

OPINION 8
MORE THAN A
ROUTINE AFFAIR**WORLD 11**
UGANDA POLICE ARREST BOBI WINE
AFTER PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION**AVENUES 12**
CAREER IN REAL ESTATE
IS LUCRATIVE

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3



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PREMIER LEAGUE**
14 SPORT

Bihar voters keep parties guessing

Impressive turnout in phase 2 in rural areas, situation opposite in urban areas

PNS ■ PATNA

Bihar witnessed moderate turnout in the second phase of the Assembly polls on Tuesday, but the rural vs urban divide was clearly visible on the polling booths that gave hope and despair to the respective alliance in the State.

The 94 Assembly con-

stituencies that went to poll in the phase two of Bihar elections on Tuesday recorded 53.51 per cent turnout and the figure was likely to go up as voting continued beyond schedule in several places, the Election Commission said.

The combined voter turnout in the two phases was recorded at 53.79 per cent till

5 pm, the Commission said. In the corresponding constituencies which went to poll in the 2015 Assembly polls, the turnout was 55.35 per cent, the EC said.

While rural pockets of Bihar, especially those dominated by the Yadav and Muslim voters saw impressive turnout, the situation was just the opposite in the State capital Patna, which has been a BJP bastion for decades. Patna saw a turnout of just 48 per cent where as Muzaffarpur recorded nearly 60 per cent polling.

If the BJP has to worry because of lower turnout in Patna, then the JD (U) has its own share of concerns because of the second lowest turnout of 51 per cent in Nitish Kumar's home district of Nalanda. The JD(U) had won five out of seven seats in the district in the 2015 Assembly polls.

West Champaran clocked 59.69 per cent voting, East Champaran 57 per cent, Sitamadhi 58 per cent and Seohar 46 per cent. The urban district of Bhagalpur saw a turnout of 54 per cent. In rest of the districts, the turnout varied between 54 to 48 per cent.

Ground reports suggested that youth voters turned up in large numbers to cast their votes. Incidentally, Grand Alliance chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav has been aggressively wooing the youth voters with the promise of 10 lakh Government jobs.

The second phase of elections will decide the electoral

fate of RJD leader and Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav and more than 1,450 other candidates.

Polling began at 7 am, but the time for its conclusion has been extended by one hour till 6 pm to facilitate Covid-19 patients and those with symptoms of the disease to exercise their franchise during the final hour. The process, however, concluded early in the Maoist-hit areas.

Vaishali district's Raghupur, from where RJD

leader and chief ministerial candidate of the Opposition Grand Alliance Tejashwi Yadav is contesting, has recorded 54 per cent polling, as per the EC data.

Hasanpur, from where Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav is in the fray, has recorded an estimated 54.25 per cent votes till 5 pm. Fifty-one per cent voting was recorded in Parsa from where JDU's Chandrika Roy, the father of Tej Pratap's estranged wife Aishwarya, is contesting.

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MP sees 66.37% turnout in bypolls for 28 seats; Nagaland highest at 83.69% on 2 seats

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A mid reports of violence at a few places, Madhya Pradesh recorded 66.37 per cent voter turnout in the crucial bypolls for 28 Assembly seats. The highest polling percentage was recorded 83.69 per cent for two seats in Nagaland, followed by Telangana 81.44 per cent.

According to the Election Commission, the poll percentage was 51.57 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, 51.3 per cent in Karnataka, 68.08 per cent in Odisha, 81.44 per cent in Telangana, 62.51 per cent in Jharkhand, 68 per cent in Haryana, 57.98 per cent in Gujarat and 71.99 per cent in

Chhattisgarh.

In Madhya Pradesh, A total of 355 candidates, including 12 Ministers, are in the fray in these bypolls. The stakes are high for Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, former CM Kamal Nath, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Narendra Singh Tomar in the bypolls.

Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh questioned the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in India, saying the device is prone to hacking. According to the EC, the average voting percentage in the 2018 Assembly polls in these 28 constituencies, most of them in the Gwalior-Chambal region, was 72.93.

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Long queues in US, amid poll-related violence fear



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Americans were voting in large numbers on Tuesday in one of the most divisive bitter presidential elections in decades in which incumbent Republican Donald Trump is challenged by Democrat Joe Biden. Amidst a resurgent Covid-19 pandemic, nearly 100 million people have already cast their ballots in early voting, putting the country on course for its highest turnout in a century. 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.

Security has been tightened at the White House and major commercial avenues

across the US, with retailers boarding up their stores to head off any damages as America braced for possible unrest and violence in a bitter and divisive presidential race. About 600 National Guard troops have also been designated to help respond to protests around the country if requested. Everyone, of course, is concerned about the election results and what plays out after.

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.

Large lines were seen and hundreds of people had queued up before polling stations, in

Privacy voting booths are set up six-feet away from each other in the worship centre of the Highland Colony Baptist Church in Ridgeland, Miss., on Election Day, on Tuesday. AP

particularly in the key battleground States like Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The timing of the start of the polling differs from State to State, mainly due to the different time zones. People mostly in the East coast started trickling down to the polling stations as many States opened up the polling stations at around 6 am (4.30 pm IST). These States include Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Maine. Polling in California starts at 7 am (8.30 pm IST).

Trump in the wee hours of Tuesday urged Americans to vote for him.

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ISIS sympathiser shoots 4 in Vienna, eliminated

In 2019, attacker was convicted for trying to flee to Syria to join ISIS

AP ■ VIENNA

Five people died, including an assailant, and 17 others were wounded in a shooting in the heart of Vienna hours before a coronavirus lockdown started, Austrian authorities said on Tuesday. The dead attacker was a 20-year-old Austrian-North Macedonian dual national who had a previous terror conviction.

Two men and two women died from their injuries in the attack on Monday evening, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said. The suspected attacker was shot and killed by police.

Vienna's hospital service said seven people were in life-threatening condition on Tuesday after the attack, the Austrian news agency APA



A police officer patrols in front of an entrance of a car parking with broken glasses after a shooting in Vienna, Austria, on Tuesday. AP

reported. In total, 17 people were being treated in hospitals, with gunshot wounds but also cuts.

"It is now confirmed that yesterday's attack was clearly an Islamist terror attack," Kurz said. "It was an attack out of hatred — hatred for our fundamental values, hatred for our way of life, hatred for our democracy in which all people have equal rights and dignity."

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer later told APA that

the dead assailant, who had roots in the Balkan nation of North Macedonia, had a previous conviction under a law that punishes membership in terrorist organisations.

The attacker, named as Kujtim Fejzulaj, was sentenced to 22 months in prison in April 2019 because he had tried to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group. He was granted early release in December under juvenile law.

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Over 53 pc turnout in UP bypolls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An estimated 53.62 per cent of the 24.34 lakh voters exercised their franchise in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly bypolls to seven seats on Tuesday amid allegations of bogus voting in Naugawan Sadat constituency of Amroha and poll boycott in Tundla.

The sources in the Election Commission said that the turnout of voters was likely to increase further.

Counting of votes will be held on November 10.

The polling for seven seats with 88 candidates in the fray began at 7 am amid tight security and adherence to Covid precautions. The voting picked momentum as the day progressed.

"Voter turnout went up to 51.22 percent by 5 pm from just 18.49 percent at 11 am," the Election Commission sources said. Six of these seven seats were held by the Bharatiya

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To China's chagrin, Australia takes part in Malabar drill

Second phase in mid-November in Arabian Sea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A mid ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Malabar series of naval exercises among the navies of India, the US, Japan and Australia commenced off Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday.

Australia is participating for the first time after India brushed aside China's objection on its inclusion. Australia was keen to take part in the joint exercise and the US and Japan — the two other Quad nations — also favoured its inclusion.

Held annually, this year's Malabar exercises will be held in two phases. The first phase is from November 3 to 6 in the Bay of Bengal, while the second phase will take place in mid-November in the Arabian Sea.

The current edition is unique as the Australian Navy is taking part in the exercise for



the first time. China all along resisted the Australian participation claiming that the Quad countries are trying to militarise the coalition and pose threat in the Indo-Pacific region. In 2007 Australia was invited for the Malabar event leading to strong protest by China.

The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a bilateral drill between the Indian Navy and the US Navy in the Indian Ocean. Japan became a permanent participant in the exercise in 2015. The annual exercise was conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018 and off the coast of Japan in 2019.

The 2+2 ministerial level

dialogue between India and the US here last week had expressed satisfaction over the Malabar exercise. It will see all the four Quadrilateral countries exercising together for the first time.

Reacting to the beginning of the prestigious exercise, China said it hoped that the exercises would be conducive to the regional peace and stability instead of the contrary.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing in Beijing "we hope that relevant countries' military operations will be conducive to peace and stability in the region instead of the contrary".

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EC seizes 7.79L litre liquor in dry Bihar

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The enforcement agencies are making headlines in Mumbai for going after Bollywood actors for possession and consumption of even small amount of narcotic substances, but in poll-bound Bihar the quantum of seizure has failed to grab eyeballs though the amount is baffling.

The authorities have seized a large quantity of ganja, marijuana, poppy, tobacco, and cannabis showing why prohibition has become such a big issue in Assembly polls this time. Over 7.79 lakh litre liquor, 4871.99 kg ganja, 108 kg marijuana (charas), 1.5 kg heroine, 40 kg tobacco, 3,350 kg cannabis (bhang), 12.50 kg poppy, and 150 gram brown sugar have been seized by the Election Commission so far till the voting of second phase of polls in Bihar.

In addition, the EC has also

seized ₹24.84 crore unaccounted money, over ₹90 lakh Nepalese currency, 19.68 kg gold and precious ornaments, 275 kg silver.

In a related development, Janata Dal (United) MLA from Mathihani, Narendra Kumar Singh, alias Bogo Singh, was arrested late on Monday in Begusarai district for allegedly distributing money to voters' hours before polling began in the second phase of the Assembly election.

According to the chief electoral officer of Bihar, the enforcement agencies have seized ₹52.89 crore so far after the implementation of the model code of conduct. The seized amount is higher than in the 2015 Assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Over ₹19.52 crore have been recovered during vehicle checking across the State. During the phase I polling, over 10.78 litre liquor was seized. The



Opposition is now relentlessly attacking Nitish Kumar for the "farce in the name of prohibition due to rampant smuggling and the growing use of drugs" while the JD(U) is extolling its virtues.

As per the Excise Department data, before the liquor ban, Bihar consumed close to 26 million litres of alcohol each month. The same year, the estimated all-India figures for alcohol consumption

stood at about 5.70 billion litres. Over 3 million litres of liquor have been confiscated during the four and a half years since prohibition. Up to 1.4 million litres of this confiscated liquor was country-made and over 1.6 million litre foreign-made.

According to the EC, over 3.54 lakh people (bad characters or having criminal backgrounds) have been out on notice in the State during polls.

The data shows 25,215 arms have been deposited while licenses to 3,062 arms licence have been cancelled. To maintain law and order, the authorities have acted against 4,983 people under the crime control act. According to EC, 857 special surveillance teams have been deployed in the State to keep an eye to check on black money and supply of drugs, liquor to lure voters.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the EC had seized ₹9.12 crore black money, 1.24 lakh litre liquor, 717 kg drugs and 62 kg precious ornaments and jewelry from Bihar. In the Assembly elections in 2015, seizures worth ₹23.8 crores were registered by the EC machinery with ₹19 crore of cash found circulating besides 5.78 lakh litres of illicit country-made and foreign liquor from different places in Bihar, while the recoveries in 2019 was less than 20 per cent of that.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 83,10,665

DEATHS: 1,23,579

RECOVERED: 76,52,443

ACTIVE: 5,33,130

INDIA'S ACTIVE CASES FALL BELOW 5.5 LAKH

New Delhi: Achieving a significant milestone in the fight against coronavirus, India's active Covid-19 cases have fallen below 5.5 lakh and now comprise merely 6.55 per cent of the total infections as the number of recoveries crossed 76 lakh, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The slide in active cases is supplemented by an exponential rise in recoveries, it said.

| STATES | TOTAL CASES | DEATHS | RECOVERED |
|----------------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| Maharashtra | 16,92,693 | 44,248 | 15,31,277 |
| Karnataka | 8,32,396 | 11,247 | 7,80,735 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 8,30,731 | 6,734 | 8,02,325 |
| Tamil Nadu | 7,31,942 | 11,214 | 7,01,527 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 4,87,335 | 7,089 | 4,57,708 |
| Kerala | 4,51,131 | 1,560 | 3,64,745 |
| Delhi | 4,03,096 | 6,652 | 3,60,069 |
| West Bengal | 3,85,589 | 7,013 | 3,42,133 |
| Odisha | 2,94,415 | 1,405 | 2,80,553 |
| Telangana | 2,42,506 | 1,351 | 2,23,413 |
| Bihar | 2,18,964 | 1,108 | 2,10,855 |
| Assam | 2,07,361 | 934 | 1,98,039 |
| Rajasthan | 2,02,220 | 1,936 | 1,83,899 |
| Chhattisgarh | 1,90,513 | 2,208 | 1,66,391 |
| Gujarat | 1,75,633 | 3,734 | 1,59,548 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1,73,384 | 2,974 | 1,62,366 |

NO POSTERS TO BE PASTED OUTSIDE PATIENTS HOMES, DELHI GOVT INFORMS HC

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi party (AAP)-led Government on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court (HC) that it instructed all its officials not to paste posters outside homes of Covid-19 positive persons or those in home isolation and those posted have been ordered to be removed.

HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY SPIKE OF 6,725 CASES IN DELHI

New Delhi: National Capital recorded 6,725 new cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) on Tuesday, which took the total number of cases to 4,03,096, according to health bulletin issued by the state government. This is the highest-ever single-day spike in Delhi.

CAPSULE

PROPOSALS WORTH ₹300 CR FOR KUMBH CLEARED



Dehradun: Proposals worth nearly ₹300 crore have been cleared by the Uttarakhand Government for the 2021 Haridwar Kumbh, an official release said.

GEN NARAVANE BEGINS 3-DAY NEPAL VISIT

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen MM Naravane will begin a three-day crucial visit to Nepal on Wednesday that is largely aimed at resetting strategic ties that came under severe strain following a bitter border row between the two countries.

WILL INSPECT JAILS TO SEE GRIEVANCES: COURT

New Delhi: Several accused in the February riots in north-east Delhi lodged in jails here have complained they were not being given basic things like warm clothes for the winter prompting a city judge on Tuesday to warn prison authorities he would go and inspect the situation physically if things do not improve.

Covid: CM asks officials to remain cautious and alert

215 test positive, 323 recover in Lucknow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing satisfaction over the Emeasures taken to control COVID-19 in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stressed on continuing them with the same intensity, saying that to contain the spread of coronavirus infection it was very important to remain cautious and alert.

The chief minister, who was presiding over a high level Unlock review meeting at his official residence here on Tuesday, said that in view of the coming festivals, it was very important to follow all Covid protocols.

He said a large number of people were coming out to markets for shopping and hence it was necessary to adhere to social distancing and Covid protocols.

Directing officials to ensure that the shopkeepers and customers compulsorily wore masks, the chief minister said that besides availability of sanitisers in all the shops, all safety precautions should be followed so that no one becomes a coronavirus carrier.

“Public address systems should also be used effectively to spread awareness about safeguards from coronavirus infection. These should also be used to spread awareness about control of communicable diseases, road safety as well as dignity and safety of women,” he said.

For effective control of the communicable diseases, the chief minister stressed on effective sanitation, spraying of anti-larva chemicals and fogging on a regular basis.

“Along with this, it should also be ensured that the silt that accumulates after cleaning drains is disposed of properly,” he said.

The chief minister also directed officials to ensure better sanitation at



cow shelter homes.

Giving directions to maintain transparency at all paddy purchase centres, the chief minister said that the farmers should not face any inconvenience in selling their produce and it should be ensured that their payments were made within 72 hours.

“Besides regular monitoring, the officers should also make surprise inspections at the centres and take effective action to control the prices of potato and onion,” he said.

Those present in the meeting included Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna, Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Alok Tandon, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Director General of Police Hitesh C Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Renuka Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Dr. Rajneesh Dube, Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, SP Goyal, Additional Chief

Secretary (Women Welfare and Child Development) S. Radha Chauhan, Principal Secretary (Animal Husbandry) Bhuvnesh Kumar, Principal Secretary to CM and Information Sanjay Prasad, Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar, Secretary to CM Alok Kumar, Director Information Shishir and other officials.

Meanwhile, as many as 215 more people tested positive for coronavirus infection in Lucknow, taking the tally of confirmed cases to 64,021 on Tuesday evening.

The city also witnessed seven COVID-19 deaths, taking the toll to 893.

With 323 COVID-19 patients being discharged in the past 24 hours, 60,050 people have recovered from the infection in the state capital and at present 3,078 active cases are undergoing treatment in hospitals or in home isolation.

A senior official at the CMO office said that amongst those who tested positive in the city, 26 were from Gomtinagar, 13 from Indiranagar, 20 from Chowk 18 from Ashiyana and 10 each from Alambagh, Cantonment and Talkatora.

Fatality rate down, focus now on contact tracing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the COVID-19 fatality rate coming down, the Uttar Pradesh government has intensified contact tracing of people close to coronavirus positive people so that the spread of the infection can be arrested.

Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar told media persons in Lucknow on Tuesday that the COVID-19 fatality rate had gradually come down.

“It was the highest (41.1 percent) in March and has substantially come down in successive months. In October, it was 1.3 percent and till date, it has gone down to 1.2 percent,” he said.

Kumar said that contact tracing of relatives and friends of coronavirus positive patients had also increased.

“Contact tracing was 5.4 people per positive case in September and it has now increased to 11.2 people per positive case in November,” he said.

The principal secretary said that the state recorded 1,726 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours taking the tally of confirmed cases to 4.87 lakh.

He said till date, 4.57 lakh COVID-19 patients had recovered and 22,538 were either hospitalised or in home isolation.

On Tuesday, 2,210 COVID-19 patients were cured in hospitals or home isolation.

A total of 7,089 people lost their lives to the lethal virus with 13 fresh fatalities being reported in the last 24 hours.

On Monday, 1.48 lakh samples were tested taking the tally of total Covid tests in the state to 1.53 crore.

Kumar said the Health department was carrying out surveillance across the state from October 29 and workers of sweet shops, parlours, mehndi artists, restaurants workers, auto drivers and others were being randomly tested for the coronavirus infection. He said this drive would continue till November 12 to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus during the Diwali festival.

Mission Shakti protecting women and also saving homes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Initiatives taken by the Yogi Adityanath government under Mission Shakti are not only protecting women and girls but also saving homes by assisting in solving domestic feuds.

The Women Power Helpline has embarked upon a mission by providing online counselling to dissenting and warring couples thereby saving their homes.

Besides shouldering the responsibility of brokering peace in the family, the Women’s Helpline is also ensuring financial security to women.

The counselling service has been getting calls from homemakers and working women. Within nine days of the launch of Mission Shakti’ (October 17 to 25), the helpline

has been able to save eight homes through online counselling.

Not only addressing macro issues, the counselling is also helping in saving women from slipping into depression.

Associate professor of psychology at Lucknow University, Dr Manini Srivastava, said, “The role of counselling is far more than one may expect in matters related to women and should be handled with sensitivity and empathy which is precisely being done by the Women Helpline of the UP Police.”

With the process underway, complaints of minor adjustment problems to domestic violence are being received on helpline number 1090. If assessed as grave in nature, the complaints are registered and then the couples are

subjected to three-phase counselling.

Between October 17 and 25, a total of 7,829 complaints were received by the Women Power Helpline at a daily average of 869 calls. Prior to the launch of Mission Shakti, the daily average of such complaints used to be 783.

In the first phase of counselling, 16,742 cases were taken up while in the second and third phases, 3,548 and 117 people were counselled.

Besides, Women and Child Safety Organisation launched a ‘Safe City’ project under which facilities of 100 two-wheeler Pink Patrol, 10 four-wheeler Pink Patrol, 25 Pink Booths, data analytics centre at 1090, integration of 1090 with 112 and cyber forensic lab were carried out for ensuring safety and security of women.



District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash pays a visit at sampoorna samadhan shivir conducted under Mission Shakti at Mailhabad tehsil on Tuesday

Pioneer

Two Von Wellx units inaugurated in Agra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two footwear units of Von Wellx Germany become operational in Agra.

The two footwear units of the Von Wellx Germany project were inaugurated on Tuesday by Additional Chief Secretary (Infrastructure and Industrial Development) Alok Kumar.

These units have been set up in partnership with Ilatric Industries Group of India at the Export Promotion Industrial

Park (EPIP) in Agra.

A total of around 2,000 employment avenues have been created in these units having a production capacity of 2.5 million pairs of shoes annually.

Von Wellx would invest around Rs 300 crore in phases in three projects in Uttar Pradesh, generating around 10,000 jobs.

The company aims to produce around five million pairs of shoes annually in these manufacturing units.

Rainwater harvesting changing Bundelkhand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A witness to 11 droughts in the past two decades, the parched Bundelkhand has undergone a transformation through rainwater harvesting due to which the farmers can now grow cash crops in Jhansi.

District Magistrate of Jhansi, Andre Wamsi, said that water scarcity in fact accelerated ambitious water management initiatives in the region.

“We have built check dams leading to replenishment of groundwater. After this, the crop pattern changed and the farmers are now growing cash crops like vegetables due to availability of water,” he said.

The Minor Irrigation department has built four check dams under the Bundelkhand package and eight check dams under the district plan in different villages of Jhansi in the last three years.

“These not only improved groundwater aquifers but also provided water for irrigation at critical stages of crop growth. Availability of water is helping in increasing productivity, crop intensity and ensuring double cropping in rainfed areas,” the district magistrate said.

There is immense scope for rainwater harvesting by constructing check dams on natural streams and small rivers in Bundelkhand and the

problems of the region can be solved by this. Experts believe that despite undulating topography and hard underground strata, there is an abundance of dams and natural reservoirs in the region.

While the Bundelkhand region comprising seven districts of Uttar Pradesh would be benefited, these check dams have the potential of irrigating 1,136 hectares of land benefiting 1,000 farmers of Jhansi alone.

Wamsi said that Bundelkhand was characterised by low soil fertility, crop productivity and profitability and high poverty leading to migration of people.

“Participatory integrated water-

shed management with focus on soil and water conservation, agroforestry, improved agro-techniques, forage and animal resource development and capacity building will contribute to all-inclusive growth of communities, especially the landless and the marginalised sections,” he said.

A farmer of Gurusarai block, Purushottam, said that check dams had changed the lives of hundreds of farmers and provided them opportunity to extend farming in their respective villages.

Jitendra of Itwa Khurd gram panchayat and Mahendra of Barai village said that they were now engaged in double cropping as against the earlier

“We have built check dams leading to replenishment of groundwater. After this, the crop pattern changed and the farmers are now growing cash crops like vegetables due to availability of water”

er trend of growing Kharif crops only due to severe water crunch.



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Deepali Dadu to Deepali Jain w/o Shri Rounak Jain R/o 128/2-A-K Block, Kidwai Nagar P.S. Naubasta, Kanpur, Now I would be known by this name only.

NOTICE

This is to inform that my name was GITA PANDEY before marriage. Now I have changed my name GITA PANDEY to GEETA MISHRA in future known as GEETA MISHRA for all purpose.

NOTICE

I, Army No. 4200961K L/NK Sanjay Singh S/o Shri Gulab Singh, unit 15, Kumaon (Indore) C/o 56, APO hereby declared that in my service record inadvertently my wife name LALITA DEVI while her correct name is LALITA KANWAR my be recorded in my service records.

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 RIZVI.

Three of a family die as roof caves in

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three members of a family were killed while seven others were injured when the roof of their house collapsed while they were sleeping, in Hayatnagar area of Sambhal on Monday night.

