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Legal tangle in race to White House

Trump claims 'fraud' in electoral process, to move Supreme Court; results of neck-&-neck presidential fight to take time as counting of record number of mail-in-ballots still going on

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The race for the White House appears to be headed towards an uncharted territory with the Trump and Biden campaigns gearing up for a protracted legal battle in the US Supreme Court as the election results in some of the key battleground States like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan still being counted.

All eyes are now on States like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, North Carolina and Georgia. Counting of mail-in-ballots, which was voted in record numbers this time, might take time.

Officials in Pennsylvania said on Wednesday that they expect all votes to be counted by Friday. The Biden campaign believes that they have a definitive edge on this, while the Trump campaign fears that there could be electoral malpractice during the counting of votes. "We want the law to be used in a proper manner so we'll be going to the US Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop. We don't want them to find any ballots at 4:00 in the morning," President Donald Trump said to his supporters at the White House in the wee hours of Wednesday.

Earlier, Trump claimed victory in the election and called it "a fraud on the American public" and said, "Frankly, we



A live broadcast of President Donald Trump speaking from the White House is shown on screens at an election night party on Tuesday

AP

did win this election."

He also said he planned to take the battle to the Supreme Court to stop the counting of votes. "All of a sudden everything just stopped. This is a fraud on the American public. This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election," Trump said, without citing any evidence of a fraud in

the electoral process.

According to latest projections, Trump is set to win 213 electoral college votes while his Democratic rival Joe Biden is projected to have taken a lead with 238 electoral college votes. Either of them needs at least 270 electoral college votes to be declared as the winner. Counting of votes have resumed in the battleground States.

In his brief remarks in Delaware, Biden said, "We knew because of the unprecedented early vote and the mail in vote that it's gonna take a while. We're gonna have to be patient until we —the hard work of tallying votes is finished. And it ain't over till every vote is counted. Every ballot is counted," Biden said.

Both the sides firmly believe that they are the winner.

"I'm here to tell you tonight, we believe we're on track to win this election," Biden said.

Mainstream American media reported that it might take days before the winner is known. "A sense of uncertainty and fear-crept into the minds of voters on either side of the political divide," *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

"The morning after a chaotic, suspenseful Election Day, Americans awoke on Wednesday to the spectre of hours or even days of uncertainty ahead, as several states counted millions of ballots in razor-thin contests that could tip the balance to President Trump or former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr," *The New York Times* reported.

"The nation awoke to uncertainty Wednesday, with no winner in the bitter presidential contest. Democratic nominee Joe Biden urged patience even as President Trump prematurely declared victory before millions of votes were counted in key states," *The Washington Post* reported.

Democrats, the newspaper said, failed to reap the decisive national repudiation of Trump that Biden had sought, arguing that the president has mismanaged the deadly coronavirus pandemic and cleaved the country with racially divisive rhetoric. "Democrats also sustained unexpected losses to

their majority in the House and faced diminished prospects to take control of the Senate, despite expectations," it said.

The Washington Post alleged that Trump broke democratic norms by asserting that he had already won, despite the paths to victory that remain for Biden.

"He claimed he will ask the Supreme Court to intervene in the election process, saying that voting must stop and falsely claiming that by continuing to count votes already cast, the Democrats would be stealing the election. Polls have closed, and no more votes are being cast, only tallied," the daily said.

Disappointed Democrats drove toward extending their control of the House of Representatives for two more years but with a potentially shrunken majority as they lost at least seven incumbents and failed to oust any Republican lawmakers in initial returns.

By midmorning on Wednesday, Democrats' only gains were two North Carolina seats vacated by GOP incumbents after a court-ordered remapping made the districts more Democratic. Though they seemed likely to retain control of the House of Representatives, their performance was an unexpected disappointment for the party, which hoped for modest gains of perhaps 15 seats.

Related reports on P11

3rd Covid wave in Delhi

No need to panic, assures Kejriwal as Capital sees highest daily cases at 6,842

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi has seen a jump in the number of new Covid-19 cases in the last few days and it can be called a "third wave", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday, assuring the people that they need not panic as his Government is closely monitoring the situation regularly.

Delhi's highest single-day spike of 6,842 fresh Covid-19 cases takes tally to over 4.09 lakh with death toll 6,703 and 51 new fatalities reported from the city.

Kejriwal said while there are adequate beds for Covid-19 patients in the city, there is a shortage of ICU beds with ventilators in a few private hospitals which will be addressed in the next one or two days. The national Capital has been witnessing a fresh surge in coronavirus cases. On Tuesday, Delhi recorded over 6,000 fresh cases for the first time.

The city recorded over 5,000 daily cases for five days on the trot, ending Sunday when the count stood at 5,664.

"Delhi has witnessed a jump in the number of Covid-19 cases. I think we can call it a third wave...We have been



monitoring the situation continuously and there is no need to panic. We will take whatever steps are needed," the Chief Minister told reporters.

He said during September end and beginning of October, the number of coronavirus cases was less than 3,000 in the city.

On October 6, Kejriwal had said Delhi is past the peak of the second wave of coronavirus and the situation has been controlled to a large extent.

"Delhi hit the peak of the second wave of Covid-19 on September 17 when 4,500 cases were reported across the city," he had said. The national Capital had recorded more than 4,000 cases for several days around mid-September.

The AAP Government's priority is to give the best treatment and healthcare facilities to Covid-19 patients in Delhi and to keep the death rate as low as possible, Kejriwal said on Wednesday. He said a high-level meeting has been called on Thursday to review the Covid-19 situation.

Continued on Page 11

Rahul alleges EVM is 'Modi Voting Machine'

PTI ■ MADHEPURA/ARARIA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday described Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) as "Modi Voting Machine" (MVM), and asserted the youth of Bihar is "angry" this time and will vote out the NDA Government "whether its EVM or MVM".

Raking up the EVM issue for the first time in this election, he said, "The name is not EVM (Electronic Voting Machine). The name is MVM i.e. Modi Voting Machine. E is written just like that. But there is anger among the youth of Bihar this time around. So whether its EVM or MVM, the mahagathabandhan (Grand Alliance) is going to win," he said.

Wrapping up his campaign for the ongoing election in Bihar, he addressed two rallies during the day, and slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over the migrant issue, handling of the coronavirus crisis, unemployment and the new agricultural laws.

In his first rally at Madhepura's Bihariganj, from where veteran socialist leader Sharad Yadav's daughter

Subhashini Yadav is contesting the poll on a Congress seat, Rahul said the CM had promised he would provide jobs and "change" Bihar, but he "could not deliver".

Continued on Page 11

People of Bihar prefer 'good governance', see hope in NDA, says PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that the people of Bihar prefer "sushashan ki rajneeti" (politics of good governance), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said only the NDA can provide security, employment and new opportunities of self-employment to the youth of the state.

He also said the youth and women of the State have always been with the NDA and they see hope in the alliance.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Modi said he had the opportunity to meet his "brothers and sisters" of Bihar and seek their blessings during his election rallies in the State in the last few days.

Armed forces propose hike in retiring age of officers, pension formula review

Move to help retain skilled manpower, reduce burgeoning pension bill

RAHUL DUTTA ■ NEW DELHI

In a major reform, the Armed Forces have proposed to increase the age of officers and review the pension formula of those opting for premature retirement (PMR). The two-pronged approach will help in retaining skilled manpower and reducing the burgeoning pension bill.

The proposal moved by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), headed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, comes at a time when the Armed forces are also considering increase in age of jawans. At present, they retire after 15 years of service and still in prime of their youth.

The DMA proposes to increase the retiring age of Colonels from the existing 54 to 57, for Brigadiers from 56 to 58 and for Major Generals from 58 to 59. The same is applicable to equivalent ranks



in other Services.

"It is proposed that a draft Government sanction Letter (GSL) may be kindly processed for perusal by Secretary DMA by November 10," a letter issued by Office of Secretary DMA dated October 29 said. The age of retirement of Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) and Other Ranks in Logistics, Technical and Medical branches is also proposed to be increased to 57 years.

Explaining the rationale for these proposals, the DMA noted that many personnel retired due to lesser vacancies and some service restrictions. At the same time, there were several specialists and super specialists who were trained for high skill jobs in the services who left the services to work in other sectors.

"Such loss of high-skilled manpower results in void in the

services skill matrix and is counter-productive to the armed forces," the letter said, adding that in view of this it had been decided to review the pension entitlements.

The pension is proposed to be reviewed in four slabs for PMR of personnel. For 20-25 years of service, 50 per cent of entitled pension; for 26-30 years of service, 60 per cent of entitled pension, for 31-35 years of service, 75 per cent of entitled pension and full pension for 35 years and above service. "There will be no change of pension entitlements of battle casualties," the letter said.

At present, the existing pension is 50 per cent of the last salary drawn for an officer for 20-25 years of service. If the proposal is approved, pension will be halved.

Sources said this proposal may not be welcome by the serving officers who are about to retire and various ex-servicemen organisations. They also said the DMA created last year along with the institution of the CDS does not have the mandate to alter pension formula any may lead to clutch of law suits.

Continued on Page 11

Miffed by ED, NIA's probes, Kerala bans auto consent to CBI

PNS ■ KOCHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is no more welcome in Kerala. The Kerala Government took the decision to "ban" the elite investigation agency in the State in the weekly Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday. Majority of the Opposition ruled States have already done the same.

The decision of the Kerala Government means that the CBI would not be able to file cases on its own in the State. The CBI will now need the permission of a court of law to launch a probe in the State. The State Government retains the right to refer a case to the CBI.

Kerala is witnessing a shadow war between the Centre and the State in view of the probe launched by NIA, ED and Customs into cases like gold smuggling scam, money laundering, corruption, and terror financing.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the CPI(M) were upset and

annoyed over the CBI's move to register a criminal case based on the complaint filed by a Congress lawmaker Anil Akkara about alleged corruption and misappropriation of funds in the LIFE Mission, a flagship development programme of the Government.

Anil's charge was that kickbacks worth crores of rupees changed hands in the construction of residential apartments at Wadakkancherry in Thrissur district as part of LIFE Mission. Since this project involved Red Crescent, an international NGO based in the UAE, the CBI launched an investigation.

But the Kerala Government approached the Kerala High Court challenging the propriety of the CBI to investigate the case. The CBI had summoned U V Jose, CEO of the LIFE Mission, for questioning. The High Court had initially stayed the questioning of Jose by the CBI while on a later hearing it altogether ruled that the CBI need not probe the LIFE Mission.

CAPSULE

DELHI AIR IMPROVES, VERY POOR IN NCR

Noida: Delhi's air quality improved marginally on Wednesday due to favourable wind, but was still in the "poor" category. The air quality deteriorated but remained "very poor" in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Faridabad while it continued to stay "poor" in Gurgaon in NCR on Wednesday.

9 DIE IN AHMEDABAD GOWDN COLLAPSE

Ahmedabad: At least nine labourers, three of them women, were killed when a portion of a chemical godown collapsed following a powerful explosion here on Wednesday morning, said officials.

TEMPLE VANDALISED, MUSLIMS SAVE HINDUS

Karachi: A Hindu temple in Pakistan's Sindh province was vandalised by a mob that also attempted to attack over 300 Hindu families, but were stopped by Muslims from entering the century-old neighbourhood, a media report said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Sunday in Sheetal Das compound, housing 300 Hindu and 30 Muslim families. Residents of the neighbourhood said that the mob assembled outside the compound's only gate and intended to attack the Hindus.

500 farmers bodies plan nationwide Chakka jam today

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh along with MLAs and MPs and party workers on Wednesday staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar against the controversial farm laws even as over 500 farmers groups under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee have planned to block roads across the country on November 5, as part of an all-India "chakka jam".

While the Punjab CM accused the Centre of "choking" the State by suspending goods trains, the Railways claimed it has lost ₹1,200 crore revenue from freight due to the farmers' protest at 32 locations in several parts of Punjab and Haryana.

Continued on Page 11

Domestic airlines allowed to operate at 60% capacity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Wednesday said domestic airlines can operate 60 per cent of their pre-Covid flights till February 24 next year. The decision has been taken by the Civil Aviation Ministry due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the country.

The Ministry had informed the airlines about the 60 per cent limit through an official order on September 2 but it had not told them the period for which the cap would remain in place.

On October 29, the Ministry issued a new order clarifying that the September 2

order "shall remain in force until February 24, 2021 or until further orders" due to the "prevailing situation of Covid-19". On June 26, the Ministry had allowed the airlines to operate a maximum of 45 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights. In the last 24 hours (till Wednesday morning), India recorded 46,253 fresh cases of the infection as against 38,310 on Tuesday.

The Ministry had resumed domestic services from May 25, after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus-triggered lockdown. However, the airlines were allowed to operate not more than 33 per cent of their pre-Covid flights.

Continued on Page 11

Ultrapotent Covid vaccine candidate raises hopes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the global battle against coronavirus pandemic, scientists have come up with a new "ultrapotent" vaccine candidate that has produced "extremely high levels" of protective antibodies in animal models.

Researchers in their study, published in the journal Cell, said the vaccine generates 10 times more neutralising antibodies in mice. It also shows a strong B-cell immune response after administration. This, they said, is a sign of higher durability of the vaccine's effect.

When the vaccine was given to a nonhuman primate, scientists explained it produced neutralising antibodies, targeting different sites on the spike protein of the coronavirus, which it uses to enter human cells.

The researchers also said

the vaccine could ensure protection against mutated strains of the coronavirus. According to the study, the molecular structure of the vaccine roughly mimics that of a virus, which may account for its enhanced ability to provoke an immune response.

"We hope that our nanoparticle platform may help fight this pandemic that is causing so much damage to our world," said Neil King, a co-author of the study from UW Medicine.

"The potency, stability, and manufacturability of this vaccine candidate differentiate it from many others under investigation," King added.

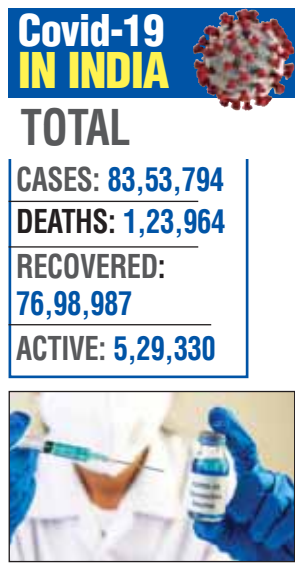
Presently, as many as 150 potential vaccines are being developed and tested globally, with 38 in human trial stage. Early development of vaccine will be a game-changer in the battle against the Covid-19

outbreak, which has killed millions of people around the planet while causing economic, physical, social and mental

catastrophe.

In India, Bharat Biotech is planning to launch its vaccine "Covaxin" for Covid-19 in the

second quarter next year for and it has got approvals from the regulatory authorities after the phase 3 trials.



Congress, RJD have always misguided youth: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mounting attack on the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, said that the poor, the farmers, the youth and the women were never on the agenda of these parties and this was reflected in the way they treated them during their regimes.

"These parties have always misguided the youth of this wonderful state and now they are luring them with the 'lolli-pop' of jobs but the youth will not fall into their trap," the UP Chief Minister said while addressing an election meeting in Madhubani during his last phase of election campaigning in Bihar Assembly polls.

He said that besides exploitation of youth and farmers, these parties also had a soft corner for terrorism.

"In order to hide their undoing, the Congress resorted to spreading anarchy in the country that is totally unacceptable in Narendra Modi's rule at the Centre," he said.

Yogi Adityanath came down heavily on the Congress and its allies for attacking the fourth pillar of democracy in the most blatant manner.

"The way a renowned journalist has been arrested in Mumbai reminds of the excesses committed in the country during the Emergency in 1975," he said.

Yogi said that people used to ask him about the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"Now, I proudly announce that the foundation stone of the temple has been laid on August 5, 2020 and soon there will be a grand temple," he said.

Launching a broadside against what he called the

'meek' policies against terrorism, Yogi said that the abolition of Article 370 was the last nail in the coffin of terrorism and today the Indian soldiers did not hesitate in crossing the borders and killing terrorists in their homes.

