fanatics in the name of faith, is important. The signatories to this statement, who included actor Naseeruddin Shah, former Indian Police Service Officer, Julio Ribeiro and lyricist Hussain Haidri, said: "We are deeply disturbed by the convoluted logic of some self-appointed guardians of Indian Muslims in rationalising cold-blooded murder and deplore the outrageous remarks of some heads of state." The signatories attacked whataboutery and condemned attempts to rationalise crimes by comparing them with other similar crimes. They said this was irrational and absurd. "No god, gods, goddesses, prophets or saints may be invoked to justify the killing and/or terrorising of fellow human beings."

India is the world's largest, secular, liberal, democratic republic and all of us who care for the free air we breathe must unite against individuals who defend such brutality.

> SECULAR, LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES CANNOT SURVIVE, LET ALONE FLOURISH, IF ANY SECTION OF THE POPULATION OFFERS JUSTIFICATION FOR VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO ASSERT THE CORRECTNESS OF ITS STAND. NO CITIZEN CAN TAKE LESSONS FROM ISLAMIC NATIONS

As citizens of the most democratic and diverse nation in the world, our future lies in the preservation of the core values in our Constitution and our democratic way of life. Secular, liberal democracies cannot survive, let alone flourish, if any section of the population offers justification for violence in order to assert the correctness of its stand. This applies to all Indian citizens and, in the present context, especially to citizens who are adherents of Islam. No citizen of India can take lessons from Islamic nations which have no respect for plurality and equality. We are different. In fact, we are unique, and we must assert our uniqueness and the exalted status that our Constitution has given us.

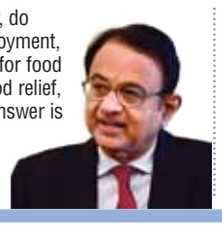
Co-existence within a plural society demands a high degree of tolerance. Our Constitution makers recognised this and it is here that our constitutional arrangement is slightly different from that of France. Our "freedom of expression" is subject to "reasonable restrictions." We cannot use it to disturb, among other things, "public order, decency, morality" or resort to "defamation or incitement to an offence." This is further reinforced by provisions in the Indian Penal Code, such as Section 153 A, 295 and 295 A, which prohibit any activity which promotes enmity between different groups or amounts to "deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage the religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or the religious beliefs". Therefore, we are distinct and we should completely stay clear of the violence that is being promoted by the Islamic nations against France.

As the campaign for a separate Muslim nation started building up in the 1940s, Dr BR Ambedkar, after much deliberation, came to the conclusion that the creation of Pakistan was inevitable. In his book, *Thoughts on Pakistan*, he said, "The allegiance of a Muslim does not rest on his domicile in the country which is his, but on the faith to which he belongs. To the Muslim *Ubi Bene Ibi Patria* is unthinkable. Wherever there is the rule of Islam, there is his own country. In other words, Islam can never allow a true Muslim to adopt India as his motherland and regard a Hindu as his kith and kin." Dr Ambedkar said this 75 years ago and in a certain context — when Muslims in India said that they constituted a separate nation — and established Pakistan. About 35 million Muslims stayed back in India after Pakistan was born because they believed that life in a liberal, democratic environment was far better than in an Islamic State. In these Muslim families, the third generation is growing up with the protection and safeguards offered by India's Constitution.

These citizens, like all others belonging to other faiths, who have grown up under this secular, democratic umbrella, can see that Pakistan is a failed State that is weighed down by its own failures and has cross-border terrorism as a single-point national agenda. The issues that prompted the creation of Pakistan are no longer relevant. That being the case, they need to prove Dr Ambedkar wrong. The times have changed and peaceful co-existence offers all of us the best chance. As Indians, we all need to stand by France and all other democracies and wage a united war against terrorism and against all those who are opposed to secular, democratic values.

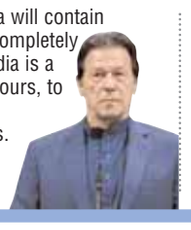
(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE



If you were a voter in Bihar, do they tell you about unemployment, jobs, new industries, MSP for food grains, crop insurance, flood relief, women's safety etc? The answer is zilch... nothing.

Senior Congress leader
—P Chidambaram

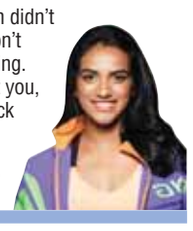


The US thinks India will contain China, which is a completely flawed premise. India is a threat to its neighbours, to China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and to us.

Pakistan PM
—Imran Khan

He (Akhilesh Yadav) is young, educated and a visionary. In the prevailing circumstances in the country and the State, we need to strengthen secular forces.

Former Congress MP
—Annu Tandon



Yes, Denmark Open didn't happen but that won't stop me from training. When life comes at you, one must come back twice as hard.

Badminton player
—PV Sindhu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impose curbs on Pak

Sir — The admission made by the Federal Cabinet Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Islamabad's role in the Pulwama terror strike should be taken into consideration by the United Nations and other international bodies for initiating action against Pakistan for using terror as an instrument of State policy. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) must take cognisance of this fact and blacklist Pakistan. However, till such a time, India needs to develop a targetted strategy to focus on the business interests of Pakistan. The Government should start by identifying companies and individuals from India that do business with Pakistani entities or even those who have a presence there.

New Delhi should adopt a multi-pronged approach rather than impose sanctions in silos. With its focus on policies like Neighbourhood First, Act East and multipolarity, India is nurturing friendships with other countries and can further leverage these in the implementation of its sanctions strategy against Pakistan.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

BJP politicising Pulwama attack

It is most unfortunate that the BJP is trying to use Pakistan's Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry's statement about Islamabad's role in the Pulwama attack to woo the voters in Bihar. It is as if the party waited for the "confession." It grabbed it with both hands as a big chance to try and turn the pro-Tejashwi tide in the ongoing Assembly election in its favour. Clearly, the BJP does not want the voters to believe that the ruling party and the Opposition are nationalistic and patriotic in equal measure. The attempt to portray the Opposition as not adequately "pro-India" and "anti-Pakistan" is absolutely preposterous.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi slammed "politics" on Pulwama and rightly so, but then can he be oblivious to the fact that his own party has perfected the art of invoking the Army to outdo the Opposition in domestic politics? It is wrong to misconstrue pointing out "lapses" as an unpatriotic act as it is done to ensure greater caution and avert a repeat of such

attacks. Dragging Pakistan in election after election by the ruling party at the Centre to make it look more acceptable to the electorate is a sad commentary on Indian democracy. It is time we learn that we don't have to define our identity and existence in relation to a neighbouring country.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

New opportunities

Sir — Many State Governments are making tall promises to provide Government jobs to the youth as a way to get their vote. On the contrary, a rather strange statement was made by the Chief Minister of Goa. On October 31, during a web conference with village *panchayat* representatives of the *Swayampurna Mitra* outreach, launched in Panaji, Pramod Sawant said that even if God himself became the Chief Minister, he would not be able to provide Government jobs to everyone.

This highlights the reality of the Government jobs in the country, especially when the economy has been hit badly by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The State Governments must stop making empty promises of employment and initiate steps to create new job opportunities by organising skill-based training programmes in various sectors. People need to start focussing on other employment alternatives by bringing down their dependence on Government jobs.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

Delhi's toxic air

Sir — On November 1, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution rose to 40 per cent, the maximum so far this season. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), had spotted 3,216 farm fires over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand on the day before. As the common man continues to trudge helplessly through the smoke and pollutants, the Government needs to take strict action this time, especially as we continue to live with the Coronavirus. The immediate step would be banning the sale of firecrackers as Diwali is just around the corner. The Centre and State Governments should work on alternative ways of disposing of the stubble like the accelerated straw decomposition process. We also need to bring innovation in the energy sector. We have no option but to invest in new ideas.

Urvi Jain
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
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FIRST COLUMN

MVA must focus on development

As long as Uddhav ensures that there is no friction among the alliance partners, there is no danger to the Maharashtra Government's stability

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will complete one year in office later this month. He is heading a coalition Government, which consists of the Shiv Sena, the Congress Party and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Eyebrows were raised when the three parties came together to form a Government though there is no common factor among them. Despite some differences, the Government has survived for a year due to the accommodative attitude of the partners. Uddhav is the first from the Thackeray family to become the Chief Minister, though he was reluctant to occupy the chair initially. He has been functioning under the tutelage of the NCP chief Sharad Pawar, who has had a long innings, both as Chief Minister and Union Minister. It was Pawar who had put together the coalition, Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA), and keeps it going.

There have been speculations regarding the stability of the Government and many expected either the NCP or the Congress to pull out of the coalition, resulting in its collapse. However, Uddhav seems to be confident of the survival of the MVA but apprehends danger to the Government from the outside, particularly from the BJP, which is the main Opposition party in the State. Though inexperienced in governance, Uddhav has matured. In his calm and quiet manner, he is running the Maharashtra Government with help from Pawar.

So what is Uddhav's report card like? First, his Government has survived so far. Second, like many of the other Chief Ministers and leaders around the globe, he was stunned by an unexpected pandemic, which hit the world. The outbreak of Coronavirus has been Uddhav's biggest challenge so far as it has destroyed the economy of Maharashtra, like it has that of the country. So he faced twin challenges, apart from apprehending political instability at any time.

Maharashtra was one of the States to register the maximum number of COVID cases in the country and it may take months to stabilise. Mumbai was the worst-hit because it has Asia's biggest slum, Dharavi, and also many workers from there and neighbouring Pune had brought back the infection from the Gulf countries, where they had migrated for better prospects. Added to that was the challenge of dealing with the thousands of migrant labourers who felt abandoned. Just like in the rest of India, in Maharashtra, too, there were cases of thousands of migrant workers trudging back home. These two challenges were difficult even for experienced administrators across India to handle. But in the end, Dharavi became the symbol of how to manage a pandemic and was lauded by the World Health Organisation, too.

Uddhav had to deal with some controversies along the way. One of them was the alleged murder of actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR), which turned out to be suicide, and the muck-raking that followed SSR's death. Then there was the case of the NCP Minister Nawab Malik announcing a five per cent reservation for Muslims, which was part of the common minimum programme of the coalition. The Chief Minister quietly maintained that the issue was sub-judice and the partners kept quiet too. Another challenge for the new Chief Minister was keeping his flock together as there were major apprehensions that the BJP would break his party and engineer a collapse of the Maharashtra Government. But the Sena stood by him and perhaps to reassure them, Uddhav in his Vijayadashami speech, adopted an aggressive tone. He utilised the occasion to clarify many issues raised by the BJP. Uddhav has belied the belief that he has no fire in his belly with his new-found assertiveness. Vijayadashami would have been an ideal occasion for the Chief Minister to speak about positives and his vision for the future but he chose to counter-attack the erstwhile partner, the BJP. He also clarified the Sena's Hindutva ideology. He said, "My Hindutva is not merely reopening temples. Those who question our Hindutva were hiding after the Babri Masjid was demolished… My Hindutva comes from Chhatrapati Shivaji, my father, and others; it's about hitting the enemy, it's about nationalism." This was in reply to the Governor who questioned the Maharashtra Government's decision not to reopen temples and tauntingly asked Uddhav whether he had "turned secular."

Significantly, the Sena chief asserted that the MVA Government was stable. "Many (read BJP) were saying they will make the Government fall. People are still saying the same. I would like to dare them all. If you dare to try to break this Government you will fail." He also taunted, "Rather than working on improving the economy, steps are taken to topple governments. We are heading towards anarchy." For a novice, running the coalition was quite difficult as it was under stress all the time but the BJP is not in a position to form the Government unless it breaks the Congress or the NCP. As long as Uddhav ensures that there is no friction among the MVA partners, there is no threat to the Maharashtra Government's stability. Uddhav must focus on development in his second year.

(*The writer is a senior journalist*)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

PATY WAS KILLED AS ISLAMISTS WANT OUR FUTURE. WE PLEDGE TO FIGHT ISLAMIST SEPARATISM TAKING HOLD OF SOME COMMUNITIES IN FRANCE.
—FRENCH PRESIDENT
EMMANUEL MACRON

PRESIDENT MACRON COULD HAVE PUT A HEALING TOUCH AND DENIED SPACE TO EXTREMISTS. SADLY HE HAS CHOSEN TO PROVOKE MUSLIMS
—PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER
IMRAN KHAN

Food for thought

The co-existence of APMC and non-APMC markets giving competition to each other is the best foot forward for ensuring a fair deal to farmers

UTTAM **GUPTA**

The enactment of the three farm laws by the Central Government has triggered agitations by farmers' organisations and a spate of counters, specially from non-NDA ruled States. Their main worry is that growers won't get the Minimum Support Price (MSP) on sales made outside the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis* (markets). All this, when it is well-known that under the APMC, agriculturists are already getting a raw deal. The constitutional validity of the farm laws has been challenged in the Supreme Court, too, with the Chhattisgarh Government arguing that these have in effect repealed the State law on the *mandi* system. It will be some time before the matter is adjudicated by the top court. The fact remains that with multiple selling options available under the new Central laws, growers will definitely be much better off. Instead of trying to undo what the Centre has done, the States should focus on how APMC *mandis* can do better.

The most strident criticism of the laws is based on a belief that big food companies, who now get to buy directly from agriculturists outside the designated APMCs — courtesy, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 — will use their power to deny growers, particularly small and marginal ones, the MSP for their produce. In fact, an amendment passed by Punjab says that the sale of its cash crops, wheat and paddy, will be valid only if the seller pays a price equal to or greater than the MSP announced by the Central Government and that any violation would be punishable.

Before jumping the gun and speculating over what the farmers won't get, we need to introspect as to what they are getting under the existing dispensation. At present, they are required to bring their produce to the *mandi* notified by the State Governments under their respective APMC Acts. Growers can't take their produce to any other place (if any farmer does this, s/he runs the risk of the vehicle being impounded by the State agencies for violating the extant law). If a buyer is willing to pick the produce up from the farmers' doorstep, even that is not possible.

On reaching the designated *mandi*, the agriculturist is confronted with two major players, namely *arhtiyas* or commission agents and licenced traders or buyers. The main function of the *arhtiyas* is to arrange for the auction and delivery of the harvested crop to the buyers. He gets a commission at the rate of 2.5 per cent of the purchase price and this has to be borne by the buyer. In addition, the latter has to pay other charges levied by the State Government (for instance, Punjab levies market fee at the rate of three per cent and rural development cess or RDC at three per cent).

In cases where the licenced trader is a State agency, such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which purchases grain for meeting the requirements of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and giving them to beneficiaries at a subsidised price, the farmer is assured of the MSP. But State agencies don't buy all of the produce brought by growers to the *mandi* for sale. Even for wheat and paddy, where the agencies have a well-entrenched network, the purchase is only about 33 per cent of the total produce. For others (the Centre notifies MSPs for 22 agri-items), this is much less.

The agriculturists, who are not fortunate to sell their produce to State agencies (these are predominantly small and marginal growers), are left at the mercy of the *arhtiyas* and licenced traders and are forced to dump it at a price substantially below the MSP. *Arhtiyas* exploit farmers in other ways, too. They lend money for buying agricultural inputs, namely seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and so on (in many cases, for weddings, medical emergencies, too). The interest charged is a minimum 1.5 per cent a month. That leads to mounting debt for farmers.

> GIVING MORE OPTIONS TO FARMERS TO SELL THEIR PRODUCE CAN'T BE STALLED JUST BECAUSE THE POTENTIAL BUYERS WON'T GIVE THEM MSP. INSTEAD OF OPPOSING REFORM THAT PROMISES SOMETHING DISTINCTLY BETTER THAN WHAT THE FARMERS ARE GETTING TODAY, THE STATES NEED TO WORK TO MAKE THEIR *MANDIS* EFFICIENT AND HEALTHY

According to a study on *Indebtedness Among Farmers and Agricultural Labourers in Rural Punjab*, as many as 86 per cent of farmers and 80 per cent of agricultural labour households are mired in debt. Over a fifth of that debt was owed to commission agents and moneylenders. What's more, the debt burden gets worse down the scale. It's the heaviest among marginal and small farmers.

The conditions of millions of small and marginal growers could not have been worse than what it is today. And this has to do fundamentally with the absence of alternative options to sell their produce.