As per reports, Shakil of Pila Khadana area of Hayatnagar got married on Monday. After a long day, his family members were sleeping in a room of their home when its roof collapsed, burying 10

persons under the rubble.

On hearing the loud noise, the neighbours rushed to the spot and extricated the trapped victims from under the rubble.

The injured were rushed to a hospital where Naima and her two children, Alina and Mounis, succumbed to their injuries.

The seven injured people were currently recuperating.

Meanwhile in Barabanki, four people were killed and another suffered injuries in a road mishap in Masauli on

Monday night.

As per reports, a speeding tanker collided with a Bahrach-bound car near Shakhapur toll plaza on Lucknow-Gonda highway on Monday night. Due to the impact, the car rammed into a truck moving just ahead of it.

Siraj (35), Bashir Khan (26), Bhima (40) and his daughter Anju (15) died on the spot while a youth sustained injuries. He was admitted to a hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

PGV slams Centre for galloping prices

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra targeted the Union government for rising inflation and expressed concern over the prices of potato and onion going through the roof.

On Tuesday, the Congress leader tweeted, “In the last one year, prices of potatoes increased by 100 percent and onions by 50 percent. The Union government is the enemy of the farmers and the poor.”

Raising the issue of farmers not getting the right price for their produce, Priyanka tweeted, “While on one hand the public in general is suffering due to rising prices of vegetables, farmers on the other hand are not getting the right prices. Seed prices and debt burden is also adding to their woes.”

Meanwhile, welcoming the Allahabad High Court’s dismissal of a petition to stay the arrest of suspended Superintendent of Police of Mahoba, Manilal Patidar, UP



“WHILE ON ONE HAND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL IS SUFFERING DUE TO RISING PRICES OF VEGETABLES, FARMERS ON THE OTHER HAND ARE NOT GETTING THE RIGHT PRICES. SEED PRICES AND DEBT BURDEN IS ALSO ADDING TO THEIR WOES”

Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu said that it was beyond comprehension as to why the Yogi Adityanath government

was trying to save the corrupt officer.

Lallu further questioned why the police officer was not

Two IAS officers removed from Revenue Board

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday removed two senior IAS officers posted in the Board of Revenue and kept both in waiting. The two IAS officers are Gurudeep Singh and Rajiv Sharma. Official sources said the chief minister ordered action against the two IAS officers following complaint of irregularities against them.

being arrested after the petition was dismissed by the court.

“At whose behest is the Yogi regime doing this favour to the officer? Why is a government that claims zero tolerance towards corruption, is being kind to a tainted police officer? The government should explain which cabinet ministers are involved in illegal mining as they are the one protecting the tainted police officer till date,” he alleged.

The Congress leader pointed out that while the then SP of Mahoba, Mani Lal Patidar, allegedly demanded Rs 6 lakh as extortion from mining contractor Indra Mani Tiwari, the latter submitted a written complaint but no action was taken and instead the contractor was gunned down.

“A case was registered at Kotwali Mahoba on September 10 and the government handed over the probe to a SIT which later said that the matter was one of suicide. The SP was suspended on charges of corruption but he has still not been arrested. Why?” the UPCC chief asked.

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IITR RELEASES POST-MONSOON AMBIENT AIR QUALITY REPORT

Vikas Nagar, Aliganj most polluted

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The post-monsoon ambient air quality report released by IITR on Tuesday shows that Vikas Nagar and Aliganj are the most polluted in residential areas while Charbagh and Alambagh in commercial areas.

The PM10 levels were the highest at 118.0 µg/m3 and 122.1 µg/m3 in Vikas Nagar and Alambagh, respectively. The PM2.5 levels were the highest in Aliganj (67.8 µg/m3) and Charbagh (71.3 µg/m3).

The AQI assessment was carried out by the Environmental Monitoring Division of Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) from September to October. Head of the division GC Kisku said though the report shows less pollution levels as compared to that last year, they are more as compared to that in the lockdown period. “The pollution levels which had come down in the lockdown period are increasing and will come to the same levels as they were earlier,” he said.

The values of PM10 and PM2.5 increased by 9.6% and 20.6% compared to those measured during pre-monsoon 2020 (lockdown) from April to May. Similarly, the values of SO2 and NO2 have increased by 111.02 % and 38.17%, respectively.

The report shows that the 24-hour concentration of PM10 ranged from 91.4 to 130 µg/m3 with an average of 109.8

Aliganj, Chowk noisiest

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The post-monsoon ambient air quality report released by IITR shows Aliganj, Chowk and Aminabad as the noisiest in the city. Aliganj at 72.9 dB had the maximum noise pollution levels amongst residential areas in day time as well as in night time. In commercial areas, Chowk was the noisiest at 76.5 dB in the day time and Aminabad at 74.7 dB in night time. Day and night time noise levels ranged from 64.8 to 72.8 dB and 48.7 to 65.6 dB in residential areas whereas 70.1 to 76.5 dB and 70.7 to 74.7 dB in commercial areas.

Principal scientist, Environment Division of IITR, AH Khan said the measured values were above their respective day time standard of 55 dB and night time standard of 45 dB for residential areas and 65 dB and 55 dB for commercial areas. “At Amausi industrial area, the day and night time noise levels were 73.2 dB and 69.0 dB, respectively. The values were below the standard of 75 dB for day time and 70

µg/m3 while in case of PM 2.5, the 24-hour concentration ranged from 49.5 to 90.6 µg/m3 with an average of 64.6 µg/m3.

Irrespective of the locations, the average values of

dB for night time, as recommended for industrial areas,” he said.

In terms of day time noise levels in residential areas, three locations showed a slightly increasing trend over the previous years whereas one showed a decreasing trend. However, among the commercial-cum-traffic areas, the noise levels showed higher levels at two locations and lower at two other locations when compared with previous years. At Amausi industrial area, the noise data among the previous three years was relatively similar. The measured noise levels during day time in all locations exceeded the prescribed standard, except in industrial area

In terms of night time noise levels in residential areas, two locations showed a higher trend while two showed lower value than in previous years. However, among the commercial-cum-traffic areas, the noise levels were higher at all the four locations, when compared to previous years.

At Amausi industrial area,

PM10 and PM 2.5 were found to be above their standards of 100µg/m3 for PM10 and 60 µg/m3 for PM2.5, as prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi.

At eight out of nine air

the comparison of noise data among the previous three years did not show any clear-cut trend. The measured noise levels during night time in all locations exceeded the prescribed standard, except in industrial areas.

The day and night time noise levels exceeded the prescribed national standards at all the locations. However, the noise levels of post-monsoon were found to be increased marginally at all the locations with respect to pre-monsoon (lockdown) period.

“The elevated noise levels of ambient air may have adverse health effects. The higher noise can induce both temporary and permanent hearing loss. It can range from bursting of the eardrum to permanent hearing loss, cardiovascular changes, stress, fatigue, dizziness and lack of concentration. Continuous noise leads to increase in blood cholesterol, resulting in constriction of blood vessels, making one prone to heart attack and stress,” Khan pointed out.

sampling locations, the mean values of PM10 were above the permissible limit of 100 µg/m3 while at six out of nine, the mean PM 2.5 values exceeded the permissible limit of 60 µg/m3, as prescribed by CPCB.



Huge crowd in Aminabad market on the eve of Karwa Chauth

Pioneer

Dalit member of BDC run over, shot by rival

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Dalit member of Block Development Committee (BDC) working as a property dealer was killed by his rival who first crushed him under the wheels of his SUV and then shot him in Mohanlalganj on Tuesday morning. The incident made fellow members of the community through the scene and demand that the culprit be handed over to them for on-spot justice.

However, police denied the reports that the victim was shot, as they claimed that they minutely examined the body but did not detect any firearm injuries. The police said medical advice was needed to ascertain if the victim suffered gunshot injuries.

As people protested for well over five hours, it stalled the investigation into the case. The police could send the body for autopsy by evening only. The victim was identified as Vijay Pratap Rawat of Poornpur village in the area

while the accused as Manoj Yadav, also of the same locality. Both were partners in real estate business once but parted ways after differences cropped up between them over money-related and personal issues.

As per reports, Rawat, accompanied by two persons, left his house for a morning walk on Tuesday. Later, his companions left for their respective houses. Rawat was all alone when Yadav reached near him in his SUV. He ran over Rawat under the SUV and the latter suffered fracture in his left leg besides head injuries.

Rawat’s wife Rekha stated in the FIR that Manoj shot Rawat two times before fleeing the scene while his SUV hit a pillar and overturned. She alleged that Manoj’s aide Lallu Yadav of Neelmatha helped him in flee the scene. She said Rawat died on the spot.

Thereafter, Manoj got himself admitted to a private hospital in Alambagh as he had also suffered injuries when the

SUV overturned. The police detained Manoj while efforts were on to nab Lallu.

A huge police team reached the scene for investigation. The police initially claimed that Rawat died in a road mishap. It irked Rawat’s supporters who had assembled at the scene in huge numbers and stalled the probe into the case. They demanded that Manoj Yadav be handed over to them so that they could avenge Rawat’s killing. They said they did not believe in police investigation as the accused had a good rapport with local cops and could hamper the investigation.

“The dispute between Rawat and Yadav was in public domain for a long time and Rawat had also sought police help in the past. The police had summoned Yadav for interrogation but treated him with kid gloves. Recently too, Manoj was summoned by the police on Rawat’s complaint but no action was taken,” villagers alleged.

18-year-old boy found hanging

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An 18-year-old boy ended his life at the house of his mother’s employer in Jankipuram police station area on Tuesday. Reports said Rakesh of Saraiya Tola in the area was found hanging inside the bathroom with a belt tied around his neck. He was spotted hanging by his mother Manju. She worked as a domestic help and Rakesh also used to assist her.

Meanwhile, police arrested a man on the charge of murdering his friend during a drinking session in PGI police station area on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Harendra Nishad of Gorakhpur while the accused as Dilip Kumar Dubey of Bahraich. The police had recovered the body near the culvert at Sharda canal on October 22. During investigation, the needle of suspicion turned towards Dilip Dubey, who was seen with Harendra on the fateful day. Dilip was detained and he owned up his crime. He said he killed Harendra as latter started abusing him while consuming liquor.



Covid recovery rate improves to 94.6%

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Covid recovery rate in Lucknow has further improved to 94.6 per cent as the targeted surveillance activity to check the spread of coronavirus has borne fruits with very few people found infected in the antigen testing in various categories.

On Monday, health officials had collected samples from places of worship and conducted RT-PCR tests, results of which are awaited.

“In the antigen testing, only two persons were found Covid positive. In other categories too, very few people have tested positive,” a senior official at the CMO office said.

He further informed that in the other activities to curb coronavirus infection, Directorate of Medical Education and Directorate of Family and Healthcare were giving specialised online training in management of Covid cases at Level-2 hospitals. “The training is about how to use ventilator, how to examine a patient and how to manage what all drugs have to be administered and when,” he said. He added that doctors working in Level-2 hospitals are a part of the training.

“This is being done to essentially refresh the memories of the doctors so that they work more efficiently,” he added. Talking about the preparations for Covid-19 vac-



cine immunisation, he said they were trying to overhaul the depot at Aishbagh where minor repairs and generator installation will be done and they have asked for the budget as per the inspection by the engineers.

“We have sufficient rooms in the building which is not an issue, the building is in itself sufficient but it needs repairing and electrification which will be done as per all the appliances which will be set up over there,” he said. Regarding the distribution of Covid vaccination in various health centres, he said it has yet to be planned.

The official said that apart from the Covid-19 activities, they were also focusing on non-Covid activities which have also kicked off.

Meanwhile, with the air pollution on the rise and its

impact on the spread of coronavirus infection, head of Pulmonary Medicine department at SGPGI Dr Alok Nath said all that was being said and written was conjectural.

“Going by the normal understanding of viral diseases, all viral infections and upper respiratory tract functions and patients suffering from lung diseases do have problems during winters. In winters due to various reasons, the AQI also worsens in every district in which Lucknow has got a sharp increase in the AQI. There may be some increase in viral infections of all kinds including coronavirus,” he said. He added that one cannot say that the Covid-19 would spread with winter because the kind of public behaviour is almost similar and will remain post Diwali as well. “People are on the move

already and markets and all the other places are crowded. That the cases will increase is speculative. Of course the patients of respiratory diseases will face some problems in winters but whether it will be compounded by increasing number of patients of Covid-19 is speculative and there is no research date available,” he said.

Incidentally, he pointed out that coronavirus has not affected people with lung disease as frequently as it has affected others.

“This research is available across the globe. There are several reasons for lesser incidences of Covid-19 in lung diseases such as exercising caution, remaining indoors, using inhalers, following the advisory that they have to be compliant by their present medication and taking more care of themselves,” he said.

He added that it was found in systematic review in reputed international journals that the prevalence of Covid-19 in people suffering from lung diseases was comparatively lower as compared to the other diseases. “In fact, patients suffering from kidney disease and diabetes were badly hit,” he pointed out.

He admitted that in general, the respiratory diseases will aggravate which is because of the concentration of the virus in the air, blood circulation in the upper tract, and rapid changes in temperature.

NER created 21,000 man-days by utilising MGNREGA

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow division of North-Eastern Railway created 21,000 man-days utilising MGNREGA for railway works. The move proved helpful in mitigating the employment crisis among migrant workers who have returned to their hometowns/villages because of Covid-19 pandemic and were struggling to survive without jobs.

The Lucknow division administration made good use of the scheme in the districts falling under its jurisdiction and provided employment to migrant labourers as well as local labourers. The PRO said that in Uttar Pradesh where maximum number of labourers have returned, NER helped in handling the employment crisis through MGNREGA. “It is a joint initiative of railways and UP government to find work for them close to their native places,” he added.

The spokesman said a total of 60 works were proposed, out of which 29 were sanctioned in

The Lucknow division administration made good use of the scheme in the districts falling under its jurisdiction and provided employment to migrant labourers as well as local labourers

eight districts (Gorakhpur, Balrampur, Maharajganj, Gonda, Siddharth nagar, Sitapur, Bahraich and Lakhimpur). He said 31 works were under approval of DMs of Balrampur and Siddharthnagar.

A major work of 42-km cess repair has been sanctioned in Anand Nagar-Gonda section, out of which 7.5 km has already been completed. In Lucknow division of NER, it will create 91000 man-days of employment and saving of Rs 2.73-cr revenue for railways as the cost will be borne by the state government. Till date, approximately 21000 man-days have already been generated through different railway works sanctioned under MGNREGA such as repair of cess of railway embankments, construction

and widening of level crossing road approaches, cleaning silted waterways/trenches and drains along the track, cleaning of vegetation growth and simultaneously launching plantation drive in vacant railway land. While execution of works, all mandatory Covid protocols are being followed.

Meanwhile, the Lucknow division of NER, under its efforts to expand automobile traffic, has started operations of the second auto handling terminal in the BKT division.

This is the second automobile handling facility developed in the division after Nautanwa in the last three months. It was notified as a goods shed on October 27 and the first inward auto rake for BKT was placed on Tuesday.

LMC to streamline vending, parking spaces in Charbagh

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow Municipal Corporation has started the process of streamlining vending and parking spaces in Charbagh. A joint inspection was made in this regard by mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and municipal commissioner Ajay Kumar Dwivedi on Tuesday morning. The municipal commissioner said they have prepared a map and the work has also started and the work is expected to be completed in the next 15 days. “For this, we have created planned a six-lane way for smooth traffic flow and the area which is falling out will be closed and converted into a vending space. Traffic congestion is prevailing in the area because of uneven road which is wide and some points and six-lane at others,” he said.

Following this concept for the smooth flow of traffic, the width of road will be made constant. “Anything which is falling outside the six lane will either be converted into a vending space or parking area for autos/tempo or into a green space. There will be a footpath on both sides of the road and we will rehabilitate 400 vendors in the area. We will not keep any vendor on the side of Charbagh station which has 50-100 vendors who will be shifted to the other side of the road. The road towards the side of Charbagh railway station will be totally vacant with only the footpath,” he explained. Dwivedi said that a survey has already been conducted and they will carry out its re-verification. “We will carry out one-time settlement of the vendors and no new vendors will be allowed thereafter. Regular enforcement drives will also be carried out,” he added.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

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| Date & Time of Auction: 11.12.2020 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM | | Status of Possession- Constructive | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Sr/ No. | Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt | Description of the Property | Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount. | Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD |
| BRANCH: Kumarganj, Distt. Faizabad | | | | |
| 1. | Borrowers: M/s Maa Vaishno Cloth house Through its Proprietor Mrs. Ranjana Gupta W/O Sandeep Kumar. Address: Village & Post Bawan, Kumarganj, Tehsil- Milkpur, District Faizabad 224229. Guarantor: Vishwanath Prasad Agarhahi S/O Ram Prasad. Address: Village & Post Bawan, Kumarganj, Tehsil- Milkpur, District Faizabad 224229. Demand Date : 18.03.2020 Possession Date : 23.06.2020 Outstanding Amount : Rs. 617720.08 +interest thereon & other charges as on 28.10.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice) | All that part and parcel of the Property consisting of Plot/Gata No. 1172min having area 18x50=900Sq.ft. situated at Revenue Village Bawan, Pargana Khandasa, Tehsil- Milkpur District Faizabad belonging to Mrs. Ranjana Gupta W/o Sandeep Kumar. R/o Village & Post Kumarganj,(Bawan), Pargana Khandasa Tehsil- Milkpur, District Faizabad is butted and Bounded as under: (As Per Deed) East: Land of vendor, West: Land of Vendor at present Rasta, North: Plot Jagannath at House of Kamla Niwas. Rasta then house of Kamla Niwas. | Reserve Price Rs. 5,22,000.00/- (EM) Rs. 52,200.00/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/- | 04.11.2020 to 10.12.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 04.11.2020 to 10.12.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM |

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Varanasi crosses 17K-mark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district has crossed 17K-mark here on Tuesday when as many as 77 new COVID-19 patients have been detected, increasing the total number of cases to 17,059. There was no casualty due to COVID-19 and the death toll remained at 273. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 115 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 13,426 but the number of recovered patients from the hospitals remained at 2,827. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 16,253, leaving 533 active cases. The recovery has improved to 95.27 percent and the mortality rate has remained at 1.60 per cent.

Meanwhile, a Post-Covid OPD has been started in Room No. 215 of OPD Complex at Sir Sunderlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU) to cater to only those patients who were Covid positive and

have recovered/ discharged after being Covid negative but still have some medical problems. The time of the OPD is 9 am to 2 pm and the consultants are Dr. Arun Kumar Singh, Dr. Jitendra Kumar Singh, Dr. Manaswi Chaubey, Dr. Santosh Kumar Singh, Prof. Jaya Chakravarty and Dr. Rajan Bhatnagar who will look after such post Covid patients from Monday to Saturday respectively. Special services in this post Covid OPD are available include counselling, nutrition counselling, psychiatry consultation (on every Saturday), respiratory medicine consultation (every Thursday), Spirometry (every Friday) and physical rehabilitation of patients through Ayush Wellness Centre in Ayurveda OPD. The registration of this OPD will be done offline, informed Medical Superintendent (MS).

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 61 positive

patients were found out of 3,692 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,34,993 and the results of 2,193 are awaited. Out of them, 3,17,950 were negative while 17,043 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,51,606. Earlier, a male aged 48 from Aalapur (Chirgaon) succumbed to Covid-19 at SSH BHU.

With the addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,337 including 204 red zones. There are 2,133 green zones with four new ones. Under ongoing mass/ group antigen tests, all 157 tests Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, 135 at Government Women's Hospital, 45 at CHC Shivpur, 51 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, 85 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and 105 at SSH BHU were found negative.

Besides, for safety, respect and self-confidence of women under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign being run in the

district, the girls/ women of various schools/ colleges and public places in different police station areas were made aware by giving information about the helpline numbers (112, 1098, 1090, 181, 1076, 108, 102) issued by the government through posters / banners / pamphlets / audios / video clips. A total of 1,446 women / girls were mobilised at 57 places and 377 leaflets were distributed. A total of 97 women / girls were sensitised by the Anti-Romeo Squads at 36 places. As many as 30 eve teasers were warned.

Apart from this, the police arrested 42 persons under Section 151 of CrPC while challaned under Section 188 and took action under Section 51 of Disaster Management Act against seven persons. During checking at various points, 1,717 vehicles were challaned and seven seized. Apart from this, ₹ 67,700 were realised from 90 vehicles, while ₹ 10,300 from 551 persons for moving on the roads without wearing masks.

109 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The number of corona patients continues to increase. Two days later, on Monday, the number of infected people crossed 100. As many as 109 new corona positive cases with two judicial officers were found in the last 24 hours in Prayagraj district. At the same time, 77 people beat corona. Several days later, for the first time, the number of infected people was more than those who recovered. However, no one died of the infection on the same day.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, a record 5,661 people were screened in the district on Monday. So far, 24,127 people have been infected in the district. Three days later the number of infected has crossed 100. This is due to increasing scope of testing. It is also a matter of relief that in 24 hours no one died from corona.

According to the CMO, 16,972 people had completed home isolation till Monday. At the same time 5,671 infected have been discharged from hospitals. In 24 hours, eight patients admitted to the Covid ward of L3 SRN Hospital were discharged. Now 65 infected people are being treated there. It is a matter of relief that a significant decrease in active cases has been registered in the district.



There are now 1,164 total active cases with 109 new positive patients.

According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, two judicial officers of the District Court are among those found to have been corona infected within 24 hours in the district. The Covid report of the Inspector of Crime Branch along with a clerk, Assistant Director of Education

Department has come positive. A staff of Karchhana CHC along with a staff nurse of SRN Hospital, deputy manager of NTPC Meja, a constable of CRPF and a teacher of basic school have also been infected.

As part of the Corona Testing's target campaign on the direction of the government, more than a thousand people were tested at religious places on Monday. On Tuesday,

the teams conducted a coveted testing of other people working in shopping malls, along with security personnel. By the fourth day, during the Covid testing being carried out under this special campaign, the figure of testing has exceeded 4,000. It is a matter of relief that so far one per cent people have not been found infected in the testing.

Meanwhile, at the Motilal Nehru Medical College, due to low number of MBBS students, classes were started in the proper manner. On the instruction of the government, the college administration had made full preparations to run classes.

The students who reached the college talked about the subject and asked them to join regular classes under the Covid protocol. Medical students from far and wide told that the fear of Covid infection is also haunting them. It is believed that the number of students is less due to lack of resources or fear of infection.

According to Principal Dr SP Singh, the college administration is ready to teach MBBS students. The parents of all the students have been appealed to send them to college. The arrangements have been made to ensure compliance of the Covid protocol in the college, added Dr SP Singh.

When Governor turned a teacher!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Governor Anandiben Patel took the stick in her hand and taught the alphabets and counting letters written on the walls like a teacher, making the children aware of identifying them while she was inspecting a smart class room at Matuka Primary School in Sewapuri block here on the second day of her visit on Tuesday. Anandiben was herself a teacher at Mohiniba Kanya Vidyalaya (Ahmedabad) prior to joining the active politics. She expressed her happiness over environmental awareness among the children while seeing Poshak Vatika (nutrient garden) installed on school premises.

During the day, she also inspected primary school at Amini in Sewapuri, selected by NITI Aayog for overall development as an ideal block where all the central and state government schemes are being implemented in all its gram sabhas. She also inspected Anganbadi centres located in these school complexes. At Matuka Anganbadi Centre, she completed the ceremony



Governor Anandiben Patel teaching children at a school in Varanasi on Tuesday

of Godbharai by offering red chunaris to pregnant women Kiran, Shakuntala, Neelam and Reeta apart from presenting fruit and nutrient item baskets. Besides, she gave nutritional packets to eight malnourished children of red category including Aditya, Suraj, Sipahi, Ravi Kishan, Prashant, Unnati, Arsad and Noor Alam, wishing them to get fully healthy soon. She also urged the women to consume these nutrient items and provide the same to their wards suffering from malnutrition.