"Pakistan has also accepted in its parliament that if they had not released Wing Commander Abhinandan, India could have attacked them. Their Prime Minister Imran Khan was sweating in parliament and they also confessed that their Army Chief Javed Bajwa was shaking and shivering with fear," he pointed out.

Praising the people of India for their resilience in fighting the novel coronavirus, Yogi said that the pandemic was not yet over and adherence to the protection protocol was very necessary.

The UP chief minister urged people to follow what Prime Minister Narendra

Modi said about maintaining social distancing and using face masks for protection from coronavirus.

Yogi said the appeasement policies of the Congress had harmed all sections of society while by banning instant triple talaq, the Modi government had shown that this country would be run by the Constitution, not by fatwas before which the Congress had always remained helpless.

Terming the Bihar government as a 'double engine', Yogi Adityanath called upon the people to vote for the candidates of the National Democratic Alliance.

"With Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and Nitish Kumar in Bihar, we are carrying forward the development agenda with the resolve of 'EK Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' and the commendable work done by Nitish Kumar has given Bihar a new identity," Yogi said.

Low poll percentage leaves all political parties jittery

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A low 53 percent voting in the seven Assembly constituencies of Uttar Pradesh that went to bypolls on November 3 has sent shock waves among all the political parties after reports that people in rural areas voted in large numbers as compared to urban parts of these constituencies.

"The election results are bound to give hiccups to the political parties because the low polling percentage and presence of all major political parties in the fray can spring surprises," said Nomita P Kumar of the Giri Institute of Development Studies in Lucknow.

The polling percentage has come down by over 10 per cent as compared to the 2017 elections with the highest dip visible in Naugawan Sadat constituency in Amroha where in the 2017 election, the polling percentage was over 76 per cent while this time it was 61.50 per cent.

There are reports that villages have voted in large numbers as compared to urban areas thus giving sleepless nights to the Bharatiya Janata Party whose vote bank is more city-centric.

Kumar said the equations changed because the Bahujan Samaj Party also contested the bye-elections after many decades and the Congress was giving a fight to the main opponents like BJP and Samajwadi Party.

"In this scenario, it will be difficult to predict winners and losers," she said.

The polling was held for the seven seats with 88 candidates in the fray. The BJP had won six

out of these seven seats and the SP one in the 2017 elections.

"As the BJP had won the maximum number of these seats, the pressure would be on the ruling party to retain them. But the ground reality is different from 2017 and is bound to throw a different result," social activist Brijesh Mishra said. In the 2017 elections, the SP and the Congress had contested the polls in alliance. But this time they have contested separately. Besides, in Deoria, a rebel BJP candidate entered the fray while in Bangarmau and Ghatampur, Congress was likely to do well. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati's revelation about the secret deal with BJP had also made the election interesting as ground reports suggested that Muslims had shunned BSP and voted in favour of SP and Congress.

In some constituencies, people boycotted polling. In Tundla in Firozabad district, the villagers boycotted the by-election, alleging no development had taken place in their area. Chanting "vikas nahi to vote nahi" (no development, no vote), the voters at the Rudhau Mustkil booth number 30 boycotted the polling.

The by-elections were held in Malhani (Jaunpur), Tundla (Firozabad), Bulandshahr, Naugawan Sadat (Amroha), Ghatampur (Kanpur City), Bangarmau (Unnao), and Deoria. Of these, seats six were previously held by BJP while one (Malhani) by SP.

However, all the political parties have claimed victory in the by-elections.

Blast in illegal firecracker factory leaves four dead, several injured

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a powerful explosion in an illegal fireworks factory being run in a house in Kushinagar district, four people lost their lives and several others suffered injuries on Wednesday morning.

The illegal firecracker factory was being run in the house of a man named Javed in ward number 11 of Kaptanganj. All the people who died and some who suffered injuries belong to the same family.

Some neighbours of the adjacent houses were also injured.

According to reports, the explosion took place in the illegal fireworks factory early on Wednesday. The explosion was so strong that a wall of the house collapsed and the houses nearby were damaged.

Due to the fire sparked by the blast, a cooking gas cylinder in the house also exploded.

Soon after the explosion, people gathered at the site on hearing screams. On receiving information

about the blast, the fire brigade personnel reached at the spot to extinguish the fire. However, by then the fire had engulfed the nearby houses. It took three hours for the fire brigade team to extinguish the fire.

Javed, his wife Anwari, his mother Fatima and his daughter Nazia lost their lives in the blast, as per the reports from local police.

Among the injured were Azad, Ramsajan, Neha, Priyanka, Chandan, Sahin, Sama, Chandani and Afsana. The district police chief of

Kushinagar and other senior officers reached at the site to take stock of the situation.

"An explosion took place in an illegal firecracker godown in Aryanagar area under Kaptanganj police station on Wednesday morning," Superintendent of Police Vinod Kumar Singh said.

It may be mentioned just a week back, a Congress leader, Asim Khan, had died in an explosion in an illegal firecracker factory being run from his house in Sardhana town of

Meerut. The blast was so powerful that his double-storey house came crashing down and nearby houses were also jolted by the blast which left the walls and roofs of many houses damaged. A rescue team reached the spot and rescued the people buried under the rubble. Two deaths were confirmed in the blast.

Meanwhile in Balrampur district, a dumper loaded with soil overturned on a car near Sunderghat at Rehra Bazaar. A junior engineer in the car was killed while another offi-

cer was seriously injured.

Reports said that Sub-Divisional Officer Ankur Verma along with junior engineer Ritesh Patel were going to Rehra Bazaar in a car on Wednesday morning. When they passed through a blind turn at Sunderghat Kuano bridge, a speeding dumber suddenly overturned and fell over their car, critically injuring both of them. They were rushed to the district hospital where Ritesh was pronounced dead. A case was registered in this regard.

SCHOOLSCAN

CMS STUDENT NATIONAL TOPPER

Vagisha Singh, a class VII student of City Montessori School, Gomi Nagar Campus I, grabbed the 'National Topper' title in Brainbrain Wonderkid-2020 competition, bringing laurels to the institution. Vagisha was awarded a trophy, medal, certificate and cash prize of Rs 1,000. Educational institution Brainobrain organised this competition online in which over 50,000 students from 1,500 schools participated. In a tough contest, Vagisha emerged victorious by displaying her expertise in mental maths, logical ability, general knowledge and speed typing. Event organisers were all praise for her talents and wished her luck for a bright future. The competition was organised with a view to encouraging students to focus on their mental abilities, find quick solutions to the problems and develop their skills for learning.



Public Notice

I, Shishir Kumar Jaiswal would like to inform general public that I have lost my original allotment letter for my House No. 8C/473 Vrindavan Yojana Raebareilly Rd. Lucknow, registered in my name on 28-6-10, Bahi No 01 Jild No 11700 Pg 179-206 Sr 12180. If any one finds it kindly contact me at 9871238120 within 15 days

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ram Krishan Prasad Agarwal to Ram Krishan Singhal S/o Govind Prasad Agarwal R/o D-11/11 SF DLF Exclusive Floors DLF Phase-V Gurgaon.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Rajeev Kumar to Rajeev Kumar Pandey. Rajeev Kumar Pandey S/o Jagdamba Prasad Pandey R/o 127/14. Block -S Sharda Market Juhi Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed to my name from Abdul Muheeb Siddiqui to Abdul Mohib Siddiqui. Abdul Mohib Siddiqui S/o Abdul Rasheed Siddiqui Add. 101/42 Gammu Kha Ka Hata, Coconel Ganj Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Tanmay Kumar Gupta to Tanmay Gupta, to be known by this name only, in future. Tanmay Gupta S/o Prashant Kumar Gupta R/o 58 Government Industrial Estate, Kalpi Road, Kanpur.

NOTICE

It is for General information that I have changed my name from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Kumar Sharma, Manoj Kumar Sharma S/o Swami Nath Sharma. Defence Colony K.V. Road Heerapatti Azamgarh.

NOTICE

Be aware that in my service records in NTPC, my wife's name is Rajeshwari and her date of birth is 01/01/1970 and 04/06/1964. Which is wrong. While other records record my wife's name Rajeshwari Singh and her date of birth as 31/12/1966. Which is correct. Therefore, my wife should be known and understand Rajeshwari Singh and her date of birth 31/12/1966. Shiv Kumar Singh Son Self Mata Bux Singh Resident-Type-2-453 NTPC Colony Uncharhar-Rae Bareilly

UP among top five states in generating MSME jobs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government said that the state was ranked fifth in the list of states that had generated most jobs in the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector.

The government cited a report of the Reserve Bank of India in support of its claim.

Calling it a major success, the state government said the top four states ahead of UP were Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

"Uttar Pradesh has become the fifth state to generate the highest number of jobs in the MSME sector. The state has achieved the fifth position in the ranking prepared by the RBI after leaving behind states like Rajasthan, Karnataka, Delhi and Punjab. The RBI prepared the report after assessing all the states in the country. The RBI has also included the data of jobs created by the Yogi Adityanath government during the COVID-19 era," the government said in a statement.

"Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the government not just took the decision to bring back more than 40 lakh migrants stuck in other states but also fulfilled the challenge of providing them jobs. After skill-mapping of more than 20 lakh workers, they were given employment through the MSME department. The state government signed memorandums of understanding with FICCI and Indian Industries Association to give jobs to six lakh workers. Also, MoUs with institutes like NAREDCO and Laghu Udyog Bharti were signed to generate five lakh jobs in the private sector," the statement said.

The government also said that 90 lakh MSME units were operational in the state and the One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme of the government proved to be a game changer.

"In the ODOP scheme, started under the MSME sector, people were given employment and business on a local level. The MoU with companies like Amazon and Flipkart for online business gave the scheme a new speed," it said. Not just prominent districts, smaller districts like Jaunpur, Etah, Pilibhit, Mirzapur and Pratapgarh have also become centres of employment under the ODOP scheme," the government claimed.

Mission Shakti: Jhansi leads in empowering girls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As Mission Shakti, the massive campaign aimed at women safety and empowerment, enters its second phase, the historic city of Jhansi has taken a lead in empowering the young girls much on the lines of the iconic Jhansi ki Rani.

Focusing on physical strength, the women's wing of Uttar Pradesh Vyapar Mandal is imparting training in karate to young girls of the district. Clad in white traditional suits, these young girls are practising the martial art at Arya Kanya Degree College.

In view of the upcoming Diwali festival, the State Rural Livelihood Mission has also imparted training to women in making diyas and idols in Badagaon development block of Jhansi. These craft items made by women will be sold during the Deepotsav Mela from November 5 to 12. Apart from this, the senior police officials visited women help desks set up at different police stations and gave the necessary instructions to the staff.

In Mainpuri, on Tuesday, 379

schools participated in awareness programmes organised by Madhyamik Shiksha department while help desks were set up by the Revenue department and the Rural Development department.

The Animal Husbandry department imparted training to women under the backyard poultry scheme.

Women working at brick kilns were made aware of their right to equal pay through an awareness programme organised by the Labour and Employment Exchange department of Uttar Pradesh.

The Women Welfare department raised awareness among women regarding drawbacks of child marriage while the Bal Vikas Evam Pushstahar department organised awareness programmes at development blocks regarding POCSO Act and gave details about the women helpline numbers.

As a major step towards empowering women, the Panchayati Raj department in Lucknow handed over the charge of the upkeep of community toilets to the women self-help groups in

Karwa Chauth celebration turns into tragedy for two

Lucknow (PNS): In a sensational incident, a jilted lover shot at a woman after her husband objected to the accused meeting his wife during Karwa Chauth celebration in Ghazipur on Wednesday noon.

The accused later also opened fire on himself to commit suicide. Both the injured were rushed to the district hospital from where the doctors referred them to the medical college hospital in Varanasi in view of their critical condition. Superintendent of Police of Ghazipur, Dr Om Prakash Singh, said that a case was registered and investigation was on.

Reports said that Nitesh, a resident of Udhranpur hamlet under Kuranda police station in Ghazipur was having an affair with a married woman, identified as Suman, also a resident of the same area. Three days back, Suman's husband had caught the two and had warned Nitesh of dire consequences if he again tried to meet his wife.

On the occasion of Karwa Chauth when women fast for the long lives of their husband, Suman also kept the fast on Wednesday. In the noon, Nitesh came to meet her but Suman's husband stopped him from meeting his wife. This angered Nitesh and he pushed the husband and went inside and opened fire at Suman and later also fired at his

head to commit suicide. Both are battling for their lives.

Suman's husband handed over a complaint in this regard and further investigations are on.

In another tragedy, a 33-year-old school teacher married two years back was found dead under mysterious circumstances on the eve of Karwa Chauth on Tuesday night.

Reports said that Sanjeev Khare (33), a resident of Babina in Jhansi, was working as assistant teacher in a primary school in Harpura locality of Lalitpur. On Tuesday night, he was found lying in a pool of blood on National Highway-44 near Shahzad river bridge under Terai Gate police outpost. His motorcycle was also found at some distance.

Khare's friend, Asheesh, revealed that to celebrate Karwa Chauth, he went to Gwalior with his wife two days back and purchased new dresses, jewellery and other items. He returned to his job and left for his home in Babina again on Tuesday evening to celebrate Karwa Chauth with his wife and family.

SHO of Kotwali Lalitpur claimed that they were probing the matter and trying to confirm whether it was a road mishap or there was some other conspiracy behind the death.

Lallu attacks govt over harassment of farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Kumar Lallu on Wednesday said that the Yogi Adityanath government was harassing farmers by sending them to jail on the pretext of stubble burning.

Lallu said that the Supreme Court had directed the government to resolve the stubble problem by purchasing and disposing it and ensuring proper financial compensation to the farmers for the disposal of stubble, but the government, rather than fulfilling its obligations, was harassing the farmers by registering cases and sending them to jail.

The UP Congress Committee president claimed that in Saharanpur alone, 16 farmers had been sent to jail in a week and hundreds of other peasants were being forced to flee their homes in fear of arrest.

City on top with 8.85L tests so far

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow is on top in Uttar Pradesh in terms of the number of Covid tests (8.85 lakh) conducted so far. The state capital also has the largest target. Coronavirus cases and deaths also continue to come down even in the festive period. A senior official at the CMO office said that on Wednesday, they carried out targeted surveillance in shops and collected random samples. Besides, the sampling strength was also increased in rural areas. Currently, 7,000 samples are being tested per day.

The official said that the number of deaths has reduced

and there was only a single death in Lucknow on Tuesday. “The death audit reveals that most of the Covid patients who have died or those dying are aged above 60 years with co-morbidities. They have been in hospitals for a longer time as compared to other patients,” he said. Regarding the post-Covid-19 complications, he said there was nothing to be alarmed since these were mainly respiratory problems in majority of the cases.

He said they continue to focus on door-to-door surveillance so that the remaining strains of the virus are removed and do not spread further. The official said that surveillance teams are also stationed at the

airports and bus stations for monitoring.

Two students of Kumhrawan Inter College in BKT tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday. The college was closed and sanitised. SDM Naveen Chnadra said that during targeted sampling, two students tested positive. Staffers and other students of the college were also tested under the drive.

“Two girl students from the same class tested positive and the rest of the students were also tested. The school has been closed and sanitisation was carried out in the building. Families of these two students have also been tested along with primary and secondary

contacts,” the SDM said.

He said that the school was following Covid-19 protocol and students were sitting some distance apart. “There were 15 students in the class and all are now under home isolation. Both the girls who tested positive were suffering from cold,” he added.

Meanwhile, Amitoj Bhasin, a 40-year-old businessman from Lucknow, became the 300th plasma donor at KGMU’s Transfusion Medicine department. Head of the department Dr Tulika Chandra said Amitoj is a regular blood donor.

“He has donated blood 112 times and has come forward to donate plasma the

third time after he tested negative for coronavirus in August. His father has also donated blood 50 times. He was presented a certificate of appreciation for being a corona warrior by the department and was also appreciated Vice-Chancellor by Dr Bipin Puri.