The extant arrangements are being used by States to bolster their coffers (for instance, Punjab garners about ₹1,750 crore annually from levy of RDC at the rate of three per cent) at the cost of the Centre. This is because the levies increase the cost of food procurement for distribution under the National Food Security Act, 2013, which increases the food subsidy. It is a typical case of States gaining access to Central funds outside the award of the Finance Commission (whether one likes or not, the taxpayers' money is also used up for adding to the riches of *arhtiyas* as their commission too, is coming out of the food subsidy).

The Central law on trade and commerce opens up a world of opportunities to the farmers even while keeping the APMC intact. They can go to a private market for selling; they can enter into a contract for selling to a company (processor, aggregator, large retailer, exporter and so on) at their doorsteps, form farmer producers' organisations (FPO) and sell under their umbrella. To worry about whether they will get MSP on all such sales, that too when at present they are literally getting nothing, is flawed thinking. By all means, they must be protected from exploitative corporations. That doesn't mean they should be denied access to them though.

In August, 2018, among the several amendments approved by the then Devendra Fadnavis Government to the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 1963, a provision related to making purchase of farm commodity below the official MSP a punishable offence. With this, if a private trader buys farmers' produce at a price lower than the MSP, he could be jailed for one year, and will have to pay a fine of ₹50,000. This led to widespread consternation and had to be dropped.

Even so, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 on contract farming has provisions to protect the interests of farmers. For instance, the grower can walk away from the contract anytime but the company can't. It protects the minimum guaranteed price in the event of a drastic fall in the open market rate, even as the agriculturist gets a share of the post-contract price surge after a contract farming agreement is signed. To give a fillip to development of parallel markets, the Central law has also disallowed State levies (market fee, RDC and so on) on transactions outside the APMC platform. While, on one hand, this move will reduce the cost of food to consumers, on the other, it will lessen the burden of food subsidy. Instead of re-introducing these levies, the States will do well to abolish these on purchases made at APMC *mandis* as well.

Complementing the other two legislations, the Centre has also enacted, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 to exclude pulses, cereals, edible oil, oil seeds, onions and potatoes from the purview of this archaic law. This will free the processors, millers, exporters and so on from stock limits and other shackles and help them do their business in a seamless manner. However, the exceptions (imposition of stock limits in situations of sudden spike in price like in the case of onions right now) should be sparingly used as it gives the wrong signal, particularly in export markets, and will eventually boomerang on farmers.

Giving more options to farmers to sell their produce can't be stalled just because the potential buyers won't give them MSP. Instead of opposing reform that promises something distinctly better than what the farmers are getting today, the States need to work to make their *mandis* efficient and healthy. Both APMC and non-APMC markets giving competition to each other is the best foot forward for ensuring a fair deal to farmers.

(*The writer is a policy analyst*)

Air quality management is the answer

Enacting laws sans assessment only leads to diverting attention from long-term comprehensive solutions to short-term myopic interventions

SNEHASHIS **MITTRA**

A legislation on air quality management in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) is perhaps an idea whose time has come. With the Supreme Court hot on its heels on the issue of air pollution, the Central Government has taken a holistic view of the matter. A new law will seek to put a permanent statutory body in place with participants from the affected States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and, of course, Delhi to reduce air pollution in contiguous areas. Delhi's air quality has been in the "very poor" category and is predicted to remain so till the end of winter. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's satellite imagery also showed a very dense cluster of fires in Punjab, Haryana and nearby regions. Air pollution in urban areas arises from multiple sources, which may vary with location and developmental activities. Anthropogenic activities, such as rampant industrialisation, exploitation and overconsumption of natural resources and the ever-growing population size, are major contributors to air pollution.

The Delhi-NCR region bears the brunt of farmland fires that contribute heavily to the annual air pollution crisis. Dense smoke billows from smouldering paddy fields, which are set on fire to prepare the ground for sowing the next crop. The smoke rises and settles over vast swathes of north and north-west India. Coupled with local emissions and dust, it has in recent years turned cities into what the apex court once described as "gas chambers."

According to data compiled by the Union Agriculture Ministry, Punjab accounted for 82 per cent of the stubble burning cases, besides Haryana and UP, between October 1 and 23. This contributed heavily to the foul air choking Delhi-NCR.

In a recent order, the top court had ordered the deployment of the National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts and Guides for assisting in the monitoring of crop residue burning in the fields of Punjab, Haryana, UP and Delhi-NCR, saying all it wants is that the "people can breathe fresh air without any pollution."

The law intends to address the issue of multiplicity of authorities that hampers coordinated action, though it has to address State jurisdictions involved in implementing steps. There are enough laws to deal with the situation, experts feel, saying multiplicity of institutions and overlapping laws may end up creating even more confusion and friction.

Both the Centre and the States have enough powers under the existing laws and more than any new legislation, there has to be actual action on pollution sources while implementing existing rules and regulations effectively, say experts.

As of now, the Central Government has been using its powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in order to issue directions to control pollution. Both the State and Centre have enough powers under existing laws — the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 — to take preventive and remedial measures to deal with air pollution. In case the Centre intends to enact a law regulating farming practice, it will have to ensure that it does not encroach upon the domain reserved for the State. Agriculture is a State subject while the environment is in the Concurrent List. In case it directly impacts agricultural practices, it is likely to face both social opposition as well as legal challenges, say environmental experts, who rue that the Supreme Court, Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) may not be that clear as to what needs to be done. They say that if the Government is keen on resolving the issue, it must undertake a thorough review of the various laws and institutions in order to look at their efficacy and utility.

Enacting laws or issuing directions without any assessment and consultation only ends up as a way to divert attention from long-term comprehensive solutions to short-term myopic interventions.

"The problem lies in the fact that political will is missing when it comes to implementation. Having said that, it will be a welcome step if there is a specific provision to deal with crop residue burning at the national level. It should not be left alone as a problem in Punjab and Haryana only. Satellite images from central and southern India show the extent of crop waste burning in these parts as well, which have an impact on local climate resilience," says Polash Mukerjee, Air Quality Researcher.

There is no dearth of power under the law, the question is of adherence, says Anumita Roy Chowdhury, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment.

The moot question, according to former counsel for the CPCB in the Supreme Court Vijay Panjwani, is what action the Centre can take if the State fails to follow the directions?

A report by Beijing-based policy think tank, Bluetech Clean Air Alliance (BCAA), released in June 2019, had said that China faced a similar problem and the Chinese Government started to show strong political commitment in tackling the issue from the highest levels, which is widely considered to be a key factor for the success of such measures. "Political commitments from the State Governments are also required to ensure they are transformed into solid actions. Effective air quality management requires science-based policy-making, analysing scientific assessments, data monitoring, emissions inventory, air quality modelling, source apportionment studies and transport planning. China's lessons showed that significant investments and efforts that have no foundation in science are made in vain, with no impact on air quality improvement," says the report.

Despite US President Donald Trump's jibe about India's "filthy air", Delhi did record a drop of 25 per cent in PM-10 levels and a 19 per cent fall in PM-2.5 in 2019, as compared with 2016. But neither the pace of decline of these two key air pollutants, nor the existing target under the National Clean Air Programme are likely to be enough to make the city breathe easily even by 2024, going by the national ambient air quality standards. Air quality management is the need of the hour and must be undertaken at all cost.

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FOREIGN EYE

WHAT TOOK BORIS SO LONG?

The tough restrictions will hurt but are needed — and the UK Prime Minister's foot-dragging has only increased the cost. This lockdown will save lives, and the more assiduously people respect it, the more quickly and effectively it will work. The public has so far proved markedly more responsible than those leading the country. But every Government failure saps the morale, goodwill and sense of purpose on which compliance depends.

(*The Guardian* editorial)

Sensex snaps 3-day losing streak

RIL TANKS OVER 8% POST Q2 SHOW

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices found firmer ground on Monday after three days of declines as robust demand for banking and financial stocks amid upbeat macroeconomic data neutralised heavy selling in heavyweight Reliance Industries. A positive trend in global markets too bolstered sentiment, though a sharp depreciation in the rupee capped the gains, traders said.

After gyrating 633.11 points in a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 143.51 points or 0.36 per cent higher at 39,757.58.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 26.75 points or 0.23 per cent to 11,669.15.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 7.10 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, HDFC, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, SBI, Bajaj Finance and HDFC Bank.

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported an over four-fold jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 4,882 crore for the September quarter, driven largely by core income growth and lesser provisions for the pandemic-related impact.

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd on Monday said its consolidated net profit declined by 57.5 per cent to Rs 4,600 crore in the July-September quarter of 2020-21. However, during the quarter ended September 30, 2019, Rs 8,000 crore pertained to profit on loss of control of subsidiary GRUH Finance Limited, it added.

Reliance Industries (RIL) was the top laggard among the Sensex constituents, crashing 8.62 per cent, after the company on Friday evening reported a 15 per cent drop in second quarter net profit as a slump in core oil and chemicals business dragged down continued good showing in consumer-facing verticals such as telecom.

HCL Tech, TCS, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Bajaj Auto, Maruti and UltraTech Cement also ended in the red, skidding up to 2.49 per cent.

"The weak opening reflected the rough waters market the entered last week. However, some recovery was seen as investors showed interest in banking stocks as major players announced Q2 results, beating the street estimates with positive outlook.

"Additionally, the banking stocks are attempting to price, in expectation of the positive SC verdict on moratorium. The Indian market is expected to be volatile, amidst mixed global sentiments due to increasing COVID cases, US election and delayed stimulus," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Gold rises by ₹103; silver gains ₹793

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose ₹103 to ₹51,286 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday supported by strong global trends and rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹51,183 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver also gained ₹793 to ₹62,155 per kilogram, from ₹61,362 per kilogram in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were up by ₹103, supported by strong global gold prices and rupee depreciation," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

The rupee depreciated 32 paise and settled at 74.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday tracking strong American currency.

In the international market, gold traded with gains at USD 1,885 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.83 per ounce.

Rupee slumps 32 paise to close at 74.42 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 32 paise and settled at 74.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday tracking strong American currency amid global risk aversion.

The local unit opened at 74.40 at the interbank forex market, then lost further ground and finally closed at 74.42 against the greenback, down 32 paise over its last close.

During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 74.28 and a low of 74.45 against the greenback.

On Thursday, the rupee had declined by 23 paise to close at a two-month low of 74.10 against the US currency.

Forex market was closed on Friday on account of Id-E-Milad.

Uncertainty ahead of US presidential election weighed on investor sentiment, traders said.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.23 per cent to 94.25.

GST shortfall: Centre to transfer ₹6,000 cr to 16 States, 3 UTs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Monday said it will transfer ₹6,000 crore as the second tranche of GST compensation shortfall to 16 States and 3 Union Territories - including Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Puducherry and Delhi.

The Centre had on October 23 transferred ₹6,000 crore to 16 States and 2 UTs of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.

In the second tranche of transfer, Union Territory of Puducherry has been included.

"The Ministry of Finance, Government of India, under its 'Special Window to States for meeting the GST Compensation Cess shortfall,' will be releasing an amount of ₹6,000 crore as second tranche to 16 States and 3 Union Territories today," the ministry said in a statement.

This borrowing was done at an interest of 4.42 per cent, which is lower than the cost of borrowings for the states and UTs, thus benefitting them, it said."Ministry of Finance has facilitated loans of ₹12,000 crore till date under the Special Window to States/UTs," it added.

21 states and 3 Union Territories till date, have opted for the Special Window and the loans raised by the Centre would be released on a back-to-back basis to states/UTs, in lieu of GST Compensation Cess releases.The loans have been released to the following states and Union Territories - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand, Delhi, J & K and Puducherry.

Last month, the Centre gave in to the demands of opposition ruled states to borrow and fund the GST compensation shortfall.

The Finance Ministry said that the Centre would borrow from the market to pay the GST compensation shortfall of ₹1.1 lakh crore to states, and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to state govts. This arrangement will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre and will appear as capital receipts for state govts.The Centre had in August proposed two options to states: borrow Rs 97,000 crore (on account of GST implementation) from a special window facilitated by the RBI or the complete shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore (including Rs 1.38 lakh crore due to COVID) from the market.

Data centre industry to see USD 5 bln investment by 2025 on data localisation

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Data centres, which have seen a massive growth on the back of data localisation diktats and the pandemic, will witness USD 5 billion in investments till March 2025 and a threefold increase in capacity, a report said on Monday. The overall capacity, which is measured by the amount of power they consume, stood at 360 MW as of March 2020 and the same is expected to surge to 1,100-1,200 MW by end of March 2025 after the investments of up to USD 5 billion, the report by the research arm of rating agency Crisil said.

The data centre business has entities like Japan's NTT, Sify, Hiranandani Group etc in the fray already, and others like the Adani Group and an arm of Bharti Airtel have already announced investment plans.

The research note said there was a 38 per cent growth in data consumption in April-June period and the consumption will continue to grow at a compounded rate of 25-30 per cent per year in the next few years, it said. The growth in consumption will be driven by factors such as high growth in e-commerce, increase in usage of social media, greater preference for over the top (OTT) platforms, the government's impetus to the Digital India initiative and rapid digitalisation

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11,697.35	11,725.65	11,557.40	11,669.15	26.75
INDUSINDBK	590	635	590	623.45	37.75
ICICIBANK	417	422.8	407	416.25	23.65
AXISBANK	496.85	531.7	495.1	521.9	29.4
HDFC	1,916.00	2,065.00	1,916.00	2,022.30	98.75
BHARTIARTL	435	460	435	455.55	21.8
SBIN	192.2	197.25	190.05	196	6.75
BAJFINANCE	3,325.55	3,447.40	3,274.65	3,408.40	99.4
HDFCBANK	1,194.35	1,225.00	1,177.50	1,216.25	32.7
NTPC	88.3	89.6	87.95	89.55	1.95
BAJAJFINSV	5,601.40	5,725.00	5,560.00	5,695.00	121.5
KOTAKBANK	1,555.00	1,604.80	1,534.80	1,575.00	27.6
POWERGRID	172.55	174.4	171.95	173.85	2.85
HEROMOTOCO	2,888.00	2,888.00	2,812.00	2,837.35	37.55
GRASIM	784.4	791.85	775.5	788	9.65
COALINDIA	114.6	116.3	113.55	115.6	1.4
ONGC	65.4	66.05	64.2	65.65	0.75
ITC	166.8	167.2	164.45	166.75	1.5
INFY	1,065.00	1,079.95	1,051.10	1,068.70	8.1
SUNPHARMA	467.9	471	459.05	468.65	2.9
HINDUNILVR	2,072.00	2,087.65	2,056.00	2,078.95	7.65
TITAN	1,167.50	1,182.00	1,154.00	1,167.95	2.2
JSWSTEEL	311.45	312	306.55	309.5	0.5
TATAMOTORS	133.65	134	131.1	132.7	0.05
M&M	592	599.9	589	594	0
LT	930	937.95	920.65	929	-0.5
SHREECEM	21,694.55	21,898.55	21,512.10	21,660.20	-34.35
HINDALCO	171.5	172.5	167.65	170.2	-0.45
TECHM	821.4	824.8	809.4	811.1	-2.2
SBILIFE	771	778.5	762.2	766	-3.15
HDFCLIFE	590.8	594.5	585.6	587.05	-2.7
ULTRACEMCO	4,551.00	4,589.55	4,520.00	4,547.90	-26.15
ADANIPORTS	360	362.7	351.2	357.65	-2.2
NESTLEIND	17,201.00	17,360.00	16,940.00	17,050.05	-111.55
CIPLA	757.5	762.35	744.4	749.25	-5.25
DRREDDY	4,896.00	4,920.00	4,820.80	4,851.00	-37.65
GAIL	85.1	85.3	83.5	83.85	-0.9
MARUTI	7,044.90	7,053.40	6,850.00	6,875.45	-89.7
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,918.00	2,934.85	2,822.45	2,848.00	-38.9
ASIANPAINT	2,198.00	2,225.90	2,166.10	2,180.00	-31.5
BRITANNIA	3,483.00	3,485.95	3,391.15	3,420.10	-53.15
WIPRO	341.75	341.75	333.7	334.5	-6.2
IOC	80.05	80.5	77.55	78.05	-1.5
UPL	465	465	431.65	444.25	-9
BPCL	353.8	354.65	344.75	347.4	-7.05
TATASTEEL	410	412.5	398.7	401.8	-8.75
TCS	2,660.00	2,664.85	2,600.05	2,608.00	-56.85
HCLTECH	841.95	843.85	819.2	822.15	-19.8
EICHERMOT	2,079.80	2,096.10	2,015.20	2,033.00	-52.6
DIVISLAB	3,121.15	3,134.90	3,040.30	3,055.00	-87.05
RELIANCE	2,027.00	2,027.00	1,859.15	1,876.00	-178.5