Earlier, on arrival at Mutuka, Anandiben inspected the smart class being run in the Nanda Ghar where 32 children are studying. She talked to the children regarding their studies while the teachers about various other activities. When a little boy, who took the form of Mahatma Gandhi, narrated some words on the 'Father of the Nation' in his parrot voice, Anandiben Patel blessed him, expressing her happiness. When she saw a four-year-old child whose mask was hang-

ing down on the face, she told the children about the precaution to be made to prevent the attack of coronavirus.

Then the Governor reached Kanya Purv Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Amini and inspected the smart class, library and online class apart from Anganbadi centre located on the campus itself. On her arrival, the tiny-tots sang welcome songs, mesmerising her. After getting information about the birthday of two girls Aaradhya and Kavya, she celebrated the same by cutting the cakes and offering the same to both birthday girls apart from presenting them gift bags.

At smart class, she saw the screen-operated textual content through the computer. She asked the instructor whether the children could run it themselves. At the centre, she also presented baskets containing nutrient food to pregnant women and malnourished children. UP Minister Swati Singh, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma and other departmental officers were also present.

Govt nod for organising Magh Mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The government approved for organising the month long Magh Mela-2021 at the confluence of the Sangam. At the Prayagraj Mela Authority meeting in the NIC auditorium in the afternoon, Chief Secretary Rajendra Tiwari agreed to organise the Magh Mela as a confluence of saints and devotees on the Sangam coast through video conferencing. It was asked to reduce the size of Magh Mela by 30 per cent as compared to the previ-

ous year.

Following the guidelines of COVID-19, Magh Mela will be set up in four sectors with strong arrangements to prevent infection.

The meeting of Magh Mela Authority started after 12 noon in NIC auditorium. First, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the department-wise preparations on behalf of the Mela administration. The outline was presented in the presence of the Divisional Commissioner R Ramesh Kumar, Chairman, Magh Mela

Authority. Chief Secretary Rajendra Tiwari agreed to the proposal for organising the Magh Mela.

Some officers suggested the construction of five pontoon bridges. During this, departmental proposals and suggestions were churned for about an hour. With this, the Chief Secretary instructed to complete the preparations in time, as per the guideline, to conduct the Magh Mela in a safe manner.

Crowd management was also discussed in detail during

the meeting.

The officials said that the number of Kalpavasis could not be reduced.

In such a situation, social, cultural institutions are expected to be avoided. Apart from the Divisional Commissioner, Municipal Commissioner Ravi Ranjan, PWD Chief Engineer Himanshu Mittal, UPPCL Chief Engineer OP Yadav, Jal Nigam Superintendent Engineer AP Yadav among others were present in this meeting of Magh Mela.

BLW GM calls for transparency in work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

General Manager (GM) of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) Anjali Goyal said that transparency is the basic mantra for eradication of corruption and we should use uniformity and transparency in data avoiding possibilities of mistakes. 'Transparency and accountability is ensured through vigilance in every area of the railways. Electronic means and internet based e-procurement, e-office, etc. are very helpful and effective in controlling corruption,' she said while addressing a seminar on 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India' at Technical Training Centre (TTC) auditorium here on Monday to mark the conclusion of Vigilance Awareness Week as the chief guest.

She suggested to make simple rules and said that if we follow them then we will not face any kind of problem. During the week several programmes were organised under the aus-



GM Anjali Goyal at BLW (left) and PMG KK Yadav at Cantt PO (right) at concluding functions of Vigilance Week in Varanasi on Monday

pices of Vigilance department of BLW. Executive Director (Vigilance), Railway Board, Ashok Kumar elaborated on how to act vigilantly through a presentation on the subject of 'Rules and Disciplinary Action'. Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) PK Chaudhary suggested to be vigilant with moral honesty and emphasised adherence to discipline and rules. DCVO RK Singh highlighted the role of the Vigilance department.

Meanwhile, the concluding ceremony of Vigilance Awareness Week was also

organised by the Department of Posts at its Regional Office at Cantt.

The winners of various competitions organised during the week were awarded by the Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav. Sriprakash Gupta, Rahul Kumar Verma, Shambhu Kumar in debate, while Abhilasha Rajan, Manish Kumar, Vijay Kumar in essay competition and Manish Kumar, Lalit Kumar Singh, Vijay Kumar Tripathi and Prakash Gupta (jointly) in the

quiz competition secured first, second and third positions respectively.

In his address, the PMG said that the Indian tradition advocates 'Satyamev Jayate' and following this, corruption will be eradicated by taking precautions.

Corrupt conduct can be dealt with by acting with honesty, punctuality and quick decision about its work. Corruption comes not just from money, but also from wrong behaviour. Assistant Director (Vigilance) Praveen Prasoos said that in the era of technology, excellent work is being done by the Department of Posts to eradicate corruption by using it positively. Assistant Director Shambhu Rai also called upon for maintaining honesty in work. Accountant Mahendra Pratap Verma, Assistant Superintendent Post Office Ajay Kumar, Assistant Accounts Officer Santoshi Rai, Office Assistant Rajendra Prasad Yadav and many others were also present.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On Tuesday, General Manager North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed position of safety, 160 Kmph speed raising work, freight loading and other important works over NCR through video conferencing with PHODs and Divisional Railway Managers Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra.

At the outset GM congratulated divisions and HQ officials for outstanding loading performance and completion of important infrastructural works in October 2020. He also stressed on need to continue high level of precautions against COVID-19 to mitigate any chance of increase in cases on North Central Railway.

During safety review, precautions to be taken during shunting operation and unloading of bagged consignments from wagons were discussed. Chaudhry directed for strict compliance of laid down procedures and advised divi-

sions to launch a drive to check condition of track and other infrastructure in sidings to identify deficiencies and immediate correction of such deficiencies. To inculcate safety culture and to sensitise field staff on safety critical matters six safety drives have been conducted on North Central Railway so far in the current financial year. These are drives on prevention of trespassing of Railway tracks; proper securing of rolling stock in stations and sections; safety precautions at work sites near running lines; proper maintenance of points and crossings; through examination of DG set of container trains for prevention of fire hazards and precautions to be taken during loading and unloading of wagons.

Status of works for 160 kmph speed raising in New Delhi-Howrah including Kanpur-Lucknow section and New Delhi-Mumbai section was also reviewed in the meeting. Tenders for works of

upgradation in track, signalling, OHE for 160 Kmph operation on New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-Mumbai routes falling on NCR are being invited by concerned executing agencies. Reviewing position of this work, GM directed concerned departments to incorporate proper checklist in the tenders for objective assessment of progress of critical activities and advised PHODs to put a system in place to monitor smooth supply of materials required in execution of this important speed enhancement work.

Later in the video conference freight loading performance of North Central Railway was reviewed. After registering record loading performance in October 2020, North Central Railway has intensified efforts to capture new traffic streams to continue this trend in balance months of 2020-21. In addition to already acquired new traffic streams, freight loading

opportunities identified by North Central Railway are fly-ash loading from Jhansi division, stone/ballast loading for DFC work from Kabrai in Jhansi division, edible oil loading from Morena, container traffic from Hind terminal in Prayagraj division, cement loading from Ultra tech cement plant Bara. General Manager Chaudhry said that station to station (STS) concessional rate agreement for new and additional traffic has paid good dividend and stressed on the need for swift finalisation of STS proposals. North Central Railway is the leading zone in terms of implementing STS concessional rates and so far, it has finalised eight STS rates and working on five more STS proposals. Till October 2020, North Central Railway has loaded 37 rakes under finalised STS agreements for specified commodity and originating and destination stations earning freight revenue of ₹ 18.30 crore.

Traffic to be closed for 3 Sundays for repair of Shastri bridge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Traffic will be completely closed for at least three Sundays to repair the damaged Shastri bridge which was caused due to the truck accident on Friday. This assessment is done by the team of engineering experts. A team of two members from Kanpur arrived at the Shastri bridge on Sunday afternoon to inspect the damaged area.

At Shastri bridge, a truck fell on the railing at 2.30 am on Friday night. In this, the pillar which was installed to support the bridge track, three railings and below, were broken down. People in the accident, including the truck driver, were injured. PWD officials have now fully restored traffic by barricading the three sides of the damaged portion of the bridge. PAC personnel have been deployed on the bridge for safety, so that crowds could not see the damaged part.

On Sunday, the expert team reached the Shastri bridge and saw the damaged part. The bridge tracks have been broken up to 12 metres. The entire portion is of RCC pillar. Now it will take four weeks to make it. Assistant Engineer Vijay Kumar said that the repair work will start from Tuesday. The broken part will be made of epoxy. Epoxy makes a strong joint in four to five hours.

The repair work will be done every Sunday. During that time the Shastri bridge will have to be completely closed, because, during work, the bridge should not be jerked in any way. Otherwise, it will be difficult to join, added Kumar said that traffic on the bridge will be completely closed.

AIKMS FLAYS BAN ON STUBBLE BURNING: Stop harassing peasants for stubble burning, said the Central Executive Committee of AIKMS and condemned the ban on stubble burning being

imposed on farmers as neither have the real and relative causes of pollution been evaluated nor have the farmers been provided any alternative for stubble disposal. The Commission established by the Central Ordinance is tasked with conducting raids and taking action against peasants of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP as they are centres of opposition to the three Anti Farmer Central Acts. This shows the vindictive attitude of BJP towards peasants. It will dictate to the state governments only, not to the Centre, which mainly controls policy on pollution causing vehicular traffic, Manufacturing and construction industry and burning of municipal wastes. 95 per cent pollution in NCR is due to these, but only stubble burning, which may be only a small pollutant, that too only seasonal is being targeted, even though this is due to cutting down the tree cover. Main pollution in

NCR is due to poisonous gases, PM10, PM2.5 and others, out of which stubble is being incorrectly implicated for PM2.5.

Pollution due to stubble burning is highest in the villages and it clears up there in a short time. This Commission will neither evaluate pollution in villages nor solve it. It will only punish farmers burning stubble in their fields for 'polluting NCR with ₹1 crore fine and 5 years imprisonment. This is a preplanned conspiracy to burden the farmers and uproot them from farming.

POSTS OF TEACHERS TO BE FILLED: After a wait for four years long the authorities of Uttar Pradesh Secondary Education Service Selection Board (UPSESSB) has started the process for the biggest ever recruitment by the board. In one go, the board would be filling up 15,508 posts of teachers in government-aided secondary schools of the state.

Tiwari reviews construction works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State for Tourism and Religious Affairs (Independent Charge) Dr Neelkanth Tiwari on Tuesday reviewed the construction works being carried out to make renovation and beautification of streets and areas of five wards, falling in Shree Kashi Vishwanath Mandir circle, under the Smart City Yojana in view of religion and tourism.

Under the Smart City Yojana, the Smart Ward Yojana is being implemented in five wards which maximum areas are situated along the holy river Ganga and near Shree Kashi Vishwanath Mandir.



UP Minister Neelkanth Tiwari inspecting parking site at Townhall in Varanasi

Under the Smart Ward Yojana, the areas of these five wards are to be renovated and beautified in view of the religion and tourism and the construction is being carried out in these wards for the purpose. The renovation of the sewage system, water supply, etc is to be done

under the scheme. The walls of buildings of these wards are also to be painted. The municipal corporation is an implementing agency.

Expressing satisfaction over the construction works Dr Tiwari directed the concerned officers and contractors to

complete the work within stipulated time and maintain the quality as not only the tourists from various parts of country but also the tourists from abroad will visit to observe the beauty of these areas.

It was made clear in the meeting that no shop owner will be displaced during the renovation and beautification works. The minister also reviewed the work to construct multi-storey parking in Town Hall and it was made clear that no shop owner would be displaced from here and rather, the new arrangement will be made. The Municipal Commissioner Gaurang Rathi and others were present in the review meeting.

POLLING IN GHATAMPUR



Thermal screening of electorate at Ghatampur polling booth

Pioneer



Aesthetically decorated model polling booth at Ghatampur on Tuesday.

Pioneer

Special cold chamber being constructed for Covid vaccine storage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chief Medical Officer Dr AK Mishra said that a special cold chamber for the storage of COVID-19 vaccines was being constructed separately at the divisional cold chain centre at Rama Devi.

He said the cold chamber would have special equipment to keep the cold chain between two and eight degree centigrade to preserve the indigenous vaccines for COVID-19. Dr Mishra said as per the

government directive, the first phase immunisation would be for government doctors, pharmacists, nursing staff, and health workers.

He said in addition to these auxiliary nurses and midwives (ANMs), Anganwadi and ASHA workers, private sector doctors and nursing staff would also be covered in his phase.

The CMO said that GSVM Medical College and prominent government hospitals like LLR Hospital, Ursula Hospital, Dufferin Hospital and KPM Hospital, had been directed to

send data for vaccines.

He said the Indian Council of Medical Research along with Bharat Biotech had jointly tested the indigenous vaccine on 42 volunteers for the first and the second phase and till date there was no adverse reports.

He said the GSVM Medical College was preparing for the third phase testing of the Russian vaccine and volunteers were being registered. He said the target was for 200 volunteers.

The CMO said the COVID-19 recovery rate of

Kanpur Nagar had reached 95.05 per cent.

He said District Magistrate Alok Tiwari was reported to have tested positive along with his wife and he was in home isolation.

He said there was very good response to the OPDs which had started at the LLR Hospital.

He said more than the prescribed number of patients came for check-up at the OPDs. He added that even the surgery and ENT OPD had become functional.

52 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 52 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 52 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,057 cases.

He said no COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 734.

The CMO said at present 643 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4369 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Shun crackers during Diwali: pulmonologist

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Noted pulmonologist and state coordinator of pulmonary diseases, Dr Raj Tilak, has appealed to the people of Kanpur Nagar to refrain from exploding fire-crackers during Diwali as it could be fatal for COVID-19 patients.

He said with the mercury level falling further by mid-November, it was expected that pollution could rise dangerously due to the uncontrolled exploding of fire-crackers and this could prove to be a setback to the efforts of the UP government to contain COVID-19.

Dr Tilak said when with great efforts the district administration had successfully brought down COVID-19 fatalities and checked the spread of coronavirus infection, polluting the air by exploding fire-crackers would be a suicidal step and trigger the second wave of COVID-19 even before it impacted other countries.

He said it was imperative to ensure that the air was clean and much rested on the parents and elites who could spread awareness among masses of the impact of fire-crackers' toxic fumes that aggravate asthma.

He said by the dry air in winter could also aggravate breathing difficulties, especially among those suffering from lung ailments and in such conditions, adding toxic smoke to the ambient air by bursting crackers could turn out to be a disaster.

He said the pollutants released from the crackers remained suspended in cool air for a longer duration and as COVID-19 affected the lungs, even those who had recovered from the infection would become vulnerable if people did not shun fire-crackers during Diwali.

Dr Tilak said the medical fraternity had appealed to the state government to ban the sale of crackers without any delay.

He said the longer it took for the state government to ban sale of crackers, the greater the threat would be for public health. He added that the UP government should choose health over revenue this time.

He said the local administration should act before people started stocking up firecrackers.

Safety rules should be followed strictly: GM

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In continuation of the review the working and achievements of various departments and divisions of North Eastern Railway (NER) by General Manager Vinay Kumar Tripathi, on Monday in a meeting organised in the GM's auditorium at Gorakhpur, through videolink the working of Lucknow, Varanasi and Izzatnagar divisions were discussed in detail.

General Manager Vinay Kumar Tripathi in his address emphasised that trains run at the maximum permissible speed and that the supervisors concerned should give appropriate training to the assistant loco pilot and other safety staff. In the context of rapid electrification, the General Manager instructed to conduct training of the maintenance staff in a planned and effective manner for handling the electric locomotives smoothly. He directed the officers concerned to make more efforts to increase loading of goods. Describing safety as the top priority of railway administration, he said that safety rules should be followed strictly. Emphasising that the supervisors should perform their duties with full commitment and honesty, Tripathi said that their role in protected rail travel was very important. In order to protect animals in the cattle run over sensitive areas, the GM suggested to make boundary wall from old rail sleepers as per the norm. GM Tripathi said that the drawing of new projects should be approved as soon as possible and their monitoring should be done at



GM of North Eastern Railway Vinay Kumar Tripathi addressing the DRMs

the division and headquarters level so that they could be completed faster. Tripathi directed the officials concerned to identify the derelict railway houses, ensure their quick disposal and complete the auction process so that railway revenue could be obtained. Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Lucknow, Dr Monika Agnihotri, DRM Varanasi, VK Panjiyar, and DRM, Izzatnagar Ashutosh Pant, attended the meeting through videolink and gave detailed information about the working and achievements of their respective divisions through power-point presentation. The Divisional Railway Managers assured to follow the instructions given by GM Vinay Kumar Tripathi in letter and spirit.

GIRL FOUND: Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway, makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. In the same sequence the RPF post Gorakhpur, during patrolling at the Gorakhpur railway station recently found a 16-year-old girl in an abandoned condition. She handed over to the Child Line, Gorakhpur, Chief Public

Relations Officer (CPRO) PK Singh said. Besides a 13-year-old boy was found in unclaimed condition by the RPF post, Gorakhpur, during patrolling at Gorakhpur railway station. He too was handed over to the Child Line, Gorakhpur. Likewise on November 1 the RPF post, Gorakhpur found a 12-year-old boy at Gorakhpur railway station. He was handed over to the Child Line, Gorakhpur. Meanwhile a person whose health had deteriorated in train no 04673 recently was sent to the district hospital, Deoria, for treatment by the staff of RPF post. Besides the RPF post, Lucknow City, found a retarded person, aged 20 years, in an abandoned condition during patrolling at Lucknow City railway station. He was handed over to the Government Railway Police (GRP), Lucknow. Meanwhile that one person was caught by the RPF post Kaptanganj from Belwa Chungi Chauraha, Padrauna, along with three e-tickets recently. After taking action against the person under the Railway Act a case was registered under the Railway Act in this connection.

Youth's body found hanging from tree

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The body of a youth was found hanging from a tree near Lusa railway station on Monday. As per the reports, a group of the labourers had come to work at Lusa railway station. On Monday morning they were taken aback on seeing the body hanging from a tree some metres away from their work place. On getting information about it Madihan police reached the spot, took the body into custody for completing the legal formalities. The deceased was identified as Sujit Nath (30), son of late Nagendrachandra Nath, a resident of Tajpur village under Karinganj police station in Karinganj district, Assam.

MEETING HELD: In view of MLC election in graduates' constituency and teachers' constituency a meeting was held at collectorate on Monday which was presided over by District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel. It was attended by political party leaders and administrative officers. Addressing it the DM apprised that as per the proposal of election officials total 14 polling centres had been finalised, in which excluding City block, all block headquarters had been made the polling centres apart from two centres in Mirzapur city and one in Ahraura city. For the objections regarding the polling centres it was to be submitted at the election office as well as before the ADM.

CHAUPAL ORGANISED: Chief Development Officer (CDO) Avinash Singh has appealed to farmers to adopt organic farming to reduce the production cost and increase the value of the soil in the long run. During a chaupal organised in Nibiya village under Rajgarh block, the CDO in the presence of other experts of farming suggested to the farmers to be involved in horticulture and livestock through which their income could be increased without additional labour and with less expenditure. On the occasion CDO urged the farmers to adopt the bio method for disposing of waste. He concluded his address with the appeal to farmers to get the facilities of the experts at their doorstep.

CSJMU event to promote Atmanirbhar Bharat, rural entrepreneurship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a bid to promote Atmanirbhar Bharat and rural entrepreneurship, the Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Kanpur is organising a day-long programme on November 9.

Addressing media persons, CSJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Neelima Gupta said in the Gramin Udyamita Haat Samvartika, exhibition and sale

of products manufactured by different rural entrepreneurs would be organised.

National Secretary of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, New Delhi, Dr Atul Kothari, will inaugurate the haat as the chief guest.

About 20 stalls of rural entrepreneurs, farmers and artisans would be set up. The haat would also stage folk songs, folk dances, including faag, alha etc., to depict the cul-

ture of Uttar Pradesh, she added.

In the afternoon, a symposium on Atmanirbhar Bharat would be organised at Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya conference hall where around 75 dignitaries from the fields of industry, social work etc. would take part.

In a workshop to be held at 3 pm on Charitra Nirman under the New Education Policy at the

Institute of Health Sciences auditorium, all the heads of departments and teachers would be present.

Dr Atul Kothari will deliver his speech on the subject. All the programmes would be chaired by Prof Neelima Gupta.

CSJMU media incharge Prof Sanjay Kumar Swarnkar and Prof Sanjay Sachan were also present at the press meet.

GRP arrest two for thefts in Rajdhani Express trains

KANPUR (PNS): The Government Railway Police (GRP) at Kanpur arrested two thieves involved in stealing cash and valuables of passengers during their journey in AC-1 of Rajdhani Express at Amausi in Lucknow.

The accused had stolen Rs.3 lakh from the bag of Muzaffarpur (Bihar) MP Ajay Nishad's wife when she was travelling in AC-1 of Rajendra Nagar Patna Rajdhani Express on October 27.

As the FIR was lodged with the GRP at Kanpur, the officials had immediately deployed a surveillance team to work out the case.

While going through the list of persons travelling by Rajdhani Express, it was observed that a man always used to board the train at Kanpur and return to Lucknow from Delhi by air.

Meanwhile, a theft in the same train on October 18 also



GRP officials addressing mediapersons on Tuesday.

Pioneer.

came to light. Its FIR was lodged with the Delhi GRP. Again on November 1 night, a theft took place in the AC-1 of the same train. During investigation, when the return of the suspect to Lucknow by air was confirmed, the police team at Lucknow airport was alerted. When he alighted from the plane, the police took him into custody. On being grilled, the man confessed his crime.

Addressing media persons,

Kanpur GRP Station House Officer Ram Mohan Rai and Railway Protection Force SHO Pradumnha Kumar Ojha at the Kanpur Central Station identified the accused as Puneet Kumar (25) of Puraina in Pilibhit district.

Puneet Kumar revealed that he committed the crime with the help of his friend Pradeep Yadav (26) of Pipra Ramghar area of Deoria.

Police recovered Rs.2.50

lakh in cash, jewellery stolen in these three incidents and a car (CH-01BD 9640) from the accused. The interrogation of the accused revealed that on failing to clear medical entrance examination, Puneet joined the crime world to make a fast buck. He belongs to a good family — his father is a retired major, his brother is an officer in Air Force and his sister is a doctor.

The police team which worked out these thefts was given a cash reward of Rs.50,000.

BOOKIE HELD

The Kidwai Nagar police have arrested a youth involved in online betting on IPL cricket matches from Juhi Baradevi Natwantola on Tuesday.

He was identified as Saurabh Sahu (24).

Police recovered Rs.5.38 lakh in cash, a wrist watch and three mobile phones from him.

The police team which made the arrest was led by Station House Officer Dhanesh Prasad.

PROBE DEMANDED

IPS officer Amitabh Thakur has sought an inquiry into the alleged nuisance and hooliganism by the Special Task Force (STF) members at Gausshala Chauraha in Kidwai Nagar here on Monday night.

In his letter and tweet to UP DGP HC Awasthi and others, Amitabh Thakur said that as per the viral video, STF DySP Tejvir Singh and many drunk STF members were sitting in STF's vehicle (No UP 32BG 4485) when a motorcycle had a minor collision with the STF vehicle after which the STF personnel tried to forcibly pull this man inside their vehicle. He said when a journalist, Ashish, started recording the incidence, the STF men man-handled him also.