Dr Chandra appealed to people to shed their fears regarding plasma donation and come forth to help others. “Plasma donors are medically examined and their blood is tested for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, syphilis and malaria. They can donate plasma only if they are completely fit. It is a golden opportunity to help and save lives,” she said.



Women performing rituals before breaking Karwa Chauth fast in Lucknow on Wednesday

Last rites of BDC member performed amidst caution

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the murder of a Dalit member of Block Development Committee, Vijay Pratap Rawat, in Mohanlalganj on Tuesday morning, police exercised caution as the last rites of the victim were performed after hectic persuasion by BJP MP Kaushal Kishore and Dalit leader RK Chaudhary, who reached the village to console the bereaved family. The presence of the leaders contained public fury over the death of Rawat.

The family handed over a letter to the BJP MP asking security cover for them, free education for children of the deceased and financial help of

Rs 50 lakh for the family. They also demanded arrest of the accused, Manoj Yadav and his aide Lallu Yadav. They said Manoj had taken JCB and other vehicles in the name of deceased and the loan was being repaid by Rawat. They also asked for settlement of this dispute. After assurance, the family agreed to perform the last rites. On the other hand, additional police force and PAC jawans were deployed in the area to prevent clashes in the village. Sources said the police would keep a close watch on the developments for few more days.

Interestingly, the top cops were yet to initiate action against the cops for the faux pas that they committed in giving

a long rope to the ongoing tussle between the accused and the deceased. Rawat and Yadav worked as partners several months back before they parted ways. Sources said Yadav used Rawat as a pawn to expand his real estate business and purchased land of those belonging to members of Dalit community at low prices.

“Rawat became wise while working with Yadav and he started opposing Yadav when was offered low profit in a deal. The issue later became a bone of contention between them. A complaint was lodged with police but cops sat on the case instead of initiating action. It finally led to the murder of Rawat,” the sources said.

Mystery shrouds death of LESA employee

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 35-year-old contractual employee of LESA deployed in the new campus of Lucknow University died under mysterious circumstances on Wednesday morning. The family alleged that he died of electrocution but LESA officials claimed that he died of heart attack. The deceased, identified as Indrapal Maurya of Sansaarpur village in Bakshi-Ka-Talaab, was deployed as a lineman in the new campus and was on duty on Tuesday night. His wife Neelam said she got a call from the power house inside the new campus in the morning and was told that Indrapal had taken ill.

She sought help from her relative who reached the power house to see Indrapal. It was alleged that the staff did not give any information about Indrapal. Later, the staff reached Indrapal’s house and fled the scene, dropping the body at the gate.

The family alleged that Indrapal had black spots visible on his left palm, face and throat, and they suspected that he suffered electric shock. A huge number of villagers converged on the scene and created a ruckus while

demanding action against LESA officials and a probe into the case.

On the information, two teams of police from BKT and Jankipuram also reached the scene and later police took responsibility to investigate the case. The police sent the body for autopsy. Death of the employee spelt doom for his wife. Relatives of Indrapal said Neelam was planning to celebrate Karwa Chauth on Wednesday, but destiny had other plans.

Meanwhile, a 58-year-old teacher died while his son suffered injuries after their car hit a motorcycle and later rammed into a tree in Malihabad on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Devi Prasad Mishra of Rae Bareilly while the injured as Ashish Mishra. Reports said Devi Prasad, along with his son, was coming to Lucknow from Hardoi. When they reached near Kunwar Asif Ali Degree College, a motorcyclist and cyclist came on the way. The car hit the motorcycle and later rammed into a tree. The impact was so intense that Devi Prasad died on the spot while his son Ashish was hospitalised. The motorcyclist was identified as Sri Krishna and the cyclist as Bhaiyya Lal.

Karwa Chauth sparks festive buzz

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Festive mood returned with Karwa Chauth as crowds thronged markets and noise of firecrackers filled the air on Wednesday. Women observed fast and prayed for the long lives of their husbands. Terraces lit up with diyas after a long time as the moon made an appearance after 8 pm.

Most of the people said they did not go for elaborate dressing up and bonded with family members. Women who observed fast for the first time looked enthusiastic despite the pandemic. Neelam Rastogi, who returned to her parent’s home for her first Karwa Chauth, said they supported her through the arduous fasting. “Both my parents accompanied me to the terrace and helped me perform all the rit-



uals to perfection,” she said. Organising secretary, Chowk Sarrafa Jewellers, said the market buzz. “The sales have been very good coronavirus is no longer casting its shadow over the markets. The sales have been good because the wedding season is closing

in with only 17 auspicious days. We had Rs 13-crore sales a day prior to Karwa Chauth,” he said. The sales have raised hope for Diwali. Market experts state that the talks of a vaccine for coronavirus has already boosted the mood of people.

Advocate deprived of ₹40,000

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An advocate was deprived of Rs 40,000 in cash while travelling by an e-rickshaw in Wazirganj on Wednesday. As per reports, Prashant Dwivedi of Malihabad was coming to Lucknow as one of his clients had hired him for registration of a land.

Prashant took an e-rickshaw to reach the office and an unidentified passenger joined

him near city station. After some time, the unidentified passenger got down from the e-rickshaw. Later, Prashant realised that he had been deprived of cash. He lodged a case and police started investigation.

Meanwhile, a priest nabbed a thief when he was fleeing former’s home after stealing cash and silver ornaments in Chowk on Tuesday night. Reports said Mahant

Vishal Gaud of Bagh Mahanarayan returned home after closing the temple around 11:30 pm and sensed the presence of some stranger inside his house. He gave a call and saw a man coming out of the house and fled towards another direction. The priest chased the man and caught hold of him. A cash of Rs 5,000 and a silver bangle were recovered from the accused, who was identified as Kunal Yadav of Chowk.

Two officers suspended for irregularities

Lucknow (PNS): Continuing with his policy of zero tolerance towards corruption and irregularities in developmental works, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday suspended two deputy commissioners of the Rural Development department.

The action came following allegations of apathy and financial irregularities in government works. A departmental inquiry has also been ordered against these officers during which they will be attached to the office of the rural development commissioner in Lucknow. The action has been taken against Surendra Kumar, who was posted as deputy commissioner (self-employ-

ment) in Bahraich, for irregularities during his previous posting as block development officer in Ahirori block of Hardoi district. Kumar was accused of making payments to a firm without delivery of construction material for an Anganwadi centre that was never constructed.

Similarly, Suresh Chandra Kesarvani, deputy commissioner (self-employment) at Varanasi, has been suspended on allegations of laxity in the works of Rural Livelihood Mission.

In addition to this, there have been complaints against him of using indecent language with subordinates and also threatening them.

Metro ridership rising with focus on safety measues

Lucknow (PNS): It has been almost two months since the resumption of Lucknow Metro services between Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport and Munshipulia with special focus on safety of passengers.

According to UPMRC officials, the number of commuters on the operational corridor has increased to 20,920 per day this month even as cleaning and sanitisation of trains and stations have been even more regular. “Although this figure is only one-third of the daily ridership before the Covid-19 period, it still shows that people are satisfied with the precautionary arrangements by us.

CDRI scientist wins award

Lucknow (PNS): CDRI scientist Susanta Kar has won the ‘Prof AN Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award-2020’ by Society of Biological Chemists (India). To recognise the significant contributions towards defining the survival tactics of Leishmania donovani, Society of Biological Chemists (India) has chosen senior scientist Dr Susanta Kar, Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CDRI, for this year’s ‘Prof AN Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award’.

“Leishmania donovani is a protozoan parasite that infects immune and is a causative agent of kala azar, a lethal infectious disease affecting millions worldwide. His research group studied the interaction of Leishmania with immune cells like

macrophages, dendritic cells and T cells and the fate of these interactions on modulation of various intracellular signalling cascades that ultimately affect immune response and infection progression,” CDRI spokesperson Sanjeev Yadav said.

Society of Biological Chemists has instituted many awards in order to recognise the meritorious and significant contributions made by researchers, scientists on development of biological sciences in the country. It was founded in 1930 with its headquarters at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. This society was registered under the Societies Act under the then Princely State of Mysore. The award is conferred every two years.

CNG sale dipped by 9.96%: IITR report

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The post-monsoon ambient air quality report released by IITR shows that the sale of CNG has decreased by 9.96 per cent and that of diesel by 3 per cent while petroleum sales have increased by 3.06 per cent in the city. There are nine CNG filling stations in the city and the consumption of CNG was found to be 4,23,59,025 kg in 2019-20, which is 9.96% lower than the previous year.

The report also shows that as per Oil Marketing Companies (IOC, BPCL and HPCL), the consumption of petrol and diesel was 2,32,383 kl and 2,13,315 kl, respectively as on March 31 this year. It was observed that sale of petrol increased by 3.06% and that of diesel decreased by 3.0%. The increased diesel consumption has resulted in increase in air pollution levels in the city. Head of IITR’s Environment Division GC Kisku said it was important to encourage the sale of CNG to check pollution.

As per the report, the total number of vehicles registered with RTO in Lucknow was 24,07,190 as on March 31, which is 9.7% higher than 2019. “Besides, thousands of outside vehicles are coming to Lucknow for different purposes daily. From our research experience and scientific studies, we presume that about 40-60% air pollution in the city is linked to vehicular emission, one of the major sources of air pollution in Lucknow. The city has become denser with traffic congestion and increased vehicular emission



which impacts health of public mainly drivers, commuters and individuals living near roads,” he said.

IITR has also made recommendations for mitigation of pollution. Kisku said construction and demolition activities should be planned with dust obstacles as well as following the construction and demolition waste management rule.

“Retrofitting of particulate matter filters should be encouraged in vehicles and use of BS VI vehicle models should be enforced. Wrong-side parking or blocking of roads should not be allowed, water spraying operation during dry weather conditions should be maintained on main roads for dust entertainment and active city roads should be maintained clean by frequent water

sprinkling, sweeping operations. Subsidised public transport systems such as metro and buses should be promoted and public awareness to utilise the subsidy and reduce private vehicle emissions should be created,” he said. Other recommendations include improvement in congested crossings and an advanced traffic management system for smooth traffic flow.

“All transportation goods should be covered properly before entering highways. Engines should be switched off at major traffic points. Solid-waste dump yards should be shifted from roadsides and solid waste must be disposed of in completely covered conditions. Burning of waste should be banned. Pressure horns should be removed from vehicles or minimal honking be allowed. Public awareness programmes should be organised about air pollution and its health effects, reduction of automobile emission by proper maintenance of vehicles and driving skills,” he said.

It was also suggested that the state government and district administration should organise a short duration seminar inviting agencies such as UPPCB, zonal office of CPCB, CPWD, research organisations, universities, engineering institutes, social workers, regulatory bodies, city planners, NGOs and general public for their valuable input, ideas and recommendations through debate and discussion about the causes and effects of air pollution and preventive control measures which are to be adopted in the forum itself.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

E-AUCTION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties “APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s)and Guarantor (s)that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is”, and “Whatever there is” basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) /Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Date & Time of Auction: 27.11.2020 , 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM

Status of Possession-Physical

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 : ROSARB, FAIZABAD				
1.	Borrowers: M/s Krishna Enterprises Through its Partner: 1. Sanjay Singh S/o Late Devi Prasad Singh 2. Suneeta Singh W/o Sanjay Singh Address:- Both resident of 1/5/183, Janaura, Faizabad Guarantors:- 1.Raj Bahadur Pal S/o Vidur Address:-152/142, Parsuhi, Bikapur, Faizabad 2. Dev Bhushan Singh S/o Kaushal kishore Address:- 1616, Janaura, Faizabad Date of Demand Notice: 25.01.2016 Date of Possession Notice: 02.05.2016 Outstanding Amount: Rs.966458.42+Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.04.11.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable mortgage of House No. 7/15/273 (new) 7/15/203 (old), Janaura, Tehsil Sadar, District Faizabad in the name of Sanjay Singh S/o Late Devi Prasad Singh. Total Area 3221.90 sq. ft. Bounded as under: East: 18 ft wide road. West: House of Bhulaaane Pasi North: Plot of Narendra Bahadur Singh, South: Gadhai & House of Shyam Lal	Reserve Price Rs. 13,14,474/- (EM) Rs. 1,31,447.4/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-	05.11.2020 to 26.11.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 05.11.2020 to 26.11.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM

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

Date: 05.11.2020, Place: Faizabad Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

62 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 62 new COVID-19 positive patients have been detected in the district on Wednesday, increasing the total number of cases to 17,121. The day also saw one more death, increasing the toll to 274. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 32 and out of them, 31 have been recovered from home isolation and one from the hospital, increasing the number to 13,457 and 2,828 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 16,285, leaving 562 active cases. The recovery has

declined slightly to 95.11 per cent but the mortality rate has remained at 1.60 per cent.

Meanwhile, senior physician of Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital Dr AK Singh said that though in view to protect us against COVID-19 we wear masks, wash hands frequently and observe physical distance, but forget to sanitise the things we touch most in our daily life. 'We touch mobile phones most frequently. Besides, we also touch laptops, wrist watches, glasses, helmets, rings, necklaces etc. almost daily so we also need to sanitise these things from time to time as they can also prove to be corona carriers,' he said, sug-

gesting that we can clean mobile phones or laptops thoroughly with a clean cloth by mixing detergent powder in some water. Once cleaned with a wet cloth, and then wipe it with a dry and clean cloth. This will clear all the bacteria and viruses from their surfaces. Many cleaning and sterilisation products are available in the market apart from ultraviolet sterilisers which run on electricity, Dr Singh added.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 41 positive patients were found out of 2,765 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,38,052

and the results of 2,439 are awaited. Out of them, 3,20,952 were negative while 17,100 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,54,911. With the addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,342 including 192 red zones. There are 2,150 green zones with 17 new ones. Under ongoing mass/ group antigen tests, all the 234 tests SSPG Hospital, Kabirchaura, 102 at Government Women's Hospital, 50 at CHC Shivpur, 20 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, 206 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and 272 at SSH BHU were found negative.

Governor inspects KV Dham project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Governor Anandiben Patel inspected under-construction Kashi Vishwanath Dham (Corridor), an ambitious project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the third and last day of her visit here on Wednesday. After visiting there, she offered prayer at Dwadasjyotilinga which was performed under the leadership of priest Shrikant Mishra. Later, she inspected the ongoing construction work on the premises where she was given details about the project by the Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sunil Verma. Among those who were also present were UP Ministers Swati Singh and Neelkanth Tiwari, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak and many others.

Meanwhile, Anandiben said that New Education Policy (NEP) encompasses all the dimensions of holistic development of children making them cultured along with giving informative and job-oriented education. 'Various webinars are taking place in the country. The President and Prime Minister, after a full day of talks with the governors, had inquired about the work being done on women and education. Prime Minister himself had given time in making the NEP,' she said stressing the need for its effective implementation right from elementary to high-



Governor Anandiben Patel seeing KV Corridor Project in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

er education. She was presiding over the guiding meeting of teachers of Vidya Bharati and Anganwadi workers at Circuit House auditorium.

Earlier, Anandiben honoured many corona warriors at a function and termed these warriors as a source of inspiration for the society. She said that worldwide coronavirus pandemic was controlled effectively in the country, resulting in fewer deaths and in this, our corona warriors have played an important role. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself told about 140 crore people of the country from time to time to wear masks, maintain social distancing, wash hands with soaps, stay at home during lockdown and care after elderly persons and children properly,' she said, adding that there was maximum testing in UP

and state registered a success in preventing coronavirus by providing timely treatment to positive patients.

She also praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for showing seriousness as he himself visited different districts to see the arrangements being given to treat COVID-19 cases and it is one of the main reasons why the recovery rate has improved and mortality rate declined in the state. 'When coronavirus arrived in the state, there were no facilities of testing labs and treatment but testing labs were built with great readiness apart from making arrangements of testing machines, ventilators and developing isolation wards and beds in the hospitals at a large-scale. Every district was fully equipped and its result was good,' Government added.