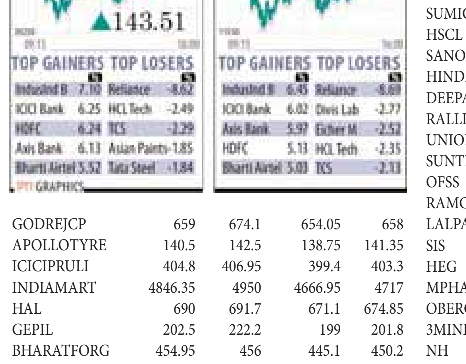
NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,453.35	27,530.45	27,344.90	27,445.00	96.55
HAVELLS	730	790	730	778.55	50.65
BANKBARODA	42.1	45.25	41.85	44.6	2.9
PFC	87.85	92.1	86.95	90.95	3.85
PNB	27.1	28.4	26.75	27.9	1.15
BANDHANBNK	294	307.9	294	301.15	11.7
DLF	160.3	170.9	156.65	164.25	5.95
MARICO	359.9	368.1	357.1	367.4	10.75
GICRE	119.8	123.5	118.2	121.3	3.45
PEL	1,263.00	1,304.00	1,252.55	1,293.05	30.8
NMDC	82.7	85.3	81.8	84.1	1.65
ABBOTINDIA	15,300.00	15,550.00	15,150.00	15,540.00	241.85
ALKEM	2,634.30	2,666.00	2,616.00	2,666.00	31.7
SBICARD	799	814.6	793.2	809	9.25
BAJAJHLDNG	2,326.00	2,331.60	2,300.00	2,331.60	24.9
ACC	1,649.00	1,671.00	1,630.00	1,666.25	17.25
SIEMENS	1,270.00	1,290.00	1,261.70	1,278.80	11.05
BERGEPAINT	625.4	629.8	618	628	4.95
MOTHERSUMI	106.5	107.1	105.15	106.2	0.6
AMBUJACEM	260	261.9	257.2	261	1.3
MUTHOOTFIN	1,239.00	1,248.00	1,200.00	1,236.75	5.95
NAUKRI	3,565.00	3,629.20	3,525.00	3,561.10	12.15
ADANIGREEN	860	899.2	835.15	859	2.6
CONCOR	392	394.4	385.4	392.05	1.15
HINDZINC	203.6	204.8	200.05	203.8	0.5
TATACONSUM	494	498.2	488.3	493.85	1
HINDPETRO	188	189	185.7	188	0.35
PGHH	10,200.00	10,395.85	10,145.05	10,210.00	12.9
HDFCAMC	2,254.00	2,268.00	2,225.90	2,251.95	1.75
IGL	403.1	408	398.2	402.5	0.25
OFSS	3,150.00	3,174.15	3,115.00	3,145.10	1.5
LUPIN	912	917.9	900.05	909.7	0.45
ICICIPRULI	406.9	407.55	399.35	403.4	0.05
MCDOWELL-N	508	508.35	500.1	504	-0.3
UBL	930	930	914	925	-1.2
BIOCON	403.6	407	395.6	402.85	-0.75
INDIGO	1,315.00	1,326.60	1,285.00	1,306.30	-3.2
BOSCHLTD	11,680.00	11,741.00	11,431.00	11,580.00	-30.15
COLPAL	1,516.70	1,523.90	1,492.10	1,506.00	-10.7
ADANITRANS	291.8	296.85	286	288	-2.15
DABUR	515	516.8	504.05	507	-4.45
ICICIGI	1,245.00	1,248.00	1,219.10	1,225.05	-10.95
PIDILITIND	1,580.00	1,599.55	1,552.75	1,555.00	-15.4
TORNTPHARM	2,566.00	2,574.85	2,508.35	2,540.00	-26.85
GODREJCP	664.8	674.5	653.6	657.5	-7.3
PETRONET	231.5	232.4	225	226.55	-4.4
AUROPHARMA	774	775.85	753	757	-15.65
LTI	2,900.00	2,955.00	2,831.00	2,853.10	-65.4
DMART	2,240.00	2,259.00	2,163.00	2,181.90	-58
INFRATEL	186.6	187.15	179.65	180.6	-4.95
CADILAHC	418	423.45	404	406	-11.7

BSE 500

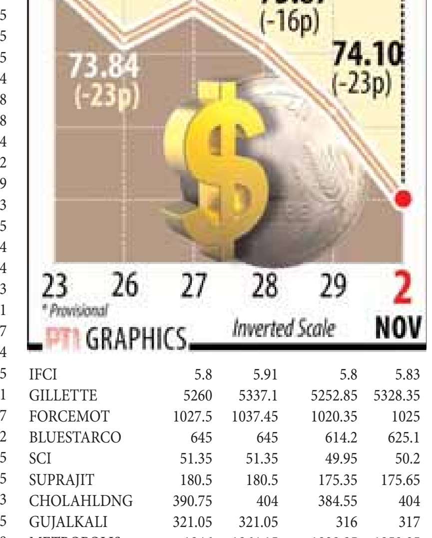
Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
RELIANCE	2033.5	2033.5	1860	1877.3
ICICIBANK	417.95	422.85	407.2	417.1
INDUSINDBK	596	635	590.9	627.15
INFY	1070	1079.95	1051	1072
FORTIS	125.7	129.2	124.95	128.45
TATAMOTORS	133.7	134	131.1	132.85
SRTRANSFIN	709.95	765	696.35	754.2
IDEA	8.77	8.9	8.41	8.71
HDFC	1929.95	2065	1921	2042.65
AXISBANK	497.8	531.5	495.1	522.6
HDFCBANK	1195	1224.9	1177.25	1215.5
HCLTECH	843.2	843.2	820	822.2
SBIN	192.45	197.2	190.05	196
JSWSTEEL	310.5	311.5	306.65	309.3
BAJFINANCE	3340	3446.25	3276	3415.3
TCS	2665	2665	2600	2603.85
BHARTIARTL	434.9	460	434.65	457.55
ASIANPAINT	2207	2226	2166	2172.05
ASHOKLEY	79.3	82.65	78.65	81.8
ADANIGREEN	852	899.05	841.65	859.15
KOTAKBANK	1555	1604.4	1535.25	1577.05
HEROMOTOCO	2890	2890	2813.45	2834.6
DLF	160.2	170.9	156.8	164.75
HAVELLS	726	789	726	782.15
MARUTI	7050	7050	6843.7	6863.35
BANDHANBNK	292.85	307.9	292.85	300.85
ESCORTS	1202	1239	1185.85	1228.7
HINDUNILVR	2073	2087.4	2056.05	2073.8
GODREJPROP	1031.1	1149	1031.1	1139.35
TITAN	1169.45	1181.75	1154	1168.8
TATACONSUM	494	497.75	488	492.45
ITC	165.75	167.05	164.4	166.7
LT	930.5	937.65	920.5	929.2
DRREDDY	4904.45	4918.3	4822.5	4854.55
PHOENIXLTD	565.25	574.8	562.1	563.4
LAURUSLABS	321	321	298.25	300.75
TECHM	815	824.75	809.75	814.1
BANKBARODA	42.1	45.15	41.85	44.8
FEDERALBNK	50.5	52.45	50.05	51.7
SUNPHARMA	469	470.8	459.3	469.2
TATASTEEL	412	412.4	398.85	402.8
IBULHSGFIN	140.45	142.55	138.1	140.2
JINDALSTEL	191.9	194.7	187.3	189.75
JUSTDIAL	611	646.8	587.5	596.9
VEDL	95.5	96.3	94	94.7
UPL	465	465	431.6	444.9
NTPC	88.7	89.5	87.95	89.25
CHOLAFIN	271	294.95	268.65	292.75
RBLBANK	176.9	183.35	174.1	179.6
ADANIPORTS	362.45	362.5	351.35	357.5
PVR	1075	1122	1067.45	1106.55
PNB	27	28.4	26.75	27.9
INDHOTEL	95.95	95.95	92	92.8
IOC	80.7	80.7	77.65	78.1
ZEEL	187.85	187.85	181.2	183.35
DMART	2236	2258.1	2161.95	2198.6
M&MFIN	120.1	125.8	120.1	125
BRITANNIA	3477.35	3479.45	3392	3420.25
HDFCLIFE	591.8	593.8	585.35	587.15
LICHSGFIN	284.85	300.9	283.85	299.05
PIDILITIND	1574.15	1598.9	1552.6	1553.05
COALINDIA	115	116.2	113.6	115.65
BAJAJFINSV	5605	5723.3	5563.45	5684.1
EICHERMOT	2083.9	2093.55	2016	2029.55
ACC	1660	1670	1631.05	1667.5
GRASIM	780.3	791.55	775.35	783.55
IDFCFIRSTB	31.1	31.15	29.9	30.25
L&TFH	64.8	66.4	64.4	65.65
CADILAHC	419.75	423	405	410.15
IDBI	37	37.35	36.1	36.5
ONGC	65.15	66.05	64.2	65.7
AMARAJABAT	761	776.85	761	774.65
DIVISLAB	3140	3140	3040	3047.85
TVSMOTOR	459.9	461.5	447.1	456.3
AUROPHARMA	776.95	776.95	753	760
BAJAJ-AUTO	2895.1	2937.2	2823.35	2843.5
INFRATEL	185.1	186.95	179.8	180.7
TATACHEM	322.25	323.45	311.65	313.5
MCX	1701	1701	1664.5	1677.05
LUPIN	910	917.3	900.1	910
BLISSGVS	171	171	158.95	167.7
MRF	65950	66564	64837.4	66126.25
CIPLA	758	762.45	744.6	748.9
ADANIENT	339	344.2	333.55	340.85
CANBK	87	88.7	86.25	87.35
HINDALCO	171.5	172.5	167.6	170.8
DIXON	9499	9641.25	9412.2	9494.75
BIOCON	403.6	407	395.6	404
HINDPETRO	188.9	189	185.6	187.25
TATAELXSI	1539.7	1539.7	1491.25	1492.05
NESTLEIND	17122	17359.45	16934	17110.2
WIPRO	342.4	342.4	334.1	334.9
MOTHERSUMI	106	107	105.1	106.2
INDIGO	1311.2	1326.3	1286	1301.7
AMBUJACEM	261.9	261.9	257.25	260.45
BLUEDART	3430	3920	3430	3842.55
WOCKPHARMA	291	310	286.15	295.5
M&M	596	599.5	590	595.85
MANAPPURAM	156.5	159.95	154.5	158.4
MFSL	605	626.35	589	600.35
DABUR	513	516.85	504.25	506.9
GLENMARK	469	476.15	467.65	472.2
IPCALAB	2281.2	2435.95	2267.05	2300.2
MUTHOOTFIN	1249	1249	1200.05	1236.25
SAIL	34.65	34.65	34	34.05
PIIND	2213.05	2262.9	2198.15	2228.7
BPCL	358	358	344.6	346.8
JUBLFOOD	2135	2187.25	2099.6	2166.5

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
BEL	87.2	89.6	87.2	88.55
SBICARD	803.95	814.6	794.35	807
ADANIGAS	223.4	226.6	216.1	219.45
SIEMENS	1287	1291.5	1262.2	1280.65
IGL	402.1	407.95	398	402.2
PFC	88.05	92.1	86.95	91.25
GAIL	86	86	83.5	83.95
SUNTV	381.25	429.2	381.25	423.25
POWERGRID	173	174.4	172.15	173.1
BHEL	28.1	28.35	27.5	27.85
SBILIFE	770.15	778.4	761.8	766.15
RECLTD	103	104.8	102.2	104.3
ABCAPITAL	66.5	69	63.5	68.45
IRCTC	1314.4	1322	1301	1303
VOLTAS	705	723.8	696.2	720.1
APOLLOHOSP	2129.8	2147.15	2065.6	2076.8
PEL	1263	1303.3	1256.05	1292
GRANULES	382	382	368	369.55
ULTRACEMCO	4536	4588.5	4519	4546.7
FRETAIL	74.1	74.2	70.15	70.9
BOSCHLTD	11678	11738.15	11431	11566
HDFCAMC	2246	2263.3	2225.9	2250.15
NMDC	82.75	85.3	81.85	84.25
SHILPAMED	441.6	446	406.75	413.75
MINDTREE	1338.5	1344.1	1308.65	1318.45
GMM	3525.05	3552.25	3505	3513.75
DEEPAKNI	739	743.2	715.35	717.5
STAR	689.6	704	679.95	684.8
GODREJCP	659	674.1	654.05	658
APOLLOTYRE	140.5	142.5	138.75	141.35
ICICIPRULI	404.8	406.95	399.4	403.3
INDIAMART	4846.35	4950	4666.95	4717
HAL	690	691.7	671.1	674.85
GEPIL	202.5	222.2	199	201.8
BHARATFORG	454.95	456	445.1	450.2
TORNTPHARM	2589.55	2589.55	2511.65	2544.05
CARBORUNIV	284.1	296.85	282.2	294.75
INFIBEAM	82.5	83	81.95	82.3
CGCL	248.5	253.6	248	249
SHREECEM	21750	21867.4	21508.95	21640.95
BATAINDIA	1315	1320.7	1302.65	1307
ENDURANCE	1054.1	1087.8	1050.2	1076.5
PNBHOUSING	348	365.7	343.95	354.85
COLPAL	1519	1523.45	1492	1505
TATAMTRDVR	56.1	56.15	54.55	55.05
CANFINHOME	458.35	468.6	456	462.95
ABFRL	155	155	150.35	151.95
MGL	816	827	809.2	816.3
WHIRLPOOL	2178	2178	2035	2045
SYNGENE	548.85	548.85	522.35	528.95
NAUKRI	3560	3624	3525.75	3560
MARICO	363.5	367.65	357.1	367.2
PETRONET	231.25	232.4	225	227.05
COFORGE	2271.8	2271.8	2103.25	2112
TATAPOWER	52.9	52.9	52.05	52.65
ALOKTEXT	22	22.2	21.4	21.5
IEX	192.5	193	184.8	185.65
ABBOTINDIA	15319.2	15550	15042.95	15523
BALKRISIND	1346.3	1346.5	1307.05	1335
CESC	560	577.25	555.25	571.8
SUVENPHAR	319	319	296.4	299.8
COROMANDEL	730	733.5	700.35	720
BERGEPAINT	628.9	629.5	618.2	628.3
TATACOMM	946.65	969.8	940	949.75
SWANENERGY	144.4	145.8	138.05	138.2
BAYERCROP	5470.75	5470.75	5356.05	5370
WELCORP	107.55	108.6	99	101.5
BSOFT	180.4	183.05	173.25	174.5
BANKINDIA	39	39.6	38.25	39.1
DELTACORP	119	119.75	108.35	110.65
CEATLTD	1089.1	1133	1064.8	1103.35
MOTILALOFS	582.2	607.15	553.9	560.8
QUESS	410	414	400.95	403.8
POLYCAB	932.95	940.7	905.95	909.85
ISEC	464.5	473.7	446.15	447.75
PAGEIND	20495.7	20495.7	19455	19622.45
RAIN	108	108.75	101	102.4
BEML	617.65	617.9	605.4	608.3
AUBANK	803.95	803.95	762.15	768.7
HAWKINCOOK	5076.7	5233.45	5040.1	5110
RELAXO	669	669	655.1	664.8
NATIONALUM	30.2	30.65	29.95	30.05
LTI	2917.45	2940.3	2833.2	2850.45
THYROCARE	1159	1179.85	1131.05	1150.2
FSL	69.25	70.25	68.5	68.65
NAVINFLUOR	2225	2245.3	2156.75	2184.2
CAPPL	481.2	504.7	480	485.6
AARTIIND	1024.8	1024.8	990.45	1009.95
RADICO	435.45	443.55	418.05	423.45
PFIZER	4970.05	5043.15	4950	4960
CASTROLIND	116.3	116.3	111.1	111.4



Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
DCBBANK	78.7	79.8	78	78.45
AFFLE	2650	2718	2599.4	2645
CUB	148.25	154.5	148.25	152.45
SRF	4406.75	4453.45	4348.35	4414
JAMNAAUTO	41.2	43.5	40.55	42.6
ALKYLAMINE	2965	2965	2881.15	2900
FCONSUMER	7.65	7.65	7.2	7.29
GUJGAS	297.05	298	290.25	296.6
EQUITAS	47	47	45.05	45.25
REDINGTON	130.5	130.5	121	122.05
PHILIPCARB	139.5	143.5	136.9	141.4
CYIENT	391.1	404	391.1	402
ASTRAZEN	4400	4400	4240	4255.75
AJANTPHARM	1576	1589.75	1571	1574.85
SOUTHBANK	6.48	6.52	6.35	6.44
HFCL	17.2	17.45	16.9	16.9
FINEORG	2649.05	2693.35	2581.05	2591.65
GODREJAGRO	514.7	528	507.9	513
INOXLEISUR	252.25	261.3	252.25	258.35
TRENT	660	681.85	642	673.15
VAKRANGEE	27.9	27.9	26.1	26.95
TRIDENT	7.31	7.4	7.2	7.27
KAJARIACER	566.55	567	554	562
IDFC	30.75	30.75	29.4	29.6
WELSPUNIND	70.2	70.2	66.75	66.75
SONATSOFTW	317.9	324.55	300.8	318.3
GODFRYPHLP	891	901.2	877.25	882
GNFC	205.95	210.65	202.35	202.65
ADANITRANS	292	296.15	285.8	286.85
NOCIL	138.4	138.4	132.1	133.6
AMBER	2194	2194	2084.05	2100.4
ICICIGI	1240	1247.45	1220	1224.9
DCAL	153	153	137	138.2
JBCHEPHARM	1039	1039	966.95	993
ZYDUSWELL	1882.6	1891.95	1760	1785.2
APLAPOLLO	3150	3175.2	3064.5	3109.2
SUMICHEM	265.5	272.25	265.5	269
HSCL	45	47.5	45	45.65
SANOFI	8007	8400.3	7925	8330
HINDZINC	205	205	200.4	202.75
DEEPAKFERT	149	151.8	147.9	149.05
RALLIS	247.9	248	238.2	239.6
UNIONBANK	24	24.6	23.85	23.95
SUNTECK	270.2	272.95	264.45	267.3
OFSS	3120	3165.35	3118.05	3147.05
RAMCOCEM	800.55	805	790.95	801.95
LALPATHLAB	2335.55	2338.6	2227.4	2306.3
SIS	377.8	389.65	368.95	382
HEG	675	679	659.15	662.9
MPHASIS	1388	1388	1346.8	1349
OBEROIRLTY	444	459.45	436.25	441.7
3MINDIA	18675	19260	18382.05	19247
NH	344.9	344.9	318.5	328.3
NBCC	23.1	23.1	22.4	22.5
CUMMINSIND	440	440	429	437.1
PERSISTENT	1152	1152	1103	1132
CENTRALBK	11.12	11.12	10.87	10.99
SOBHA	294	302.35	286	288
CENTURYTEX	303	307.95	302.05	304.05
TATAINVEST	831.05	861.1	831.05	847.4
APLLTD	970	970	944.1	966.4
GREAVESCOT	71.4	71.4	66	66.8
GLAXO	1479.9	1479.9	1403	1407
GMRINFRA	23.5	23.65	23.25	23.35
ASTRAL	1102.05	1128	1092.2	1105.5
CONCOR	391.7	394	385.85	391.75
SUDARSCHEM	442	444.05	432.25	436.1
SPICEJET	51	51	48.75	48.8
JKCEMENT	1897.8	1897.8	1774.25	1817.65
OIL	85.4	86.5	83.75	84.05
JSWENERGY	60.85	61.2	58.6	58.85
UJJIVANSFB	30.2	31.8	30.2	30.9
INDIANB	59.85	59.9	57.5	58.5
CRISIL	2070	2125	2020	2044
REPCOHOME	188.35	196.5	188.35	195.9
EXIDEIND	160.7	161	157.1	159.5
VIPIND	270.2	274.5	269.4	272.55
NHPC	20.05	20.05	19.75	19.85
GSFC	67.85	68.6	65.15	66.3
BALRAMCHIN	159.95	159.95	152.4	153.7
UJJIVAN	249.95	249.95	210.2	213.1
SFL	1359.5	1377.7	1281.25	1302.8
JSL	62.6	62.75	58.25	58.9
POWERINDIA	955	968.4	920.25	929
TV18BRDCST	29.9	29.9	27.9	27.95
NAM-INDIA	272.85	272.85	268.5	270.85
FINOLEXIND	518	553	515	542
GRAPHITE	176	177.4	173.75	174.8
VAIBHAVGBL	1990	1990	1890.85	1900
NATCOPHARM	898.7	910.15	890.25	897
VBL	659.5	684.9	659.5	673.7
TORNTPOWER	316.9	316.9	304.1	307
ADANIPOWER	36	36.5	35.85	35.95
AIAENG	1699.5	1701.8	1621.5	1663
RAJESHEXPO	466	466	440.8	444
RVNL	18.35	18.35	18.05	18.1
HONAUT	28410.45	28410.45	27902	28121
JUBILANT	723	732	709.5	716.45
TIINDIA	668	673	647.7	661.25
VINATIORGA	1211.65	1211.65	1173.2	1179.7
IFBIND	710	755	681.75	693
KEC	332	332	324.1	329.7
LAXMIMACH	3970	4067.35	3970	4050
NCC	34	34.15	33.5	33.65
CROMPTON	302	302.7	285.95	292.2
TATACOFFEE	104	104	99.5	99.75
EIDPARRY	271.5	274.95	268.9	274.95
ORIENTCEM	65	65.3	63	63.1
HIMATSEIDE	127.2	127.2	120.75	120.75

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
ECLERX	693.05	697.8	670	673.4
HEIDELBERG	186.45	186.45	182.1	183.4
UBL	938	938	915	924.75
GICRE	120	123.4	118.05	121.2
PGHL	5192.9	5255	5166	5218
PTC	47.25	47.7	46.45	47.55
CREDITACC	660	660	620.4	635
BIRLACORPN	643.75	644.45	631	634
GARFIBRES	1881	1890.45	1813.95	1851.05
ATUL	6099.75	6099.75	5868	5925.95
IBREALEST	48.1	48.35	47.5	47.65
LTTS	1697.95	1697.95	1604.2	1624.4
DISHTV	11.34	12.1	11.23	11.8
CHAMBLFERT	162.9	162.9	156.15	156.8
COCHINSHIP	347.9	347.9	336.45	340.4
JKPAPER*	88	89.35	86.5	87.2
CENTURYPLY	174	180.55	171.3	179.9
WABAG	182.75	186.4	175.25	180.3
AVANTI	483.4	483.4	471	473.35
ITI	118.45	118.9	115.5	116.4
INDIACEM	118.9	118.9	115.8	116.4
JKTYRE	67.4	68.15	65.5	66.3
ADVENZYMES	314.25	314.25	300.35	303.1
STLTECH	146.9	147.95	143.35	144.7
VGUARD	173.3	173.3	168	168.4
KEI	340	351	331.8	334.05
UCOBANK	11.85	12.2	11.7	11.81
BASF	1366	1400	1335.2	1341.7
MIDHANI	174.8	183.3	173.55	182
BRIGADE	185	185	176	181.5
MEGH	71.35	71.5	70.25	70.85
ABB	895.05	897.05	869	875.3
EMAMILTD	359.25	361.45	345	348.75
GODREJIND	366.5	369.35	356	359
CARERATING	302.65	303	296.05	302.6
EDELWEISS	55.35	56.4	53.05	53.2
MRPL	28.9	29.3	27.65	28
ALKEM	2634.2	2670	2618	2670
CHENNPETRO	78	78	75.1	75.1
FDC	348	348	337.8	338.8
JSLHISAR	97.45	98	93.6	94
ERIS	505.35	515	500.3	509.5
SPARC	164.85	164.85	160.2	160.6
JKLAKSHMI	290	290	275.15	281.5
ORIENTELEC	208.9	217.3	203.3	210.6
PNCINFRA	172	172.05	162	168.25
BOMDYEING	62	62.25	61	61.35
BAJAJELEC	485.65	491.05	484.1	486.5
CHALET	136.9	138.3	132	137.45
RAYMOND	276	276	270	271.1
LINDEINDIA	835	838	819.2	835
BDL	288	291.45	286.1	286.1
PRESTIGE	252.8	253.8	240.25	243.05
KPITTECH	95	95	89.8	90.85
MAHABANK	11.09	11.36	10.99	11.14
DALBHARAT	847	856.55	827.05	835.45
NETWORK18	34.7	35.95	33.7	33.85
CCL	240	243.55	231.25	232.05
KRBL	256.4	256.55	249.2	251
VENKYS	1476.15	1476.15	1441.3	1447.85
NESCO	503.7	504.7	481.25	490.15
KANSAINER	520	525	511.75	513.8
LEMONTREE	26.8	27.45	26.8	27.05
GESHIP	228	228	217.2	220.35
RATNAMANI	1256	1274.65	1233	1245.3
MAHLOG	356.8	366	348.5	363.7
VARROC	288	291	282.6	285
ASHOKA	61.05	62.2	59.9	60
MOIL	129	129	125.05	125.6
JAICORPLTD	83	83.1	80.75	81.25
SYMPHONY	881	881	834.65	839
KALPATPOWR*	228	252.2	228	249.2
AEGISLOG	211.8	211.8	204.1	206.55
JMFINANCIL	81.7	81.7	76.55	76.95
HERITGFOOD	306.05	309.7	293.7	302.75
DHANUKA	740.45	745	711	713.7
OMAXE	66.5	66.75	64.65	66.4
BAJAJHLDNG	2323.75	2331.25	2300.9	2331.25
RCF	42.75	42.9	42.15	42.55
HINDCOPPER	32.6	33.1	32.3	32.3
SWSOLAR	210	218.75	210	215.5
KPRMILL	757.85	757.85	728.15	735.25
GRINDWELL	587.95	587.95	540.75	553.65
BBTC	1214.6	1218.3	1181.85	1190.65
GSPL	194.35	194.4	189.8	190.8
BAJAJCON	188.1	188.1	185	186.3
ZENSARTECH	177.95	177.95	172.5	173.45
MINDAIND	322.85	324.95	317.75	319.5
ENGINERSIN	65	65.5	64	64
KTKBANK	42.95	42.95	41.75	42.05
EIHOTEL	75.2	75.5	73.25	73.65
VRLLOG	150.95	152.4	149	149
SHK	85.2	86.15	83.3	83.65
WABCOINDIA	4820.05	4889.15	4805	4813.95
BALMLAWRIE	100.55	101.75	100.35	100.65
TCIEXP	797.4	800	761.9	767.75
UFLEX	336.15	336.75	323	324.05
NLCINDIA	49.75	49.75	48.3	48.6
AKZOINDIA	1983.1	1992.1	1950.15	1958.1
JTEKTINDIA	75.4	78.5	74.5	77.95
PRSMJOHNSN	72.25	72.65	70.75	71.05
SUPREMEIND	1455	1461.65	1449.45	1454.8
THERMAX	760	770	744.05	760
CSBBANK	229.7	237.8	229.4	235.25
FINCABLES	273	277	271.5	272.45
TIMETECHNO	35.5	38.75	35.5	38.4
IRCON	75.05	75.9	74.55	74.9
TVSSRICHAK	1411.95	1420.15	1386.95	1411.15
IIFL	74.9	77.1	74.85	75.85



Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
IFCI	5.8	5.91	5.8	5.83
GILLETTE	5260	5337.1	5252.85	5328.35
FORCEMOT	1027.5	1037.45	1020.35	1025
BLUESTARCO	645	645	614.2	625.1
SCI	51.35	51.35	49.95	50.2
SUPRAJIT	180.5	180.5	175.35	175.65
CHOLAHLDNG	390.75	404	384.55	404
GUJALKALI	321.05	321.05	316	317
METROPOLIS	1946	1964.15	1939.85	1950.05
PCJEWELLER	15.9	15.9	15.15	15.35
JYOTHYLAB	136	136.5	132.8	133.1
SJVN	22.25	22.4	21.8	22.4
MAHLIFE	240.2	274.8	240.2	271.9
MASFIN	815	832.6	810.05	824.4
MAHSCOOTER	2793.25	2825.5	2770	2795
IOB	9.28	9.33	9.15	9.2
PGHH	10145	10300	10145	10168.8
HUDCO	31.6	31.85	31.05	31.15
TASTYBIT	10012	10100	9974.5	10100
VSTIND	3415.45	3440.95	3334.1	3440
SHRIRAMCIT	798.6	836.9	798.6	822.6
SUNDRMFAST	429.1	430.2	418.55	430
LAOPALA	200.3	208	200.3	204
NBVENTURES	52.75	53.45	51.05	51.55
SOLARINDS	1007.45	1041.95	1004.9	1012.55
ALLCARGO	118.05	119.75	117.35	118.55
MHRIL	174.8	174.8	164.3	167.5
SOMANYCERA	212.4	212.4	201	203.65
J&KBANK	14.38	14.51	14.16	14.4
RITES	239.7	240.4	238	238
TTKPRESTIG	5699	5712.75	5620.1	5707.25
NIACL	100.2	102.3	100.2	100.35
GHCL	156.9	156.9	152.4	152.75
EPL	246.5	254.8	242.2	254.8
TNPL	103.5	103.5	100.7	101.3
INDOCO	264	264	252.15	254.15
PARAGMILK	106.5	106.9	103	103.4
TIMKEN	1071.55	1085.15	1066.6	1070
WESTLIFE	372.8	373.05	370	370.7
SCHNEIDER	70.6	70.6	69.15	69.5
GALAXYSURF	1628.05	1649	1611	1623.35
DBCORP	75.9	75.9	73.5	74.35
GULFOILLUB	654.95	671.45	654.75	671
TEAMLEASE	2228	2228	2190	2201
MMTC	15.85	16.05	15.8	16.05
SUZLON	3.52	3.52	3.52	3.52
SCHAEFFLER	3812.2	3812.2	3624.4	3634.85
DCMSHRIRAM	332.65	334.35	329	329
TATAMETALI	515	526	512	519.7
INDOSTAR	289	295.2	287.6	287.7
MINDACORP	70.25	70.25	66.4	66.4
KSB	450.25	451.75	439	439
AAVAS	1430.55	1435.75	1401.1	1427
SHOPERSTOP	173.05	175.55	171.85	174.15
JINDALSAW	60.45	60.45	59.8	59.9
HATHWAY	27.35	28.5	27.35	28.1
ITDC	230	230	219.6	222
STARCEMENT	83.1	83.5	82.35	82.8
ESABINDIA	1347.8	1347.8	1300	1335.75
TCNSBRANDS	374.3	382	367.75	380.4
MAHSEAMLES	222.05	223.45	221	221
CERA	2686.4	2736.95	2631	2721
JCHAC	2158.05	2191.45	2141	2141
JAGRAN	36.85	37	36.55	36.55
SKFINDIA	1500	1500	1470	1477.1
GRSE	193.1	193.1	190	190
SPANDANA	543.2	554.65	535.7	546.15
KNRCON	247.5	250.45	244.9	249.85
DBL	330	330	320.9	324.75
IRB	114.05	114.05	111.9	112.85
GPPL	93	93	86.95	88.85
VTL	767.85	772.55	753.8	768.95
LUXIND	1392	1413.15	1380	1395.45
TVTODAY	200.35	200.35	197.75	199.65
VMART	1925	1969.4	1917.95	1944.65
NILKAMAL	1262.7	1266.8	1242.55	1249.9
ARVINDFASN	124.95	126.5	123.55	126.25
ASTERDM	134.75	136.9	133.25	134.1
FLUOROCHEM	475.55	478.45	464.55	467.3
GMDCLTD	42.7	42.7	42.3	42.45
GDL	92.5	92.85	90.8	92.6
IIFLWAM	904.35	916.95	897.85	908
NAVNETEDUL	76.25	76.25	75.7	76
ORIENTREF	183.65	191.95	183.65	188.4

FINAL HOURS BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Trump, Biden race to woo voters

Washington: President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden were making a last ditch efforts on Monday to convince undecided voters of their plans and policies on the final day of the campaign in critical battleground states, with polls indicating that the race for the White House could be headed for a photo-finish.