Safety pledge administered

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

At NTPC's Rihand project Safety Month started on Monday with a security pledge. On the occasion in the administrative building of the project, Executive Director (Rihand) Balaji Iyengar, who present as the chief guest, administered the pledge of safety to the officers and employees present. Iyengar asked



those present on the occasion to devote themselves to safety, health and protection of environment. He also said that they should make every effort to prevent accidents and protect the environment in their own interest and of their family, organisation, society and nation. In the same sequence Chief General Manager (O&M) Anant Charan Sahu administered the pledge to all officers and employees in Hindi and English at Seva Bhawan located in the plant premises. The programme was coordinated and conducted by Operations Manager (Security) Mukesh Kumar. Chief General Manager (Maintenance) S Krishna, General Manager (Fuel Management) M Ramesh, Additional General Manager (Security) Kameshwar Prasad, General Manager (Technical Services) E Nand Kishore, Additional General Manager (Contracts) Koshi Chandi, KC

Tripathi, KC Singharai, project officials, staff and others were present. During the programme Covid-19 prevention guidelines, including maintaining social distancing, were followed.

Meanwhile in NTPC's Rihand Project the closing ceremony of Vigilance Awareness Week which was being observed from October 27 to November 2 was organised in the Samanway auditorium on Monday evening. Social distancing was maintained and other guidelines for Covid-19 prevention were followed on the occasion. The function was inaugurated by Executive Director (Rihand) Balaji Iyengar, who was the chief guest, along with other co-guests. At the end of the programme the chief guest and co-guests honoured the winners of the first competitions held during the fortnight by presenting gifts to them. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mannalal Ash. Prominent among those present during the programme were Chief General Manager (O&M) Anant Charan Sahu, GM (Maintenance) S Krishna, AGM (HR) KS Murthy, and chairperson of Vartika Mahila Mandal P Iyengar.

Jungle Raj allies against Bharat mata chant: Modi

Bihar well on way to have another NDA Govt: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his attack on the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Congress-Left alliance which, he alleged, wants people not to raise the slogan "Bharat mata ki jai", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday again claimed that Bihar had made up its mind to re-elect the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and reject the proponents of the "jungle raj".

Touring the State for the fourth time after the start of the no-holds-barred election campaign last month, Prime Minister counted the advantage of a "double-engine" Government versus "Jungle-raj" and its "yuvraj" — RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Modi's last leg campaign was on amid voting in 94 of the State's 243 Assembly seats for the second of the three-phased state polls, the biggest in India since the novel coronavirus pandemic started.

The last phase of the poll in Bihar is on Saturday.

Tejashwi has also been hitting back at Modi by demanding to know why the unemployment rate is at 46.6 per cent in Bihar despite the double engine Government and the reason of migration from the state.

The Prime Minister addressed rallies in Forbesganj and Saharsa districts for the third and final phase of polling in Bihar Assembly election.

"Bihar has given a clear message, on the basis of the initial information we're getting, that the State has decided to



reelect the NDA Government," the Prime Minister, who is the main face of the NDA even though it is led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Bihar," Modi said while addressing a public rally.

"Those who brought jungle raj into Bihar (RJD)... their associates... what do they want? Do you know? They want that you don't chant 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'. On this auspicious land, where Goddess Chhathi is worshipped, is it possible that people won't chant for the nation," he said.

Without taking names, The Prime Minister continued, "One group says- 'Don't chant- 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', other one says it gives them a headache. Now, they've come together to seek votes from the people of Bihar. They don't want you to chant 'Jai Sri Ram'."

The return of the "double-engine" government will help the state progress at a faster pace, Modi said, in an attack on the opposition's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav, who often mocks Nitish Kumar over the phrase.

Repeating his "double yuvraj" jibe at Tejashwi Yadav and Congress's Rahul Gandhi,

the Prime Minister asserted "they've been rejected by the state."

Spearheading the NDA attack, Prime Minister has so far held 12 rallies in the state.

The BJP is fighting on 121 seats while its alliance partner and Nitish Kumar's party JD (U) is contesting on 122 seats.

Prime Minister, has, so far in his rallies did not speak against Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan who has been denouncing Nitish Kumar and even threatening him with a jail term "if LJP to be in the power in Bihar".

LJP is seen to be the B-team of the BJP in the contest keeping in mind the post-poll calculations.

"Some people have a problem... they say 'why does Modi win elections?... Modi wins elections because he works to resolve the issues of all the (poor) mothers and sisters... That's why they bless Modi... This son has dedicated his life for the poor," the Prime Minister said in his poll rally.

He took a dig at the Congress and said the party "has reached a stage where they don't even have a total of 100 seats in parliament"

Modi, Nitish have looted Bihar, people determined to dethrone them: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged they have "looted" Bihar, and claimed that the people have decided to vote them out of power.

Addressing a poll rally in Katihar, Rahul criticised the NDA Government over demonetisation, migrant crisis, GST, handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the three new farm laws.

He said neither Modi nor Kumar did anything to help migrant labourers when they were walking thousands of kilometres to return to their home during the coronavirus induced lockdown.

"The Congress had arranged buses for the movement of migrant workers. We are not in power so we could not do it for millions, but we helped as many people as we could," he said.

Rahul Gandhi also claimed the PM and the Bihar CM have failed to fulfil promises on development and job creation.

"I want to ask all the youth who are here that Modi ji had said he will give two crore jobs every year, Nitish ji said the same, but where are the jobs? Why are the youth unemployed today," he said.

He also alleged that farmers are angry with Modi over the three recently enacted agricultural laws. "And that is why farmers in Punjab burnt the effigies of Narendra



Modi, Ambani and Adani on Dusshera. The truth (of these laws) has come out in Punjab. It has come out in Bihar as well."

He said demonetisation hurt the poor but benefited the big "chosen" corporate and GST has harmed small shopkeepers.

The Congress leader further stated that at least 20 per cent of the maize produced in the country comes from Bihar, but "do you get the right price? What did Modi ji and Nitish ji do to get you the right price?"

"Every youth of Bihar knows that Narendra Modi and Nitishji have together looted Bihar. They have destroyed Bihar's small shopkeepers.

And now the youth and the farmer of Bihar have decided to vote for Grand Alliance," he added.

Gandhi is scheduled to address another rally during the day.

Earlier in the day the Gandhi scion urged people to vote so that a new government of their choice can be formed.

The Congress leader was addressing public meetings at Katihar and Kishanganj districts of northeast Bihar where the third phase of poll is scheduled to be held on November 7.

Indian jawans get clothing from US to beat extreme cold at LAC

New Delhi: In a major boost to India's preparedness to take on the Chinese on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Indian Army has received the initial consignment of extreme cold weather clothing from the USA for its troops deployed on the China border.

"An initial lot of extreme cold weather clothing from the American defence forces have been received and are being used by our troops there," government sources told ANI here.

The sources said that the Indian Army maintains a stock of 60,000 of these extreme cold weather clothing



sets for troops deployed in entire Ladakh including both western fronts in Siachen and Eastern Ladakh sector.

This year, there was an additional requirement of around 30,000 of these sets as close to 90,000 troops are deployed in the region in view of the aggression by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) along the LAC.

The emergency acquisi-

tion of the extreme cold weather clothing will help the Indian Army troops to get through the harsh winters in the Ladakh sector.

The Indian side has deployed two additional divisions on the LAC that have been brought to the sector from plains and a mountain division which has been training for high-altitude operations for many years now.

India is getting a lot of equipment from America including a number of assault rifles for the special forces as well as the SiG Sauer assault rifles for the infantry troops.

Agency

Coal block allocation scam: ED attaches ₹169 crore asset

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth ₹169 crore of Topworth Urja Ltd in connection with a money laundering case relating to coal block allocation scam.

The ED had initiated investigation under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI against Topworth Urja & Metals Ltd. (formerly Shree Virangana Steels Ltd.) and its Directors under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery among others.

The firm, through fraudulent means and by making misrepresentation, got allotment of Marki Mangli -II, III & IV coal blocks. As much as 9,21,748 MT of coal was extracted illegally during the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 and there was illegal gain to the extent of ₹52.50 crore by extracting the coal from these allocated coal blocks namely Marki Mangli-II and Marki Mangli-III, the ED said in a statement.

Further, there was benefit to the extent of ₹20.40 crore on account of sale of excess power generated out of captive power plants and sold to the connected grid, it further said.

The company also generated the share capital by

issuance of equity and preference shares on high premium pursuant to application and allocation of coal block and benefited to the extent of ₹96.72 crore.

Social activist detained for bid to hoist tricolour at PDP office, police mum

PNS ■ JAMMU

A Jammu-based social activist Amandeep Singh Boparai, who hogged lime-light after he attempted to hoist a Tricolour in the premises of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu on October 24-25, was picked up by the police from his residence in Sanjay Nagar area of Jammu early Tuesday morning. On record the local police authorities remained tight lipped and shied away from making a statement.

Till late evening no official statement was released ascribing reasons behind Boparai's detention by the spokesman of Jammu & Kashmir police.

Even the family of Boparai including his father, an ex-serviceman, was also not allowed to meet him. Official sources maintained, Boparai was picked up by the police for violating existing Covid-19 guidelines under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (Disobedience to order promulgated by a public servant).

A police guard stationed at the main gate of the Model police station in Gandhi Nagar prevented his father from entering the police station premises as he arrived there to know the reasons behind detention of his son.

Speaking to the media persons outside the police station, Boparai's father alleged, "my son, who had hoisted a tricolor in the office of PDP and also took out a Tiranga rally on October 25, was forcibly picked up by the policemen from my residence without disclosing the reasons behind the same". Boparai's father said, "my son has not committed any crime or indulged in anti-national activity. I want to know the reasons behind his detention but here the police guard at the gate not even allowing me to enter the police station. He ill treated me and pushed me when I attempted to go inside the complex", he added.

At Boparai's home, his wife also alleged ill treatment at the hands of the police men. She told media persons, "a large number of policemen forcibly entered our house and without even showing us any official order or search warrant they forcibly pushed my husband inside the police jeep and took him away". Late evening, Boparai was released by the police from Gandhi Nagar police station. His father and lawyer were present outside the police station to receive him along with his supporters.

Tie up with FCI to increase supply of fortified rice: Ministry to FCI



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has asked the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to tie up with rice mills for increasing supply of fortified rice via ration shops and other welfare schemes as 112 aspirational districts of 15 states have been identified for distribution of fortified rice. Five states including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh have already started the distribution of fortified rice in their identified districts.

At a high level meeting chaired by Union Consumer Affairs minister Piyush Goyal, the FCI has been asked to come up with a comprehensive plan for procurement and distribution of fortified rice in all the Districts of the country under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme from 2021-2022. It was felt that "there is a need to scale up the supply of Fortified Rice (FRK), whose availability currently is at a meagre quantity of 15,000 tonnes per annum," the ministry

said.

Covering 112 Aspirational Districts for PDS, ICDS and MDM would mean requirement of nearly 130 Lakh MT of Fortified Rice, for which FRK supply capacity in the country needs to go up to nearly 1.3 Lakh MT. If the entire PDS (NFSA) rice supply which is of the order of about 350 Lakh MT is to be fortified, then there has to be an uninterrupted supply pipeline of FRK from the industry of the order of about 3.5 Lakh MT.

Further, there are nearly 28,000 Rice Mills in the country which need to be equipped with Blending Machines etc. for mixing of FRK with normal rice. FCI has been asked to tie up with the rice mills in different regions for necessary investments in this regard.

Rice can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder to the rice that adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains in several layers with a vitamin and mineral mix to form a protective coating.

RAJIV GANDHI MURDER Apex court unhappy with pendency of convict's pardon plea for 2 years



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed unhappiness over the pendency of a plea by a convict seeking pardon in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case for over two years with the Tamil Nadu Governor.

The top court asked the counsel for petitioner A G Perarivalan, who is serving life sentence, whether the court can exercise its jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution to request the Governor to decide his plea of pardon filed under Article 161. Article 161 empowers a Governor to pardon

a convict in any criminal case.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi said, "We don't want to exercise our jurisdiction at this stage but we are not happy that recommendation made by the government is pending for two years".

The bench was hearing a plea of 46-year-old A G Perarivalan who has sought suspension of his life sentence in the case till the CBI-led Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) probe is completed.

During the hearing, the bench told senior advocate Gopal Shankaranarayanan, representing Perarivalan, that "the Governor has to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers. But if the Governor does not pass order, what the court can do, you tell us".

Goa's Covid-19 hospitals' docs resume work after brief strike

Panaji: Functioning of Goa's two Covid-19 facilities were affected for brief period after Resident Doctors posted there struck work on Monday after their free accommodation privilege was revoked, but they have since rejoined duty, the South Goa district authorities said on Tuesday.

"Some disruption in services at Covid hospitals was reported on Tuesday afternoon as Resident Doctors had withdrawn services to demand separate accommodation," South Goa District Collector Ajit Roy said in a statement here, adding that doctors had resumed work.

Roy said that while the Resident Doctors were on strike, senior consultants and Directorate of Health Services doctors attended to Covid-19 patients. "The Health Department and district administration is committed to provide best healthcare in times of Covid-19 pandemic" the statement added.

Goa's coronavirus cases total 43,954, including 2,215 active cases and 616 deaths.

Study identifies 7 different forms of Covid symptoms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coronavirus infection leaves behind significant changes in the immune system even after 10 weeks of recovery, researchers have said. In their study published in the journal Allergy, they have identified seven groups of symptoms including "flu-like symptoms" with fever, chills, fatigue and cough, "common cold-like symptoms" with rhinitis, sneezing, dry throat and nasal congestion.

The findings could play a significant role in the treatment of patients and in the development of a potent vaccine.

The study which was conducted by a team of MedUni Vienna scientists led by immunologist Winfried F Pickl and allergologist Rudolf Valenta (both from the Center for Pathophysiology, Infectiology and Immunology) involved 109 convalescents and 98 healthy individuals in the control group.

The researchers were able to show that various symptoms related to Covid-19 occur in symptom groups. They identified seven groups of symptoms such as "flu-like symptoms" (with fever, chills, fatigue and cough); "common cold-like symptoms" (with rhinitis, sneezing, dry throat and nasal congestion); "joint and muscle pain"; "eye and mucosal inflammation"; "lung problems" (with pneumonia and shortness of breath); "gastrointestinal problems" (including diarrhoea, nausea and headache); and "loss of sense of smell and taste and other symptoms".

"In the latter group we found that loss of smell and taste predominantly affects individuals with a 'young immune system', measured by the number of immune cells (T lymphocytes) that have recently emigrated from the thymus gland. This means that we were able to clearly distinguish systemic (e.g., groups 1 and 3) from organ-specific forms (e.g., groups 6 and 7) of primary COVID-19 disease," says Pickl.

Temp, humidity do not play major role in Covid spread: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Contrary to the general perception, temperature and humidity do not play a significant role in coronavirus spread, scientists have said, explaining that whether it's hot or cold outside, the transmission of Covid-19 from one person to the next depends almost entirely on human behaviour.

They said that taking trips and spending time away from home were the top two contributing factors to Covid-19 growth, with a relative importance of about 34 per cent and 26 per cent respectively.

The next two important factors were population and urban density, with a relative importance of about 23% and 13% respectively.

The study is published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Earlier, at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, it was

thought that hot summer temperatures could reduce its spread.

Then later, in India which is now witnessing winter season, it was predicted that cold would result into pike of the Covid-19 cases.

However, research led by The University of Texas at Austin in their new study found that temperature and humidity do not play a significant role in coronavirus spread.

"The effect of weather is low and other features such as mobility have more impact than weather," said Dev Niyogi, a professor at UT Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences and Cockrell School of Engineering who led the research. "In terms of relative importance, weather is one of the last parameters."

Co-authors are Sajad Jamshidi, a research assistant at Purdue University, and Maryam Baniasad, a doctoral candidate at Ohio State University.



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There's a major fall in weekly new Coronavirus cases, in fact dropping below 40,000 on Tuesday. But as there is an increase in infections in States like Manipur, Delhi, Maharashtra and Kerala, the Centre advised people to go for testing even if they note the slightest of Covid-19 symptoms.

"There are few States where active cases are on a rise in November as compared to October. Manipur has now 3,500 cases from previous 2,000. Cases in Delhi have increased to 33,000 from 26,000. In Kerala, cases have increased to 86,000 from 77,000," Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary said on Tuesday.

However, during the same period, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh were the top states which registered a decline in the number of Covid-19 cases.

"We've observed a declining trend for weekly new cases over last 7 weeks. There's major fall in weekly new cases. Health care systems are not unnecessarily burdened with Covid-19 cases. There's less pressure on network of hospitals," Bhushan said at a press briefing here.

He further said that the Covid-19 recovery rate is near 92 per cent and cumulative positive rate is 7.4 per cent. "Cases per million population are at 5,991. Covid-19 deaths are at 89 deaths/million population which is lower if compared globally. Active cases are around 5,41,000 now," he said.

The Ministry also advised people to continue following Covid-19 guidelines during

the festival season so that there is no surge in cases. "It is important to follow the strategy of Test - Track - Trace - Treat. Let us keep our focus on this strategy even if our numbers are coming down," Bhushan added.

India's COVID-19 case-load mounted to 82,67,623 with 38,310 fresh infections, while the death toll reached 1,23,097 after 490 new fatalities were reported, the data updated at 8 am showed.

A total of 76,03,121 people have recuperated from the infection so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 91.96 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.49 per cent.

"More than 11 crore COVID-19 tests have been conducted so far. The cumulative, weekly and daily positivity rate is constantly declining and stands at 7.4 per cent, 4.4 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively," the health secretary said.

V K Paul, head of the National Task Force on COVID-19, urged people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour and asked them to get themselves tested if they observe any symptom of the viral disease.

In these times, even the smallest of symptoms, such as cold, cough and sore throat is COVID-19 unless proven otherwise. "It might be other flu too, but if we miss even one positive case, that may result in thousands of cases," Paul said.

"I request you to kindly get yourself tested if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. We have facilities to carry lakhs of tests. People who you came in contact in the past 8-10 days they must self-quarantine themselves and not expose others," he said.

NDA muscle in RS

An emaciated Opposition has to unitedly fight the Government on the floor of the House than stage walkouts



Can the Rajya Sabha be the conscience of the nation and uphold democratic traditions with fierce debates, dialogue, checks and balances? Can it still be representative of the federal character of India? If the passing of the farm Acts was any indication, then the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has already become over-confident about subverting parliamentary fairplay and justifying its authoritative weight by managing numbers. Worse, it is using the Parliament to tick off the boxes in its manifesto, prioritising party over governance and trampling any opposing view as redundant, even if reasoned. Controversial Bills have always been open for discussion in the House, often moved to relevant parliamentary committees for careful perusal and closing deficiencies. But the voice vote — which is nothing more than a shouting match of who gets heard louder and which has so far been used to pass Bills that are consensual — for farm Bills changed all that. Though the legislations split the House down the middle, a “friendly” Chair ensured that the voice vote could be resorted to as a bypass. And now that the NDA has further consolidated its position in the Rajya Sabha, crossing the 100-mark after nine BJP candidates were elected unopposed, co-option has a possibility of becoming more a rule than the exception. On the other hand, the Congress, which dominated the Upper House, is now down to 38 seats — its lowest ever tally — in the 242-member House after it lost two more seats to the BJP in the current elections. Out of the 11 Rajya Sabha seats that were vacant, nine were won by BJP candidates, taking the party’s tally to 92 seats. While it is still some distance away from the halfway mark of 121 to have a say on its own, it has its allies and issue-based supportive parties to count on. The Janata Dal (United) has five seats. The smaller parties like RPI-Athawale, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), Mizo National Front (MNF), National People’s Party (NPP), Naga People’s Front (NPF), Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and Bodoland People’s Front (BPF) have a seat each besides four nominated members. Meanwhile, the AIADMK with nine MPs, BJD with nine MPs, TRS with seven MPs and YSRCP with six MPs have been crucial in ensuring the passage of controversial Bills.

The Opposition has anyway been emaciated since the big Lok Sabha verdict last year, the biggest loser being the Congress. And now with the grand old party’s dismal presence in the Upper House, it has never looked so exhausted and beaten. In the absence of a counter-agenda, particularly a convincing economic one, or a strident approach, it has frankly ceded its responsibility as the main Opposition party, leave alone leading others. Besides, its intra-party stasis means that it continues to be visionless. And reactive politics is certainly not working for it. Of course, with these numbers, the BJP will now claim a high efficiency in the Parliament, which will be measured by the swiftness with which it pushes legislation, some of it being agenda-driven rather than being qualitatively relevant. The 16th Lok Sabha passed 133 Bills. The Government also promulgated 45 Ordinances, which were subsequently legislated without too much obstruction. A single-party dominance means a frightful shrinkage of deliberative discussions and the conversion of ill-conceived ideas into State policy. According to a report by PRS, which tracked the BJP Government’s passage of Bills, the time spent on the Question Hour, discussions and calling attention motions had dipped significantly in the pre-COVID session. Many demands for a discussion were guillotined too. Add to that protests and adjournments, which the Opposition had to resort to in the absence of being allowed to be heard as per convention, and the Parliament has anyway been reduced to being a tool of the ruling party rather than being a nation’s watchdog. The Rajya Sabha, so far, has been responsible for ensuring scrutiny, prizing governance over party-driven point-scoring and protecting federalism. Not for nothing did Justice DY Chandrachud, while registering his dissent in the case on the Aadhaar Act of 2016, say, “As a revising chamber, the Constitution makers envisioned that it will protect the values of the Constitution, even if it is against the popular will. The Rajya Sabha is a symbol against majoritarianism.” But looks like bicameralism is a shell for what is for all practical purposes becoming a monolithic institution. There are fewer and fewer democratic tools left to hold the Government to account. If anything, the balance of power intended by our founding fathers has been overturned for sure. Dissent has anyway been a casualty in the Modi regime. Now, the House, that at least was a platform for alternative perspectives, is in danger of losing its essence to the brute force of mathematics. As it is, the Government in its last term had bypassed the Rajya Sabha by passing crucial amendments through the Money Bill route that disallows amendments there. Then the farm Bill fiasco happened. And now with increasing strength, the NDA can very well design approaches to get its way and reduce the rulebook to a mere tokenism. As for the Opposition, particularly the Congress, it has no option but to at least unite on devising joint parliamentary strategies and make the most of the time allotted to it for legislative business and interventions. All non-BJP parties have to be present at all times and adopt more constructive means of getting themselves heard as disruptions like walkouts only help the ruling combine in the end. Otherwise, we are staring at the possibility of majoritarianism bulldozing the greatest of our institutions.

Stubborn stubble

Unless all stakeholders are strong-willed and opt for a united response, cracking down on farmers won’t help



Even as Delhiites continue to suffer from a thick smog, Punjab farmers continue to burn their rice crop residue. This despite the Punjab Government banning stubble burning, appointing 8,000 nodal officers to douse the blaze and deploying over 70,000 extra machines for residue management. In fact, stubble burning cases have been the highest this year in Punjab as compared to the previous three years. So, why do the farmers seem indifferent? The fact is they are in a fix. Already overburdened, the present problem of a short gap between harvesting and sowing two different crops was thrust upon them by well-meaning environmental-

ists crying hoarse over the need for water conservation. So, now they have to remove the paddy straw instead of letting it lie and decompose. If they wish to remove stubble manually, they will need at least ₹6,000-7,000 per acre. This is economically unviable for small and marginal farmers. Even if an equipment like the happy seeder is given to them to cut the stubble and sow wheat seeds simultaneously at a subsidised rate by the State Government, the additional per acre cost of rent and diesel needed to run these machines means this option is also uneconomical. Then there is the issue of low germination of wheat seeds sown with happy seeders, something our farmers cannot afford.