Earlier, Municipal Commissioner Gaurang Rath, presenting a report of activities of corona cell, said that about 20,000 frontline corona warriors did impossible tasks during the days of challenges in the district and financial assistance of ₹ 197 crore was made available to the eligible beneficiaries under various government schemes. Besides, he added that 1.31 lakh migrant workers were given employment, 36.66 lakh ration kits and 15.10 lakh food packets were distributed among the needy through government and non-governmental system. At the end, SSP proposed a vote of thanks.

The function was also attended by the DM and several other officers including Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh.

Ex-MLC praises CM for Vindhya project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and ex-MLC Dr Veena Pandey, hailing the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the Vindhya Corridor project, said that it showed his great vision as the Vindh region is found in the references of the Vedas and Puranas which is known as Tapobhumi since the time immortal. 'Vindhya region mainly consists of Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts which had provided backgrounds to many mythological and historical stories. The natural beauty, wildlife, waterfalls and hilly terrains passing through the rivers apart from caves, paintings, gathas (sto-

ries), religious places and Shakti Peetha make the region an attractive place to visit,' she said, adding that this unique backgrounds had provided the ideas to Devakinandan Khatri to pen down his famous novel Chandrakanta and the references of Chunar Fort is also found in his novel 'Bhootnath'.

'Another historical fortress submerged in the valleys of the mountains near Ahraura is still a matter of curiosity,' she said, adding that the inscription of Emperor Ashoka situated on the Bhandari Devi mountain of Ahraura shows the importance of this place.

'The Vindhya region is an ideal historical area from the point of view of tourism and that is why over the years,

Adiguru Govind Singh and Guru Tegh Bahadur of the Sikhs, during their religious visits, went to the gurudwaras located in Ahraura area of Mirzapur where they had signed the religious manuscripts and planted trees,' said the ex-MLA.

Dr Veena Pandey further said that if the waterfalls of Mirzapur, Vindham, Lakhania Dari and others are developed, it can also become the centre of attraction and source of income in terms of tourism.

'The proposed zoo near Zargo would prove to be an ideal project. By constructing the Ashtabhuj ropeway from Kali Khoh, the Chief Minister has done a very commendable and important work in terms of

tourism,' she said, adding that the Kashi to Prayag waterway also has immense possibilities of tourism.

She felt that if Mirzapur and Sonbhadra tourism sites are developed properly, then Vindhya region will prove to be a major attractive tourist destination. 'Not only this, the birth and work places of the famous litterateur Chaudhary Badrinarayan Upadhyay 'Premnaghar' in Mirzapur city should be developed as a memorial of Munshi Premchand has been developed at Lamahi in Varanasi. She urged the government to make efforts of connecting these natural places with tourism considering their importance and possibilities seriously.

Pledge to make Ganga pure & clean

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark the anniversary of the declaration of Ganga as the National River of India, the various organisations on Wednesday pledged to make the holy river pure and clean. The day is observed as Ganga Utsav each year on November 4. The workers of Congress Party gathered at Dashaswamedh Ghat and performed dugdhabhisek of Ganga with panchmewa. The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government had declared Ganga as the National River of India on November 4, 2008 by making its promise and enhancing the glory of the country, they said adding, there is relation of Ganga with salvation.

They made an appeal to the people to make Ganga pure and clean and not dump the garbage into the river as it is also the lifeline of the city. Ganesh Shankar Pandey, Dr Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dr Jitendra Seth, Pramod Verma

and many others were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the officers and employees of the Forest department and the activists of social organisation Namami Gange performed Maha Aarti of Ganga at Dashaswamedh Ghat and took a pledge to make the holy river pure. They also took out march from Dashaswamedh Ghat to Darbhanga Ghat and made the people aware about the cleanliness of the river and ghats as well.

There is a need to attract more youths to the campaign to make the river pure and clean so as it could set an example in the days to come, the Forest Conservative Officer Pramod Gupta and district Forest Officer Mahaveer Kaujlagi said. Ganga is an example of cultural identification of the country and it is our privilege that we are the residents of a city situated along the holy river, the convener of organisation Rajesh Shukla said and emphasised on preserving this rich culture.

Sunita Raway, Darshan Nishad, Shivam Agrahari, Sarika Gupta and Shivdutt Dwivedi were among those present on the occasion.

MANY INJURED IN ROAD MISHAP: In a road mishap, more than a dozen passengers sustained injuries after a bus fell into a deep ditch on Varanasi-Ghazipur route under the Chaubeypur police station on Wednesday. The condition of five injured was stated to be critical and they were admitted to divisional government hospital in Kabirchaura. According to information, a bus was coming to Varanasi from Ghazipur. It was said that when the bus was on the way near Shahpur petrol pump in Chaubeypur police station on Wednesday morning, in the meantime, a cow came on the road suddenly. And, in a bid to save the cow, the bus driver lost control over the steering and the vehicle fell into a deep ditch.

It was said that over a dozen passengers sustained injuries. With the help of local

villagers, the police rushed the injured to the primary health centre in Chairaigan and after the primary treatment; the doctors referred five injured to the divisional government hospital in Kabirchaura in critical condition.

Meanwhile, the city police recovered a huge cache of foreign liquor from a smuggler. According to information, the Ramnagar police got a tip-off about a liquor smuggler at Tengda turn. Acting on information, the police reached the place. Seeing the cops, the smuggler tried to escape from the scene but failed in his bid as the police succeeded in apprehending him. The smuggler was identified as Balveer Singh, resident of Parmeshwarpur in Rohtas. The police recovered a total of 372 pouches of foreign liquor kept in three bags. During the interrogation, the smuggler informed the police that he was waiting to catch a bus to go to Bihar on the instruction of one Anil, resident of a neighbouring state.



Married women pray on the occasion of Karwa Chauth inside the premises of a temple for the long life of their husbands in Prayagraj on Wednesday

Pioneer

Decline in number of corona infected persons in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In the case of corona infection, once again the citizens of the Prayagraj heaved a sigh of relief. There was a decrease in the number of infected within 24 hours. It is because as many as 74 new positive cases of COVID-19 were reported as against 109 cases being reported on Monday. At the same time, more than 173 people beat corona. No Covid infected died for the second consec-

utive day in the district.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, the prevalence of Covid infection has decreased. At the same time, the number of healthy people is constantly increasing. This is the reason that the number of active patients has come down to a minimum level of around three months. On Tuesday, 5,923 patients were screened. There are a total of 1,065 active patients in the district.

According to CMO Dr

Bajpai, 173 patients became infection-free on Tuesday. So far 17,122 patients have completed home isolation. A total of 5,699 infected with 28 patients have been discharged from the hospital after they reported negative.

A total of 62 patients are admitted to L3 SRN Hospital. At the same time, 44 patients are admitted in Beli and 19 in United Medicity. At the same time, six patients were admitted from SRN Hospital, eight

from Beli and 14 from United Medicity were discharged. 145 patients completed home isolation in 24 hours.

On Tuesday, Covid testing was done in other shopping malls including Vinayak City, Big Bazaar, Kolkata Bazar under the Target Group by the Health department. Samples of more than a thousand people were screened. Covid testing was also conducted mainly for security personnel and employees of all malls.

Man, son shot dead over petty dispute

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a shocking incident, a father-son were allegedly shot dead by their neighbours with their licensed DBBL over a petty dispute in Balipur village, under the Hathigawan police station on Tuesday evening.

This Balipur was the same village where a Deputy SP rank police official was killed by an infuriated mob in 2013.

Upon being alerted, senior police officials including SP (Pratapgarh), Additional SP (West), Deputy SP (Kunda) and forces of six police stations rushed to the spot and carried out an investigation. A heavy police force has been deployed in Balipur and adjoining areas to maintain law and order. The accused managed to flee from the village.

The deceased identified as Rajendra Bahadur Singh (50) and Abhay Pratap Singh (22), were residents of Balipur. IG (Prayagraj range) KP Singh said that a dispute over hang-

ing electric wire led to the killing of father and son in Balipur village. He added that the incident took place when a rice laden tractor belonging to Ranjeet Singh and his brother Bipin Singh was approaching their house. As the electric wire connection of the victim's house was hanging on low height was causing disturbance to the movement of rice laden tractor-trolley, two opposite camps of Ranjeet and Rajendra Bahadur came at loggerheads and exchanged heated words.

The scene took an ugly turn when Ranjeet Singh and his supporters allegedly attacked the victim with sticks and later opened fire, killing the father-son duo on the spot. The firing incident created panic in the village and locals too came out and assembled on the spot. The police, however, managed to pacify the anger of the villagers and assured that stringent action would be taken against the culprits.

IG, meanwhile, said that

three teams have been formed to nab the culprits. He added that police have been carrying out a series of raids in the same regard.

SHO CHALLANED FOR NOT WEARING MASK: In Pratapgarh district of UP, the Superintendent of Police got a challan of a SHO of ₹ 100 after the latter was found without putting a mask in the Kohundaur police station. Due to this the other policemen also became panicky and started wearing masks. The SP also reprimanded the female inspector for not maintaining the file. Till the SP's stay at the police station, there was panic among the policemen.

On Wednesday afternoon, SP Anurag Arya suddenly reached Kohundaur police station. During this, the SP's attention first came to the station incharge Rakesh Prajapati. It is the responsibility of the police to control the corona infection, to prevent people from venturing out when they leave the house without wear-

ing a mask. In such a situation, the SP became angry after seeing the SHO responsible for following the rule without putting on a mask.

The SP said that 'when you do this, how else will people wear masks to protect against the coronavirus'. Having said this, he ordered the SO to issue a challan of Rs 100.

Seeing SP's attitude, other policemen also started searching for masks. Some policemen immediately took out the mask placed in the pocket. After this, when the file in the police station was not found to be in proper order, he reprimanded the female sub-inspector Sangeta Devi and said that there should be no such negligence.

SP Anurag Arya said that the police station incharge Rakesh Prajapati and S-I Sangeta Devi have been instructed not to make such a mistake again. People of the police station breathed a sigh of relief after the SP departed from the police station.

290 spl trains catering to NCR stations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

To meet essential travel needs during festivals, 290 special trains including 32 originating special trains and 132 festival special trains including 18 originating festival specials are catering to different stations on North Central Railway.

With gradual increase in level of passenger train operations over NCR, focus is on intensive awareness drives on COVID-19 in stations, trains, colonies, workplaces. Besides

running regular awareness campaigns through different media platforms, railway officials are also participating in different awareness drives in stations, trains, colonies. Jan Aandolan a high intensity awareness campaign concentrated on regular use of mask, maintaining minimum 2 yard physical distance and proper hand hygiene has been running all over NCR since last month. Under this campaign all stations handling passenger traffic and 16 pairs of originating special trains of NCR have been provided with approximately 750 posters and banners on Covid appropriate behaviour; auto announcement on COVID-19 awareness is being made at 85 stations; digital displays of awareness clips at 9 stations and more than 50,000

passengers, Railway employees and other persons have taken pledge for following Covid appropriate behaviour. Approximately 1.3 crore SMS have been sent to passengers and railway employees related to COVID -19 precautions. Social media platforms have also been used extensively and approximately 170 tweets and 35 Facebook posts on COVID-19 related precautions have been shared during last one month.

In view of ensuing festive seasons, special awareness drives are also being conducted involving railway officials. RPF has launched an awareness drive in stations and trains wherein besides creating awareness among passengers RPF is also taking action against violators under different section of Railway Act 1989. Under the 'Meri Saheli' campaign launched for end to end security of women passengers, travellers are also being informed on precautions against COVID-19 besides helping them in security related matters. Door to Door survey to identify persons with COVID-19 symptoms has been done at Prayagraj, Chunar, Mirzapur, Fatehpur, Manikpur and other railway colonies. RPF, Scouts and Guides, Civil Defense, medical and other railway personnel are carrying

out regular awareness campaigns in railway colonies, offices and other workplaces.

As on November 3, 2020 more than 18,000 railway employees and their family members have been screened in five separate clinics running in railway hospitals to identify COVID-19 positive cases. So far, approximately 700 formal and informal training programs have been organised on sanitisation and ICE for house-keeping, paramedical and other railway personnel.

HC DIRECTIVE TO MISHRA'S FAMILY MEMBERS: The Allahabad High Court has directed the family members of the mafia don Vijay Mishra, MLA from Gyanpur, to demolish the unauthorised construction at a shopping complex in Allahpur area, under the Georgetown police station, and inform the court by November 9, 2020.

The Prayagraj Development Authority was all set to pull down the five storeyed building situated in front of Allahpur police outpost. Police force and JCB machines had been pressed to finish the job within hours, but the family members of the don, who in jail, approached the Divisional Commissioner, who stayed the demolition on the request of the petitioners that they would demolish the

unauthorised portions themselves.

The PDA moved the High Court against the order of the Divisional Commissioner, and the court asked the members of the Vijay Mishra family to pull down the unauthorised portions on their own and inform the court by November 9, 2020.

COPS PRAISED FOR WORKING OUT LOOT CASE: The Prayag Vyapar Mandal has congratulated the police for working out the Chowk loot within 24 hours.

It may be mentioned here that on November 2, an employee of Laxmi Hosiery Chowk was sent by the owner Ajay Mehrotra to home with ₹1,32,000. Three motorcycle-borne robbers intercepted the employee on way to the residence of the shopowner, pushed him down, and made a successful escape with the cash. The whole incident, and the robbers were captured in CCTV footage.

Though the shopowner gave a clean chit to all his employees who have been working with him for years together, still the police picked up a couple of them for interrogation, but they were later released. Acting on the inputs and the CCTV footage, the police arrested two of the robbers first, and then the third one was also nabbed.



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Raj Shekhar inspecting the security arrangements at Naubasta Galla Mandi where the EVMs have been kept under tight security. **Pioneer**

DC inspects EVM strong room

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar, on Wednesday, inspected the strong room at Naubasta Galla Mandi where the electronic voting machines (EVMs) used in the Ghatampur bypoll have been kept under top security.

He directed the officials concerned to ensure strict compliance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India for collection, storage and

counting of the votes.

He directed all the senior magistrates and police officials deployed for counting to inspect the strong room daily and check that everything was as per the protocol of the ECI.

The divisional commissioner expressed concern over the failure of the officials concerned to place hand held fire extinguishers outside each strong room for additional fire safety measures in case of any emergency.

He also directed the officials to ensure sufficient storage capacity in the digital video recorders of the CCTVs and regularly back up the CCTV footage in a hard drive under the supervision of the authorised person for data safety and security.

Shekhar was accompanied by ADM (City), ACM-I and police officials concerned.

He said the duty of the police personnel at the strong room needed to be cross-checked to ensure it was prop-

er and directed the officials to ensure they made regular rounds of the strong rooms where the EVMs were kept and in case of any irregularity, immediately bring it to the notice of the officials concerned.

He said entry of outsiders or any political person in the strong room compound was strictly banned.

He asked the officials to ensure transparency in guarding the strong room to allay allegations.

54 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 54 more coronavirus positive cases on Wednesday evening. Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 54 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,111 cases. He said that 17 cases were discharged from hospital and cured figure stood at 7629.

He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Wednesday evening keeping the death toll to 735.

The CMO said at present 615 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4021 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Gang duping people busted, five held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Juhi police busted a gang which duped gullible people by promising them government jobs with the arrest of five persons, including a woman, on Wednesday.

According to Superintendent of Police (South) Deepak Bhuker, a victim, Rohit Kumar of Khamaila under Mangalpur police station of Kanpur Dehat, had lodged an FIR against five persons for duping him by offering to provide him a government job.

Since then, police were carrying out investigation. On the tip-off by the victim, the police arrested all the five accused near a shopping mall in Juhi on Wednesday.

They were identified as Kuldeep Kumar, Amrin Fatima alias Rita of Ghaziabad, Sunil Kumar of Jhunjhnu (Rajasthan); Deepak of Baghpat and Vinay Pal of Jahagirpuri, Delhi.

Police recovered 32 fake joining letters of SBI, Railway, FCI and other government departments, eight mobile phones, five Aadhaar cards and ₹3,700 cash from the accused.