The two candidates spent Sunday making their final pitches to voters ahead of Tuesday's election. Trump, 74, toured five battleground states of Michigan, Iowa, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida while his 77-year-old rival spoke at a campaign event in Pennsylvania, where the race also looks tight.

Trump, a Republican, plans a hectic campaign trip through Wisconsin and Pennsylvania on Monday, aimed at saving the key states he won four years ago.

Both Biden and Trump are also trying to woo Indian-American voters, one of the critical voting blocs in this year's election.

There is an estimated four million Indian-American population of which about 2.5 million are potential voters in the November 2020 presidential elections. Over 1.3 million Indian-Americans are voters in key battleground states, including Texas, Michigan, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Amidst the raging COVID-19 pandemic, Americans have voted in large numbers, already casting a record 93 million ballots, about two-thirds of the overall 2016 vote count of 138.8 million. Some 239 million people are eligible to vote this year.

The mail-in ballots could take days or weeks to be counted in some states - meaning a winner might not be declared in the hours after polls close on Tuesday. The figure of 93 million includes 33 million in-person votes and 58 million mail-in ballots.

National polls continue to show Biden leading Trump, by about 8 percentage points.

US elections, however, are not determined by the national popular vote, but rather in the 538-member Electoral College, with each candidate needing a majority of 270 to win the presidency.

In all but two of the country's 50 states, either Trump or Biden will win all the electors from each state by winning the popular vote there, with the most populous states holding the most electors.

The coronavirus pandemic is a major topic during this election. The US has recorded more cases and more deaths than any other country worldwide, reporting more than 81,000 new infections on Sunday alone. Some 9.2 million people are also affected by the disease.

The US economy saw record-breaking 33 per cent growth in the third financial quarter of this year, following a record 31 per cent contraction in the second.

On Monday, Trump and Biden started their war of words on Twitter. ***PTI***

Biden says if elected, he will host summit of democracies to counter rising authoritarianism

Fayetteville (US): Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has said that if elected, he will convene a global summit of democracies in the first year of his presidency to counter the "rising authoritarianism" in the world and address issues of election security and human rights.

Biden accused President Donald Trump of "embracing" every autocrat in the world which he said has undermined America's credibility.

"One of the things that have hurt us so badly, is that this president has embraced every thug and every autocrat in the world, in ways that have undermined our credibility," the former vice president said during a conference call on Sunday.

"I'll energise the community of democracies to counter the rising authoritarianism we see in the world. In my first year, we're going to host a summit of the democracies to address election security, human rights, etc," Biden said. ***PTI***

French schools reopen in mourning after Islamist beheading of teacher

Paris: French schools reopened on Monday for the first time since the beheading of a teacher who opened a class debate on free speech by showing students caricatures of the prophet of Islam, in mourning and under tight security for a national homage.

Samuel Paty was killed on Oct. 16 outside his school in suburban Paris by an 18-year-old refugee of Chechen origin to punish him for showing the caricatures published by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which triggered a newsroom massacre by extremists in January 2015.

Since their re-publication in September at the start of the ongoing Paris trial over the killings, France has endured three attacks blamed on Muslim extremists: one by a Pakistani refugee that injured two people outside the newspaper's old headquarters, the slaying of the schoolteacher, and a deadly knife attack last Thursday in a church in the Mediterranean city of Nice. All three have prompted terrorism investigations, and France is now at its highest level of alert.

French President Emmanuel Macron promised to increase protection of schools and churches immediately after the Nice attack, more than doubling the number of soldiers actively deployed in the country. Paty was killed at the beginning of a two-week French school holiday.

On Monday, the school where he taught at Conflans-Saint-Honorine reopened for teachers only. ***AP***

Tens of thousands in B'desh protest against French Prez

Dhaka: Tens of thousands of Muslims marched in the streets of Bangladesh's capital on Monday in the country's largest protest yet against the French president's support of secular laws that allow caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

The protesters, organised by the Hefazat-e-Islam group, a network of teachers and students at thousands of Islamic schools, gathered outside the main Baitul Mokarram Mosque in downtown Dhaka.

They chanted "Down with France" and "Boycott French Products" and burned effigies of French President Emmanuel Macron.

"I ask the French government to apologise to the 2 billion Muslims in the world. I also ask the world's Muslims to demonstrate their faith by boycotting French products and terminating diplomatic relations with France," Nur-Husain-Kashemi, a leader of the group, told the protesters.

"I ask the government to shut down the French Embassy. It's a shame that they haven't passed a resolution of condemnation in Parliament," he said. Monday's protest was the largest in a series of anti-France demonstrations in Bangladesh since last week that have called for the closure of the French Embassy and for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to condemn France. Hasina has yet to officially comment. ***AP***

Poland protests leader: abortion court ruling must be waived

Warsaw: A leader of Poland's massive protests triggered by the tightening of the country's strict abortion law said Monday the court ruling must be withdrawn.

Klementyna Suchanow, leader of the "Women's Strike" rights organisation, said that a 12th daily round of street blockades and marches was planned Monday and more will come during the week, despite an anti-COVID-19 ban on public gatherings of more than five people.

Nationwide protests by hundreds of thousands of people have been held daily since Oct. 22 when a constitutional court barred abortions of fetuses with congenital defects, further narrowing one of Europe's most restrictive abortion laws in the predominantly Catholic nation.

The court ruling means that an abortion is only permitted in Poland when a pregnancy threatens the mother's health or is the result of crime like rape or incest.

"The ruling by the so-called Constitutional Tribunal must be withdrawn," Suchanow said, stressing that the legal status of the court itself is being contested.

Critics question the independence of the tribunal after the ruling right-wing Law and Justice party put its loyalists in the court shortly after it took power in 2015. Some say the move was a breech of the law.

Suchanow said that Poland's abortion law needs liberalization, but admitted it may not be possible under the current conservative government, which has a narrow majority in the lower house of parliament. Support for the ruling party started shrinking even before the abortion ruling. ***AP***

PHILIPPINES

16 dead, thousands of homes damaged in typhoon

Manila: At least 16 people were killed as Typhoon Goni lashed the Philippines over the weekend, and about 13,000 shanties and houses were damaged or swept away in the eastern island province that was first hit by the ferocious storm, officials said Monday.

Goni blasted into Catanduanes province at dawn Sunday as a super typhoon with sustained winds of 225 kilometers (140 miles) per hour and gusts of 280 kph (174 mph).

But the storm weakened considerably after making landfall and shifted direction to spare the capital, Manila, before blowing out into the South China Sea.

Residents try to save what's left of their belongings after heavy rain central Philippines on Monday AP

The Office of Civil Defense said at least 16 people were killed in Catanduanes and nearby Albay province, where three others remain missing.

Catanduanes, an island province of more than 260,000 people that is often lashed by Pacific storms, was isolated after losing power and communications due to Goni and another typhoon that had hit a week earlier. But managed to connect to the outside world on Monday after disaster-response authorities flew to the devastated island with satellite phones.

Catanduanes Gov Joseph Cua and other officials said at least five people drowned and four were injured in the typhoon, which whipped up 5-meter (16-foot) storm surges. About 13,000 shanties and houses were damaged or swept away when the typhoon slammed into the province, they said. Many residents fled to safety from their homes as the typhoon approached. ***AP***

Pak Opp alliance asked to postpone Peshawar rally

Peshawar: An alliance of Opposition parties in Pakistan has been asked by a minister in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to postpone their upcoming rally in Peshawar against Prime Minister Imran Khan due to threats of a possible terrorist attack. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 opposition parties formed on September 20, has launched a three-phased anti-government movement under an "action plan" to remove the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) government.

The PDM plans its next demonstration in Peshawar on November 22. ***PTI***

Hindu homes attacked in Bangladesh over rumours

Authorities order stern action against culprits

Dhaka: Some radical Islamists vandalised and set on fire the houses of several Hindu families in Bangladesh's Comilla district over rumours about an alleged Facebook post slandering Islam, prompting authorities to order stern punitive actions against the culprits, officials said on Monday.

The households were vandalised and later set on fire on Sunday after a Bangladeshi man, who lives in France, allegedly praised President Emmanuel Macron for taking steps against "inhumane ideologies" after a teacher in Paris was decapitated for showing caricatures of the Prophet, officials said.

The headmaster of a kindergarten school in Purbo Dhour and another person reportedly shared his comments welcoming Macron's action in a comment on the post which was spread on social media with the claim that the headmaster supported caricatures of the Prophet.

As the rumours about the Facebook post spread, tension mounted in the area on Saturday.

The village chief, himself a Hindu, handed them to police. They were produced before a local court which denied bail and sent them to jail pending trial. The police launched a case under the Digital Security Act against them.

"Orders have been issued to arrest anyone who appeared as suspects alongside launching routine legal procedures against those involved," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told PTI. ***PTI***

FROM PAGE 1

DESI COVID SHOTS TO SECURE 50% INDIANS

The Centre has already asked the States and UTs to form three-tier committees which would oversee the rollout of the vaccine and address any hiccups, including rumors. "Once the distribution of the vaccine starts, the district task force would work on developing robust communication planning at all levels to address rumor-mongering as well as vaccine eagerness", said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

The three-tier committees would comprise the State steering committee, State task force, and district task force in each State and UT.

SECOND PHASE OF BIHAR POLLS HOLDS THE KEY

On 18 seats, or one in every, the outcome was decided by below 5,000 margin. With Chirag Paswan-led LJP contesting 51 seats in the second phase, JD(U) winners of closest contests will be particularly vulnerable due to possibility of the LJP taking away a chunk of NDA votes. Late Ramvilas Paswan wielded considerable influence in pockets of Samastipur, Khagaria and Vaishali and Chirag hopes to play spoilsport for the JD(U) cajndidates on most of the seats falling in these districts.

Their performance in this phase will indicate if the issues raised by Paswan during his campaign -- corruption charges against Nitish Kumar, education degrees getting delayed, lack of jobs, and migration for livelihood -- found resonance among the people.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, who is drawing huge crowd of enthusiastic youth in his rallies, has kept his focus on the issues facing the common man and promised to offer 10 lakh Government jobs to the unemployed youths. He has also highlighted the poor status of education and health facilities, and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's handling of the coronavirus crisis among other things. On the other hand, the BJP has basically tried to stoke the fear of return of the Jungle Raj and played the soft Hindutva card.

The last day of campaigning witnessed hectic canvassing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing back-to-back rallies in support of NDA candidates, and criss-crossing over a dozen venues.

According to the Election Commission, more than 2.85 crore voters will decide the electoral fate of 1,463 candidates -- 1316 male, 146 female and one transgender.

The Election Commission said it has set up a total of 41,362 booths at 18,823 polling stations. Maharajganj constituency has the maximum 27 candidates in this phase, while the minimum four are from Darauli constituency (SC).

The 94 constituencies which are going to poll on November 3 are in 17 districts: West Champaran, East Champaran, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Samastipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Nalanda and Patna.

Besides the Prime Minister, several Union Ministers including Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Giriraj Singh and Anurag Thakur, besides senior party leaders such as BJP chief JP Nadda addressed campaign rallies.

In his Sunday rallies, the Prime Minister excoriated the Opposition over the Pulwama attack after Pakistan's admission of complicity in it and berated the RJD-Congress combine, calling it an alliance of "double-double yuvraj" (two crown princes) whose sole concern was to protect their "respective thrones".

BJP leaders repeatedly raked up the Ram temple issues, Article 370, triple talaq and also prominently mentioned the Pakistani Minister's admission of his country's involvement in the Pulwama attack of 2019 that had left 40 CRPF jawans dead.

For attacking the RJD, their constant refrain was "jungle raj", "lantern era", "kidnapping industry", slamming the party over its record on law and order.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi addressed two rallies for this phase of elections where he cornered Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over the issues of unemployment, migrant crisis, farm laws and sugar mills. He had said the Prime Minister talks about other countries in his speeches but not about the issues facing the nation such as unemployment.

Tejashwi, in the meanwhile, scaled up the intensity of his campaign and addressed close to a dozen, or even more, rallies every day since the voting for phase 1 of election on October 28.

Tejashwi's salvos drew stinging response from Kumar who tried to blunt his attack by comparing the law and order situation under the RJD's Government (1990-2005) with that under his 15 year rule and constantly reminding the voter that RJD chief Lalu Yadav has been implicated for corruption and is serving a jail term.

With massive crowds thronging these rallies, Covid- 19 guidelines on social distancing were flagrantly violated.

Among other prominent faces whose fate would be closed in EVMs in this phase are: BJP leader and Road Construction Minister Nand Kishore Yadav (Patna Sahib), JD(U) lawmaker and Rural Development Minister Shrawan Kumar (Nalanda), BJP MLA and Cooperative Minister Rana Randhir Singh (Madhuban), and JD(U) leader and State Minister Ramsevak Singh (Hathua).

Also in the fray is Chandrika Roy (JDU), the father of Tej Pratap Yadav's estranged wife Aishwarya Rai, who in her campaign has been highlighting the alleged "ill-treatment" meted out to her by RJD chief Lalu Prasad's family.

Congress leader Shatrughan Sinha's son Luv Sinha is also in the fray this phase from Bankipur seat in Patna. He is up against sitting BJP MLA Nitin Nabin.

Haranut (Nalanda) constituency, which houses Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's village, is also going to vote in this phase.

Voting will begin at 7 am on November 3. The third and final round of voting will take place on November 7 and the counting of votes on November 10.

19 INDIAN FLIERS TO WUHAN TEST +VE

All 58 passengers have been transferred to designated Covid-19 hospitals and quarantine zones.

"All our passengers to Wuhan had boarded the flight from Delhi with C0VID-19 negative reports from certified labs. Air India strictly adheres to all the safety protocol laid down by regulatory bodies and conforms to requirements at destination airports. There is no question of passengers boarding any of our flights without valid COVID 19 negative reports," the Ai India said in a statement.

The October 30 flight, the sixth operated by India to China in recent months and the first to Wuhan where the virus emerged in December last year, brought 277 Indians from New Delhi and evacuated 157 on its return under India's mega mission to evacuate stranded Indians from abroad. All the Indian passengers needed to undergo two coronavirus tests before being permitted to board the flights.

There is a big rush for VBM flights from India to China as Beijing has recently lifted the temporary ban on holders of resident permit visas. About 1,500 to 2,000 Indians who are either working in China or connected to businesses want to return.

Hong Kong has recently barred Air India flight till November 10 after five passengers tested positive. *PNS*

25 DEAD IN KABUL UNIVERSITY ATTACK

While Afghan officials declined to discuss the bookfair, Iran's semiofficial ISNA news agency reported Sunday that Iranian Ambassador Bahador Aminian and cultural attaché Mojtaba Noroozi were scheduled to inaugurate the fair, which would host some 40 Iranian publishers.

Iranian state television reported the attack occurred, but did not offer information on its officials.

Iranian diplomats have been targeted previously by attacks in the country and nearly sparked a war between the two countries. In 1998, Iran held the Taliban responsible for the deaths of nine Iranian diplomats who were working in its consulate in northern Afghanistan and sent reinforcements to the 950-kilometer- (580-mile-) long border that Iran and Afghanistan share.

No group immediately took responsibility for the ongoing attack though the Taliban issued a statement saying they were not involved. However, suspicion immediately fell on the Islamic State group.

Last month, the Islamic State group sent a suicide bomber into an education center in the capital's Shiite dominated neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, killing 24 students and injuring more than 100. The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan has declared war on Afghanistan's minority Shiite Muslims and have staged dozens of attacks since emerging in 2014.