But a solution has to be found which is viable for everyone. A united and shared approach may yet solve matters as envisaged in the just declared commission on air management provided there is political will. State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh could buy the rice straw from the farmers and then sell it to biomass factories, power plants, paper mills and cardboard factories. Then there is the paddy straw chopper-cum-spreader which can be operated by a tractor with 45-50 HP or more. It will not only chop the straw and spread it in the field, thus maintaining the fertility of the soil, but ease sowing of the next crop too. Plus, the accelerated straw decomposition process or Pusa capsule developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute is something that can be looked at as it costs less than ₹1,000 per acre and is good for increasing nutrients in the soil. Converting stubble into biochar is another option. All stakeholders have to come together in mission mode. Simply coming down on the growers will not help.



ASHOK K MEHTA

The chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane’s visit to Nepal, starting today, is being seen as a clear attempt by both countries to revive bilateral relations, which are at a new low due to the map and road rows and their repudiation as Kathmandu printed its own map, incorporating disputed areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura. General Naravane’s visit is a part of the unique tradition that began in 1972, when the Army chiefs of both countries were ceremonially appointed chiefs of each other’s armies. It was Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the legendary Sam Bahadur, who institutionalised the unique military relation that had both political and strategic ramifications. “When a soldier says he is not afraid of death, he is either lying or a Gorkha,” Sam would say. No two countries are privileged with similar bonding as the Gorkhas of Nepal, who serve and even die protecting India’s territorial integrity and sovereignty. The strategic military relations are at two levels — between the two sovereign armies and the Indian Army’s Gorkha connect.

For India, Nepal is geo-strategically the most important neighbour, dominating avenues to the Indo-Gangetic heartland. The security concerns emanate from the north of the Himalayas and have constituted the core worry. In 1959, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had said that an attack on Nepal and Bhutan will be deemed as an attack on India. The Chinese have made equivalent remarks.

Nepal faces only an internal threat as the Maoists posed two decades ago. The hijack of IC-814 demonstrated Nepal’s fragile internal security system. Fortunately, it has no external threat.

In 1952, King Tribhuvan invited India to establish a military training mission, which included occupying 22 border posts along with Nepal Army but Kalapani was not one of them. By 1970, under pressure from the Communist lobby in the palace, the training facilities were withdrawn. In 1965, King Mahendra, and in 1990, King Birendra requested India to modernise the Nepal Army, which is equipped 80 per cent with Indian military

More than a routine affair

It is the Gorkha connect and magic that General MM Naravane’s visit to Nepal will nurture and preserve besides creating an ambience for normalising ties



hardware provided at friendship prices — 70 per cent aid and 30 per cent payment, which over time has become near gratis. According to treaty arrangements, Nepal acquires military equipment from abroad only when India is unable to provide them. But this is not sacrosanct as the US, the UK and east Europe have provisioned the Army.

The Nepal Army was tested during the counter-insurgency campaign against the Maoists, when it initially failed to meet the challenge. The Indian Army provided tactical advice and military equipment in staving off the threat which ended in a stalemate. As part of tactical consultations in September 2003, the Bilateral Security Cooperation Mechanism was established, which is supposed to meet twice a year. After King Gyanendra staged the royal coup in February 2005, military supplies were suspended, resulting in a rift between Army chief General JJ Singh and the Foreign Office as General Singh pointed out that blocking the flow of weapons and equipment would undermine Nepal Army’s counter-insurgency operations. Though overruled, he defended the military ties zealously.

The bulk of Nepal Army’s specialised training is held in India and it bags maximum training slots. Joint training has reached the battalion level under the Surya Kiran series and military exercises are held in both the countries. The Indian military has become the first responder during crisis or calamity in Nepal. In the 1990s, there was a horrible aviation tragedy at the Tribhuvan International Airport. The IAF rushed in several helicopters to help trace victims of the accident. Similarly, in 2015, after the earthquake, the Indian military’s immediate response was acknowledged by Nepal Army chief, General Gaurav Rana.

The second strand of bilateral relations is the recruitment of Gorkhas from Nepal in the Indian Army, which is a continuation of the British inheritance through the Tripartite Agreement of 1947, whereby Nepalese get into British, Indian and their own armies. The British had insulated the Gorkhas from the rest of the Indian Army by not allowing Indian officers to lead them. At the end of World War II, there were 51 Gorkha battalions which were divided between the British and Indian Armies. Today, the 43 Gorkha battalions, which are larger than the entire British infantry, which has two Gorkha battalions, make up the largest infantry regiment of the Indian Army. While initially all were recruited from Nepal, gradually the Nepali Gorkha content reduced to 70 per cent and currently is

60 per cent while the remaining comes from Indian domiciled Gorkhas from Dharmsala to Darjeeling. In 2015, a Gorkha battalion composed entirely of Indian Gorkhas was formed.

On an average, India recruits annually 1,500 to 2,000 Nepali Gorkhas with unending queues of aspirants. Indians have offered the Gorkhas with panache and passion that British Gorkha veterans now envy. These battalions have won gallantry awards that outmatch other Indian regiments and those Indians who doubt their loyalty should have their heads examined.

The Indian embassy has created a wealth of facilities for the 1.25 lakh ex-servicemen (10 lakh if you add families) in Nepal, who are exceptionally organised, disciplined, lately, affluent after One Rank One Pension (OROP) and beholden to India. A special Gorkha cell in Army Headquarters monitors their welfare. Pay and pensions account for the third-largest remittance after trade and tourism, and this has remained unaffected by the pandemic or other crises.

Nepali politicians with Leftist leanings, especially Maoists, have invariably raised the question of stopping recruitment in foreign armies, especially the Indian Army. The Chinese influence in Nepal has grown dramatically since

the Communist Government is in place. It has been seeking parity with India, including joint military training which started in 2017. China may object to the use of Nepali troops of the Indian Army against a friendly Chinese People’s Liberation Army. An echo was heard during Doklam.

With the Nepal Communist Party in power, the recruitment issue keeps popping up. One suspects there would be a mini-revolt in the countryside for contemplating a sacrifice as heinous as stopping Gorkhas from showing off their valour. A proposal that had emanated from the Kathmandu Embassy in 1974, recommending this infamy, was axed in New Delhi with alacrity for its potential to rob India of a vital strategic asset. The serving Gorkhas and the ex-servicemen community together constitute the one reliable pro-India constituency in Nepal that New Delhi can count on, especially when India-Nepal relations have hit rock-bottom. It is this Gorkha asset and magic that General Naravane’s visit will nurture and preserve besides creating an ambience for normalising ties.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff)

SOUNDBITE

Education is the tool for liberation and people should give priority to educating their children. The Government policies must help in the uplift of the downtrodden.



Retired High Court judge —Kemal Pasha

It is necessary to actively use the instruments of public-private partnership, to attract, where possible, extra-budgetary and borrowed funds, carefully.



Russian President —Vladimir Putin

The Government of the Grand Alliance, which will be formed, won’t be the Government of any particular caste, religion or class. It will be the Government for the entire Bihar.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

The game has become faster but is it getting safer? Be it a spinner or pacer, wearing a helmet should be mandatory for batsmen at the professional level.



Former cricketer —Sachin Tendulkar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Next US President

Sir — Elections in the US have often surprised people. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had more popular votes than Donald Trump. Nonetheless, she lost. The US President is not elected based on popular votes cast in his/her favour. Rather, when the people exercise their ballot, they are actually voting for a group of people called electors, who form the electoral college. This has 538 electoral votes in aggregate. Each elector is entitled to cast one vote following the general election, and the candidate who gets more than half (270), wins. Hence, in 2016, Clinton lost to Trump.

The 2020 US election is unique in many ways for India, too. An Indian-American woman leader, Kamala Harris, is the Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee and has a fair drawing power, according to the opinion polls. On the other hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been rooting for the Republican President Donald Trump and his deputy. In both the “Howdy, Modi!” mega event in Houston and “Namaste Trump” extravaganza in Ahmedabad, Modi had can-

GST inflows cross ₹1 lakh crore

Revenues from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) surpassed ₹1.05 lakh crore in October, the first time in this financial year. The Government cited the GST inflows as a clear sign of recovery in the economy after its 23.9 per cent contraction in the first quarter of this year. Economists are terming the surge in the GST kitty as “enthusing” as this was in line with the expectation of a build-up of inventories in anticipation of a robust festive season. However, not many are convinced about the persistence of this trend, especially once the festive season is over and the pent-up demand is fulfilled.

The uptick in October’s GST inflows can be attributed to the festive demand and input tax credits as well as other reconciliations that were due for in September. If this level of revenue is maintained through the rest of 2020-21, we may see a reduction in the shortfall in the GST compensation for the States. However, we cannot consider the GST inflows as a return to normalcy for businesses as these revenues normally relate to sales



that occurred in September, when a big part of the economy, including public transport, was unlocked. It also depends on the potential second COVID wave, which is already resulting in a second lockdown in Europe. We need to await data for December before we can confidently say the economy has bounced back.

Yash Pal Raihan
Jalandhar

manence has never been their strong suit.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Poverty graph

Sir — It is a matter of grave concern that two-third of India’s population lives in poverty with 68.8 per cent surviving on less than \$2 a day. And over 30 per

cent even have less than \$1.25 per day available. Around 800 million people are considered poor, making the Indian subcontinent one of the poorest countries in the world. Most of them live in the countryside and keep afloat with odd jobs.

Poverty has indeed been one of the biggest challenges for the Government. And the nationwide lockdown to slow the

spread of the Coronavirus has made things even worse. The Government needs to target specific areas such as accelerating economic and agricultural growth, ensuring speedy development of infrastructure, growth of non-farm employment, access to assets and credit, and reforming the public distribution system and special employment schemes for the poor.

B Ahsanullah
Delhi

Ban on firecrackers

Sir — On November 2, the National Green Tribunal issued notices to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and four State Governments — Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan — on banning firecrackers from November 7 to November 30 in the interest of public health and environment. This comes as a welcome step as the quality of air continues to deteriorate, especially in Delhi, which may, in turn, lead to a rise in COVID-19 cases.

Khushboo Ved
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Parks must fight climate change

The management of Kanha National Park needs to evolve ways to adapt to climatic vagaries and prepare a plan for long-term sustainability



VK **BAHUGUNA**

Climate change has started impacting the wildlife reserves of India. During 2019, as against the average annual rainfall of 1,200 to 1,300 mm, the Kanha National Park recorded 1,800 mm rainfall, 300 mm in a single day. This resulted in damage to the soil and water bodies that were filled with sand and debris. Many bridges were damaged in the deluge as was the vegetation. The management of Kanha National Park needs to evolve ways to adapt to climatic vagaries and prepare a plan of action for long-term sustainability of the park, which is one of the oldest wildlife reserves of India.

One of the finest tiger habitats in the country and a haven for prey species like the *barasingha*, *gaur* and *cheetal*, Kanha comprises a large area of 1,949 sq km in the well-forested Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh. It has a core area of 940 sq km and a 1,009 sq km buffer zone. It was notified as a reserved forest in 1879, as a sanctuary in 1933 and finally, a national park in 1955. Like other wildlife reserves, Kanha too got a tremendous management boost with the introduction of Project Tiger in 1973. The adjacent Phen Wild Life Sanctuary spread over 110 sq km is part of its additional core area.

It is endowed with fabulously rich biodiversity of plant and animal genetic resources. Meadows full of grasses make it a perfect habitat both for the herbivorous animals as well as for the tiger and other carnivores. As a result it has plenty of tigers, leopards, *gaurs*, wild dogs, jackals, wild boar, *langurs*, pythons and a host of other wildlife. The national bird, the peacock, is seen all over the park in abundance.

The prey base for now more than 125 tigers is more than adequate with 40,000 *cheetals*, 11,000 *sambhars* and 800 *barasinghas*. Kanha has 139 families of birds, including migratory ones from the Himalayas, Central Asia and Europe like the golden oriel, greenish warbler, rosy starling, brown shrike, common stonechat, northern pintail ducks, barn starling, Malabar pied horn, Indian grey horn, wagles, white-backed vultures and so on.

The climatic and geological conditions, like undulating land mass and a network of water streams, ponds and lakes, are favourable for sustaining the rich biodiversity. The range of temperature from 43 to 44 degrees in summer and minus two degrees in winter and an annual rainfall of around 1,400 mm bring a wide range of biodiversity to this park.

The authorities deserve a lot of kudos for managing the park so well. They have created adequate infrastructural and logistic facilities like housing, schooling for their children and an innovative medical scheme along with other excellent workers' welfare measures like soft loans. The souvenir shops and canteens are run by the workers' society and the profit is shared as bonus annually. The turnover last year was ₹95 lakh and this year so far it is around ₹66 lakh despite the lockdown that saw a reduced footfall. These innovative steps are the cornerstone of the park's management policy.

The scientific management of biodiversity is focussed on inter-dependence of species and non-living components. The park is known for some innovative measurers like focussing on other species than the tiger. The conservation programme of the *barasingha*, a threatened species, is now doing very well and animals are getting translocated to other wildlife reserves. The park management had made a few novel efforts like a "School for Rewilding Orphaned Tiger Cubs" in which they are rescued, reared, trained and released back in the wild. A "Kanha Vikas Nidhi" had been created to support the infrastructure and livelihoods of the 27 villages that were shifted from the core area.

The State Eco-Development Board is also active in the wildlife reserves in these activities and creating a win-win situation for both the people and wildlife. However, while interacting with the staff, one thing became clear. The State Government must look into the genuine grievances of the Range Officers and other field staff on their salary structures which need to be brought at par with police and forest staff of other States. The least the Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government must do is to accede to their demands as it is their efforts that are making the forest rich in flora and fauna. This, in turn, is conserving water and helping agriculture in the area. Above all, they have made Madhya Pradesh a tiger State of India and resulted in boosting its economy through bio-tourism.

(The writer is a former civil servant)



THE JOB OF A WOMAN IS TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE. THE PROBLEM OF #METOO BEGAN WHEN WOMEN STARTED WORKING.

—ACTOR

MUKESH KHANNA

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



HOW REGRESSIVE AND OUTDATED. MISOGYNY MAY BE A RESULT OF A TRAUMATIC MEMORY. THAT'S THE ONLY BENEFIT OF DOUBT I CAN THINK OF.

—ACTOR

DIVYANKA TRIPATHI DAHIYA

Crime and fitting punishment

In cheque bounce cases, we need to find a balance so that malafide intent is punished while other, less serious offences are open to negotiation



SUBHASH CHANDRA **PANDEY**

Issuing of post-dated cheques or signing of irrevocable mandates to banks to debit the agreed Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) on a fixed date every month is a common practice when loans or goods purchased on credit are repaid on a regular basis. If the cheque or automatic electronic debit is dishonoured by the bank for want of funds/mandate and the debtor fails to clear the dues within 15 days of a written notice by the bank (to be given within 30 days of dishonour), the creditor can file a criminal complaint. This is because the debtor commits an offence punishable with up to two years in jail or fine up to two times the amount of the cheque issued or both. The criminal case can be dropped in case of a compromise or settlement. This is provided under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The objective of all this is to promote the efficiency of banking operations and to ensure credibility in transacting business through cheques. The 1881 Act was amended in 1989 to introduce a one-year jail term that was enhanced to two years in 2003. But the offence was made "compoundable", meaning that the criminal proceedings can now be dropped if some compromise is reached between the two parties.

India, with its huge population, has problems that are unique to it and the overburdening of resources or institutions is one of them. So, it is not surprising then, that a total of 346 lakh court cases were pending in the country on October 29 this year. Out of this, there were over 251 lakh criminal and over 95 lakh civil cases, of which over 199 lakh criminal cases were more than a year old. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in 2013 had highlighted that out of the pending 270 lakh court cases, about 40 lakh were cheque bounce cases, involving about ₹1,200 crore. These cases, estimated to be about 20 per cent of the total caseload (2018), are clogging the already overburdened criminal courts. Do we have enough jails and judges to convict every offender? Shouldn't we have a hierarchy or priority list of offences to be targeted by the prosecution and adjudicating systems? Should the debtors, who have already mortgaged movable and immovable properties, be further subjected to criminal liability?

The Government is considering decriminalising cheque bounce cases and some other "civil wrongs". On June 8, the Finance Ministry sought stakeholder comments on its proposal to decriminalise 39 "minor economic offences" created under 19 Acts, including non-repayment of loans and dishonour of a cheque or automatic electronic debit for "improving the ease of doing business and helping unplug the court system and prisons." However, the decriminalisation proposal has been opposed by the IBA, the Confederation of All-India Traders, the Finance Industry Development Council, the Federation of Industrial and Commercial Organisation and some Bar Councils.

The Bar Council of Delhi has highlighted the effect of the pandemic on lawyers in the country and how every advocate is facing a financial crisis. The Bar Councils of Maharashtra and Goa, too, have opposed the proposal to decriminalise Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. They contended that the offence of cheque bounce should not be termed as a "minor" infraction by the Government in its bid to decriminalise the same. For lawyers, decriminalisation clear-

“A PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION FILED BY THE INDIAN BANKS' ASSOCIATION IN 2013 HAD HIGHLIGHTED THAT OUT OF PENDING 270 LAKH COURT CASES, ABOUT 40 LAKH WERE CHEQUE BOUNCE CASES INVOLVING ABOUT ₹1,200 CRORE. THESE CASES, ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CASELOAD (2018), ARE CLOGGING THE ALREADY OVERBURDENED CRIMINAL COURTS. DO WE HAVE ENOUGH JAILS AND JUDGES TO CONVICT EVERY OFFENDER? SHOULDN'T WE HAVE A HIERARCHY OR PRIORITY LIST OF OFFENCES TO BE TARGETED BY THE PROSECUTION AND ADJUDICATING SYSTEMS?”



ly means an adverse impact on their livelihoods. For traders selling on credit, there is a genuine problem of having no security against customer default. Instalment purchase of goods on EMI is supported by post-dated cheques, and no one will accept cheques if their bouncing is decriminalised. Trade will be left at the mercy of civil litigation that takes several years for justice to be delivered. Even after the current stringent Section 138, more than 20 per cent of all pendency of cases across the country is only pertaining to cheque bounce.

The bankers' opposition to decriminalisation can also be understood for cheque bounce against unsecured loans. However, there is absolutely no justification for continuing with this additional protection in case of secured loans. While sanctioning EMI-based loans, banks insist on mortgage of immovable property or shares, debentures, fixed deposits and so on. Or they obtain guarantees from employers for deduction from the borrowers' salary. In such cases, cheque bounce should be considered for decriminalisation to begin with. Borrowers — distressed by the Coronavirus pandemic — have been provided some relief by way of moratorium and deferral of fresh applications for insolvency proceedings but the criminal liability under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, as amended in 1989, 2003 and 2018, remains. Normally, for criminal liability to be pinned to a person, presence of *mens rea*, malafide intention is a must. However, in cheque bounce cases, malafide intention may or may not be there and need not be proved. A strict liability has been created without going into a cheque issuer's intentions as a measure to build trust and credibility in cheque transactions.

The objective of amending Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act

in 1989 was to add credibility in transacting business through cheques. Current realities are so very different from 1989 when cheque bounce was first criminalised.

Provision of criminal liability — prosecution and imprisonment — on strict liability basis, without the need to prove malafide intention, is an identified deterrent for attracting new investment. It is in larger public interest to declog our criminal courts and jails.

In Kaushalya Devi Massand vs Roopkishore Khore case, the Supreme Court held that the offence committed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act cloaks a civil wrong as a criminal act and the gravity of offence under Section 138 of the Act cannot be equated with a crime under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code or other criminal offences.

In Makwana Mangaldas Tulsidas vs. State of Gujarat and others case, the Supreme Court recently favoured decriminalisation of dishonour of small value cheques. The court suggested various ways to deal with the situation of overflowing cheque bounce cases pending adjudication across the country. The apex court suggested developing a mechanism for pre-litigation settlement in these cases.

The Centre, while decriminalising some defaults, has to balance the interests of lawyers, the business community and the welfare of the public at large, especially those who are not wilful defaulters. In cheque bounce cases, we need to find a balance so that malafide intent is punished while other, less serious offences are compounded. As the working of the SARFESAI Act (The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have shown, the cases of wilful defaults are very few and such offenders con-

tinue to dodge the law while a large number of non-wilful defaulters continue to suffer harassment in courts. Public policy is all about balancing conflicting requirements and expectations. Creditors would want to have as many solutions as possible and pursue all those remedies simultaneously. However, such an approach has a deleterious effect on business sentiment. It may end up having a chilling effect on potential borrowers and consumer demand. If fear of imprisonment and litigation charges along with a fine truly had a deterrent effect and resulted in timely payment of cheques, the courts would not have such a big pending caseload. And it is this huge backlog of cheque bounce cases that delays the trial of more serious crimes and at the same time erodes public faith in the judicial system.

Hence, decriminalisation of bounced cheques should be seriously pursued. Secured creditors have remedies available under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and the IBC, 2016. Cases involving secured lenders should be decriminalised except for borrowers declared "wilful defaulters" or "fugitive economic offenders." Even in cases involving unsecured creditors, the criminal cases should be continued against repeat offenders and a more lenient view may be taken of first-time defaults and offenders. There should be very clear articulation of legislative intent as to its retrospective or prospective operation. To eliminate a large pendency of court cases, retrospective application based on a differentiating criterion like secured/unsecured creditor and wilful/non-wilful defaulters would be necessary and desirable.

(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

Criticism based on perception rather than facts

It emerges that the Delhi Police has filed chargesheets against the accused belonging to both the communities in the February riots cases



SK **JAIN**

It is a sad fact that 53 people lost their lives in the riots in north-east Delhi in February this year. Nearly 600 people were injured and property worth several crores was destroyed. Countless families had their sources of livelihood destroyed and some unfortunate ones lost their sole bread-winners. The Delhi Police, too, had its share of dead and injured, and I have no doubt that it has been analysing the cause of the tragic course of events and how it reacted and responded to the situation in the national Capital as it unfolded. Disconcertingly, there have been allegations that Delhi Police acted under political pressure during the riots. But after an initial delay/dithering, it acted swiftly and controlled the situation. The National Security Advisor and the present Commissioner of Police, who was specially brought in from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), visited the worst-hit areas of the Capital for a few days, restored order and instilled a sense of security and safety among the public.

While the embers of the riots were still burning, criticism from various quarters started pouring in regarding lack of transparency and impartiality in the conduct of the police. Several articles have appeared in the media carrying allegations of one-sided probes. Motives are being attributed for both, arresting or not arresting people. It is indeed sad to see respectable names being lent to write-ups castigating the police investigation with hardly any attempt to access authentic material.

It has been my experience in over three decades of policing in Delhi and some other AGMU-cadre States and Union Territories that there is hardly any political interference in police functioning in these jurisdictions, be it in handling of law and order situations, crime control or investigation of crimes. The police are usually free to act professionally in such matters barring individual aberrations.

After the inept and biased handling of the 1984 riots, which badly impacted its image, the Delhi Police, under the able leadership of the legendary Ved Marwah and subsequent illustrious Commissioners of Police, has been acting professionally and competently. It has handled grave law and order situations and various communal riots, including widespread unrest after the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. It appears that allegations of biased investigation in the recent riots are based more on perceptions than facts. Now that the Delhi Police has filed several chargesheets, including a comprehensive 1,800 page one in an important case related to the conspiracy behind the riots, a considerable amount of material relating to this investigation has come into the public domain. The investigators have made extensive use of modern technology in collecting evidence and have been able to get statements of key witnesses recorded before magistrates. Also, it emerges that the Delhi Police has filed chargesheets against the accused belonging to both the communities, based on the quantum of evidence adduced during the course of investigations.

Recently, the police filed a supplementary chargesheet against nine people, who were part of a WhatsApp group called *Kattar Hindu Ekta*, by adding Sections 153 A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code for promoting enmity between different groups in the name of religion. This has exposed the

allegations and conspiracy theories regarding favouritism and biased investigation to be based on presumptions and hearsay. It appears that those levelling such charges were either spreading much misinformation or were simply jumping the gun. In fact, in cases of pre-planned caste or communal riots, it will be highly undesirable and unfair to arrest an equal number of people from both the groups/communities. Rather the police investigations, arrests and chargesheets have to be based strictly on the evidence collected and the facts of the case.