Thief held

KANPUR (PNS): The police arrested one of the thieves who stole cash and valuables worth around ₹10 lakh from the locked house of the Labour department's accounts officer in Keshavpuram Awas Vikas Colony and recovered the stolen articles on Tuesday night.

Addressing media persons, Superintendent of Police (West) Anil Kumar said on the basis of CCTV footages, the police raided the house of Amit Kashyap in Ratanpur, Panki, and arrested him. He said the police recovered the stolen laptop, 12 mobile phones and jewellery from his possession.

All hospitals to have oxygen generation plants

KANPUR (PNS): GSVM Medical College Principal Prof RB Kamal said that the Union health ministry planned to set up oxygen generation plants at all the prominent government hospitals.

He said this was part of the preparedness of the home ministry for the second wave of COVID-19 that was now sweeping many countries.

Prof Kamal said in view of the oxygen crisis which erupted on account of rise in demand for it when COVID-19 as was at its peak in the recent past, the health ministry had issued a directive making it mandatory for all hospitals to have oxygen generation plant.

He said this was being done to provide uninterrupted oxygen to the patients, especially the COVID-19 patients.

He said the health ministry had also issued a directive that private and government hospitals should have enough back-up of oxygen. Prof Kamal said during the peak of COVID-19, there was a massive demand for oxygen and hospitals faced a big challenge in managing the demand.

DM exhorts people to conserve Ganga

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel said that it was the need of the hour that we make the people aware to come forward for the conservation of Ganga in the larger interest of humanity. These views were expressed by him as chief guest at a function organised at Pakka Ghat under the three-day-long Ganga Utsav on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion the DM exhorted the people to conserve Ganga not only under the religious spirit but with its importance for its scientific value. He appreciated the volunteers who were involved with Ganga Aarti for making the people aware to keep the river clean. Under the awareness programme a folk singer, Shiv Lal Gupta, presented a song and made an appeal to people to keep Ganga clean. It was followed by 'Chaular dance' presented by Jata Shankar and his team. The programme concluded



with Ganga Aarti amidst the chanting of Vedic shlokas by a team led by Nitin Awasthi which comprised Aditya Mishra and Bharat Mishra. The DM himself performed the 'aarti' along with his administrative team. Social distancing guidelines were followed during the programme. The Ganga Utsav started on Monday with an essay competition which was convened by DIOS Devki Singh. The students of different categories participated in the competition and certificates were given by the DM at his office.

MEETING HELD: In compliance with the directives

issued by the DG police, ASP (City) Sanjay Kumar held a meeting with the bankers at Police Lines on Tuesday. Addressing it the ASP expected from them to follow all the security norms as per the guidelines and ensure that the devices were operational. He said that the devices should be examined regularly to check whether they were in working order or not. He directed the bankers to install CCTV cameras not only inside the banks but outside too to be aware with the activities. He expected from the branch managers to interact with the customers at different counters not only to be know their problems but with the purpose to know whether any anti-social element had entered the bank in their guise or not. The ASP said though the police was active to look after the activities in the bank premises but the cooperation of bankers was necessary for the smooth running of it's business.

Under-construction auditorium inspected

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vinay Kumar Tripathi along with senior railway officials inspected the 'Darohar Kashi' (archives room) located at GM's office, Gorakhpur, on Tuesday. On seeing the records available in the archives room and rare photographs displayed there Tripathi expressed his happiness. GM also inspected the pavilion building being constructed on Railway cricket ground. After this GM went to Syed Modi went to Railway Stadium. He inquired about various sports played in the stadium and became aware of the remarkable achievements of sportspersons of NER in the sports world. Tripathi appreciated the use of sports facilities and training available under the aegis of North Eastern Railway Sports Association (NERSA) by the players to make their mark in the national and international world and expressed the hope that NERSA will be successful in adding new dimensions to its achievements day by day. The GM also inspected the under-construction auditorium in the stadium. During the inspection GM instructed the authorities concerned to complete all the ongoing construction works within the stipulated time-frame. During the inspection Principal Chief Engineer Satish Kumar Pandey, President/ NERSA and Chief Rolling Stock Engineer Yogesh Mohan,

Secretary/General Manager DK Khare, General Secretary/ NERSA and Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh, Deputy Chief Engineer/ Gorakhpur area Ravinder Mehra and Assistant Sports Officer etc were present.

TWO HELD: Railway Protection Force, North Eastern Railway (NER), makes constant efforts to protect passengers and provide them better travel facilities. the RPF and the Government Railway Police, Prayagraj Rambagh, arrested two persons at Prayagraj Rambagh railway station along with 110 grams of narcotic substance, diazepam and other stolen goods. Action was taken against both the arrested persons under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and the Railway Act and a case was registered against them, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. In the same sequence the RPF post, Gorakhpur, found a boy and a girl, aged 13 and 15 years respectively, in an unclaimed condition at the Gorakhpur railway station on Monday. They were handed over to the Child Line, Gorakhpur. Besides Crime Intelligence Branch (CIB), RPF post, Lucknow, on Monday while checking train no 01804 arrested three persons who were taking 16 minor children, who were around 12 to 15 years of age, to Karnataka illegally.

Five smugglers caught

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Police caught five cattle smugglers and recovered a pistol, two cartridges and four knives from their possession. Two head of cattle which were loaded on the pick-up were rescued by the police. The police produced the smugglers in the court from where they were sent to jail. CO Cant Sumit Shukla said that on Monday night SHO Cant Dinesh Mishra and Engineering College outpost incharge Mahendra Mishra, Betiahata outpost incharge Madan Mohan Mishra along with their colleagues were patrolling when got information about the arrival of some smugglers. The police thereafter started checking the vehicles near Singhadia trijunction. They saw a pick-up and when they signalled its driver to stop its occupants started firing and accelerated the speed of their vehicle. The police encircled them and caught five smugglers. They were identified as Tausif Alam, a resident of Semra Hardo under Kuberthan police station in Kushinagar, Jugnu Ansari, a resident of Pataya under Kasya police station, Sher Mohammad, a resident of Rasulpur under Hata police station, Izamulul Khan, a resident of Rampur Dhautal under Tarkulwa police station in Deoria district along with Azharuddin, a resident of Patya village under Kasya police station. Meanwhile on a complaint lodged by outpost incharge Mahendra Mishra a case was registered against all the accused in this connection.

Ganja recovered

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

SHO Katra Kotwali Ramesh Yadav during his routine patrolling intercepted a suspicious-looking person at the south gate of Roadways located at Station Road. During interrogation he could not give a satisfactory answer to the police about the purpose behind his sitting at the place. On frisking him 1.250 kg of ganja recovered from him. After the recovery the police sent the accused to jail under NDPS act. The accused was identified as Manoj alias Gogai, son of late Kishun, a resident of Purani Dashmi under Katra Kotwali. Meanwhile Jigna police arrested three accused in an attempt to murder case. As per the reports, Sudarshan, a resident of Khaira village, had lodged an FIR on Sunday that Kalandar and four others had tried to kill him but some how he managed to escape. Taking instant action the police arrested three out of the five accused. The accused were identified as Kalandar, Surendar and Raja Ratnakar, a resident of Khaira village. After completing the legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail.

Vigilance Awareness Week concludes

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The Vigilance Awareness Week -2020 concluded at Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company of the Government of India, on Monday. The main function of the closing ceremony was held at NCL headquarters. As per instructions of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), New Delhi, the Vigilance Awareness Week was observed from October 27 to November

2 and the theme this time was 'Vigilant India - Prosperous India.' Director of NCL (Personnel) Bimalandu Kumar was the chief guest while Director (Technical/Operations) Dr A Sinha, Director (Finance) Ram Narayan Dubey and Director (Technical/Project & Planning) SS Sinha were the special guests on the occasion. Besides, the heads of the departments of the headquarters, GMs from all projects along with other offi-

cers and employees were also present. During his address Bimalandu Kumar appreciated the team of Vigilance Department for the successful organisation of the Vigilance Awareness Week. On the occasion Kumar advised all the personnel to remain vigilant, to keep knowledge of the rules and work with transparency. He also mentioned the technical efforts made by the NCL to establish transparency in official work.

DRM presents prizes to winners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager VVK Panjari gave away certificates and prizes to the winners of essay and debate contests organised on the topic 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India' at DRM office (Varanasi division) on Tuesday. The programme also marked the conclusion of Vigilance Awareness Week organised under the auspices of North Eastern Railway Vigilance Organisation. In the essay competition Sujit Chaurasia (office assistant/Personnel) won the first place while Trupti Srivastava (office assistant/ Commercial) and Surendra Yadav (senior clerk/ Operations) secured the second and third positions respectively. In the debate competition Trupti Srivastava stood first while Ashutosh Dubey (junior clerk/Operations) and Sujit Chaurasia



finished second and third respectively. During the Vigilance Awareness Week, various programmes, including pledge-taking function, webinar, events to mobilise employees towards honesty and against corruption were organised. The railway employees were also mobilised to follow rules of the organisation, not to take/give bribe and to do all its work in honest and transparent manner apart from boycotting the corrupt people socially and setting example by showing honesty through one's own conduct. The employees were also made aware to report the incidents of corruption to their officers or agencies concerned. The programme was conducted by Chief Personnel Inspector Rahul Bhatt and the vote of thanks was proposed by Senior Divisional Personnel Officer Sanat Jain.

Madad Rath flagged off to collect complaints from Kanpur citizens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh's Industrial Development Minister Satish Mahana and Kanpur Nagar Mayor Pramila Pandey flagged off the Madad Rath from the Kanpur Nagar Nigam compound in Motijheel on Wednesday.

The Madad Rath will pass through various localities of the city to collect letters stating the grievances of the citizens to prevent them from visiting the municipal corporation office off and on to get the problems solved.

Addressing media persons, Pandey said the Madad Rath had a box in which the citizens could drop their complaint letter.

She said the Madad Rath would also be sent to places usually preferred by the morning walkers. It would also be sent to various parks, markets, office areas and malls.

A KNN team would be deputed to go through these complaints and, after noting them down in the register, they would be forward to the



State Cabinet Minister for Industrial Development Satish Mahana and Mayor Pramila Pandey flag off 'Madad Rath' on Wednesday. **Pioneer**

officers concerned for disposal.

The mayor would also take

stock of the disposal of complaints on a daily basis.

Officials found lax in dis-

posal of complaints would be sternly dealt with, the mayor said.

Massive rush at Kashi Jewellers on Karwa Chauth



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kashi Jewellers, a trusted name that has won the Retailer of the World Award on account of its honesty and innovation, has become one of the most leading jewellers and a name to reckon with. It would be no exaggeration to state that Kashi Jewellers con-

tinue to hold a firm grip on its clientele, more because of its transparency and integrity.

On Karwa Chauth, a massive rush was witnessed at the Kashi Jewellers showroom in Kanpur Nagar.

It displayed one of the finest and modern jewellery in Polki, diamond, platinum, goldtemple, Meenakari,

Kundan jewellery and hundred of other varieties.

The showroom accommodates all kind of jewellery that can be purchased round the year.

Kashi Jewellers president Shreyansh Kapoor said in 70 years of its existence, they had reached the top-most rung of the success ladder more

because of the trust with its clientele and quality.

Kapoor said Kashi Jewellers was a name to reckon with not only at the national level but also at the global level.

He said they had a tough time catering to the massive rush witnessed at the showroom on Karwa Chauth.

People of Bihar prefer politics of good governance: PM

Youth, women see hope in NDA, says Modi

New Delhi: Asserting that the people of Bihar prefer "sushashan ki rajneeti" (politics of good governance), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said only the NDA can provide security, employment and new opportunities of self-employment to the youth of

the state. He also said the youth and women of the state have always been with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and they see hope in the alliance. In a series of tweets in Hindi, Modi said he had the opportunity to meet his "brothers and sisters" of Bihar and seek their blessings during his election rallies in the state over the past few days.

"From the first rally in Sasaram to the last rally in Saharsa, the public gave me a lot of love as always," Modi said.

Bihar has always considered the values of democracy supreme and, therefore, the people of Bihar like "sushashan ki rajneeti" (politics of good governance), Modi said.

"The biggest enemy of development is corruption. It snatches away the rights of the poor," he said.

Modi asserted that by linking bank accounts, Aadhaar and mobile phones, the NDA government has given rights to the poor and closed many avenues for making black

money.

Now the money of most schemes is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the poor, the prime minister said. The Nitish Kumar-led government in Bihar has made "good governance (sushasan)" its major poll plank and has hit out at the RJD-led grand alliance over the issues of corruption and law and order under Lalu Yadav's tenure as the chief minister.

Modi said that in an 'aatmanirbhar' Bihar, the NDA's

goal is maintaining rule of law and ensuring the welfare of the poor.

"Our mission is: opportunities to the youth and security for women, our mantra is: 'Sabka saath, sabka vikaas aur sabka vishvaas'," Modi said.

The poor of Bihar are convinced that "their servant from a backward society, born in poverty, is working in Delhi today and making sure that not a single poor goes to sleep hungry".

In this difficult time of the coronavirus pandemic, free

ration and assistance is being ensured for the poor, he said.

Talking about the NDA campaign rallies for the Bihar assembly polls, he said there was a commonality in them which was increased participation by the youth and the women. If the NDA is continuously winning, it is because of their support, he said.

"It is their blessings that give us the energy to work continuously. The youth and women of Bihar see hope in the NDA," he asserted. Modi's comments follow 12 rallies he addressed in the run-up to the assembly polls, including two on Tuesday.

"As a public servant, the 'touching of feet' of Bihar's land makes me more committed to public service. From political consciousness to social brainstorming, from festivals to food, Bihar is amazing," Modi said.

From the Jan Dhan Yojana to Mudra loan scheme, from the Swachh Bharat

Mission to Ayushman Bharat scheme, from the Ujjwala Yojana to Jal Jeevan Mission, Bihar has covered many important milestones of development, he said. "The people of Bihar have decided that these rapid strides on the path of progress will not stop," Modi said.

"Only the NDA can provide facilities, security, employment and new opportunities of self-employment to the youth of the state," he said.

Modi pointed out that unprecedented investment on modern infrastructure is creating new employment opportunities in Bihar.

Rupees one lakh crore is being given to Bihar under the Mudra Yojana and Stand Up India scheme, the prime minister said. In his tweets, Modi also stated that no one has ever done as much the NDA has done and is doing for farmers.

Mega food parks, modern

cold chains, agro-processing clusters will provide modern agricultural infrastructure to Bihar, he said.

"Growing number of agricultural production associations will increase the strength of small farmers, linking them to larger markets," he said.

Noting that there are products in every district of Bihar which have their own identity, Modi said many things like food, fruits, vegetables, paintings, handicrafts are associated with the identity of Bihar. "Every Bhari has always been vocal for local. The NDA is committed to promoting this identity nationally and internationally," he asserted.

While the first two phases of voting have taken place for the ongoing Bihar assembly polls, the third and final phase will be held on November 7, followed by counting of votes for all 243 assembly seats on November 10.

PTT

Theatres, multiplexes, yoga institutes permitted to resume op from today

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As part of the unlocking of Covid 19-triggered lockdown, the Maharashtra Government on Wednesday announced its decision to allow re-opening of cinema halls,

drama theatres, multiplexes, swimming pools, indoor sports centres and yoga institutes to reopen outside containment zones from Thursday.

However, despite demands from the Opposition BJP and other organisations for the re-opening of temples and places of worship, the State Government made no

announcements to this effect in its notification. In its notification, the Maharashtra Government said that the cinema halls, multiplexes and drama theatres would be allowed to operate with 50 per cent of seating capacity and no eatables will be allowed inside.

The Maharashtra Government, which has extended the lockdown till November 30, announced that

all indoor sports like badminton, tennis, squash and indoor shooting ranges will also be allowed to operate from Thursday.