FORCES IN J&K KILL OVER 200 TERRORISTS FOR 3RD YR IN A ROW

Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani. He took part in an attack at EDI Pampore in which eight CRPF men were killed. He had transported the Lashkar men to the spot. He had fired at the Army party killing three soldiers at Kadlabal, Pampore".

In June 2020, three Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists, including an improvised explosive device (IED) expert and mastermind of the car bomb attack, Abdul Rehman alias Fouji Bhai, a resident of Multan Pakistan, was killed in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Patting the back of the joint team of security forces, who participated in the operation on Sunday in which Dr Saifullah alias Ghazi Haider was killed, the DGP said that security forces had inputs that Dr Saifullah and his men were planning to attack some more security installations and civilian areas in the Valley. He said the operation was launched and the top commander was neutralised without suffering any collateral damage.

WIND BLOWS AWAY POLLUTION, DELHI'S AIR STILL POOR

According to the Central Government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the city's ventilation index - a product of mixing depth and average wind speed - was around 12,000 meter square per second on Monday - favourable for dispersion of pollutants.

Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed.

A ventilation index lower than 6,000 sqm/second, with the average wind speed less than 10 kmph, is unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants.

FESTIVE SEASON, LAXITY BEHIND DELHI SURGE

It was, however, highlighted both by the Delhi Government officials and the Delhi Police Commissioner that there has been no let up in enforcement and awareness generation.

The strategy to contain the spread of Covid-19 in Delhi, especially keeping in view the festival season and decreasing temperatures accompanied by rising pollution, was discussed at length with representatives of the Ministry of Health and the health experts, who were also present in the meeting.

It was decided to concentrate efforts in certain key areas, such as targeted RT-PCR testing in sensitive and critical zones such as restaurants, market places, barber shops and salons; gear up the availability of medical resources including beds, ICUs, and ventilators as a preemptive measure and ensure high degree of contact tracing along with monitoring of quarantined contacts so as to suppress and break the chain of transmission, the statement said.

The Union Home Secretary, while appreciating the efforts of the Delhi Government officials, emphasised that the strategies for containment of spread of Covid-19 in Delhi should be strictly enforced and implemented.

SC STAYS EC ORDER STRIPPING STAR CAMPAIGNER STATUS OF NATH

"Issue notice. Until further orders, there shall be a stay of order dated October 30, 2020 issued by Respondent No.1 - Election Commission of India," the bench said in its order.

Besides seeking quashing of the EC order, the senior Congress leader has also sought framing of appropriate guidelines for speeches during campaigning by star campaigners or campaigners, "keeping in mind the right to freedom of speech and expression and concept of democratic elections".

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing on Monday, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, told the bench, "This is infructuous as campaigning has ended. Voting is tomorrow."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who along with senior counsel Vivek Tankha appeared for Nath, said the matter has not become infructuous and the EC had not issued any notice to the former chief minister before passing the October 30 order.

"How can you determine who is their leader? It's their power not EC's power," the bench asked EC's counsel.

Dwivedi said, "We have acted under the model code of conduct and moreover, now the matter is infructuous".

FootSay

Researchers have shown that socks coated in zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnO-NPs) can prevent foot odour and bacterial infection causing smelly feet, reducing the negative impact this embarrassing condition has on quality of life. Developed by the Royal Thai Airforce, the ZnO-NP-coated socks were trialled in a real-life setting by researchers in Thailand

DOCYARD

DR PRAVEEN JHA

MD, DM, Consultant Gastroenterology

REGENCY SUPERSPECIALITY HOSPITAL

Is your belly dancing?

As the festive season has begun and so does our indulgence in food. Puddings, sweets, *ghee*-laden *puris* and all kind of beverages take a toll on our digestive system and we often complain of indigestion, acidity, bloating, constipation and other gastric issues. And, if these problems are dampening the spirit of the festive seasons then fret not. We have come up with some easy ways to take care of your gut health. By following these few simple and effective tips, you can enjoy the festive season comfortably and smoothly. These tips include:

Stay hydrated: We often forget to drink enough water and keep ourselves hydrated during the festive season. However, we should have adequate amount of water to keep ourselves fresh and make our health good as water helps in passing the food from our body. Dehydration can disrupt the smooth function of the gut and when we drink adequate quantity of water, it helps to create our stool softer and with the same it doesn't constipate you.

Limiting the intake of oily and fatty foods: We all know that festivals do not let us limit our food intake but we need to be cautious and avoid foods that are very high in fat content. The fat rich foods put us at a greater risk of constipation and higher chances of indigestion.

To prevent yourself from falling sick, try to avoid taking too much of caffeine during the festive season as excess of caffeine can harm your digestive system. Include salad, fruit and vegetables in your diet, this will add roughage which is good for gut

Don't skip your exercise: Since you have slept late because of the festival season, it should not be an excuse to give your exercise a miss. Go for your daily dose of exercise/workout for healthy and hassle-free digestion during your festival holidays. Exercise improves your gut health too.

Avoiding the intake of caffeine: To prevent yourself from falling sick, try to avoid taking too much of caffeine during the festive season as excesses of caffeine can harm your digestive system. You should balance your diet accordingly. If you're taking a lot of caffeinated or aerated drinks, then include salads, fruits and veggies in your diet. It will add roughages, which are good for gut health.

Practise moderation: We completely understand that it's difficult to not gorge on the food-items, which you have been waiting for long to eat during the festive season. But you need to practise portion control. As the name suggests, it means we don't have to avoid the food we love but we have to eat in moderation. The best way to do is to limit the portion size by using smaller plates, utensils and serving spoons.

Relax and breathe: Irregularity of sleep and food is quite common during the festive season. Therefore, sometimes such erratic schedules can lead to stress. Relaxing for a while is very important for your body to stay healthy. Festivities don't mean you should forget to keep calm.

Plan your day wisely: By this we mean that you need to plan your day keeping in mind your health. Enough sleep, less intake of sugary snacks, planning your meals is important. To keep your body fresh all day, you need to take care of all the things. A good planning lets you to enjoy the festival in a more healthy, relaxed and better way.

WARMFOODS

STAR ANISE: Also known as *badian* or *chakra phool*, star anise is a spice that work wonders for your health and skin in winters.

The oil produced from star anise contains thymol, terpineol and anethole, which is used for treating cough and flu. It makes it a must have spice, especially during the current time when all one wants is to keep flu at bay.

Anise also helps improve digestion, alleviate cramps and reduce nausea. Consuming star anise tea after meals helps treat digestive ailments such as bloating, gas, indigestion and constipation.

It is also rich in antioxidants and Vitamin A and C, which help fight free radicals that are responsible for early ageing and Diabetes. It also helps boost immunity.

Not only this, but adding star anise to a healthy diet and lifestyle may be able to keep your heart in good shape to protect against issues like heart disease and stroke.

Keep paranoia at bay

In times of unexpected uncertainty, our inability to cope with the crisis may increase chances of mental health problems like paranoia and delusional thinking. KUHOO GUPTA shares tips that can help

There is a famous saying "The idle brain is the devil's workshop". As Covid-19 has rendered several people with imperilled jobs, this has fabricated disquietude pressure upon people which is making them live in monochrome due to getting engrossed with depressing thoughts and this has become a buzzword for the past few months. The world's reluctance regarding poor mental health is discreetly visible all these years.

The continual rise of deterioration of psychological condition among people is finally succumbing to the society's nonchalant pursuit. Our mental wellbeing has been needlessly tossed on a bonfire due to an existence bedevilled by tedium which has also given a raise to vacious mental health disorder — delusion thinking and paranoia— making people suffer so much worse during this time of pandemic. In times of unexpected uncertainty, our inability to cope with the crisis may increase chances of mental health problems like paranoia and delusional thinking. Such condition tends to strongly incapacitated people due to incorrect interpretation of reality.

Psychological delusion and paranoia are silent destroyers —just like the virus. If we do not open this Pandora's box, it could mutate to create self-defeating dimensions. It has potential to create mass violence in the inner world which develops delinquency in functioning the daily routine of an individual. The cause of paranoia lies behind a breakdown of many mental and emotional functions that involve reasoning and assigned meanings. The reasons behind these breakdowns vary. Some symptoms relate to denied, projected, or repressed feelings. Paranoid thoughts and feelings are often related to relationships and events in a person's life. This increases their isolation, and makes it more difficult to get help.

Some symptoms of paranoia and delusional disorders are:

- Intense irrational suspicion or mistrust
- Fear, anger and betrayal
- Hypervigilance
- Difficulty forgiving
- Defensive attitude
- Hidden motives keeping you busy
- Fear of being taken advantage/inability to relax
- Argumentative

Here are few tips to effectively cope up with such phenomena:

Aromatherapy: Aromatherapy will help healing paranoia. Essential oils derived from plants are either inhaled or absorbed through the skin to promote a sense of calmness and ease physical discomfort.

Frankincense essential oil has been said to help lift mood and balance irrational fear within a paranoid person. One study which used frankincense alongside other oils known to promote relaxation found that the combination was effective in alleviating fear due to irrational thinking for terminally ill patients, and may have helped with pain management as well. Another study conducted on mice found that frankincense stimulates the portion of the brain that regulates feel good emotions, in addition to activating a protein that plays a role in the perception of warmth. These effects together can create a sense of comfort and peace to the person with paranoia. Also, lavender is a good choice to relax the mind when the person is suffering from mental disturbances.

Aquatic therapy: Severe traumatic paranoia events can physically weaken the joints and muscles to the point where they can't support your body's weight or motion capabilities on land. Aquatic therapy gives mental health patients more buoyancy which makes it easier to perform, touch, feel and move. The water also provides the resistance needed to strengthen brain muscles.Water can improve one's brain health by simply increasing blood flow and oxygen to the brain – which, in turn, improves concentration and cognition (supporting memory function) and helps balance moods and emotions, reducing stress and headaches.

Breath for life: A recent study found that practicing mindfulness meditation, even over a short period, reduces feelings of paranoia. Mindfulness meditation is the one linked to predicting levels of paranoia. Mindfulness meditation produces brain oscillation changes and increases brain network integration, which could contribute to the decreased abnormal brain activities and reduced delusion. Mindfulness training increases acceptance and ameliorates anxiety/distress emotion, resulting in general improvement in psychotic symptoms.

> AQUATIC THERAPY GIVES MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS MORE BUOYANCY WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO PERFORM, TOUCH, FEEL AND MOVE. THE WATER ALSO PROVIDES THE RESISTANCE NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN BRAIN MUSCLES

Compassion with Chakras: Balancing your chakras can help you restore the energy flow in your system and thus, reduce delusion levels. Derived from the Sanskrit word "wheel," chakras are considered the centers of energy in the body. Chakras are centers where major nerve points meet and where life force, or "prana," flows harmoniously. Hindu and Buddhist traditions believe that when the flow of energy is blocked, it disrupts physical, emotional, and mental health. There are seven main *chakras* that connect to nerve points or plexuses in the body. According to the Western practices, these seven points affect the nervous system and the endocrine glands. Each chakra is associated with a specific colour from the seven rays of the spectrum light, or rainbow. Colour light is an electromagnetic wave that affects our bioenergy and stabilises our mental health energy.

Hypnosis: also referred to as hypnotherapy or hypnotic suggestion, is a trance-like state in which you have heightened focus and concentration. Hypnosis is usually done with the help of a therapist using verbal repetition and mental images. When you're under hypnosis, you usually feel calm and relaxed, and are more open to suggestions.Hypnosis can be used to help you gain control over undesired thinking and to help you cope better with delusional thinking or pain. It's important to know that although you're more open to suggestion during hypnosis, you don't lose control over your behavior.

Yoga Nidra: Yoga nidra has been found to be effective in reducing symptoms of delusional thinking more than other types of relaxation techniques. Yoga nidra are widely known to alter the perceptions and mental responses to both external and internal stimuli, slowing-down reactivity and instill greater control over stressful-situation.

The writer is Healer and Wellness Coach

HEALTHY DIET IS KEY

Obese people have a vulnerable immune system which triggers several health issues. VAIBHAV GARG shares tips that may help keep your weight under check

We have all heard about co-morbidities (the state of having multiple health conditions at the same time) being primarily responsible for the high number of COVID deaths, so if you are reading this and know someone who can benefit from knowing how excess weight and immunity are linked, make sure they read this. Knowing the scientific facts and how natural remedies actually form the basis for warding off deadly infections should be the primary objective in every household today! A disciplined routine, nutritious diet, quality exercise & sleep and your daily vitamins and plant based natural supplements — this is the real recipe and secret to a long and healthy life!

Speaking of which, weight gain and obesity are matter of serious concern among people in the developing world. Obese people are more prone to having a poor immune system which in turn leads to an array of health problems like diabetes, hypertension (elevated blood pressure), heart problems, PCOD and even cancer. If you thought the Coronavirus was the real pandemic, think again!

Our immune system is very sensitive to lifestyle & nutritional changes as they directly affect the gut flora (gut microbiome) and hormone/enzyme activity. A little imbalance can cause a negative immune response. Oxidative stress (as a result of poor eating, a sedentary lifestyle,or even over exercising) can result in weight gain as the stress hormone cortisol dominates. Excess fat results in malfunctioning of the insulin hormone, disrupts the functioning of the sex hormones testosterone, oestrogen and progesterone, basically causing an overall breakdown.

It has been established that the severity of infectious diseases of a particular type are present more in an obese body than a non-obese body. Reason being that fewer antibodies are present inside an obese body which results in weaker immunity as it cannot provide full protection from the viruses.

Now that this has been established, some words of wisdom will help you in deciphering the code to having a healthy immune system. First and foremost, you do not need a protein rich diet, but a diet rich in fibre. Yes, all the colourful fruits and vegetables you see out there are full of natural anti-oxidants, anti-cancer and medicinal qualities. Ditch the potato and opt for more colour — remember, more colour means more nutrients! Oh and remember, these fibre rich foods are the real food for the healthy/good bacteria living in your gut!

Secondly, fats are not bad for you, they are actually essential for proper heart and brain function. You just need to know which fats to consume and where to get them from. Think Omega 3! Ideal sources of Omega 3 are those sourced from foods like nuts and seeds like flaxseeds, chia seeds, and walnuts. And lastly, avocados and olive oil are not the real super foods meant for us. We have the locally grown and acquired coconut and desi *ghee* or rice bran oil. Our DNA is more in sync with these super foods. They are rich in natural healthy fatty acids, have great anti-oxidant properties and can alkalise your body.

The writer is Clinical and Sports Nutritionist, Founder — Purecise

DadiKaKehna

Stomach ache can make one feel extremely uncomfortable. More so, if it occurs in toddlers. ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help ease the pain and discomfort

Stomach aches are common. While some go away on their own, others can be extremely painful. And if it is a toddler who is suffering from one then you are definitely in for a sleepless night.

Here are a few home remedies that can help.

First, keep your child hydrated at all times. Water or fresh fruit juice will work wonders.

Second, try warm compress. The best thing about warm compress is that it does not have any side effects and it provides quick relief. But make sure the cloth or heating pad is not too warm.

Third, try applying *hing* diluted in water on the tummy area. Take a pinch of *hing*, add some water to it and heat the paste until it becomes lukewarm.

Fourth, honey can also do the trick. Add honey in warm water and make your toddler drink it.

Last, but not the least give a massage. The aching nerves and muscles of the stomach area can be relieved by enhancing the blood circulation around it and this can be easily achieved by giving a gentle massage. Using your palms and fingers, gently massage in circular motions in the clockwise direction around the navel area of your child.

For a glass-like glow

Textured skin is one of the most common problems. DR AJAY RANA shares tips that can help you get rid of it

Our skin's health is influenced by several factors like pollution, stress and sun damage that sometimes has a huge impact on the condition of the skin, at our complexion and make it more prone to roughness, wrinkles, age spots, bruises and sagging. Especially people who struggle with genetic conditions like eczema, ichthyosis, keratosis pilaris and psoriasis are especially susceptible to having dry and rough skin.

With age, women" bodies undergo several chemical and hormonal changes due to perimenopause and menopause can contribute to an overall loss of skin smoothness and cause textured skin. In fact, the normal aging process plays a huge role in the skin's health.