The competent court has already taken cognisance of the matter and the relevant courts will hear both the prosecution and the defence. The evidence adduced by the prosecution will be subjected to rigorous scrutiny and witnesses will be examined and cross-examined. The accused and their attorneys will get every opportunity to punch holes in the prosecution's version.

As a former police officer and a concerned citizen, I am hopeful and confident that the rule of law will prevail and truth will eventually triumph in the probe in the Delhi riots.

Delhi Police did a commendable job during the initial three months of the lockdown necessitated by the COVID-19 outbreak and earned immense public goodwill. Police personnel served and helped citizens in all possible ways without even caring for their own lives or the welfare of their own families. The lives of 20 police personnel were also lost to COVID. The police leadership would be well-advised to step up efforts to improve public perception and project a people-friendly image by earning the trust and goodwill of the masses.

(The writer is former Special Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police and Member, Public Grievances Commission and Police Complaints Authority, Delhi. He is also an Advocate and Consultant in criminal matters)



FOREIGN EYE



NO ROOM FOR TERROR

Should the Vienna attacks end up being proven to be what they appear to be, it would be a bloody hallmark of the severity of Islamic terror in Europe. The recent tragedies linked to religious extremists must alert us to the terrorist potential such elements constitute and the need for resolute actions to have them neutralised.

(China Daily editorial)

India’s exports dip 5.4% in Oct, trade deficit narrows to \$8.78 bn

New Delhi: After recording positive growth in September, India's exports declined 5.4 per cent to USD 24.82 billion in October on account of dip in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather, and engineering goods.

Trade deficit in October narrowed to USD 8.78 billion as against USD 11.76 billion, as imports also fell 11.56 per cent to USD 33.6 billion during the month under review.

"India's merchandise exports in October 2020 were USD 24.82 billion, as compared to USD 26.23 billion in October 2019, showing a fall of 5.4 per cent," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Major export commodities which recorded negative

growth during October included petroleum products (53.30 per cent), cashew (21.57 per cent), leather (16.69 per cent), man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups (12.82 per cent), electronic goods (9.40 per cent), coffee (9.25 per cent), marine products (8.09 per cent) and engineering goods (3.84 per cent).

Sectors which showed positive growth included rice, oil meals, iron ore, oil seeds, carpet, pharmaceuticals, spices, cotton and chemicals.

During April-October 2020, exports declined 19.05 per cent to USD 150.07 billion, while imports fell 36.28 per cent over the same period last year to USD 182.29 billion.

Oil imports dipped 38.52

per cent to USD 5.98 billion in October. During April-October, it declined 49.5 per cent to USD 37.84 billion.

After contracting for six straight months, India's exports rose 5.99 per cent to USD 27.58 billion in September.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Sharad Kumar Saraf said the nominal decline in exports during the month was mainly because of huge container shortage and hike in sea freight, which upset exports, particularly for those who have negotiated on CIF (Cost, Insurance, Freight) or C&F (Cost and Freight) basis.Besides, farmers' agitation in some of the hinterland states also affected exports during October, he said. **PTI**

Eco Affairs Secy: Govt to soon announce another round of stimulus

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry will soon come up with a fresh round of economic stimulus, Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Tuesday.

Addressing the media here, he said that the Department of Finance has received suggestions and discussions are on in the ministry regarding the next set of measures amid the pandemic. It will be announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, he said.

Bajaj's statement comes just over a week after he said that the Centre is open for further measures to boost the economy. Last month, the Finance Minister had also said that the Centre has not closed the option for another stimulus package. **IANs**

In May, the government came up with the much talked-about Rs 20 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' economic package. Both the rounds of stimulus so far have received more flak than appreciation from the industry and experts, as many are of the opinion that they are inadequate, more so in terms of boosting demand.

A recent Moody's report said that the second round of fiscal stimulus amounts to just 0.2 per cent of the country's real GDP forecast for the financial year 2021 and in total, the two rounds of stimulus bring the government's direct spending on coronavirus-related fiscal support to just around 1.2 per cent of GDP.

No additional compliance burden on pvt cos for LTC scheme: Fin Sec

New Delhi: Private sector companies offering the benefit of the new LTC cash voucher scheme to its employees will not have to undertake any additional compliance burden, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said.

Companies as per statute are required to maintain records of travel and other documents submitted by employees for availing LTC.

Under the new scheme, employees will have to submit to their companies bills indicating expenditure of an amount 3-times of the LTC. The companies as in past will maintain the records and only submit them to Income Tax Department if sought for. **PTI**

IMF chief economist urges more fiscal stimulus to boost economic recovery

Washington: Gita Gopinath, chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has urged policymakers to provide more fiscal stimulus to boost the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic as the global economy is in a liquidity trap.

"For the first time, in 60 per cent of the global economy -- including 97 per cent of advanced economies -- central banks have pushed policy interest rates below 1 per cent. In one-fifth of the world, they are negative," Gopinath wrote in an op-ed article in the Financial Times, adding central banks have little room to further cut interest rates if another shock strikes, Xinhua news agency reported.

"It has led to the inescapable conclusion that the world is in a global liquidity trap, where monetary policy has limited effect. We must agree on appropriate policies to climb out," Gopinath said on Monday, noting fiscal policy must play a leading role in the recovery.

Gopinath suggested that fiscal authorities can actively support demand through cash transfers to support consumption and large-scale investment in medical facilities, digital infrastructure and environment protection. "These expenditures create jobs, stimulate private investment and lay the foundation for a stronger and greener recovery," she said.

Sensex extends gains on banking, finance boost; global markets firm on US election day

Mumbai: The Sensex rallied 504 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 11,800-level on Tuesday, propped up by banking and finance counters, as global markets marched higher on US election day. Encouraging Q2 results and foreign capital inflows added to the buying momentum in the domestic markets, traders said. Rising for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended

503.55 points or 1.27 per cent higher at 40,261.13. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty jumped 144.35 points or 1.24 per cent to 11,813.50. ICICI Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 6.51 per cent, followed by SBI, HDFC, PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, Titan, Bajaj Auto, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank. On the other hand, NTPC, Reliance Industries, Nestle

India, HCL Tech, Infosys and HUL were among the laggards, shedding up to 3.75 per cent.Global bourses followed Wall Street higher as investors wagered on fresh US stimulus immediately after the elections.Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, and Tokyo ended with significant gains. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals. **PTI**

GST borrowing quantum has to be reasonable, will continue to request states to join; FinSecy

New Delhi: The quantum of borrowing to meet states' GST revenue shortfall has to be "reasonable" considering its economic impact and the Centre will continue to request the opposition-ruled states to opt for the proposed borrowing plan, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey has said.

He said while extending the loan, the Centre would take authorisation from states that repayment would be made only from the GST compensation cess which is being collected and repayment schedule will be set in such a manner that the collections in cess pool post June 2022 would

be enough to repay the interest arising out of borrowing.

So far, 21 states and 3 Union Territories have opted for the borrowing plan proposed by the Centre to meet the Rs 1.83 lakh crore shortfall in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection of states. **PTI**

Institutional investment in real estate drops 73pc at USD 1.18 bn in January-September

New Delhi:Institutional flow of funds in real estate fell 73 per cent in January-September at USD 1.18 billion (around Rs 8,700 crore) as investors remained cautious due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to property consultant JLL India.

| NIFTY 50 | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--|
| SCRIP | OPEN | High | LOW | LTP | CHANGE | |
| NIFTY 50 | 11,734.45 | 11,836.20 | 11,723.30 | 11,813.50 | 144.35 | |
| ICICIBANK | 425 | 446.9 | 424.2 | 445.05 | 27.6 | |
| HINDALCO | 172.45 | 180.4 | 171.85 | 179.2 | 8.45 | |
| SBIN | 198 | 205.8 | 197.6 | 204.35 | 8.3 | |
| POWERGRID | 174 | 180.7 | 173.85 | 180 | 6.95 | |
| HDFC | 2030.00 | 2,139.65 | 2,030.00 | 2,121.35 | 80.55 | |
| SUNPHARMA | 472.05 | 490.6 | 465.75 | 487.45 | 18.05 | |
| HEROMOTOCO | 2480.00 | 2949.45 | 2847.00 | 2941.00 | 105.35 | |
| ECHERMOT | 2,038.00 | 2,115.00 | 2,038.00 | 2,092.80 | 63.15 | |
| SBILIFE | 773.55 | 797.8 | 769.15 | 788.1 | 22.05 | |
| INDUSINDBK | 631.55 | 650 | 631.55 | 646 | 17.65 | |
| TITAN | 1,178.00 | 1,205.30 | 1,174.80 | 1,200.70 | 32.72 | |
| HDFCBANK | 1,126.45 | 1,230.75 | 1,225.50 | 1,248.00 | 32.75 | |
| BAJAJ-AUTO | 2,855.20 | 2,929.95 | 2,855.20 | 2,915.35 | 71.65 | |
| IT | 944.9 | 952.9 | 925.5 | 949.8 | 20.5 | |
| AXISBANK | 525 | 537 | 524 | 533 | 10.35 | |
| HDFCLIFE | 590.4 | 601.6 | 590 | 599 | 11.5 | |
| ITC | 167.2 | 170.75 | 167.1 | 170 | 3.25 | |
| BAJFINANCE | 3,430.00 | 3,520.00 | 3,415.85 | 3,483.90 | 64.1 | |
| JSWSTEEL | 311.9 | 316.1 | 311 | 314.8 | 5.45 | |
| DIVISLAB | 3,060.00 | 3,117.50 | 3,058.50 | 3,091.95 | 43.3 | |
| BPCL | 348.5 | 356.5 | 348.5 | 350.8 | 4.4 | |
| SHRECEM | 21,821.50 | 21,999.95 | 21,671.35 | 21,890.00 | 218.65 | |
| TCS | 2,604.00 | 2,665.00 | 2,601.05 | 2,629.00 | 24.4 | |
| CIFLA | 756.1 | 770.55 | 750.75 | 758 | 6.75 | |
| ONGC | 66 | 66.75 | 65.7 | 66.25 | 0.55 | |
| TATASTEEL | 407.5 | 412.2 | 404.45 | 406.15 | 3.3 | |
| TATAMOTORS | 135 | 137.4 | 133.55 | 133.9 | 1.05 | |
| KOTAKBANK | 1,581.00 | 1,601.50 | 1,570.20 | 1,593.00 | 12.3 | |
| SWISSTEEL | 5,752.00 | 5,810.00 | 5,696.70 | 5,743.00 | 41.55 | |
| COALINDIA | 115.6 | 117.25 | 115.6 | 116.55 | 0.85 | |
| MARUTI | 6,940.00 | 6,963.25 | 6,852.45 | 6,909.50 | 41.15 | |
| DRREDDY | 4,851.00 | 4,920.00 | 4,831.10 | 4,880.00 | 21.35 | |
| GRASIM | 789.2 | 800.95 | 787.05 | 790.4 | 2.55 | |
| WIPRO | 335.5 | 339.45 | 332.65 | 335.5 | 0.7 | |
| M&M | 599.3 | 605.45 | 594 | 597 | 0.95 | |
| ULTRACEMCO | 4,565.10 | 4,587.00 | 4,515.05 | 4,552.00 | 1.2 | |
| GAIL | 84.6 | 85.6 | 83.65 | 83.95 | 0 | |
| IOC | 78.05 | 79.1 | 77.4 | 78 | -0.2 | |
| BRITANNIA | 3,445.00 | 3,457.25 | 3,390.00 | 3,409.00 | -11.3 | |
| BHARTIARTL | 458 | 460.7 | 447.45 | 454.9 | -2.5 | |
| TECHM | 2,193.90 | 2,193.90 | 2,146.75 | 2,157.95 | -14.9 | |
| INFY | 821 | 825 | 804.3 | 808 | -6.65 | |
| NEFTI | 1,072.00 | 1,079.40 | 1,057.50 | 1,062.00 | -10.3 | |
| HINDUNILVR | 2,091.80 | 2,091.80 | 2,043.00 | 2,049.95 | -22.05 | |
| HCLTECH | 828 | 832 | 812.35 | 813.5 | -8.9 | |
| NESTLEIND | 17,239.00 | 17,269.95 | 16,760.00 | 16,919.00 | -195.95 | |
| RELIANCE | 1,890.00 | 1,909.00 | 1,835.10 | 1,854.50 | -22.95 | |
| ADANIAPORTS | 362 | 362.65 | 347.2 | 352.55 | -4.35 | |
| NTPC | 914.5 | 92 | 830.5 | 858.5 | -3.35 | |
| UPL | 44.44 | 44.95 | 41.4 | 41.95 | -29.4 | |

| NIFTY NEXT 50 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|--|
| SCRIP | OPEN | High | LOW | LTP | CHANGE | |
| NIFTY NEXT 50 | 27,595.65 | 27,775.05 | 27,548.90 | 27,603.55 | 158.55 | |
| CADILAC | 420 | 464 | 416 | 435.4 | 24.75 | |
| HINDZINC | 203 | 213.8 | 203 | 211.5 | 9.2 | |
| INDIGO | 1,313.00 | 1,387.90 | 1,292.65 | 1,363.35 | 52.15 | |
| LTI | 2,880.90 | 2,999.00 | 2,865.00 | 2,945.00 | 91.9 | |
| LUPIN | 917 | 941.95 | 916 | 936.95 | 24.45 | |
| BANDHANBNK | 305 | 314.95 | 304 | 307.95 | 7.05 | |
| DABUR | 510.45 | 523.5 | 509.55 | 517.8 | 11.55 | |
| BOSCHLT | 11,682.50 | 12,072.70 | 11,550.00 | 11,798.00 | 228.15 | |
| GODREJCP | 660 | 670.8 | 658.2 | 668.3 | 12.25 | |
| ABBOTINDIA | 15,499.60 | 15,900.00 | 15,400.00 | 15,800.00 | 288 | |
| CONCOR | 392.05 | 401.35 | 390.55 | 399.4 | 7.25 | |
| SIEMENS | 1,286.95 | 1,319.00 | 1,283.45 | 1,306.95 | 23.6 | |
| ADANTRANS | 289.9 | 292.5 | 286 | 292 | 4.8 | |
| MOTHERSUMI | 107.15 | 108.7 | 106.2 | 107.9 | 1.7 | |
| NMDC | 85.05 | 86.8 | 85 | 85.35 | 1.2 | |
| ICICIPRULI | 404.95 | 411.5 | 404.1 | 409.05 | 5.65 | |
| MARICO | 368 | 377.8 | 368 | 371.75 | 4.9 | |
| MCDOWELL-N | 503 | 514.8 | 502.8 | 508.85 | 4.9 | |
| TORNTHPARK | 2,555.00 | 2,598.75 | 2,539.30 | 2,572.10 | 24.55 | |
| AUROPHARMA | 762.25 | 774.45 | 757 | 768.15 | 7.25 | |
| SBICARD | 811 | 819.4 | 805 | 814.4 | 7.35 | |
| UBL | 929.45 | 937.05 | 916.85 | 933.5 | 7.3 | |
| AMBUJACEM | 262.1 | 263.05 | 257.65 | 262.4 | 1.9 | |
| BIOCON | 404.2 | 412.8 | 401.6 | 406.95 | 2.8 | |
| BERGEPAINT | 628.4 | 636.55 | 624.4 | 632.2 | 3.8 | |
| IGL | 405.95 | 414 | 404.5 | 406.4 | 2.2 | |
| GICRE | 122.55 | 122.95 | 121.05 | 122 | 0.4 | |
| INFRATEL | 182.5 | 183.75 | 180.3 | 181.25 | 0.55 | |
| PIDILITIND | 1,555.00 | 1,588.00 | 1,555.00 | 1,560.95 | 4.5 | |
| HDFCAML | 2,251.95 | 2,270.00 | 2,246.00 | 2,255.05 | 3.55 | |
| ICICIGI | 1,239.00 | 1,257.95 | 1,224.50 | 1,226.80 | 1.75 | |
| PGHH | 10,210.00 | 10,329.70 | 10,141.05 | 10,220.00 | 10.85 | |
| DMART | 2,203.80 | 2,245.00 | 2,180.00 | 2,206.00 | 0.25 | |
| BANKBARODA | 44.6 | 45.75 | 43.8 | 44.85 | 0 | |
| HAVELLS | 781.6 | 827 | 780.5 | 781.6 | 0 | |
| NAUKRI | 3,590.00 | 3,618.00 | 3,536.30 | 3,550.00 | -1.65 | |
| PECC | 91.2 | 91.95 | 90.35 | 91.2 | -0.15 | |
| ACC | 1,306.95 | 1,323.50 | 1,286.05 | 1,294.00 | -2.8 | |
| PEL | 1,672.40 | 1,687.20 | 1,645.00 | 1,662.25 | -3.6 | |
| ALKEM | 2,655.00 | 2,727.85 | 2,625.65 | 2,650.00 | -9.35 | |
| PNB | 28.05 | 28.35 | 27.3 | 27.8 | -0.15 | |
| BAJAHLDNG | 2,332.00 | 2,345.40 | 2,299.15 | 2,300.00 | -1.5 | |
| HINDPETRO | 189 | 191.45 | 184.15 | 186 | -1.3 | |
| TATACONSUM | 497.8 | 504.55 | 488.3 | 490.2 | -3.55 | |
| COLPAL | 1,520.00 | 1,528.15 | 1,485.00 | 1,490.00 | -20.5 | |
| OFSS | 3,050.00 | 3,150.00 | 3,011.00 | 3,101.10 | -43.65 | |
| ADANIGREEN | 881 | 893.95 | 816.25 | 834.4 | -24.8 | |
| MUTHOOTFIN | 1,249.70 | 1,264.60 | 1,177.00 | 1,189.05 | -48.95 | |

BSE 500

| Script | Open | High | Low | LTP |
|-------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| RELIANCE | 1888 | 1909.5 | 1835 | 1849.45 |
| INDUSINDBK | 632.65 | 650 | 631 | 646.75 |
| HDFC | 2035 | 2139.7 | 2029.95 | 2130.95 |
| ICICIBANK | 424.2 | 447 | 424.1 | 444.25 |
| HDFCBANK | 1225 | 1250 | 1224.95 | 1248.15 |
| TATAMOTORS | 134.85 | 137.35 | 133.65 | 134.1 |
| SBIN | 198.3 | 205.75 | 197.75 | 204.75 |
| NTPC | 92.1 | 92.1 | 83.25 | 85.9 |
| BAJFINANCE | 3431 | 3520 | 3417.55 | 3490.6 |
| KOTAKBANK | 1580 | 1601.95 | 1570.8 | 1593.3 |
| INFY | 1077 | 1079.35 | 1057.75 | 1061.95 |
| BHARTIARTL | 457.1 | 460 | 447.4 | 454.55 |
| CADILAC | 423 | 451.15 | 418.55 | 437.45 |
| TATACONSUM | 493 | 504.3 | 488.2 | 489.55 |
| HAVELLS | 781.6 | 827.65 | 779.85 | 783.55 |
| AXISBANK | 525.3 | 536.9 | 523.6 | 534.15 |
| ASHOKLEY | 82.45 | 85.35 | 81.95 | 83.85 |
| IDEA | 8.73 | 8.73 | 8.52 | 8.58 |
| HINDUNILVR | 2085.5 | 2090 | 2043.8 | 2059.15 |
| SUNPHARMA | 471.1 | 490.45 | 466.05 | 485.1 |
| UPL | 446.3 | 449.55 | 414.3 | 417 |
| HCLTECH | 830.7 | 832 | 812.6 | 813.85 |
| FEDERALBNK | 51.95 | 53.7 | 51.9 | 53.5 |
| ESCORTS | 1246.9 | 1256 | 1207.3 | 1234.75 |
| MARUTI | 6941 | 6975.7 | 6857 | 6911.3 |
| TCS | 2604.7 | 2664.75 | 2602 | 2632.65 |
| ZEEL | 186 | 191.25 | 180.75 | 182.05 |
| BAJAJFINSV | 5725 | 5808.95 | 5698.3 | 5742.9 |
| DABUR | 510 | 523.25 | 507.95 | 517.5 |
| GODRE/PROP | 1122 | 1136.05 | 1027.35 | 1037.7 |
| HINDALCO | 172 | 180.2 | 171.9 | 179.8 |
| JUSTDIAL | 596 | 621.65 | 584.5 | 611 |
| MUTHOOTFIN | 1250 | 1264 | 1178 | 1198 |
| ITI | 947 | 952.7 | 933 | 947.75 |
| RLBANK | 181.8 | 188.65 | 181.35 | 184.4 |
| TATATELE | 408 | 412.15 | 404.7 | 408.6 |
| BAJAJBODA | 44.85 | 45.75 | 43.85 | 45.05 |
| HEROMOTOCO | 2851 | 2949.55 | 2848.95 | 2939.7 |
| ADANIGREEN | 884 | 894.15 | 861.2 | 831.5 |
| SRTRANSFIN | 754.2 | 772.95 | 750.35 | 762.65 |
| JSWSTEEL | 309.55 | 315.9 | 309.55 | 314.45 |
| DREDDY | 4859 | 4919.55 | 4832.25 | 4871 |
| ITC | 167.6 | 170.75 | 167.1 | 170.1 |
| FINOLEXIND | 546.85 | 557.15 | 541.5 | 551.2 |
| LAURUSLABS | 304.9 | 305.2 | 287.35 | 291.3 |
| BTL | 347.5 | 356.4 | 347.55 | 351.4 |
| JINDALSTEEL | 192 | 202.75 | 192 | 201.4 |
| INDIGO | 1305 | 1386.9 | 1293 | 1369 |
| ADANIAPORTS | 360 | 363.5 | 347.2 | 353.6 |
| POWERGRID | 173 | 180.6 | 173 | 180.85 |
| LUPIN | 9197.91 | 941.7 | 916.25 | 936.95 |
| BANDHANBNK | 305 | 315 | 304.15 | 308 |
| NESTLEIND | 17200 | 17277.25 | 16558.45 | 16925.9 |
| CIPLA | 751.05 | 770.3 | 751.05 | 756.65 |
| ASIANPAINT | 2194.75 | 2194.75 | 2149.6 | 2158.9 |
| MRF | 66900 | 68000 | 66656.35 | 67095.95 |
| APOLLOHOSP | 2101.6 | 2158.65 | 2083.3 | 2108 |
| BIOCON | 404.2 | 412.65 | 401.7 | 407 |
| WIPRO | 336.8 | 339.4 | 332.7 | 335.6 |
| ACC | 1675 | 1688.1 | 1644.84 | 1663 |
| SUNTV | 422 | 426.6 | 414.8 | 416.85 |
| PVR | 1112 | 1120 | 1090.2 | 1103.85 |
| DTF | 165.45 | 168.95 | 162.75 | 163.75 |
| TTAN | 1170.3 | 1204.75 | 1170.3 | 1200.9 |
| MOTHERSUMI | 106.85 | 108.6 | 106.25 | 107.85 |
| BRITANNIA | 3424 | 3456.85 | 3391.95 | 3406.95 |
| GRASIM | 785.35 | 800.4 | 785.35 | 791 |
| IBULHSGFIN | 141.65 | 145.8 | 140.1 | 142.1 |
| M&MFIN | 126 | 127.75 | 124.95 | 125.75 |
| IDBI | 37 | 37 | 36 | 36.15 |
| PIDILITIND | 1560 | 1587.45 | 1558.1 | 1566.4 |
| ONGC | 66 | 66.7 | 65.7 | 66.2 |
| ADANIGAS | 2193.25 | 228.3 | 2193.25 | 222.85 |
| BLISSGVS | 169.3 | 170.15 | 163 | 163.1 |
| IDFCFIRSTB | 30.45 | 30.7 | 30.05 | 30.65 |
| M&M | 596 | 605.3 | 593.7 | 596.5 |
| CHOLAFIN | 115.65 | 117.2 | 115.65 | 116.5 |
| CHOLALIND | 292.75 | 299.5 | 287.65 | 296.8 |
| TATAELXSI | 1485 | 1539 | 1466 | 1527.9 |
| DIVISLAB | 3160 | 3160 | 3060.05 | 3089 |
| PNB | 28.2 | 28.35 | 27.3 | 27.8 |
| EICHERMOT | 2088 | 2114.7 | 2037.85 | 2089.65 |
| LICHSGFIN | 301 | 304.35 | 294.6 | 302.45 |
| HDFCLIFE | 590.2 | 601.8 | 590.2 | 598.5 |
| PHIL | 2240 | 2244.5 | 2189.95 | 2228.5 |
| PIND | 1303.7 | 1323 | 1286.4 | 1292.1 |
| AMBER | 2140 | 2350.95 | 2140 | 2222 |
| HINDPETRO | 188.1 | 191.35 | 184.35 | 185.75 |
| BALKRISIND | 1345.2 | 1368.15 | 1321.7 | 1349.8 |
| SRECCEM | 21882.2 | 22007.55 | 21652 | 21875.05 |
| TECHM | 825 | 825 | 803.9 | 808.9 |
| ULTRACEMCO | 4530 | 4583.85 | 4514.95 | 4551.95 |
| ISEC | 448.5 | 460 | 446.15 | 449 |
| VEDL | 95.15 | 96.4 | 94.6 | 94.85 |
| INFRATECH | 181.15 | 183.55 | 180.25 | 181.55 |
| ADANIENAT | 344.5 | 349.6 | 340.05 | 345 |
| BAJAJ-AUTO | 2887.9 | 2929 | 2858 | 2920.2 |
| RELAAXO | 656 | 689 | 656 | 685.3 |
| RAMCOCEM | 816 | 836.05 | 806.65 | 827.9 |
| CANBK | 87.7 | 89.25 | 87.3 | 88.6 |
| NMDC | 85.2 | 86.9 | 85 | 85.4 |
| MINDTREE | 1340 | 1344.55 | 1306 | 1319.4 |
| ICICIPULFI | 407 | 411.3 | 404.2 | 409.5 |
| DMART | 2198.6 | 2244.45 | 2181 | 2207.75 |
| APOLLOTYRE | 140.1 | 146.5 | 140.1 | 142.95 |
| VOLTAAS | 726.9 | 732.5 | 706.95 | 709.1 |

Fearing poll-related violence, security tightened across US

Washington/New York: Security has been tightened at the White House and major commercial avenues across the US, with retailers boarding up their stores to head off any damages as America braced for possible unrest and violence in a bitter and divisive presidential race.