The State Government also announced that Yoga Institutes outside the containment zones would be allowed to function from November 5, "Swimming pools being used for training of State, National and International level sportspersons, outside the

District Development Council's elections from Nov 28 in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is set to witness maiden polls in which West Pakistani Refugees are going to exercise their right to franchise to fill the seats of District Development Councils (DDC) in eight phases beginning November 28. With the announcement of the poll schedule the model code of conduct has also been imposed with immediate effect.

Addressing a press conference here in Jammu on Wednesday, newly appointed State Election Commissioner KK Sharma along with the Chief Electoral Officer Hridesh Kumar announced that elections for the vacant seats of sarpanchs and panchs and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) will also be held simultaneously with the DDC polls.

The eight phase poll schedule will begin from November 28 and will conclude on December 22. Elaborate security arrangements would remain in place to ensure incident free polls. "We are also taking care of Covid-19 guidelines to ensure safety of voters, especially senior citizens and Covid-19 positive patients," State Election Commissioner said.

The first formal notification for the first phase of elections will be issued on November 5, Sharma said.

He said delimitation has been done for the constituencies and 280 DDCs have been identified across the J&K UT. "The term of the DDC will be for five years," Sharma said.

"Each DDC in J&K has 14 constituencies," Sharma said.

Welcoming the poll announcement, President of the West Pakistan Refugee Action Committee Labha Ram Gandhi told The Pioneer, "We are gearing up to participate in the District Development Council polls and Urban Local bodies". He said, "previously we only voted for Parliamentary polls and in the absence of voting rights in the Assembly and Panchayat elections we were kept out of the grass roots politics. Now we can field our candidates and support them to strengthen the grass roots politics on ground zero". The Chief Electoral Officer Hridesh Kumar told reporters that polling will take place through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) while postal ballots will be available for Covid-19 patients in isolation, senior citizens and physically unwell patients.

State Election Commissioner KK Sharma said that electoral rolls used in Sarpanch and Panch elections that have been updated on January 1, 2020, will be used for the DDC polls.

Polls will also be held subsequently for 228 vacant seats of ULBs. Sharma said that after taking feedback from various security agencies, a proper security mechanism will remain in place and "all concerns have been taken into consideration".

He said the expenditure limit for the DDC polls per candidate is Rs 5 lakh, 1 lakh for Sarpanch seat and Rs 50,000 for Panch seat.

ED officials 'raid' Bineesh's house, offices

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Enforcement Directorate officials who reached Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday conducted 'raids' on in the residence of Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of Marxist strongman Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, and his business premises in the capital city on Wednesday. A simultaneous 'raid' was held in the residence of Bineesh's business associate at Kannur.

It was known from Tuesday itself that the house and business premises of Bineesh and his associates would be raided on Wednesday. Bineesh has been arrested by the ED from Bangalore and he is being questioned about his alleged role in financing drug trafficking.

The ED team went to the residence of Bineesh at a suburb in the capital city. But the house remained locked since the other inmates, Bineesh's father Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, mother Vinodini and wife had shift-

ed to the penthouse apartment of the CPI(M) in the city centre.

The house was opened in the presence of Bineesh's family members and examined by the sleuths. Later, they inspected Car Palace, UAFX Solutions, Torres Remedies, Capito Lights and the office of KK Rock Quarry spread across the city. Padmanabhan, whose son Anand is the managing director of Torres Remedies, told reporters that there was nothing illegal about the functioning of the company and all are free to inspect the papers. He said he knew Bineesh, a good gentleman, for more than a decade.


But ED officials said that there were discrepancies in the details furnished by Bineesh to the Income Tax department as well as the ED. "Though his taxable income for the last seven years has been shown as Rs 1.22 crore, the bank accounts in his name show he had received Rs 5.17 crore. The explanation given by him is not convincing and there are many discrepancies," said an official.


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S.N. 1:- Tender reference No. : E-Tender-L13-20-21, Name of work : Electrical work connection to (I) At Chhapra: Provision of AC lounge in passenger waiting hall and improvement of ladies and gents waiting hall. (II) Sinking of tube well 200/350mm dia at CPK Jn with pump house and generator room.(III)Provision of quick watering system for watering hydrants (04 Nos) at Chhapra railway station, repair of existing hydrant pipe line & AMC of 2 Years for the system installed in quick watering system at Chhapra railway station.(IV) Provision of 6 bedded barrack at MHC for RPF staff. (V) Provision of 20 bedded RPF barrack at CPR. **Approx. Cost (in Rs.) : 4828510.40, Earnest money (in Rs.) 96600.00, Completion Period : 90 Days, Date & Time of Closing Tender : 27.11.2020, 15.00 HRS, Date & Time of Opening Tender : 27.11.2020, 15.30 HRS**
S.N. 2:- Tender reference No. : E-Tender-L14-20-21, Name of work : Electrical work connection to (i) Provision of interlocking of 05 no LC gate irrespective of TUV in BSB Division with RTU & Power supply arrangement (LC No-30 (SBK-GCT, 126/3-4), LC No-28 (SBK-GCT 127/1-2), LC No-46 (PHY-SMZ, 64/1-2), LC No-25 (DHE-MFJ, 39/4-5), LC N0-40 (TOI-DUE, 67/2-3)) (ii) Provision of interlocking of LC gate no 18C (DHE-MFJ, 144C (GB-CG), 2C (ARJ-DHE)) having less than 20000 TVU in BSB division with RTU & Power supply arrangement. **Approx. Cost (in Rs.) : 2254541.52, Earnest money (in Rs.) 45100.00, Completion Period : 90 Days, Date & Time of Closing Tender : 27.11.2020, 15.00 HRS, Date & Time of Opening Tender : 27.11.2020, 15.30 HRS** Full details of E-Tendering shall be seen in Website www.ireps.gov.in
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Bids for following works are invited on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 08.12.2020, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2020_WRD_112914	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of 09 Nos. Minor/Subminor with structures and earth work of Sirmour Distributory, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Rewa	1412.82
2.	2020_WRD_112915	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Balance Work of Bahuti High level canal system off taking from Bansagar Dam main canal (excluding tunnel work) as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Rewa	28274.81

G-15288/20 जव तक कोरोना की दबी नहीं, तब तक खिलाई नहीं। Chief Engineer (Procurement)


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"Selection of Service Provider for supply of Technical Manpower"
"The bids will be received online on the e-portal <http://mptenders.gov.in>, upto the date & time indicated below. The online tenders will be opened in the office of the undersigned as mentioned in tender time schedule (key date). If desired, the bidder or their duly authorized representatives may remain present at the time of opening of tender :-

Sr. No	Tender Specification No	Name of the Work/Services	Estimated Value of work (in INR Lakhs)	Tender Fees (in INR)	EMD (in INR)	Purchase of Tender Start Date online
1	MPLRS/2020/03	Selection of Service Provider for supply of Technical Manpower	544 Lakh	5,000	10,00,000	03/11/2020 at 5.00 PM

For updated / extended due dates for opening of tender please refer to the key dates.
NOTE :-
(a) Other details can be seen in the complete Bid documents available on e-portal <http://mptenders.gov.in>.
(b) Bid documents can be purchased only online and downloaded from <http://mptenders.gov.in> by making online payment for the prescribed non-refundable tender fees. Manual purchase of tender is not allowed.
(c) The relevant portion of tender, which respondents must fill online, would be available on above website on date mentioned against the tender. The Bidders shall have to submit their Bids online and upload the relevant documents / forms as per time schedule (Key Dates).
(d) The required amount of EMD shall be accepted through online mode only. The Bidders are required to invariably upload the valid documentary evidence of submission of online EMD (or EMD Exemption Certificate if applicable) in envelope-A without which online offer i.e., Envelopes-B shall not be opened.
(e) No offer will be accepted without Valid Earnest Money Deposit. If on opening of tender, it is revealed that EMD amount is inadequate / any other discrepancy is noticed, the tender shall be rejected and returned to the tenderer.
(f) The corrigendum or addendum to the bidding documents, if any, as well as any change in due date (s) of opening of tender will be published on the website <http://mptenders.gov.in> but will not be published in newspaper. Hence, participant bidders are advised to regularly visit the websites until the bid opening. The Purchaser shall not be responsible in any way for any ignorance of the bidders about the corrigendum or addendum or change in the due date (s).
(g) The Purchaser reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders or accept any tender in full or part as considered advantageous to the Purchaser, whether it is lowest or not, without assigning any reason whatsoever it may be. The Purchaser shall not be responsible in any way for any ignorance of the bidders about the corrigendum or addendum or change in the due date (s).
(h) The Purchaser reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders or accept any tender in full or part as considered advantageous to the Purchaser, whether it is lowest or not, without assigning any reason whatsoever it may be.
G-15324/20 जव तक कोरोना की दबाई नहीं, तब तक खिलाई नहीं।

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS - 2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming festival season, Railways have decided to run the following additional Festival Special Trains as per details given below:-

Train No.	From-To	Fre-quency	Dates from Originating Station	Stoppages & Accommodation
03257	Danapur- Anand Vihar T. Jansadharan Express	Daily	10.11.2020 to 30.11.2020	Same as Train No. 13257/58 Danapur - Anand Vihar T. - Danapur Jan Sadharan Express Ara, Buxar, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. Varanasi Jn., Lucknow & Moradabad stations. Reserved Second Class
03258	Anand Vihar T. - Danapur Jansadharan Express		11.11.2020 to 01.12.2020	
05529	Saharsa Jn - Anand Vihar T. Jansadharan Exp.	Weekly (WED)	11.11.2020 to 25.11.2020	Same as Train No. 15529/30 Saharsa Jn - Anand Vihar T. - Saharsa Jn Jansadharan Express S Bhakhtiyarpur, Mansi Jn., Khagaria Jn., Begu Sarai, Barauni Jn., Samastipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Bapudm Mothiari, Sagauli Jn., Bettiah, Narkatiaganj Jn., Harinagar, Bagaha, Kaptanganj Jn., Gorakhpur, Basti, Mankapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Sitapur Jn., Chandausi Jn., Moradabad, Hapur & Ghaziabad stations Reserved Second Class
05530	Anand Vihar T. - Saharsa Jn. Jansadharan Express	Weekly (THU)	12.11.2020 to 26.11.2020	
05211	Darbhanga Jn. - Amritsar Jn. Jansadharan Exp.		10.11.2020 to 30.11.2020	Same as Train No. 15211/12 Darbhanga Jn. - Amritsar Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Jansadharan Express Laheria Sarai, Haiaight, Samastipur Jn., Karpoorigram, Dholi, Muzaffarpur Jn., Motipur, Mehsi, Chakia, Pipra, Bapudm Mothiari, Sagauli Jn., Bettiah, Chanpatia, Narkatiaganj Jn., Harinagar, Bagaha, Khada, Siswa Bazar, Ghughuli, Kaptanganj Jn., Pipraich, Gorakhpur, Basti, Gonda Jn., Burhwal Jn.,Mahmudabad Avadh, Sitapur Jn., Sitapur City, Maikalganj, Shahjehanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Najibabad Jn., Laksar Jn., Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cant Jn, Rajpura Jn, Sirhind Jn, Dhandari Kalan, Ludhiana Jn, Phillaur Jn, Phagwara Jn, Jalandhar Cant, Jalandhar City & Beas stations. Reserved Second Class
05212	Amritsar Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Jansadharan Express	Daily	12.11.2020 to 02.12.2020	
05531	Saharsa Jn - Amritsar Jn Jansadharan Exp.	Weekly (Sun)	15.11.2020 to 29.11.2020	Same as Train No. 15531/32 Saharsa Jn - Amritsar Jn - Saharsa Jn Jansadharan Express S Bhakhtiyarpur, Mansi Jn., Khagaria Jn., Hasanpur Road, Rusera Ghat, Samastipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Sonpur Jn., Chhapra, Siwan Jn., Bhatni Jn., Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur, Basti, Gonda Jn., Sitapur Jn., Bareilly., Moradabad., Laksar Jn., Saharanpur, Ambala Cant Jn., Chandigarh, Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar City & Beas stations. Reserved Second Class
05532	Amritsar Jn - Saharsa Jn Jansadharan Express	Weekly (Mon)	16.11.2020 to 30.11.2020	


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Security Helpline No. 182

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Note : All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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India-China's 8th round of talks on November 6



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A stalemate continues at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India and China will hold the eighth round of Corps Commander level talks on November 6. The two top military officers will review the current situation at the border and devise ways to hasten disengagement and de-escalation, sources said here on Wednesday.

The last round of military level parleys were held on October 13 at Chushul-Moldo border meeting at the LAC in Ladakh. The two sides agreed to sustain the momentum of dialogue and maintain peace and tranquility at the LAC.

Incidentally, the forthcoming talks will see a new Indian Corps Commander Lt General P G K Menon. His predecessor Lt General Harinder Singh has taken over as the Commandant of the prestigious Indian Military

Academy (IMA), Dehradun. He held the previous seven rounds of talks with his Chinese counterpart Major General Liu Lin.

The next round of talks comes in the backdrop of the military and diplomatic level parleys so far not making much headway. The sixth round of Corps Commander level talks on September 21 saw both the sides issuing a joint statement for the first time stating that both the countries should not send more troops to the border.

While India has all along favoured talks to resolve the border dispute now on for the last six months, the security establishment is prepared for a long haul.

The Army has pumped in additional 30,000 troops in Ladakh and they join the existing force levels for deployment in the winter months there. Moreover, the last few months saw the Indian army aided by the IAF ramping up its

winter stocking in terms of logistical supplies and prefabricated huts. The special winter clothes and insulated huts will help the soldiers withstand harsh cold when temperatures dip to minus 20 to 25 degrees. The Chinese are also taking similar measures.

Meanwhile, the two sides have reaffirmed their resolve to follow the five-point plan mutually agreed by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese Wang Yi in bilateral talks in Moscow on September 10. The two ministers also stressed the need for continuing the dialogue in an effort to disengage as soon as possible. The talks were held on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers conclave.

At present, the entire 1,700 km long LAC in Ladakh is tense with both the armies deploying a total of more than one lakh troops besides heavy weapons.

Moreover, the next round of talks will take place when the Quad countries including India, US, Japan and Australia are taking part in the Malabar series of naval exercise off the Bay of Bengal. China had objected to the inclusion of Australia in the exercise held annually. However, India went ahead and invited the Australian navy for the prestigious event.

Faulty policies of Modi Govt behind skyrocketing edible oil prices: Rahul



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that the prices of edible oil are "skyrocketing" because of the "faulty" policies of the Government and even the festival spirits have been dampened due to it.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi tweeted while farmers are already bearing the price of the Centre's faulty farm policies, consumers are feeling the pinch of rising retail prices.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said people were already "struggling" with prices of onion, potato, tomato and now around the festival season, they are also grappling with the high prices of cooking oil. "Prices of edible oil are skyrocketing because of the failures of the central government," Shrinate said at AICC Press briefing.

Prices of groundnut oil, soya bean oil, mustard oil, sunflower oil and peanut oil have risen only because of the

"faulty" policies of this government," she alleged.

"Oil is used by everyone who cooks in India. So from the poorest person to the richest man and there is no elasticity in demand here," she said. "They (the government) should have taken care of this. You cannot make basic commodities unaffordable. You have made a basic commodity unaffordable in India," Shrinate said.

She said the poor were struck by a "double whammy" as unlike high prices earlier, the rise in prices now have been preceded by job losses and wage cuts.

"Which is where this government is immoral, which is where this government is inefficient and we strongly call out inefficiency and immorality of theirs," Shrinate said.

The UPA government had started a big mission, but this government did not take it to its logical conclusion and that is why the price of edible oils has increased between 33 per cent and 50 per cent, she said.

"Today, we see that the dishes before the festivals have been devoid of their sweetness, because the prices of the oil they will be cooked in are on fire," Shrinate said.