There are many reasons which cause a textured skin condition. The build-up of dead and keratinised skin cells and irritation also take a toll on the skin's texture and appearance. Those people who have a history of acne can get little bumps under their skin that of scarring acne will get atrophic scars, excess oil producers will have enlarged pores and those who pick at their zits can get popular scars. Dry or coarse feeling skin, patchiness, fine lines and wrinkles, enlarged open pores and scars are left behind post-acne. And it causes textured skin conditions. Excessive build-up of dead skin cells on the surface of the skin, genetics, sun damage and pollution, and a poor skincare routine and diet are some other common causes of uneven skin texture.

Here are a few skincare tips one can follow for glass-like skin texture:

- Opt for skincare products with acids like AHAs and BHAs. Alpha Hydroxy Acid and Beta Hydroxy Acid are two hydroxy acids popularly found in various skincare products like cleansers, moisturizers, peels and exfoliating products. These are very good for ideal skin texture.
- We can't talk about clear and smooth skin without mentioning exfoliation. Whether using a physical exfoliator, such as crushed walnut or gentle jojoba beads or a chemical exfoliator like glycolic or lactic acid. Exfoliation will slough away dead skin cells that dull skin and clog pores and give a glass-like texture.
- Keep your skin hydrated with a moisturiser that is made for your skin type. Sunburn or sun damage is one of the most common reasons for uneven skin texture. Keep your skin protected with a broad spectrum SPF 30 sunscreen and try to cover up as much as you can when you step out in the sun.
- Chemical peels are a very popular treatment to get rid of textured and uneven skin conditions. Switch up your regular facial with a fruit acid peel in-clinic and let a professional handle that pesky dry skin build-up. Chemical peels give you instant results and reveal fresh and glowing skin from within.

The writer is Dermatologist and Aesthetic Physician and Founder-Director of ILAMED

INBRIEF

Olena, a leading plant based nutrition company with clean, sugar free, non gmo, gluten free products which cater to everyday individuals will be soon launching a host of women wellness products from plant based Biotin to Collagen etc. to help women not miss out on their health and daily nutrition, Mumbai based Olena is offering its customers plant based proteins and women wellness products.

Olena is adding Biotin to their range of products. Biotin helps in nourishing the hair, which would make the hair fuller and healthier. It encourages the concept of beauty from within. It aims to break the silence on damaged and thinning hair and presents a solution, embracing the change and the beauty from within.

The Collagen Builder supports the function and enhances the body's natural beauty & radiance. The blend of 100mg Hyaluronic Acid, 600mcg Retinol, 40mg Vitamin C and 90mg Silica provides all the nutrients and vitamins our body needs to boost collagen. This anti-ageing formula is vegan, Non - GMO, Gluten Free, with no added sugar or preservatives.

The Evolve Protein powder is a vegan protein supplement created to boost post workout recovery. The protein is derived from yellow peas and sprouted brown rice. It contains the antioxidants.

Trend Blazer

'Extremely cautious about the pandemic'

Bollywood star **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** is busy shooting his next, a progressive love story *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui,* being directed by Abhishek Kapoor. The youth icon is shooting this film in his hometown Chandigarh but we discovered that he is not staying with his family and rather checked himself into a hotel.

Ayushmann reveals, "I have been extremely cautious through the pandemic and taken every possible step to not catch the virus and protect my family. My wife and my two young kids should not come in harm's way because of me. It is for the safety of my parents too."

'Working with senior actors was a dream come true for me. Not only were they friendly but also supportive. I learnt a lot from them. For me it was like attending a school with brilliant teachers. I used to just observe how they would portray a scene. Even if I had an early pack up, I would sit on the set and just observe them.'
—Nikhil Bhambri

Actor **VARUN SHARMA** can't wait to tick off skydiving from his bucket list.

The adventure sport, the Bollywood funnyman reveals, was to be his gift to himself on his birthday in February but that couldn't happen because the COVID outbreak started happening around the time.

"I really want to do skydiving. I even planned to go out and do skydiving on my birthday this year but the pandemic happened. I hope things come back to normal. Most probably I will go next year and try out skydiving," Varun said.

Gal gives a sneak peek into set life

Hollywood actor **GAL GADOT** says shooting amid the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic came with lots of sacrifices, adding that the crew was sequestered for the entire duration.

The actor took to Instagram to reflect on her experience of working in the COVID-19 era after wrapping up the shoot of her forthcoming heist film, *Red Notice,* which also stars Dwayne Johnson and Ryan Reynolds.

"Now that I'm back home I've had time to reflect on the past couple of months shooting the film. The work during the pandemic came with a lot of sacrifices especially from our amazing crew," Gadot wrote.

When less is more

This edition of Karva Chauth shows a shift in jewellery trends from big chunky pieces to distinctive yet functional ones. By Team Viva

It's that time of the year when you will find women on a shopping spree, markets bustling with bangle stalls, mehndi and all things that come under *solah shringar.* Other than this, there are charming accessories and gifts as well to add on to the vibe of Karva Chauth festival. It is a day of love when women fast for the well-being and long lives of their husbands as well as an occasion for spouses to reinforce their commitment and promises to each other.

Following rituals, observing fasts and worshipping the moon, Karva Chauth fashion is all about ethnic and fusion looks with jewellery playing an important role. The festival has always been a reason to buy jewellery and invest in designs that will remain with one forever. This year was meant to be the same but considering how the pandemic has affected the lives and budgets for each one of us, investing big in jewellery remains a tight-lipped question. Ageerika Hari, founder of Vaitaanika, a jewellery brand, says, "We have seen a shift in trend from big chunky pieces to distinctive yet functional luxury diamonds. Consumers are picking pieces which can be worn on various occasions and styled in many different ways. Grandeur is important, attractive and beautiful but functionality is also essential now. When it comes to gifting jewellery, you can never go wrong with customised fine diamonds. It's trendy, chic, functional and best suited in this season of love. Personalised, fine pendants, bracelets or earrings will be the best buy. We have come out with a new minimalistic collection, which includes the royal peacock shaped statement rings, bangles and necklaces with exquisite artwork."

What works best for your lady should be something that can be worn everyday and at the same time be design pleasing. Ageerika feels that one should follow their heart and not trends. While picking a piece of jewellery for your loved one, buy what feels right.

Jewellery designer Archana Aggarwal believes that every year the trends keep on undergoing a shift, retaining the classic ones, and so is the case this time. Says she, "Although we have seen a shift in trend of jewellery lately, the classic one can never go out of style. Opt for pieces that could be worn on several occasions and styled in various ways."

Shyamala Ramanan, business head of Mia by Tanishq, feels glad that the gifting trends continue even more during festivities. "This serves as a great opportunity for families and partners to show their love to each other. We are seeing a trend in gold jewellery being sought after, especially the light weight ones that have a variety of uses and can be worn with both traditional and western wear. The booming categories are earring and bracelet/ bangles," says he.

The season is usually dominated by traditional clothes or fusions as they are considered to be the ideal festive wear. Milind Mathur, creative director and partner, Kohinoor Jewellers, Agra, focusses more on what can be paired with traditional outfits. Says he, "One can wear colourful stones studded ornaments with traditional clothes. It will bring a trendy gaze for this festive season. By grading, cutting and polishing, gemstones are given a new look and colour because of which the jewellery looks even more attractive."

Customised jewellery is a trend that never goes out of fashion. "Jewellery with a caption adds a personal touch and helps you take your fashion game a notch higher," adds Milind.

Stack rings are next in line for this time's trend. Sachin Jain, managing director, De Beers, India, talks about the new collection that Forevermark, the diamond brand of the group, has brought forth. "We have come up with our Tribute collection which comprises 22 rings and can be stacked according to one's personality. It gives the wearer a choice to select each ring to stack as per their preference," says he.

The feminine spirit

For more than 30 years, artist VASUNDHARA TEWARI BROOTA has explored the human figure and in the discourse, unravelled her own perceptions of a woman. By Uma Nair

When she was an English Honours student at Lady Shri Ram College in Delhi, she would represent it at university festivals. The art collage contests had students from all over the country. But three years in a row, she won all the awards and left the remnants for the others. Vasundhara Tewari Broota has for more than 30 years explored the human figure and in the discourse, unravelled her own perceptions of a woman and the psycho-political existence of the female body in society. Perfection and personification both play off each other on her canvasses and paper works. But more than anything else, it is her precision, accuracy and melodic moods that signify her brilliance and essence of an epoch that travels through the tryst of time.

CHARACTER AND CHARISMA

At the Sangeet Shyamala Celebration in Delhi, of which she is the director, her paintings speak about the feminine spirit as much as the avatar of *Devi*. Contemporary character and charisma both weave into her frames. In the public space of artistic domains, she first drew attention for her sensitive mixed media work in which an interpretation of the suppressed womanhood within the existing societal structure was contextualised by her female nude images. Her treatment and use of the female nude is both evocative and stirring, elegant and born of questions — she creates abstraction in thoughts and weaves an emblematic eloquence of the inner lives of contemporary women. Her women seep and float amid tensions arising out of their naturalistically modelled figures — above that it is the background, the flat pictorial space which she enriches with tiny islands of tonal recessions creating islands of nature with flora and plantar intricate details and elements.

BORN OF NATURE

Her *Devis* are individuals who live within the earthy tints of colour codes that she chooses. The blue tinted backdrop is a brilliant hue of expanse that runs into layers and textural terrain. "The blue one is a work that symbolises the spiritual as also the expanse of nature-the sea-the sky all those domains from earth bound realities," she says. "The figure is both of the material as well as the spiritual and so the partial transparency in the body. The design on her is both the structure within as well as the armour to protect and guard. The red in the blue hints at violence. She is both ancient and modern and she hugs herself keeping herself protected. She is fierce but vulnerable. The bulbs reflect the light and glow within her. Some lit, some not. Where there is hope there is also uncertainty," adds she.

JAGDISHWARI AND DEVI DURGA

In another painting, she creates a *Devi* whose universe is under her feet as she seems to symbolise the word '*Jagadishvari*' or '*Ishvari*' of universe resounding in Ashiqur Kumar's rendition of Jai Jagdishwari Mata Saraswati. The colour tones and fluid renditions reflect her rich repertoire of strokes and colourative chasms.

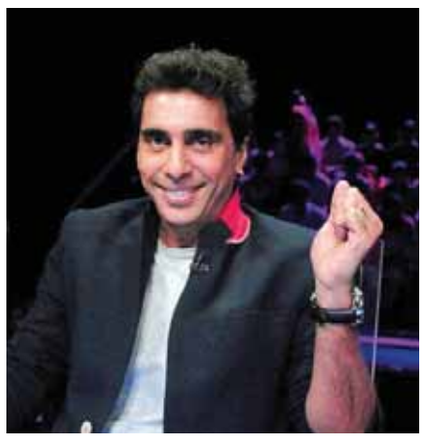
She explains, "The red canvas for Subrata was an image of Devi Durga, who's the epitome of strength, courage and compassion. She emits the aura, the radiance when her devotees are in danger. Like a fierce mother, she takes care of them. She stands for power, compassion and peace that the dancer has depicted through her vocabulary of Odissi."

In all these four paintings, we sense a sensibility towards the understanding of the internal and external psychological spaces, where 'woman' is displayed in lucid limp linearity. She plays between creating her figure as a protagonist as well as someone who shares an equi-focal space with the background. Experiences and ruminative reflections become a meaningful reality for Vasundhara. *Devi* and the celebration of the contemporary woman, participant and goddess unafraid to reveal her soul stands at the centre of her epoch.

Express, enjoy, discover

Dance maestros FARAH KHAN and ASHLEY LOBO mentor budding Indian dancers and discuss the scope of being a choreographer in the post-COVID era

In the aftermath of a three-day choreography camp organised by Ashley Lobo's institute The Danceworx, the Indian-Australian choreographer engaged in a discussion with renowned film and stage personality Farah Khan on how to build a professional dance career within the evolving dance scenario in India and overseas. Given the kind of restrictions imposed by the global pandemic on movement and interactive learning, this session saw over 200 students actively engage with them.



Talking about the session, Lobo said, "The main objective of this session was to expand the understanding of commercial dance in India and create an environment for dancers to approach commercial dance as a career. We wanted to create awareness about what is possible still and equip dancers with the correct information about what it takes to build a professional dance career today. There could be no one better than Farah to interact with the students about these important topics."

Farah talked about how dance happened to her. "Dance was a very good way for me to forget my troubles at home and the circumstances that we were living in. For me, there was a joy that I would get. It actually saved my life at that point," she said. Ashley couldn't agree more. "I think this is very common. It is said that you never choose dance, dance chooses you. It's always an accident," he added.

With the gross uncertainty that performing artists are faced with the current COVID-struck era, both of them shared real and helpful things for the enthusiastic bunch of dancers. "Today is a great time for people who are trained in dance and who can choreograph because there is so much work. It's not only about doing work in films. There is so much work on television as there are thousands of reality shows. Today, there is a different industry where you can do corporate shows. If you do a film song that does well, it becomes your legacy. If you want to make money and a career in dance, there are so many options now, none of which were available to us when we started work," Farah said.

The session explored various problems that affect the large generation of dancers, which were met with helpful tips from both Farah and Ashley — how does a dancer become an assistant choreographer, being flexible in the dance industry, staying true to one's passion and art, being trained in more than one dance styles, how its never too late to find your calling and be a dancer, and dealing with the important reality of failure and rejection in the real world and never giving up.

Ashley summed up the crux of the session aptly, painting a very practical picture for the 200+ youngsters looking up to them. "There are various areas you can get into dance because it is a very big world. There are lots of stuff you can do and find your place. You just got to figure out what your place is and where you want to take it. I think you just need to express yourself, have fun with it and discover yourself in the process. You're constantly trying to reinvent yourself. That excitement translates into the work that is being done," he said.

The session culminated a camp including a roster of international artistes like Brian Friedman, Exon Arcos, Gabe De Guzman, Jake Kodish, Krista and Autumn Miller in a three-day extravaganza to create opportunities for enthusiasts to learn international styles.

TODAY

SUNRISERS VS MUMBAI INDIANS

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1

IPL 2020

KL Rahul | 670 runs

Kagiso Rabada | 25 wickets

The impressive thing was our (KKR) collective bowling. We were absolutely outstanding. Regardless of qualification, we feel we have given everything that we have

Our (Royals) batters, the top four or five didn't take responsibility perhaps. Couple of real positives. Jofra (Archer) has been exceptional pretty much every game

We've played inconsistent cricket throughout the tourney. We had opportunities in a couple of games but couldn't get over the line. Today summed it up for us

I am more satisfied what we (Delhi Capitals) did today as a bowling unit. We have done the hard work up until now and hopefully we can finish the game off

Delhi Capitals in top two

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Delhi Capitals secured a top-two finish on their way to the Indian Premier League play-offs with a six-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore, who also qualified, here on Monday.

While DC went straight to Qualifier 1, RCB made the play-offs after their opponents took more than 17.3 overs to complete the task, helping Virat Kohli's side to finish the league stage engagements with better net run rate than Kolkata Knight Riders.

KKR will need Sunrisers Hyderabad to lose against Mumbai Indians on Tuesday to qualify.

Getting their act together in the nick of time after a two-week winless run, DC chased down a target of 153 with six balls to spare.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan (54) and Ajinkya Rahane (64) struck fine half-centuries to power DC to their target after their bowlers dished out a clinical performance and restricted RCB to 152 for seven.

This was a much-needed victory for Capitals after four defeats in a row.

Rahane and Dhawan stitched an 88-run partnership after the South African pace duo of Anrich Nortje (3/33) and Kagiso Rabada (2/30) led a fine bowling display to restrict RCB.

Delhi Capitals pacer Anrich Nortje celebrates after taking wicket of RCB batsman IPLT20.com

The Capitals will get two shots at qualifying for the final, while RCB will play in the eliminator.

Openers Prithvi Shaw (9) and Dhawan began the chase on an aggressive note, finding the ropes from the very first over.

However, the former India under-19 captain, who smashed two boundaries, once again departed early in the chase.

Dhawan found and able ally in Rahane as the two senior batsmen made full use of the field restrictions with the Capitals racing to 53 for one in quick time.

Dhawan reached his fifty in style, flicking the ball past short fine for a four. Shahbaz Ahmed broke the stand by getting rid of Dhawan in the 13th over.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (7) was next to go with Rahane following soon. However, Rishabh Pant (8) and Marcus Stoinis (10) led Delhi to victory with an over to spare.