Vital government installations are on high alert while the Secret Service has fortified the White House. A “non-scalable” wall has been temporarily erected around the sprawling presidential complex ahead of the voting on Tuesday.

About 600 National Guard troops have also been designated to help respond to protests around the country if requested.

On election eve, contractors were seen busy boarding up major stores and businesses from New York and Boston in the north to southern Houston to Washington DC and Chicago in the east to San Francisco in the West.

Stores along the posh 5th



Avenue in Manhattan as well as across the New York city boarded up and workers were seen drilling plywood onto the stores’ facade late in the night, amid fears that Election Day could bring violence, looting and clashes, similar to the chaos seen in the summer during protests over the death of George Floyd.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said Monday that he has spoken with Police Commissioner Dermot Shea and there is no specific reports or specific threats of violence at

this point.

“Everyone, of course, is concerned about the election results and what plays out after. But I want to emphasise, at this moment, we don’t see a specific challenge. We are ready for all sorts of challenges. A lot of preparation has been happening over the last few weeks,” de Blasio said during a press conference.

Responding to a question on concerns about violence in the city on and after election day and stores boarding up, he said every store owner has to

make their own decision and he respects the decision of each store owner.

“I want to talk about Election Day and the aftermath. Everyone’s thinking about this deeply. Everyone’s concerned,” he said adding that the city should be prepared for the fact that the election results will not necessarily be a 100 percent clear on Tuesday night or even on Wednesday. **PTI**

HARRIS WANTS TO BE PRESIDENT: TRUMP

Washington: Claiming that Democratic vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris wants to be the first woman president of the United States, President Donald Trump told his supporters that this is one “good reason” not to vote for his challenger Joe Biden.

“This wonderful woman, she wants to be your first

female president. I don’t think so. I don’t think so. You know, that’s a good reason not to vote for sleepy Joe too, right? You don’t want to do that,”

Trump, a Republican, said at a political rally in Kenosha in Wisconsin, a key battleground state on the eve of Tuesday’s presidential election. **PTI**

Iran’s US policy not affected by who wins election: Ayatollah Khamenei

Dubai: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday the U.S. presidential election’s result will not impact Tehran’s policy towards Washington.

“Our policy towards the United States is clearly set and does not change with the movement of individuals. It does not matter to us who comes and goes,” Khamenei

said in a speech carried live on state TV. Khamenei was speaking on the anniversary of the 1979 seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, which coincided with the birthday of Islam’s Prophet Mohammad.

“The students’ attack on this den of spies was quite appropriate and wise,” Khamenei said, referring to radical Islamist students who

stormed the embassy, taking hostage 52 staff for an eventual 444 days. There have been no U.S.-Iranian diplomatic relations since. Iran this year cancelled rallies and other events marking the embassy seizure because of concerns over the spread of the coronavirus which has killed about 36,000 people in the country, the worst hit in the Middle East. **AFP**

Biden predicts ‘big win’ in Pennsylvania

Washington: Joe Biden is predicting a victory in Pennsylvania on the eve of the election.

Speaking at a drive-in rally in Pittsburgh, Biden encouraged the audience to vote and said, “I have a feeling we’re coming together for a big win tomorrow!” The crowd, about 250 cars gathered in the parking lot of Heinz Field, honked their horns and cheered as he spoke.

Biden was the headliner at a star-studded pair of rallies Monday night. Before he spoke in Pittsburgh, running mate Kamala Harris delivered a call to action at a rally in Philadelphia that was live-streamed on a large screen at the Pittsburgh rally. John Legend played in Philadelphia, while Lady Gaga performed in

Pittsburgh and exhorted the crowd to “vote like your lives depend on it!”

Biden delivered a speech focused on the need to expand health care, address income inequality and racial injustice. After four events across Ohio and Pennsylvania Monday, Biden’s voice grew hoarse, but he was still energetic, at times pounding the podium for emphasis.

Biden’s campaign insists the Democrat has multiple paths to victory, but his easiest route is through Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

He’ll be campaigning in Scranton and Philadelphia on Election Day, and told the crowd Monday night, “The power is in your hands, Pennsylvania!”

France says its forces kill 50 Islamic extremists in Mali

Prez Macron speaks with Egypt, Palestinian leaders

PTI ■ PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron spoke to the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders after a week of anti-French protests around the Muslim world and three Islamic extremist attacks on France.

Macron is seeking to calm tensions and to straighten out misunderstandings while also defending France’s values. The French president’s office said Tuesday that Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas both offered him support.

Around the Mideast and South Asia, demonstrators have expressed anger in recent days over caricatures of the Prophet published in French newspaper Charlie Hebdo and Macron’s policies toward freedom of expression and Islamism.

Macron’s office said in a statement that el-Sissi expressed his solidarity with France and denounced the attacks as well as the protests.

El-Sissi’s office said the Egyptian leader told Macron during a Monday phone call that coexistence between dif-

ferent religions “should be promoted through dialogue, understanding, mutual respect and without prejudice to religious icons.”

El-Sissi said he and France’s leader discussed their countries’ “mutual positions” in fighting extremism and its supporters.

Macron also spoke with Abbas, who offered condolences and “his support to France in this ordeal,” according to Macron’s office.

The Palestinian president’s office said Abbas stressed “the need for everyone to respect religions and religious symbols and not allow anything offensive to Prophet Muhammad and all prophets and religions while condemning all those who do so.”

Abbas also emphasised “his rejection of extremism, violence and terrorism,” while Macron expressed his “respect for Islam and the Islamic world,” according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Macron also explained France’s positions during a weekend interview with Arabic network Al Jazeera in which he called for mutual understanding and respect.



Paris: France’s Defense Minister says French military forces fighting Islamic extremists in West Africa “put away” more than 50 jihadists in a recent operation in Mali.

Defense Minister Florence Parly tweeted Monday night

that the French force in the region, called Barkhane, also confiscated weapons and equipment from the fighters in the operation last Friday, which she said “shows once again that terrorist groups cannot act with impunity.”

Parly is currently visiting Mali’s capital Bamako, where she met with the head of the transitional government.

After Mali’s president was ousted in August by a military junta, she urged democratic elections “as quickly as possible” and said the current leadership promised to ensure them.

France, which has suffered

repeated deadly Islamic extremist attacks, has thousands of forces in West Africa to help fight extremist groups there.

Islamic extremist rebels were forced from power in northern Mali after a 2013 French-led military operation, but regrouped in the desert and now launch frequent attacks on the Malian army and its allies.

Meanwhile, Mali has faced months of political upheaval. Under international pressure, the junta appointed a civilian-led government to lead the country through an 18-month transition period to new elections. **AP**

Uganda police arrest Bobi Wine after presidential nomination

Kampala: Ugandan police have arrested Bobi Wine, a popular singer and opposition presidential hopeful who is bidding to unseat Uganda’s long-time leader.

Wine, whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was dragged from his car by police not long after he was officially nominated as a candidate in presidential elections scheduled for next year.

The local NBS Television, reporting from the scene, said Wine was put into a police van amid violent scuffles between police and his supporters.



A police spokesman did not immediately respond to questions. Authorities frequently accuse Wine of planning rallies that could disrupt public order, which he denies.

Critics say President Yoweri Museveni, in power since 1986, increasingly depends on the armed forces to assert his authority. Museveni was nominated as a candidate for president on Monday. **AP**

UN expert airs human rights concerns ahead of Myanmar vote

AP ■ GENEVA

An independent human rights expert working with the United Nations is calling on Myanmar’s government and military leadership to stop persecuting supporters of the opposition ahead of Sunday’s general election.

Thomas Andrews, a former US congressman from Maine who is the UN special investigator on Myanmar, called for free and fair elections but expressed concerns about the denial of the vote to Rohingya Muslims and others based on race, ethnicity or religion.

Andrews, who as an independent “special rapporteur” does not speak for the UN, said the Myanmar army is using a penal code set up under colonialist Britain in 1861 to “lock up journalists, students and others for exercising their basic right to free expression.” He also lamented allegations of state censorship of some candidates.

Myanmar’s electoral commission has canceled voting in several parts of the country facing bouts of unrest.

Thai protest leader says movement won’t back down on demand

Bangkok: A top leader of Thailand’s pro-democracy protests insisted Tuesday that the student-led movement will not back down from its most controversial demand, that the country’s monarchy undergo reforms.

Lawyer Arnon Nampa also told a crowd outside Bangkok Remand Prison that the movement would hold a large demonstration in front of Parliament if a draft constitutional amendment the protesters are seeking is not approved in its next session, scheduled for mid-November.

“When Parliament opens, and if they do not pass the draft amendment of the constitution, we will close Parliament with our own hands,” he said.

The movement wants Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to step down, the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic, and the monarchy reformed to make its activities more transparent and accountable.

The protesters have been holding almost daily rallies around the country, some attracting upwards of 10,000 people. **AP**

EU considering further legal action in Brexit standoff

Brussels: The European Union is considering stepping up its legal action against Britain over legislation that would breach parts of the legally binding Brexit agreement that the EU and the British government reached late last year.

The fight over the government’s proposed bill continued Tuesday as the two sides were deep in negotiations on a free trade agreement. A trade deal must be reached within weeks for it to be in place on Jan 1, when an 11-month Brexit transition period ends. “This dispute will have

to be resolved,” EU spokesman Daniel Ferrie said.

A legal fight on top of the negotiations only highlights how bruising Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union has proven to be.

The 27-nation bloc said it could now move to a second phase in the dispute over the U.K. Internal Market bill following Britain’s refusal to reply to an Oct. 1 legal request seeking an explanation for its actions, EU leaders fear that if the UK bill becomes law, it could lead to the reimpo-

sition of a hard land border between Northern Ireland, which is part of Britain, and EU member Ireland. The border was heavily militarized during the decades of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, and the free movement of people and goods across it is viewed as essential to upholding the 1998 Good Friday peace accord. There are hopes that the legal fight would become obsolete if both sides agree on a trade deal. But despite months of talks, substantive disagreements remain. **AP**

BIHAR VOTERS KEEP PARTIES GUESSING

Prominent personalities including Governor Phagu Chauhan, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his deputy Sushil Kumar Modi, Tejashwi Yadav, and BJP president Chirag Paswan cast their votes in their respective polling booths in the morning.

Kumar did not speak to the media waiting outside the polling station, while Tejashwi Yadav said after casting the ballot that people are “angry” with the Government and they will vote for education, health, irrigation.

Meanwhile, a controversy has erupted over Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s election speech on Tuesday in Fobesganj and Saharsa in which he said the “friends of jungle raj” were against the people of Bihar chanting “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” and “Jai Shri Ram”.

While RJD leader Shivanand Tewari said the speech is a desperate attempt to polarise the voters because the PM was aware that the NDA was all set to lose Bihar, political analyst Tehseen Poonawalla filed a complaint with the Election Commission over the PM’s speech.

Taking to Twitter, Poonawalla said he has filed a complaint with the Election Commission of India.

MP SEES 66.37% TURNOUT IN BYPOLLS FOR 28 SEATS

In Morena district, Congress and BJP supporters clashed at the Jatavara polling booth and an unidentified person fired a bullet during the incident. In Bhind, Collector Virendra Singh Rawat said they received a report about gunshots being fired near a booth in Sondha village under Mehgaon Assembly constituency. MP’s chief electoral officer said 63 control units, 65 ballot units and 196 VVPAT (voter-verifiable paper audit trail) machines were changed during mock polling conducted before the beginning of voting.

In Gujarat’s Karjan Assembly Constituency in Vadodara, the Returning

Officer has set up an inquiry after Congress candidate Kiritsinh Jadeja accused rival BJP candidate Akshay Patel of distributing cash for votes. The complaint, filed by Jadeja’s election agent Upendrasinh Rana, includes two videos purportedly showing ‘BJP workers’ distributing cash to voters ahead of the polling.

Apart from 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh, eight in Gujarat, seven in Uttar Pradesh, two each in Odisha, Nagaland, Karnataka, and Jharkhand, and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Haryana is going to the polls. The bypolls are politically significant for both the ruling BJP as well as the Opposition parties and are being seen by many as a test for public approval of the record of the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in its second term.

OVER 53 PC TURNOUT IN UP BYPOLLS

Janata Party, while the Malhani seat of Jaunpur was wrested by the Samajwadi Party in the 2017 Assembly polls.

The electoral fortunes of 88 candidates, including nine women, was locked in the electronic voting machines (EVMs) by the voters in 3,655 polling booths spread over 1,754 polling centres.

“All preparations to ensure a free, fair and peaceful polling, keeping in mind the COVID-19 pandemic, were made,” Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said.

Voting started with the deployment of ‘adequate’ security forces at polling booths, including 371 critical ones. Amid the polling, BJP candidate Sangeeta Chauhan from Naugawan Sadat seat in Amroha alleged ‘fake’ voting in her constituency and demanded that those wearing burqa should remove face covers to enable poll officials to ascertain their identities.

“Fake voting is going on, but the administration is unable to understand this. We are repeatedly complaining but no one is listening,” charged Chauhan.

The chief electoral officer said that the matter was being looked into and a report had been sought from the district magistrate of Amroha.

People at some places in the Tundla

constituency of Firozabad boycotted the bypoll, alleging that no development had taken place in their area and insisting that they would not vote unless they got assurance for development.

Chanting ‘vikas nahi, to vote nahi’ (no development, no vote), that voters at Rudhau Mustkil booth boycotted polling.

In a video clip that surfaced on social media, local Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ekta Singh could be seen trying to persuade the people to vote.

The Naugawan Sadat seat fell vacant after the death of UP cabinet minister and former India cricketer Chetan Chauhan. The bypoll to Ghatampur seat of Kanpur Nagar was necessitated due to the death of UP minister Kamal Rani Varun. Both died of COVID-19.

SP Singh Baghel, who was the Tundla MLA, was elected to Lok Sabha, while the Bangarmau seat in Unnao fell vacant after BJP legislator Kuldeep Singh Sengar was convicted in a rape case.

Similarly, bypolls to Bulandshahr, Deoria and Malhoni seats were necessitated due to the demise of sitting MLAs Virendra Singh Sirohi, Janmejay Singh and Parasnath Yadav (SP) respectively.

As the seven constituencies went to polls, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed to people to cast votes in large numbers by following pandemic protocols, saying that democracy would win and coronavirus would be defeated.

LONG QUEUES IN US, AMID POLL-RELATED VIOLENCE FEAR

“VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!” Trump said in a tweet with a short video of him dancing at election rallies.

“Vote like your freedoms, your livelihood, and our future depends on it... Because they do!” said Trump, who is seeking to avoid becoming the first incumbent president to lose a re-election since George HW Bush in 1992.

Biden also tweeted urging people to vote. “It’s Election Day. Go vote, America!” he tweeted.

“In 2008 and 2012, you placed your trust in me to help lead this country along-

side Barack Obama. Today, I’m asking for your trust once again — this time, in Kamala and me. We can heal the soul of this nation — I promise we won’t let you down,” Biden tweeted.

Biden’s running mate, Kamala Harris, urged voters to not to “allow anything to come between you and your vote. If you have any questions or concerns about voting, reach out to our voter hotline.”

In another tweet, she said, “If you’ve already voted, thank you. But we still need your help. Take 20 minutes to help voters in critical battleground states find their polling location. This election is too important to leave anything to chance.” “Today we must vote like our lives depend on it. Because they do. We must vote like our democracy depends on it. Because it does. And we must vote like justice, equality, and opportunity are possible. Because they are,” she said in another tweet. Poll experts said that the turnout is going to be the key in the election results.

According to The Hill newspaper, the key to White House depends on the election results of five States – Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Georgia, North Carolina and Arizona.

Nearly 9.1 million people have voted in Florida, CNN reported, citing state data. That’s about 95 per cent of the 9.6 million total votes in the 2016 election.

Trump is expected to visit a Republican election office in Arlington, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC. Biden started his day with a visit to Church for prayer and participate in a mass. Thereafter, he was scheduled to travel to the battleground State of Pennsylvania for campaign stops.

In the evening, Biden and Harris will address the nation on Election Night in Wilmington, Delaware. Trump is scheduled to watch the election results from the White House. He has invited a select guests at the White House. National polls continue to show Biden leading Trump, by a comfortable 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,

The most effective way to get expertise in the real estate industry is to work with successful people who have in-depth knowledge of the sector, says ANKIT PRADHAN



KEEP IT REAL

Real estate, tough brimming with lucrative career option, is not given the due attention even against the backdrop of humungous growth. The various stigma attached to the profession makes it discouraging for the young graduates to consider it their prospective career.

Having the notion that it is traditional and is not backed up with organised structure, adds on to the ambiguity surfacing the industry. But the sector is perennially transforming to cope up with the market competition, opening up new doors for job opportunities promoting operational efficiency and transparency.

The most effective way to get a knack of the industry is to work with successful people who have in depth knowledge of the sector. Nothing is more beneficial than detailed first-hand experience acquired from the professionals.

The real time tactic to close a deal to developing valuable insights, funding intricacies, winning consumer confidence, all the functioning can be nurtured by working closely with those having expertise in the field.

Understanding the industry is one part of the process, in the path ahead it is important to keep in mind that things are better said than done. As the industry is ruled by immense compe-

tion, those with little or no investment may be very sceptical to carry things forward.

Here one's wisdom will be instrumental in forming the stepping stone of the career. Irrespective of the knowledge and in-depth analysis, the first deals are never perfect. Instead of fearing the outcome, one should go ahead and act because things learnt by own mistake contributes to a lifetime lesson.

The interaction will build the confidence, give exposure of handling real time situation. Remember practical experience is the ultimate outcome of years of theoretical knowledge acquired. Hence, rather than waiting for the right time or opportunity, be shrewd and take things into your hands.

With proper utilisation of technology accompanied with strong communication, the industry can realise its hidden potential. While matching up with the latest market trends, technology can add a whole new dimension to the prospect of career.

The confluence of the traditional skills with the rapidly changing technology will fetch numerous booming channels suitable for considering the sector as a serious option for starting the business.

Where modernisation owing to digitisation has smoothly seeped into

Remember, practical experience is the ultimate outcome of years of theoretical knowledge acquired. Hence, rather than waiting for the right time or opportunity, be shrewd and take things into your hands

our lives, likewise real estate is also undergoing transaction. By studying the minute intricacies of the industry and keeping a tab on the lifestyle trends, meaningful insights will be generated that will leverage the journey of career in the real estate sector.

Evolving with time further contributes to the diversification generating employment opportunities for various roles entailing project management, operational strategizing, space optimisation, sales and marketing, construction, etc.

Owing to this shift experiential spaces are gaining popularity amongst the customers. This has opened up opportunities for the skilled aspirants brimming with creative ideas to venture in real estate.

With the rapid change in housing and commercial needs, the prospects of co-working and co-living spaces have seen a promising wave. In 2019, real estate attracted an investment of around ₹43,780 crore equivalent to US \$ 6.26 billion where housing sales reached 2.61 units across seven major cities.

Delving on the statistics, the industry has great potential for the emerging startups as residential and commercial units together can form the integral part of future real-estate. Contributing as the second highest

employment generators it is home to skilled, capable and experienced professionals who are continually updated and can make predictions of the future market.

Looking at the immense potential and scope the industry can offer, formal education in real estate should be taken seriously by those aspiring to make future in this field. Read books, article, stay updated with the top policies and trends, take classes, explore as many properties as possible to get real life feel of the market, in order to thrive in the industry.

Therefore, before coming to a conclusion, in depth research of the industry will aid in making a wise decision. Incorporating the right strategy aligning with the competitive market trends can open up plethora of opportunities to take leverage of.

Myths like real estate being a legacy business, a sector that has no space for introverts, only brokers stand the chance of profitability, will be evaded once studied the industry closely.

From project engineers to architects, facility managers to corporate communication specialists, regional managers, designers, real estate offers wide range of diverse openings.

The writer is CEO & Founder of Realty Assistant

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results.
— John Dewey

Face attendance app

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra University's student, Kartikeya Bhardwaj (Mechanical Engineering Student, Class of 2020), has created a deep learning app, Chakshu Face Attendance, to provide employers/institutions/organisations with touchless recording of attendance attributes. Especially relevant in today's Covid outbreak, this app provides a safe alternative to touch-based fingerprint attendance systems. The start-up is being incubated at Mahindra e-hub, an incubation centre of Mahindra University under the University's Centre of Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

In big organisations, for attendance, fingerprint or ID scanners are the norm. In Covid times, "touchless" technology is the call of the hour since anything that is used by many people may turn out to be conduit for transmission of the virus. In addition, a common issue is that of Buddy Punching, where employees do proxy attendance of their colleagues using their IDs results in huge losses and is an unethical practice that still floats around in offices all over the world.

Chakshu.ai has developed Chakshu Face Attendance, a Touchless Employee Attendance App that lets an organisation Clock attendance through an android device (phone or a tablet), using Face Recognition. The Attendance process is Completely touch-Free, and Covid-19 ready. It also eliminates the Buddy Punching problem through SpoofSense: Chakshu's AI algorithm is trained to detect Spoofing attacks and reject them, thereby making the process secure and trustworthy.