Delegates from 40 countries to attend EC's global event



EMBs/Organisations in 2014 Lok Sabha elections; elections for a few State Assemblies in Feb/March 2017 and Lok Sabha Elections in May 2019.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission is organising an International Virtual Election Visitors Programme 2020 (IEVP) for foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and Organisations from November 5 to 7, in the context of the ongoing Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections. Delegates from over 40 countries across the world including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Maldives, Moldova, Mongolia, Mauritius, Nepal, Philippines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Zambia etc. and 3 international organisations (viz. International IDEA, International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) and Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) have been invited to participate in the IEVP.

In the past, EC has organized International Election Visitor Programmes (IEVPs) for foreign

The programme IEVP 2020 comprises an online briefing session on Nov 5 which will provide to the participants an overview of the large canvas of Indian electoral process, the new initiatives taken by EC on voter facilitation, transparency and accessibility of electoral system; and EC's response to the changing needs of training and capacity building.

On the second day, the Programme will provide a unique overview of the Commission's flagship programme for voter awareness – SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation).

The Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar will share the State's experiences with the global audience.

On the last day, the participants are being invited to a virtual tour of polling stations in Bihar.

The visit will be amplified by exclusive footage, a walk-through of the electoral process, and various arrangements at the polling station for a free, fair, participative and safe election.

SC junks plea for framing guidelines to regulate work of private detectives



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to frame guidelines to regulate the work and domain of private detectives till a codified act comes into existence.

The plea had also sought directions to the government to set up a mechanism to prevent transmission of unlawfully procured personal details of Indian citizens to foreign countries.

"You please withdraw it or we will dismiss it," a bench headed by Justice R F Nariman told senior advocate Vibha Datta Makhija, who was appearing for the petitioner.

Makhija, who argued that snooping by private agencies is not regulated and the issue is needed to be considered, withdrew the petition.

The plea, filed by a Haryana-based woman, alleged that two private detectives who are directors of a Delhi-based company had illegally recorded and filmed her personal details without authorisation from any authority and forwarded them to a person based in the US.

The petition alleged that the US national is using those "fraudulently procured details" in a court of law there.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, the bench asked Makhija, "You only tell us as to how we can issue a writ of mandamus to a private body?" "Can we issue writ to such persons," the bench, also comprising justices Navin Sinha and Krishna Murari, said.

The petitioner's counsel said that writ of mandamus can be issued to the Ministry of Home Affairs and there is no law to regulate this.



An advanced version of the DRDO-developed Pinaka successfully flight tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, on Wednesday. A total of 6 rockets were launched in series and all the tests met complete mission objectives. Agency

Rise in Covid cases in India after brief lull

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After registering a fall in weekly new coronavirus cases, dropping to almost 38,000 on Monday, India registered a rise on Wednesday in cases with 46,253 fresh infections, taking the Covid-19 tally to 83,13,876. The good news is that 53,357 patients have been recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours, higher than those who were infected during the same period.

The total recovered cases are more than 76.5 Lakhs (76,56,478) thereby enhancing the difference with respect to the active cases. In another



achievement, the national Recovery Rate has surpassed 92 per cent, said the Union Health Ministry.

The death toll has spiked to 1,23,611 after 514 more fatalities were reported, as per the Ministry. The average daily Covid deaths have declined from 1,165 recorded during the Covid peak in mid-September to about 500 in the past week, the Ministry has said.

SC's guidelines for payment of maintenance in matrimonial cases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday laid down guidelines for interim compensation and quantum of maintenance in matrimonial cases to ensure uniformity and consistency in practice adopted by different courts.

A bench of Justices Indu Malhotra and R Subhash Reddy said directions are required to be passed to overcome the issue of overlapping jurisdiction and avoid conflicting orders.

The apex court issued guidelines on aspects of -- Issue of overlapping jurisdiction, payment of interim maintenance, criteria for determining the quantum of maintenance, date from which maintenance is to be awarded and Enforcement / Execution of orders of maintenance.

On overlapping jurisdiction, the top court directed that where successive claims for maintenance are made by a party under different statutes, the court would consider an adjustment or set off of the amount awarded in the previous proceeding/s while determining whether any further amount is to be awarded in the subsequent proceeding.

"It is made mandatory for the applicant to disclose the previous proceeding and the orders passed therein, in the subsequent proceeding. If the order passed in the previous proceeding/s requires any modification or variation, it would be required to be done in the same proceeding," the bench said.

The bench directed that to avoid conflicting orders in a subsequent maintenance proceeding, the applicant shall disclose the previous maintenance proceeding, and the orders passed therein.

Covid patients suffer due to lung damage: Study



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Extensive lung damage caused by the persistence of coronavirus induced abnormal "fused cells," is the reason for long sufferings such as tiredness and lack of breath of the Covid-19 infected patients, a study published in The Lancet's eBioMedicine has said.

The observation by the scientists explains the reasons for Covid-19 patients' complaining of fatigue and breathlessness besides other symptoms.

Researchers led by King's College London analysed the organs of 41 patients who died of Covid-19 at the University Hospital of Trieste, Italy. The team took lung, heart, liver, and kidney samples to examine the behaviour of the virus.

The findings showed extensive lung damage in most cases, with patients experiencing profound disruption of the normal lung structure and the transformation of respiratory tissue into fibrotic material.

Almost 90 per cent of patients showed two additional characteristics that were

quite unique to Covid-19 compared to other forms of pneumonia.

First, patients showed extensive blood clotting of the lung arteries and veins (thrombosis). Second, several lung cells were abnormally large and had many nuclei, resulting from the fusion of different cells into single large cells.

This formation of fused cells (syncytia) is due to the viral spike protein, which the virus uses to enter the cell. When the protein is present on the surface of cells infected by the Covid-19 virus, it stimulates their fusion with other normal lung cells, which can be a cause for inflammation and thrombosis," the authors wrote in a paper published in

The Lancet's eBioMedicine, by King's College London in collaboration with University of Trieste and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biology in Italy.

Additionally, research showed the long-term persistence of the viral genome in respiratory cells and in cells lining the blood vessels, along

Chances of coronavirus infection high if you have gastrointestinal symptoms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

If you are showing gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea, then chances are high that you might be infected with Covid-19.

A team of researchers, after examining findings from 36 studies published through July 15, said "There's a growing amount of literature showing that abdominal symptomatology is a common presentation for Covid-19."

Abdominal radiologists must remain vigilant during the pandemic while imaging patients, said the researchers in their study published in the journal Abdominal Radiology.

Mitch Wilson, a radiologist and clinical lecturer in the University of Alberta in Canada said "that In addition to gastrointestinal symptoms, they also determined potential signs radiologists should look for while conducting abdominal imaging that could be evidence of COVID-19 infection."

Those signs include inflammation of the small and large bowel, air within the bowel wall (pneumatosis) and bowel perforation (pneumoperitoneum). The signs are quite rare, said the researchers, and could indicate patients with advanced disease.

"Seeing these things is not necessarily telling us a patient has COVID-19," said Wilson. "It could be from a variety of potential causes. But one of those potential causes is infection from the virus, and in an environment where COVID-19 is very prevalent, it's something to consider and potentially raise as a possibility to the referring physician," he said.

The researchers cited ten studies of 23 patients (2 of which are pediatric cases) demonstrating thickening of various regions of the small and large bowel wall. Hyperemia and mesenteric thickening have also been observed in tandem with bowel wall thickening, they said.

with the infected cell syncytia. The presence of these infected cells can cause the major structural changes

observed in lungs, which can persist for several weeks or months and could eventually explain 'long Covid'.

Cough droplets may travel 6 metres in wind: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A single cough droplet — under wind speed of two metres per second — can travel up to 6.6 metres and even further under dry air conditions due to droplet evaporation, researchers have found after they incorporated important aspects of fluid physics to deepen the understanding of viral transmission.

In a paper published in the journal 'Physics of Fluids', researchers from the Institute of High Performance Computing in Singapore conducted a numerical study on droplet dispersion using high fidelity air flow simulation.

"In addition to wearing a mask, we found social distancing to be generally effective, as droplet deposition is shown to be reduced on a person who is at least one metre from the cough," said study author Fong Yew Leong.

A typical cough emits thousands of droplets across a wide size range. The scientists found large droplets settled on the ground quickly due to gravity but could be projected one metre by the cough jet even without

wind. Medium-sized droplets could evaporate into smaller droplets, which are lighter and more easily borne by the wind, and these travelled further.

The researchers offer a more detailed picture of droplet dispersion as they incorporated the biological considerations of the virus, such as the nonvolatile content in droplet evaporation, into the modelling of the airborne dispersion of droplets.

"An evaporating droplet retains the non-volatile viral content, so the viral loading

is effectively increased," said author Hongying Li.

"This means that evaporated droplets that become aerosols are more susceptible to be inhaled deep into the lungs, which causes infection lower down the respiratory tract, than larger unevaporated droplets."

The researchers used computational tools to solve complex mathematical formulations representing air flow and the airborne cough droplets around human bodies at various wind speeds and when impacted by other environmental factors.

Delhi airport on alert

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After a banned pro-Khalistan outfit, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), threatened to disrupt two Air India flights scheduled to leave for London on November 5, security has been beefed at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in national Capital. On Wednesday, a meeting was also held between officials of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Delhi Police, Air India and Delhi International Airport Limited on Wednesday to discuss the massive security arrangements put in place.

Similarly, a meeting was held on Tuesday in this regard by CISF officials and Delhi Police officials also attended the meeting, police said. Police said that United States (US)-based SFJ had issued a call to

boycott Air India flights and urged the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to occupy the airport to internationalise the issue.

"Police have tightened security arrangements after inputs were received that Sikhs for Justice has threatened to disrupt operations of two Air India flights scheduled for London tomorrow," said Rajeev Ranjan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), IGI Airport.

"Though the airport is a secure place but based on the inputs received by the police adequate security arrangements have been made for the safety of passengers," said the DCP.

SFJ, which has been pushing for Sikh Referendum 2020 as part of its separatist agenda, was banned by the government for its alleged anti-national activities.

In an offshoot of a reconciliation of deaths carried out by the health authorities in Pune where the number of fatalities shot up by 175, the daily Covid-19 toll went up by 300 in Maharashtra on Wednesday, while and 5,505 people tested positive for Covid-19 in various parts of the state. In addition to 125 deaths reported from various parts of the state, the state authorities added 175 fatalities to the tally, taking the total number of deaths for the day to 300.

"Because of the reconciliation process of deaths in Pune today, there has been an increase in the progressive death figures of Pune rural and Pune

Daily Covid toll goes up by 300 in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Municipal Corporation by 116 and 59 respectively. Therefore, the total death figure of the state has increased by 175," the daily medical bulletin stated.

With fresh infections, the total infected cases jumped from 16,92,693 to 16,98,198. Similarly, the Covid-19 toll rose from 44,248 to 44,548. As 8728 more people were discharged from

various hospitals the number of people discharged from the hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 15,40,005. The recovery rate in the state rose from 90.46 per cent to 90.68 per cent.

Of the 300 deaths (which included 175 old deaths) reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 29

deaths, followed by 19 in Pune, 13 in Nagpur, 11 in Thane, 7 each in Nashik, Ahmednagar and Chandrapur, 5 in Solapur, 4 in Sangli, 3 each in Raigad and Satara, 2 each in Palghar, Parbhani, Latur, Yavatmal and Gondia and one death each in Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Buldhana and Gadchiroli.

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Fractured mandate

Every four years, the world looks at the US and wonders why its Presidential election system is so convoluted



At the time of writing, the United States still did not know who would be its President starting January. On American news channels, there was an amazing granularity of data but the anchors and analysts predicted recounts and major legal challenges remain. Like India, most other major democratic nations are wondering why the election to determine the leader of the world's largest economy and military is so confusing. Part of the reason is a 19th century system devised to protect the rights of the States in the US, the so-called "Electoral College", so as to prevent the highly populous metropolitan States from dominating the less

populated States in the middle of the country. This is why several times since the 2000 election, which pitted Al Gore versus George W Bush, the winner of the popular vote, often by a massive margin, lost the election. Think of the American system as a "first past the post" system, but a very confusing one with each State given a certain number of electors. The winner of the popular mandate in the concerned State, even by a single vote, takes the entire boatload of electoral votes. To transpose that system here, in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, one of the most highly contested States was West Bengal, and while the BJP did well there, the Trinamool Congress got more votes by a narrow margin of three per cent and by American electoral logic would have received all the 42 seats from that State instead of the 22-18 split that happened. That does not make sense. A completely proportional allocation of votes, maybe rewarding the State's winner by giving him/her extra votes, might make more sense and also allow more equality to the vote. Currently, the States of California, New York and Texas, the three most populous States in the Union, are not even in play and almost beholden to one party. In many other nations, such a proportional system will lead to decades of unstable coalitions, but the fiercely protected political duopoly in the US might even allow this to make sense. However, highly fractured as it is, with extremists from both sides controlling the overall political discourse, the US, much like India to an extent, finds itself a divided nation where voters have piled themselves into silos, refusing to even hear sane voices from the other side. The death of centrism is an issue that is befalling almost every democracy across the world.

With States such as Pennsylvania, in whose largest city Philadelphia the "Declaration of Independence" of the US was drafted, saying that they might take up to 10 days to count the votes, and that State becoming as vital as Florida was in 2000, it might be sometime before the final tally and winner is known. Another wrinkle is that mail ballots can come in several days after Election Day and still be counted, as long as they are postmarked by then. Democrats have argued that the flood of absentee ballots and slow mail delivery in some areas make such a precaution necessary. For example, mail-in ballots from Nevada voters are not due until November 10 if postmarked by Election Day and in North Carolina till November 12. But with both candidates making public stands, Donald Trump promising to fight this out legally, it might be a long time before any result is known and that could make the fractures inside the US a lot, lot worse. Meanwhile, Biden's campaign manager has legal teams standing by if Trump follows through with his threat of challenging the vote counts. His statement about wanting the Supreme Court to play a proactive role in case of a disputed election and the hurried confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett to the top court days before Election Day paint a picture of desperation. However, never in the history of the US has a President refused to concede the election. But again, this is Trump. For now, both Trump and Biden have their eyes set on the three northern industrial States, also known as the swing States — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, which could very well determine who wins. And in the end, even if Trump wins, his brazen call to halt counting from the podium of the White House on the supposition that his margins are way too wide for anybody to catch up with, is unprecedented. For it not only desecrates the institution of democracy and disenfranchises voters, it also sets a precedent for other authoritarian world leaders to follow. Simply because it was done by the US President. Every vote counts and numbers have to matter over the war of perception and manipulation.

Quad drills begin

The naval exercises by US, India, Japan and Australia in Bay of Bengal firm up a coordinated maritime alliance to tame China



The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad has finally taken off with four member States — US, India, Japan and Australia — conducting joint naval exercises in the Bay of Bengal. This is the first step in the operationalisation of a maritime alliance that is intended to counter China's expansionism in the Indo-Pacific region by a coordinated response plan and sharing each other's military strengths. It solidifies the consensus between four nations to act equally together regardless of a Chinese hitback against them individually, something which had held back the Quad all these years and fuelled the dragon's ambitions. In fact, India itself had

soft-pedalled the Quad initiative, hoping to deepen transactional ties with China given its economic dependencies. But China's routine border incursions, justifying them on the ground of perceptual differences over the unmarked Line of Actual Control (LAC), and finally the clash in Ladakh, changed all that. India realised that for all the years of bilateral talks, based on looking at issues other than the thorny boundary question, were just a fig leaf for China's naked territorial ambition. And as the standoff at Ladakh and Beijing's insistence on restoring claimed positions of 1959 prove, it won't settle or give up land that suits its strategic dominance in the region. And given China's economic and military heft, India has realised that it needs to make common cause with the US, which is the only polarity capable of challenging and neutralising China, and put pressure on another front, the sea routes. In fact, it is at US insistence that India has firmed up its commitment to Quad and even welcomed Australia to the war drills. Predictably, China is anxious.