Earlier, Devdutt Padikkal shone with a half-century before DC rallied to stop RCB.

The youngster, who looked in good nick during his stay in the middle, smashed five fours in his 41-ball 50 and shared a 57-run stand with skipper Virat Kohli (29 off 24) for the third wicket.

The Capital pulled things back brilliantly in the middle overs.

Invited bat, Padikkal and Josh Philippe (12) were circumspect in the powerplay overs. Rabada provided the Capitals with the early breakthrough off his very first ball, claiming the wicket of the Australian in the fifth over.

The powerplay overs yielded 41 runs, including five fours and a maximum, for the loss of one wicket.

Kohli, who was dropped on 13 in the 10th over by Nortje, tried to up the ante in the 12th over by hitting Axar Patel for a six. The RCB skipper again looked to smash the ball over the fence in the next over but was caught at deep midwicket by Marcus Stoinis off an Ashwin delivery.

Nortje struck twice in the 16th over to get ride of Padikkal and South African all-rounder Chris Morris for a duck.

Kapil wants Dhoni to play domestic cricket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The legendary Kapil Dev feels that it will be "impossible" for Mahendra Singh Dhoni to perform well if he decides on playing in the IPL without getting any match practice, which was the case this year.

Chennai Super Kings were out of IPL play-offs for the first time in 11 appearances and Dhoni, who played competitive cricket for the first time since last year's World Cup semi-final, scored only 200 runs in 14 games with no half-centuries and a poor strike rate of 116.

Kapil, who recently underwent an angioplasty after suffering a heart attack, wants the former India captain to play a lot more in the domestic circuit to get his form back.

"If Dhoni decides on playing only IPL every year, then it's impossible for him to perform. It's not a good thing to talk about age but at his age (39 years), the more he plays, the more his body will be tuned," Kapil told *ABP News*.

"If you don't play any cricket for 10 months a year and suddenly play IPL, you can see what happened. You can always have a season up or down if you have played so much cricket. It has happened to someone like Chris Gayle also," the World Cup winning former skipper said.

Kapil feels that it's high time that Dhoni plays some domestic cricket this season. "He should go back to first-class cricket (domestic List A and T20) and play there."

The straight-talking former all-rounder made it clear that it will be a challenge for Dhoni given that he has already indicated that he is "definitely not" retiring from the IPL.

"If someone has achieved so much, the dip in form does affect and it becomes a challenge. Let's see how he comes out of it," Kapil said.

Watson set to bid adieu to competitive cricket

DUBAI: Top Australian all-rounder Shane Watson has decided to call time on his competitive cricket career after Chennai Super Kings' exit from the IPL.

While Watson has not made any official announcement, it has been learnt that after CSK ended their IPL campaign on Sunday with a win over Kings XI Punjab, the senior player told his teammates about the decision to retire from all forms of cricket.

This season, he has scored 299 runs in 11 games.

The 39-year-old Watson was a star for Rajasthan Royals during the inaugural edition (472 runs and 17 wickets) and in 2018, his century in the final won it for CSK. During that season, he amassed 555 runs and picked six wickets.

A sought-after player in the T20 format, Watson has 3874 runs in 145 IPL games with four hundreds and 21 fifties. He also has 92 wickets. **PTI**

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE

Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma prepares to bat during nets session on Monday @mipaltan

Women's T20 Challenge side Supernovas players' Poonam Yadav, Anuja Patil and Taniya Bhatia during training session ahead of tournament opener on Wednesday poonam_yadav24/Instagram

Kolkata Knight Riders' co-owner Juhi Chawla cheers for her side during IPL game against Rajasthan Royals @KKRiders

Seven year ago on November 2, 2013 against Australia at M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru. Indian opening batsman Rohit Sharma scores his first of the three One Day International double centuries. His 209 off 158 balls (12 fours, 16 sixes) was the second highest individual score at that time @ICC

POINTS TABLE

		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	MI (Q)	13	9	4	+1.296	18
2	RCB	13	7	6	-0.145	14
3	DC	13	7	6	-0.159	14
4	KKR	14	7	7	-0.214	14
5	SRH	13	6	7	+0.555	12
6	KXIP	14	6	8	-0.162	12
7	CSK	14	6	8	-0.455	12
8	RR	14	6	8	-0.569	12

Mumbai stand between SRH & play-off spot

PTI ■ SHARJAH

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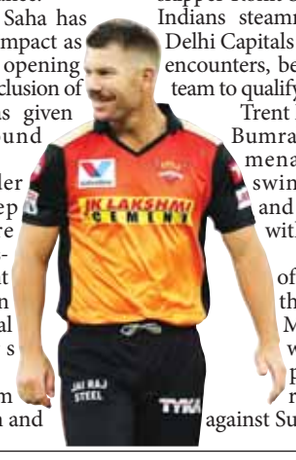
MUMBAI INDIANS	08

Riding high on momentum, resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad will back themselves to topple the mighty Mumbai Indians and qualify for the IPL play-offs here on Tuesday.

Thanks to their healthy run-rate, a win against Mumbai Indians should be enough to send Sunrisers into the final-four.

After taking a tough call to leave out the dangerous Jonny Bairstow from the playing eleven, Sunrisers have managed to find out the 'right' balance.

Wriddhiman Saha has made an instant impact as David Warner's opening partner and the inclusion of Jason Holder has given them an all-round option.



Pacers Holder and Sandeep Sharma were extremely impressive, both upfront and at the death, in the last game Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Add left-arm pacer T Natarajan and trump card Rashid Khan to their bowling attack, it makes up for a well rounded attack.

Sunrisers are not just riding high on momentum, they are also a team, full of confidence, having outplayed Delhi Capitals and RCB in their previous two outings.

Sunrisers also know there is little scope for error against formidable outfit like Mumbai Indians, who seem to be on course for an unprecedented fifth IPL title.

In the absence of injured skipper Rohit Sharma, Mumbai Indians steamrolled RCB and Delhi Capitals in their previous encounters, becoming the first team to qualify for the play-offs.

Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah have looked menacing with the swinging new ball and ever so frugal with the old.

Already assured of the top spot in the points table, Mumbai Indians will be expected to put up another ruthless show against Sunrisers.

We couldn't have done anything more, up to Gods now: Morgan

PTI ■ DUBAI

It's up to the gods now, said Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Eoin Morgan, expressing satisfaction with the effort put in his by his team to clinch a whopping 60-run win over Rajasthan Royals and keep its IPL play-off hopes alive in an immensely tight race.

KKR finished their league campaign with the big win on Sunday to get into the top four with 14 points. However, the team's qualification to the playoffs hinges on Sunrisers Hyderabad losing their final league game to defending champions Mumbai Indians on Tuesday.

"...Whatever happens from here is up to the Gods," Morgan said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

KKR's Net Run-Rate (-0.214) is poorer compared to SRH (+0.555). SRH are currently on 12 points from 13 games. KKR outgunned the Royals after posting a challenging 191 for seven on Sunday.

"Yes, I was aware of the numbers (about net run rate)

KKR skipper Eoin Morgan plays a shot against Rajasthan Royals IPLT20.com

but you need to first get yourself into a winning position. I don't think we could have done anything more today," Morgan said.

In case SRH wins on Tuesday, KKR's chances of qualification will hinge on a heavy defeat for either Delhi Capitals or Royal Challengers Bangalore in their game on Monday.

Morgan smashed a 35-ball unbeaten 68 in his team's huge total, which the skipper said was a par-score.

"I thought it was around a par score. Every batsman who came back in and said that it was a beautiful wicket with the dew in. We lost wickets between 10th and 15th overs, and to finish like we did was really good," said Morgan.

Royals skipper Steve Smith said losing wickets in a heap upfront harmed their cause.

"It was around a 180 wicket. There was a bit of dew. Losing four (wickets) in the Powerplay, it was always going to be tough from there," said the Australian.

"(Pat) Cummins bowled nice lengths, made us play some good shots. We got off to a flier, but then we lost wickets in a clump," Smith added.

"Unfortunate way to end. We started off really well, won the last two before this one. In the middle we lost our way."

MPL is new kit sponsor of Indian cricket team

NEW DELHI: Fantasy gaming platform Mobile Premier League's subsidiary arm 'MPL Sports Apparel and Accessories' is the new kit sponsor of the Indian cricket team for a period of three years.

A member of the Apex Council confirmed the development on Monday that BCCI has inked the apparel and merchandise deal with MPL, replacing Nike.

"Yes, Apex Council has passed the sponsorship deal for apparel of Indian team (men, women, A and U19). "However the rate per match will be ₹65 lakh per game instead of ₹88 lakh that Nike was giving," the senior official told *PTI*.

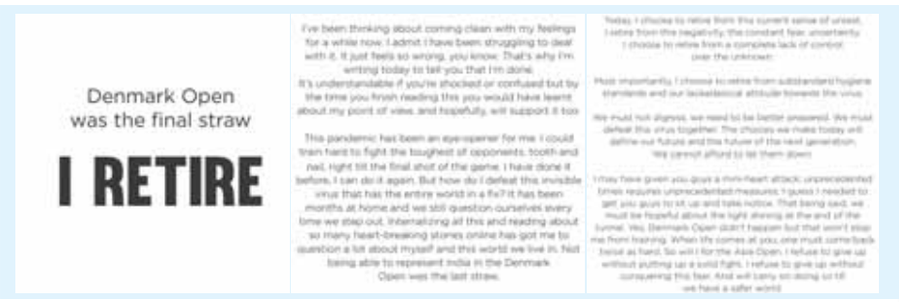
It is learnt that BCCI will also get 10 percent of the royalty from the sale of merchandise. "MPL has formed an apparel manufacturing company. They will also pay an amount for merchandise contract. The deal will end in November, 2023," the source added.

While Puma and Adidas had earlier picked up the bid papers for apparel sponsorship, they didn't fill the bid as they felt that the deal needed to be reduced to one third from the original bid.

Nike had a five year deal during which they paid ₹370 crore from 2016 to 2020 with a 30 crore royalty.

"No sporting apparel major was ready to pay that kind of money that Nike paid in current economic climate (due to Covid-19)," the source said.

MPL is currently associated with two IPL franchises (KKR and RCB), one CPL franchise (TKR) and the cricket boards of Ireland and the UAE. **PTI**



Denmark Open was the final straw

I RETIRE

I've been thinking about coming clean with my feelings for a while now. I admit I have been struggling to deal with it. It just feels so wrong, you know. That's why I'm writing today to tell you that I'm done.

It's understandable if you're shocked or confused but by the time you finish reading this you would have learnt about my point of view and hopefully, will support it too.

This pandemic has been an eye-opener for me. I could train hard to fight the toughest of opponents, tooth and nail, right till the final shot of the game. I have done it before, I can do it again. But how do I defeat this invisible virus that has the entire world in a fix? It has been months at home and we still question ourselves every time we step out. Internalizing all this and reading about so many heart-breaking stories online has got me to question a lot about myself and this world we live in. Not being able to represent India in the Denmark Open was the last straw.

Today, I choose to retire from this current sense of unrest. I retire from this negativity, the constant fear, uncertainty. I choose to retire from a complete lack of control over the unknown.

Most importantly, I choose to retire from substandard hygiene standards and our lackadaisical attitude towards the virus.

We must not digress, we need to be better answered. We must defeat this virus together. The choices we make today will define our future and the future of the next generation. We cannot afford to let them down.

I may have given you guys a mini-heart attack; unprecedented times requires unprecedented measures. I guess I needed to get you guys to sit up and take notice. That being said, we must be hopeful about the light shining at the end of the tunnel. Yes, Denmark Open didn't happen but that won't stop me from hoping. When life comes at you, one must come back twice as hard. So will I for the Asia Open. I refuse to give up without putting up a solid fight. I refuse to give up without conquering this fear. And will carry on doing so till we have a safer world.

I RETIRE: Sindhu gives fans a 'heart attack'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World champion P V Sindhu created a stir on Monday by posting "I Retire" on social media only to follow it up with a lengthy statement declaring that she would actually be saying goodbye to "the negativity, fear, and uncertainty" triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Olympic Silver-medallist, who is currently in London to work on her nutrition and recovery needs at the Gatorade Sports Science Institute, started her rather stunning post by saying that the "Denmark Open was the final straw. I Retire".

She was referring to her pullout from the event last month due to the pandemic.

"...I'm writing today to tell you that I'm done...Not being able to represent India in the Denmark Open was the last straw," Sindhu's note on Twitter stated.

"Today, I choose to retire from this current sense of unrest. I retire from this negativity, the constant fear, uncertainty. I choose to retire from a complete lack of control over the unknown," she said.

"Most importantly, I choose to retire from substandard hygiene standards and our lackadaisical attitude towards the virus."

The 25-year-old's post drew a response from sports minister Kiren Rijiju, who said he was stunned for a moment.

"You actually gave a mini shock *@Pvsindhu1* but I had unflinching faith in your power of determination. I'm sure you have the strength and stamina to bring many more laurels for India," he tweeted.

The star shuttler, who last competed at the All England Championships in March, is targetting a return to action when the world tour comes to Asia in January.

Sindhu said the reason why she started the post with a shocker like 'I Retire' was to ensure that maximum people take note of the message she was trying to convey on dealing with the virus.

"I might have given you guys a mini heart attack; unprecedented times requires unprecedented measures. I guess I needed to get you guys to sit up and take notice."

Sindhu said she will continue to fight the circumstances created by the virus and her opponents on the courts.

Alaba on course to leave Bayern

AP ■ MUNICH

Two-time Champions League winner David Alaba is on course to leave Bayern Munich after the club said talks on a new contract broke down.

Bayern set a deadline for the end of October for the Austrian and his agent to respond to a "very fair" contract offer, club president Herbert Hainer told regional TV show *Blickpunkt Sport* on Sunday. When that date passed without an agreement, the offer was withdrawn, Hainer said.

"The answer was that the offer was still unsatisfactory and that we should keep thinking," Hainer said. "After that we decided to take the offer completely off the table. That means that there is no longer an offer." Hainer added that the deadline gave Bayern "clarity" to plan for the future.

Alaba, who can play as a defender or midfielder, has made 271 Bundesliga appearances for Bayern since joining as a youth player in 2008. He has won nine German titles and the Champions League in 2013 and 2020. His contract expires at the end of this season.

Manchester United's Paul Pogba fouls Arsenal's Hector Bellerin for a penalty during Premier League match on Sunday AP

Arsenal break big-six hoodoo

Auba's spot kick ends Gunners 14-year wait for a victory at Old Trafford

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang condemned Manchester United to fresh misery at Old Trafford as his penalty clinched a 1-0 win for Arsenal, while Gareth Bale was the match winner with his first goal since returning to Tottenham in a 2-1 win over Brighton on Sunday.

Aubameyang ended a five-game goal drought in the league when he stepped up to convert a 69th-minute spot-kick after Paul Pogba fouled Hector Bellerin.

The Arsenal captain's first league goal since the opening weekend of the season gave the Gunners their first league win at Old Trafford since 2006.

United have now failed to win any of their four home league games this season, with the three defeats including a humiliating 6-1 rout against Tottenham.

It is the Red Devils' worst start to a home league campaign since 1972-73, leaving Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team languishing just six points above the relegation zone in 15th place.

Arsenal moved up to ninth, just a point off third, thanks to their first win away at a 'big six' rival in 30 attempts.

BALE RESCUES SPURS

Spurs moved up to second as Bale came off the bench to break Brighton's resolve in a controversial clash at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

Harry Kane's early penalty put Jose Mourinho's men in front before the visitors were denied a spot-kick for a pull on Leandro Trossard by Matt Doherty.

Brighton's bright display got the slice of luck they needed to level 11 minutes into the second-half when referee Graham Scott allowed Tariq Lamptey's equaliser to stand after what appeared a clear foul on Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg in the build-up, despite reviewing the incident on the pitchside monitor.

Bale got Spurs and Scott off the hook, though, when he powered home a header 17 minutes from time.

"It's a great feeling," said Bale. "I just want to come on and make an impact for the team.

"I haven't played a lot of football. It's taken time, I'm being patient and working hard when I get chances."