Turnitin acquires ExamSoft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Turnitin, a leading provider of academic integrity and assessment solutions, has recently acquired ExamSoft, a software-based assessment platform, from Spectrum Equity. ExamSoft empowers educational institutions and certification and licensure programs to protect exam integrity, streamline assessment processes, and improve learning outcomes.

Turnitin has been building and broadening its assessment capabilities since its 2018 acquisition of Gradescope. ExamSoft further expands Turnitin's portfolio of leading academic integrity and assessment prod-

ucts to include a broad assessment platform serving education, certification, and licensure programs. Together they will offer institutions further flexibility when delivering assessments at all educational and professional levels.

By joining forces, Turnitin and ExamSoft become a single destination for institutions to uphold integrity at every stage in a student's journey, from book reports and problem sets to high-stakes exams and professional licensure. As one company, they provide expanded product offerings that allow customers to choose the combination of tools and services that best serve their assessment needs.

It's all about skills

The current economic slowdown has once again proved that upskilling is an effective antidote for unemployment and underemployment, says DEEPSHIKHA KUMAR ANAND

A year back, no one would have ever imagined that striving for sustenance will turn into survival for existence. Though pessimism is a curse to progressive mentality, for a long time, year 2020 will be remembered as the bane of the millennium. The pandemic caused more pain to unorganised sectors. In contrast, talents equipped with specialised skills and training programmes are least affected by company redundancy policies.

The tentacles of Coronavirus are pervading across the globe and have deeply shaken the economies. The impact is so huge that except a few sectors, the majority of businesses were forced to curtail operational cost through furlough and layoffs. In India alone, more than 40 million people have lost their jobs and tens of millions are receiving deducted salaries. Though India is a developing country, the scenario of developed countries is also quite bleak. The unemployment list of the world's largest economy, the USA, got further increased with 30 million more jobless people. Also, the average salary of Americans dropped by 12 per cent as per a recent survey.

In contrast to the growing economic upheavals, a trend that is quite palpable in the international job market is the improved job immunity of employees who are constantly up-skilling themselves. Still, such



professionals are enjoying Covid-proof career growth and their employers are not apprehensive about offering them handsome compensations and lots of other benefits.

Recently, while delivering a convocation address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, strongly emphasised on skilling, reskilling, and upskilling and mentioning them as the need of the hour. The current economic slowdown has once again proved that upskilling is an effective antidote for unemployment and underemployment. Business leaders and recruitment experts in India and abroad also believe that organisations need to make themselves stronger, competent, and smarter through

advanced technologies and practices.

In fact, adaptation to Industry 4.0 is not only quintessential to make them competent but also to make them immune against various unforeseen threats. This transformation is impossible without the deployment of reskilled and upskilled workforce. However, employees reluctant to learn fresh skills will have limited roles to play. On the other hand, organisations which will facilitate and foster learning for their people, will emerge as long-run winners.

Today, to counter the ramifications of COVID-19 on the world economy, there is an urgent need to adopt an open talent economy based

on intellectual & skill collaborations. As per McKinsey's latest report, titled, "COVID-19: Implications for business", many organisations are finding new leaders during this ongoing pandemic. Their young managers at mid-level are defying the challenges and problems of this testing time to achieve better than others. These organisations are intelligently working upon the employees' motivation programmes and management practices.

With better digital infrastructure and high penetration of communication devices, businesses across the world are benefitting their employees with bespoke learning programmes and training modules. And, unlike exorbitant conventions and seminars involving hefty consultation fees of industry experts, venue expenses, and a large amount of logistics, e-learning encompasses myriads of advantages. Besides, e-learning training programmes are useful in developing both hard and soft skills among employees. Detailed and interactive videos by the seasoned trainers can be replayed n number of times by an individual to derive maximum from a course module. Hence, as learning is the part and parcel of growth and it cannot be stopped so long as businesses have desires to survive and grow, e-learning will stay as a bulwark against potential threats.

The writer is Founder & CEO of SpeakIn

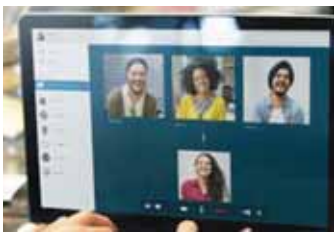
Screening the future

The digital shift has taken video conferencing solutions and remote collaboration tools beyond being just productivity enhancement measures. They are now integral elements of newage business models, says RAHUL SHARMA

There's a question on every business leader's mind today: When will things get back to normal? While we have no clear-cut answers, top domain experts believe that it may not be for some years to come. Bill Gates, the tech-mogul-turned health philanthropist, believes that 'if we do a brilliant job, we could end the novel coronavirus pandemic in 2022'. The Director-General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom, holds a similar view. Healthcare veterans believe that herd immunity could be the key to getting rid of the pandemic but might take at least a year to achieve, under high exposure.

One way or the other, we are in for the long haul — and some businesses are adapting better than others to this new normal. How businesses are adapting to COVID-19 with digital transformation? Dhiren Lalchand, a Surat-based diamantaire, recently closed a deal of hily-cut diamonds with Arik in Antwerp. His secret sauce for success in a locked-down world? A strong focus on quality, coupled with a robust, cloud-based video conferencing solution.

Both Dhiren and Arik are a part of a larger industry trend driven by the ongoing pandemic. We are witnessing a digital exodus of businesses on an unparalleled scale. In a recent NASSCOM survey, 60 per cent of Indian SMBs admitted to using cloud-based business solutions (such as video conferencing tools) — out



of which around half were in the early stages of adoption.

The reasons for this shift are apparent. Social isolation, remote working, and physical distancing will remain an integral part of our reality for the foreseeable future. Businesses have to adapt to this sea-change by accelerating their digital transformation — even those which have, up until now, been dominantly offline — or risk becoming irrelevant.

This behoves us to ask a question: Are we in a new era of digital collaboration?

We might as well be. In several global studies, an overwhelming majority of people have expressed an urge to not go to their respective offices. This trend is driving an evolution in conventional workplace models. Several offices are experimenting with alternate working days while others are operating entirely on a remote basis. New-age concepts such as staggered staffing, rotational shifts, and permanent remote working options are being eagerly evaluated, discussed, and imple-

mented. This shift has taken video conferencing solutions and remote collaboration tools beyond being just 'productivity enhancement measures'. They are now integral elements of new-age business models.

In today's fast-changing market landscape, there are tremendous growth opportunities. This holds for vendors that differentiate through better quality and more scalable, manageable, and secure cloud services (and devices). The end-objective? Ensuring an optimal meeting experience - regardless of where the users work.

The world around you has changed and continues to change at a rapid pace. The true depth of this transformation extends well beyond what you can see most visibly with people wearing masks and using sanitizers frequently — but it won't take you much effort to notice it, whether in your home or at your workplace.

It shouldn't be surprising, then, that the global video conferencing market is pegged to be worth more than ₹46,000 crore by 2026. The Indian public cloud market, on the other hand, is expected to reach ₹63,000 crore by FY2025. More interestingly, this cloud-driven digital transformation is only just beginning — and businesses that most readily adapt to the changing paradigms are the ones that will achieve the maximum success.

The writer is MD-India, LogMeIn

Second edition of Darwin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Darwin, an International Conference and India's Biggest Evolutionary Movement in Biology is back with its second edition. An initiative of Somaia Vidyavihar, the international conference is organised by Biorid, an extension of Research Innovation Incubation Design Laboratory (riidl), a not for profit organisation under Somaia Trust. The virtual conference will be held from

December 2, 2020 to December 5, 2020.

All the biology enthusiasts can register to be a part of the revolutionary conference at thedarwin.in. The last date for registration is November 15, 2020.

The conference will encompass Research Symposium, a platform for researchers to exhibit their research papers; Virtual Workshops, to provide Do-It-Yourself biology experiences and an insight into various advances and technologies in

the biotechnology field; Panel Discussions; Talk Sessions and Virtual Tours to various institutes and labs to make the attendees understand the global innovation culture.

Renowned genetics expert, Prof George Church, Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, a founding member of the Wyss Institute and the director of PersonalGenomes.org, will be giving the keynote speech at the conference, among other notable speakers.

Fliplearn's Hackathon 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India's first-ever virtual 24 hour EdTech Hackathon competition was organised by leading e-learning platform-Fliplearn to challenge the technology prowess of students and Engineers and showcase their creativity with an aim to develop original and innovative solutions in the education domain.

The virtual event took place on October 17 and 18, 2020. All admitted teams had 24 hours to build creative solutions to the problems through coding, pro-

gramming, design, data etc. The goal of the event was to build the future of education using technology. The competition was open for students of Class IX to XII and engineering students and professionals. 'Hackathon 2020' was categorised into two categories. Category one included students from class IX to XII, and Category two included students and professionals from engineering colleges.

'Hackathon 2020' received a great response from school and engineering students and professionals from across India with

entries received from 100+ Schools and 20+ Engineering colleges across the country and final participation by over 320 teams with 450 plus participants.

The Hackathon saw a high degree of competitiveness and Gagan Gupta of The Millennium School, Bhatinda who won the competition in the first category was rewarded with gift vouchers worth ₹30,000 along with exciting gifts. In the second category, the winning team was Guna Shekhar and Aditi Singh of IIIT Gwalior.

Virtual seminar by FORE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The FORE School of Management, New Delhi in association with Institute of Urban Farming and Sustainability (IUFS), India, recently organised a seminar in virtual platform on "Biosecurity and Agriculture".

Dr Jitendra K Das, Director, FORE School was the Session Chair for this event, who began proceedings by taking delegates through importance of Biosecurity and sustainable farming in the context of

preservation of the planet for future generations and having effective checks and balances in place to protect against global warming, pollution, climate change, harmful biological/biochemical substances in pesticides or fertilizers.

Anil Chopra, Director, Wingify, shared sustainability insights from his long career working with marquee institutions such as National Dairy Development Board, Mother Dairy, and his time at Institute of Rural Management.

Whether you are a fresher or an experienced professional, the need for learning additional skills and becoming digitally-oriented, regardless of the type of industry you work in is crucial, says SACHIN GUPTA



Upskilling is key to success

This global pandemic is definitely going to leave a long lasting impact on our lives, it has forced us to innovate and change the way we work and live. but it's the immediate impact that's more devastating and crippling. It has forced us to innovate and change the way we work and live.

Upskilling, the process of learning new skills that is being used extensively in the industry, is the only way to stay ahead in the game in a post-pandemic world.

Upskilling has been a pressing need for recruiters and organisations, long before the COVID-19 crisis came into existence. To overcome this virus spread uncertainty, companies are moving towards a more data-driven approach, paired with digitally-agile operations and automation. Upskilling, the process of learning new skills that is being used extensively in the industry, is the only way to stay ahead in the game in a post-pandemic world.

According to the McKinsey Global Survey 2020, 87 per cent of

the executives said that they were experiencing skill gaps in the workforce. Whether you are a fresher or an experienced professional, the need for learning additional skills and becoming digitally-oriented, regardless of the type of industry you work in, is crucial.

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate of India stands at 7.7 per cent, as recorded in early August 2020 which has also exacerbated the global unemployment rate.

According to Campaign India, India ranks third in the list of top ten most targeted countries by cyber attackers. Organisations, therefore, require cyber security professionals who are experts in defensive or offensive mechanisms to make their systems hack-proof.

As per estimates, the cybersecurity employee base is expected to grow from the current 1.3 lakh to up to 3 lakh. Cyber security has become a major concern for organisations.

The emerging trends in technology will require professionals at all levels and across industries to develop entrepreneurial skills in order to overcome redundancy and become more competitive and self-reliant

Here are some specification how upskilling is must in post-COVID-19 world.

Upskilling is the need of the Hour: Upskilling, the process of learning new skills that is being used extensively in the industry, is the only way to stay ahead in the game in a post-pandemic world. Now, the Coronavirus pandemic has made upskilling vital. Whether you are a fresher or an experienced professional, the need for learning additional skills and becoming digitally-oriented, regardless of the type of industry you work in, is crucial.

Early-skilling on multi-skill sets: The COVID-19 crisis provides several opportunities that young graduates and students can take advantage of, provided concerted efforts are made by authorities and educational institutions in identifying the gaps. The Government has also been proactively advocating the skilling initiatives in order to benefit from this window of opportunity and unlock the country's true potential.

Additionally, policymakers have recommended the inclusion of 'vocational education' into the curriculum across all states education boards and educational entities, in a bid to equip students with skills from the school-stage itself. On the work front, employers are likely to hire candidates who are highly motivated and possess multiple skill sets, as the nature of work is destined to change completely.

Become self-reliant through upskilling: The emerging trends in technology will require professionals at all levels and across industries to develop entrepreneurial skills in order to overcome redundancy and become more competitive and self-reliant. Upskilling will help individuals develop proficiency in technologies that are highly in demand at present, and will remain so in the future as well. It prepares them to be resilient and to withstand new challenges of this competitive world.

The writer is Chancellor, Sanskriti University

‘Develop technical and artistic acumen’

If you are precise, have a good eye for lighting and detail, a creative inclination, patience and love to work with magazines, corporates or be a freelancer, photography is way forward, says SHWETA TANWAR MUKHERKJEE

The field of photography has evolved tremendously in the last couple of years. Photography had, traditionally, been restricted to events, weddings, and movies; but with the surge in e-Commerce platforms, advertising, mass media, and digitally related fields have created a huge demand for professional photographers.

Learn by taking up a Course

To make a career in the digital photography world, you need to stay updated with the new techniques and equipment. With the change of era, when budding photographers used to gather the rudiments of photography techniques on their own, the institutes across the country offer courses to train people in the creative field. You can get a degree in photography (Bachelor's or Master's), or pursue diploma courses, the duration of which may vary between three months and a year.

Getting a majors in photography from institutions would help to hone your existing skills and eradicate the gaps. The enhancement of knowledge will help in shaping your career.

Back to basics

Enrolling yourself in a course will help you understand the basics of photography: Framing, rule of thirds, shutter speed and editing. Understanding these basics will help you take balanced and interesting photographs.

Practice and learn

Once you learn the craft, the next step is to practice it, and become proficient. Participating in competitions and events can give you an opportunity to grow, recognise your strengths, and develop your skills. Competitions also provide you with a great platform to showcase your talent and a chance to get your work evaluated and critiqued by a panel of judges.

Choose your segment

To become a professional photographer, it is important to experiment with different genres that allow you to gain knowledge about different areas of photography. Venturing out into vari-



Shweta Tanwar Mukherjee
Photographer & Blogger

ous domains will help you understand the areas of strength, and help you build up expertise in the areas of your choice. In the long run, you will be able to carve a niche in a particular domain of photography.

Create your Blog/website

Showcasing your skills is as important as doing good work. A portfolio, blog, Social account or website can easily be turned into your marketing brochure. Making a portfolio communicates your views, abilities, skills, etc, and gives you a professional outlook. When you have your own blog/website, you can showcase your work to increase your chances of getting noticed.

Get the right gear

Just like doctors are incomplete without their surgical tools, photographers are incomplete without their equipment. Good equipment matters. A lens is also an important piece of equipment, as it can provide diverse shot options.

If you are yet to take a professional plunge, you don't have to spend a fortune buying an expensive camera. Begin with a point-and-shoot or a mobile camera, and later shift to a DSLR, once you are sure of your skills, and passion for the field. Buying a DSLR will largely depend upon your budget.

In India, there is a well-known and critical constraint on the supply side of quality higher education. Not only do our best institutions enjoy, at best, quite a low standing in international university rankings, but there are also only a handful whose quality one can write home about. This is one of the major reasons that hundreds of thousands of students look beyond our borders when it comes to higher education, which is considered a springboard for one's career.

This is also one of the reasons why, with initiatives such as Global Initiative of Academic Network (GIAN), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration and Study in India, the

government of India has been gradually warming up to international institutions. Recognising this gap and opportunity in the sector, some private higher education institutions already collaborate with top international institutions within permissible regulatory norms, in order to offer the best of both worlds. NEP 2020 has taken this openness to a new level, by inviting top global universities to open campuses in India, with the objective of developing India into a Global Knowledge Hub.

For one, many more (though of course still not all) meritorious students who had the ability but not the financial means to spend lakhs and crores on an undergraduate education will now be able to obtain an

MIND IT

education of the pedigree they deserve. This will include exposure to top-flight international faculty, and also learning a more cosmopolitan student environment as these campuses will certainly attract students from nearby countries too.

Besides, top foreign universities will bring with them best-in-class practices and resources when it comes to undergraduate education. These include the best virtual learning environments, to back up classroom learning which, in the post pandemic world, is certainly going to be only one part of the

blended approach most institutions are likely to take to their educations. They also include cutting-edge experiential learning tools, research opportunities and placement and alumni networks.

Clearly, these campuses would need to recruit at least some of their staff locally, both teaching and non-teaching. This would tantamount to a huge knowledge transfer and upskill the quality of human capital available in our higher education sector, as these staff members move to other domestic institutions over the courses of their careers.

Moreover, the top-notch faculty members that these campuses would bring in from their 'home' countries would comprise a 'reverse brain drain', the benefits of which to the 'host' country are well established in literature.

The heat that domestic institutions will inevitably feel from such competition will undoubtedly shake them out of their dormancy and make them take a much more active, conscientious and student-centric approach to decision-making and incentive structures.

This is the role that high-quality private higher education institutions are currently playing in the sector. As top international institutions step in, it will, over a period of

time, certainly improve the general quality of higher education in the country, and the quality offered by most surviving domestic institutions also.

This will help students get better placements and add more value at work. This will ring truer as the job market flattens more and more in the post-pandemic world, with erstwhile barriers like geography diminishing in importance in the context of recruitment.

For this reason more than others, and because an undergraduate education is the springboard to one's career, the NEP has just done Indian students a solid.

The writer is Dr Jitin Chadha, Founder-director of Indian School of Business & Finance



The Swinburne University of Technology invites applications for its International Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship. Indian students can apply.

Award: 10% – 25% off your course fees every year for a maximum of 4 years with \$38,000 total for your bachelor's degree.

Eligibility: Except for the Bachelor of Aviation and Piloting, and the Bachelor of Aviation and Piloting/Bachelor of a Business double degree, you can apply for any bachelor's degree programme at the university.

Not be currently accepted or enrolled at Swinburne, unless you are only enrolled in ELI-COS programme.

Not be holding another scholarship or reduced fee arrangement. As per the university requirement, the candidates have to demonstrate the English language ability through the TOEFL or IELTS test.

How to apply: If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will receive an email from the university about the acceptance of admission and in the same email you will also find out if you have received an award. Interested applicants must check out the entry requirements before applying.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is February 7,

2021.

The Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow is delighted to be able to offer a number of MBA scholarships for January 2021. Scholarships will be awarded on a rolling basis up to the final deadline of November 30, 2020, so early application is advised.

The scholarships will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate in their MBA programme application and interview, excellent academic performance; significant professional/managerial/leadership experience and career development and who will contribute to the overall academic, cultural and experiential profile of the programme cohort.

Number: Up to 10
Value: Up to £10,000

Eligibility: All applicants will be considered automatically who can demonstrate through their ideas outlined in their application and interview how they would contribute to bring the class together through teamwork to create community, from the outset, in order to achieve the ultimate learning experience for the group as a whole.

For more information: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-withus/scholarships/strathclyde-businessschools/scholarships/mba-internationaldivisionscholarships/sbsfulltimebascholarships/january2021> or write at sbs.admissions@strath.ac.uk.

Application deadline: The last date is November 30, 2020.

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT CLOUDIFY

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5773372
Deadline: December 3, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT KRISHIYOG

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5773375
Deadline: November 11, 2020

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT GAMEBERRY LABS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5773377
Deadline: November 11, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT TUTEDUDE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5773384
Deadline: November 12, 2020

DRUPAL DEVELOPMENT AT SCIDEAS SOLUTIONS

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5773391
Application deadline: November 12, 2020

DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT NEW GENERATION APPLICATION

Location: Lucknow, Delhi
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5773409
Application deadline: November 10, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT VIBES

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹7,500-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5773431
Application deadline: November 11, 2020



STUDY ABROAD

Consider all options before choosing a college

Many have resumed looking for foreign colleges to pursue further studies. Choose what suits you best and not what is good

Choosing a university to study abroad can be a daunting task. While many students and parents go on recommendation, the truth is what suits one may not be so for the other. If you wish to study abroad at undergraduate and postgraduate study, one can choose from a broad range of sub-

jects ranging from law and business, to science and engineering, at a wide range of universities from the most established and traditional to newer institutions focused on professional qualifications and innovation. A couple for them are:

Coventry University, London, UK: Based in the business hub of London, Coventry University London International Study Centre is serious about business and provides international students with a direct route onto a range of degrees at the University. It is one of the largest providers of business-related degree courses in Europe and consistently delivers quality across several key areas, including student satis-

faction, teaching and research quality, graduate job prospects, degree results achieved and more. It offers a range of programmes consisting of academic modules, study skills and English language training to ensure that you have the skills to succeed when you progress onto your chosen degree programme.

University of Huddersfield, UK: It offers a range of pathway programmes to suit everyone's interests and career ambitions. Programmes are provided by Study Group in collaboration with the university. From bachelors to master's, the courses are designed to help international students meet the academic and English language requirements they need to study at the university which is ranked second in the UK for best student experience by the International Student Barometer in 2018.

The university offers a relatively low cost of living. The international learning support programme is a specialist team that help students adapt to studying in the UK and life in Huddersfield.

IN BRIEF

MBD GROUP LAUNCHES PERSONALISED LEARNING APP

The MBD Group has launched AASOKA — the powering, adaptive and personalised learning app which enables students and teachers of CBSE, CISCE and various State Boards to sustain a seamless teaching learning process in spite of the school closures and recent social distancing advisory for schools issued. The app is driven by the latest research in pedagogy and innovations in teaching methodology. The app provides animated content for grades K-12. Video lectures using multimedia-rich 2D and 3D content engage students' attention and curiosity,

encouraging and motivating them to study more. The adaptive assessments feature of the app customises assessments for each individual student based on their competency level derived from the result of the most recent test taken.

The app has not only changed students' perspective towards learning, but it has also altered teachers' approach towards teaching by enabling them to prepare and deliver dynamic multi-media lessons that can kindle the spark of curiosity in students. For more information visit: <https://aasoka.com>.

CENTRE FOR APPLIED MATHEMATICS AT IIIT-NR

To accelerate research in Mathematics and its allied areas, IIIT Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR) has established Center for Applied Mathematics at its campus. The objective is to provide a platform to the students, researchers, and faculty members of IIIT-NR to work on advanced mathematical real-world problems. It

will promote research and outreach activities in mathematics and its application to various interdisciplinary areas.

The centre will focus on collaborative research in India and abroad and it is equipped with unique advanced computational facilities and software. The Center will organize various national and

international activities to promote mathematical research in Chhattisgarh and in India at large.

Dr Pradeep K Sinha, VC& Director-IIIT NR said: "Maths plays a major role in science and technology. Therefore, establishment of maths as a bridge for interdisciplinary research is needed for academic or research institute."

TCS IT WIZ 2020 GOES DIGITAL

The India's biggest inter-school quiz, conducted by Tata Consultancy Services, TCS IT Wiz is back with its 22nd edition. The knowledge initiative by TCS is more exciting than ever before as it has gone totally digital, enhancing its reach and hunt further for the brilliant young minds across the nation. This year, TCS IT Wiz has been re-imagined completely as there is no limit on the number of participants. The brilliant young minds can take the quiz from any part of the country and compete with

their fellow quizzers from the comfort of their homes!

The unique platform enables the students to look at technology from an innovation perspective in an out-of-class environment, compelling them to open their horizons beyond textbooks.

The registrations are open till November 4, students can register through — <https://bit.ly/3d0QTkr>. Like always, there is no entry fee to register. The participants will go through a Mock Quiz to get their game-on for the prelims.