India has been wary of Australia for a long time as China continues to be that nation's largest trading partner, accounting for 32.6 per cent of its exports. India had never thought that Australia would do anything to jeopardise this mutually beneficial relationship. But in a post-pandemic world, which has been entirely the fallout of China's negligence and its neo-imperialism in a weakened economy, new allies are realising that without a common bulwark, there's no chance of standing up to China's might. Virus-hit badly, Australia had, with US encouragement, spearheaded a petition for a neutral, global investigation into COVID-19's origin and China's complicity in it. Our eastern neighbour, which now sees both India and Australia as US stooges, immediately responded, imposing an 80 per cent tariff on Australian barley and banning beef imports. Ever since, Australia has been looking to find allies where it can divert its exports and whom it can stand with. That led to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Australia. With the biggest democracies with stakes in the region now collectively committed to preserving open waters and holding off China's misadventures, a robust Quad can encourage smaller States to coalesce together against Chinese assertiveness and debt-trap diplomacy. And if mutual interests find congruence, then over time it could become a NATO-like presence in Asia that could stand up to China's bullying tactics. Most significantly, the military alliance could also be extended to an economic coalition of sorts, for example, by setting up a Quad Free Trade Agreement (FTA). An alternative supply chain and market would reduce the region's dependence on China. With this consolidation, Beijing could have a tough time monitoring the entire South China Sea, which it claims as its sovereign territory.

An old story retold in France

Nobody is to be blamed except the short-sightedness of the majority as well as its lack of will to unite and find a solution



PRAFULL GORADIA

French President Emmanuel Macron must have had the best intentions in mind when he proposed to pass a legislation to defend the secular values of the country. The Christians see the proposed law as a welcome anti-separatist drive which is long overdue. As the President has said, "Secularism is the cement of a united France." Many others would agree with him. The Americans are proud of the wall of separation that their Constitution has built between religion and the State. But hardly any Muslim can see eye to eye with this view.

The reason is that Islam does not approve of religion being separate from the State or, for that matter, distinguish between any aspect of life and religion. Prophet Muhammad was also the ruler of Hejaz (Mecca and Medina area). He was simultaneously a trader, soldier and a family man. So were his representatives or Caliphs; the last of whom was at once the head of Sunni Islam and the Sultan of Turkey. There was and is no gulf between the spiritual and the material. Islam is a comprehensive prescription of life and does not permit any compartmentalisation. This is unlike the Bible, which expounded early in the Old Testament that give unto Caesar what is his and keep for God what is his.

The Reformation, which was led by Martin Luther and John Calvin in the 16th century, was possible only because it was consistent with what was ordained in the Christian holy book. No Pope, then or later, stood in its path with any degree of determination. In fact, the first separation in Christianity took place early in the fourth century when Emperor Constantine moved from Rome and encouraged the formation of the Orthodox Eastern Church, based in now what is Istanbul. His mother Helena had the Church built at Nazareth in dedication to Roman Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. Hagia Sophia was built by the Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian in 537, which has recently been reconverted into a mosque by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey.

The Eastern Church does not accept the belief in the Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. It confines its theology to the first two whereas the Roman Catholics have full faith in the Trinity. In other



words, the two Churches, the Roman and the Eastern differed on a canonical principle. Islam, on the other hand, has not permitted any difference of belief on a canonical basis. The Sunnis and the Shias split on the question of who should be allowed to be the Caliph. The latter felt that he should belong to the bloodline of Prophet Muhammad whereas the former believed that he could be anyone from the Quraish tribe. The Shias fell because Imam Hussayn, the grandson of the Prophet, was denied his rightful succession to his father Hazrat Ali, who was a nephew of Muhammad.

What is being emphasised here is that there is a gulf between Islam and Christianity, which Muslims are unable to bridge with secularism. A wall is being built between religion and the State. India has had a similar experience. In order to avoid Partition in 1947, Mahatma Gandhi went to the extent of inviting Mohammed Ali Jinnah to be the Prime Minister of an undivided India with full discretion. But even that failed to bring about a reconciliation. This was notwithstanding the Muslims having lived in India since the early 13th century. Until the British began to capture power in India since 1757, Muslims ruled the greater parts of the subcontinent as sultans, nawabs or badshahs. Muslims do not enjoy democracy and secularism as these contradict the Quran, which does not prescribe anything like the Biblical recommendation of God and Caesar being given their separate roles on earth.

“THE ROOT OF THE PRESENT TROUBLE IN FRANCE MAY BE IN THE FAILURE OF PRESIDENT ERDOGAN TO HELP TURKEY JOIN THE EUROPEAN UNION. HAD HE SUCCEEDED, TURKISH PEOPLE COULD HAVE MOVED TO WHEREVER THEY CHOSE AND THE DREAM OF EURABIA COULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED”

Sharia or the Islamic law originates from the Quran and is, therefore, indispensable to Muslims. How can a truly secular country have two different laws being followed by different communities? In India, we have the extraordinary situation of polygamy or even bigamy being prohibited since 1955. Yet the Muslim men can have up to four spouses. Our Constitution, in its Preamble, calls India secular but that is a different matter.

Islamic theology recommends that Muslims should ideally reside in a *Darul* Islam or land of Islam. India or rather the Mughal empire was a *Darul* Islam until the reign of Bahadur Shah Zafar (1857-58). When the Queen of England took over from the East India Company, it became *Darul Harb* or land of conflict. The Muslim endeavour should be to reconvert it back into *Darul* Islam; if that is not possible, Muslims should undertake *hijrat* or migration to a country which is a *Darul* Islam. In 1920, as a result of a feared failure of the Khilafat movement, half a million Indian Muslims set off for Afghanistan. While some 20,000 odd remained there, the rest were deported by the Kabul Government.

The root of the present trouble in France may be in the failure of President Erdogan to help Turkey join the European Union. Had he succeeded, Turkish people could have moved to wherever they chose, and the dream of Eurabia could have been achieved. On the rebound, Erdogan turned towards dreaming about a Caliphate. Until 1924, the Sultan

of Turkey was the Caliph of all Sunni Muslims. Mustafa Kemal Pasha abolished the institution and exiled him. Nevertheless, Erdogan, evidently, is unable to take his eyes off Europe and has encouraged a significant number of available men of any nationality to infiltrate France to kill and terrorise Christian Frenchmen. Little wonder then that President Macron has ordered several hundred *imams* to leave France.

The killer of the schoolteacher, Samuel Paty, was an illegal immigrant and the recent killers at Nice were also similar infiltrators. Legalised Muslim settlers in France would be opposed to the killing as a pathway to Eurabia. They would prefer the quiet strategy of big families and encouraging more immigration from say, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The French welfare rules are such that a family of five or six children can sustain a middle-class life without anyone having to work. The Government introduced such liberal rules in order to encourage larger White families but they are being constructively used by the settlers who live in Benelux or the thousands of apartments in tall buildings around cities.

This tale of France is not a new one. India went through a somewhat similar experience which resulted in the birth of Pakistan. Nobody is to be blamed except the short-sightedness of the majority as well as its lack of will to unite in order to find a solution.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

Our election infrastructure is resilient and we have no indications that a foreign actor has succeeded in compromising or affecting the actual votes cast in this election.

US Homeland Security Secretary
—Chad Wolf



We don't want to stop the development of country in any way, but forest is a natural wealth, which cannot be eroded either.

Chief Justice of India
—SA Bobde



The UK Government has enforced a second lockdown. The State Cabinet should consider this development seriously. Sunburn should not be held this year.

Former Deputy CM
—Sudin Dhavalikar



I believe both Roger (Federer) and Rafael (Nadal) are legends in their own way. They have always inspired us in many ways and it is always a treat to watch them play.

Badminton player
—PV Sindhu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liberal values

Sir — I read the article, *Behadings in France*, by A Surya Prakash, published in this paper on November 3, with great interest and was immediately transported to my youthful days when the world was quite different from what it is today. Most of the Muslim countries were fairly liberal in their outlook. However, things began to change and liberal Islamic regimes gave way to hardcore politics one after another. And now they have moved to the next level. Extremist forces have spread their wings beyond the so-called Islamic world and secular, democratic and liberal countries, where they have migrated by choice, are their present victims. It is a matter of both anger and concern not just for France alone but for everyone who cares about liberal and democratic values. It is so easy to lose one's cool on such emotive issues but I found the said article so restrained, balanced, logical and objective.

As a senior and matured journalist, Prakash has handled this sensitive subject deftly and with a great sense of responsibility. Points have been made in a calm, dignified and dispassionate man-

ner but without losing the punch and force of his contentions.

Dhirenjan Mahvey

Social responsibility

Sir — The Delhi Government has launched a campaign to urge people not to burn firecrackers this Diwali as the air quality continues to deteriorate, which is of great concern this

year owing to the relentless COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has also published a list of over 800 open spaces across the city where people will be permitted to burn "green" firecrackers between 8 pm and 10 pm on November 14.

In 2018 and 2019, despite the ban on the sale of traditional firecrackers, pollution levels in the city saw a major spike after

Diwali. This was mainly due to the lack of availability of low-emission varieties of firecrackers and limited awareness among the people. Though the State administration has taken its own sweet time to take the much-needed step, it is now crucial that people act responsibly and follow the guidelines provided. Also, other States should follow the lead, allow only the use of green



Constitution guarantees religious freedom to its citizens and it cannot be denied by the State. Those in power must not think of inter-faith marriages in terms of their effect on the country's demographic profile. On the contrary, they should support genuine inter-faith marriages to strengthen bonds between communities.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

crackers and promote such campaigns on their social media handles.

Bikash Barpujari
Guwahati

Disturbing the peace

Sir — The caricaturing of Prophet Muhammad in a French magazine triggered the violent beheading of a school teacher and some others by radicalised Muslims. It is true that the magazine invited unnecessary trouble. However, it is no justification to perpetrate violence. Also, freedom of expression should be used wisely and not to vitiate an otherwise peaceful atmosphere.

Freedom of expression has also been misused in India and it is time that courts take cognisance of people hurting religious sentiments and ensure swift action against them. It is crucial that people disturbing the peace and creating an atmosphere of animosity be given the same condign punishment as the perpetrators of violence that have resulted in fatalities and injuries.

KV Seetharamiah
Hassan

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Mine precious biomass

Use it to produce fuel, textiles, electricity, raw materials and have more natural end-products with a significantly smaller environmental impact



FAIZUR REHMAN

An average of 50 million tonnes of agro-biomass such as rice straw are set on fire every year in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Punjab and Haryana, contributing significantly to the air pollution woes of these States as well as the national Capital. Data released by the Central Government revealed that in September, the concentration of poisonous PM2.5 particles in a cubic metre of air averaged at 47.64 micrograms, 17 per cent higher from the same month last year. In places like Haryana and Faridabad, the average Air Quality Index (AQI) ranged from 203 to 245 and the AQI of Delhi ranged from 234 to 269, which is “poor.” Frighteningly, this is almost twice the “safe” level prescribed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Much has been debated about this pollution problem and some solutions have been proffered. A very practical remedy that can not only do away with the practice of crop-burning but improve the livelihoods of farmers is using agricultural waste to produce valuable products and growing alternate crops that provide both ample food and substantial biomass.

Why agricultural waste isn't really waste? Agro-residues and woody biomass can be used to manufacture high-value products that can replace fossil-based and other environmentally detrimental raw materials. Biomass is fractionated in refineries to its main components — lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose, with high yields and purity. These fractions can be used to replace fossil-derived raw materials in many industrial and consumer sectors. Hemicellulose, for instance, can be used in the manufacture of food ingredients, while lignin finds applications in construction materials. Cellulose, meanwhile, has many uses in the textiles industry. All these facts, especially the last one, are highly significant as they give farmers an additional avenue for income generation while also meeting a national need.

Instead of burning straw and other agricultural waste on their fields, farmers can sell them as raw material for producing textile fibres. The production of cotton usually requires huge amounts of water and pesticides. If, however, a cotton field was replaced with wheat, and 30 per cent of the resultant wheat straw was used for manufacturing textile fibre, we would get the same amount of fibre as from the cotton crop but with substantially less water usage. At the same time, the wheat produced in the field would help in meeting the food requirement of the region.

Raw material for sustainable clothing and sustainable fashion: Agricultural waste can be used to produce highly sustainable textile fibre, as was demonstrated at the Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference in Vancouver in October 2019, where the world's first clothing made from wheat straw was introduced. Encouragingly, there is a growing demand for sustainable textiles around the world as well as in India. Apparel stores and even fashion shows have begun hosting events with sustainability as one of the themes. This is just as well for studies suggest that it takes up to 2,700 litres of water to produce the amount of cotton needed to make a single T-shirt.

In view of the water crisis that looms on the horizon of most countries of the world, sustainable apparel made out of biomass must be viewed not as a passing fad but as a future necessity. India has an abundant labour supply, a strong domestic market, and well-established capacities for spinning, weaving and apparel-making. Simply by growing the right crops and by using biomass “waste” as raw material for its textiles, the country can reduce imports significantly and play a dominant role in the global market for apparel and fashion.

An environment-friendly source of fuel and power in the future: Rice, as the staple food in many parts of India, is one of the most widely-grown crops in the country. However, after the rice grains have been separated from the stalks, the rest of the plant — a sizeable part — is usually discarded. This “waste” can instead be used to produce biofuels. There is also potential for making ethanol from rice straw. Ethanol-blended petrol can reduce emissions from sectors such as heavy-duty vehicles, aviation and shipping. The National Policy on Biofuels has, in fact, set a target of 10 per cent ethanol blending with vehicle fuel by the year 2022 and 20 per cent by 2030. Bamboo is yet another crop that can provide ample biomass while, at the same time, improve rural livelihoods. Like in the biorefinery in Assam, bamboo can be used to produce bioethanol, biochemicals and even excess electricity. The idea is to use biomass to produce fuel, textiles, electricity, raw materials for industries and have more natural end-products with less resource usage and significantly smaller environmental impact. With a bit of foresight and the willingness to work towards sustainability for all, we could see significantly higher usage of biomass in the years ahead. It will play an important part in our journey towards achieving carbon neutrality and reducing the use of non-renewable resources.

(The writer heads a clean energy company)

THE CONGRESS AND ITS ALLIES HAVE SHAMED DEMOCRACY. IT REMINDS US OF THE EMERGENCY. THIS ATTACK ON FREE PRESS MUST BE OPPOSED. —UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH



SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE THACKERAY GOVERNMENT, NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AGAINST ANYONE FOR REVENGE. —SHIV SENA LEADER SANJAY RAUT

Don't shed tears over onions

Free markets with the right infrastructure, better price forecasting tools and dissemination of price information will deliver a permanent solution to our woes over the kitchen staple



AMARENDR REDDY

In response to the exponential hike in onion prices in the *mandis* (wholesale fruit and vegetable bazaars) and retail markets, the Union Government reintroduced stock limits on October 23 on traders and wholesalers by invoking a provision of the newly-amended Essential Commodities Act of 1955. Before this, to ease rising prices, the Government had banned export of the bulb and relaxed import norms to increase the stocks available for retail trade.

Wide price fluctuations are a recurring problem in the country, with onion prices varying from ₹10 to ₹100 during the same year. In such a situation, the farmers and consumers lose while the traders and retailers gain. India produces around one-quarter of the global onion supply (second only to China) and exports about 10 per cent of its total output regularly. Onion is an indispensable staple in Indian kitchens and as it has no substitute, prices are sensitive to supply.

The yearly consumption of onion in India is about 160 lakh tonnes and between harvests, stored onion is released into retail markets. However, given its perishable nature, it cannot be stored beyond four to six months as it begins to spoil after that. Storage losses are generally 30 to 40 per cent but this season losses are in the range of 50 to 60 per cent because of heavy rain. Thus, onion prices depend upon seasonal factors as they not only affect the standing crop but also damage the stored harvest.

Onion is mainly a Rabi crop (65 per cent of production). Sown in the month of December-January, it is harvested during April-May and sold at about ₹10 per kg. A Kharif crop is sown in the month of May-June and harvested during the months of October and November. A late Kharif crop is sown in the months of August-September and harvested during January-February. A Rabi harvest is stable with better storage quality and used for about six months until October, when the arrival of the Kharif harvest starts. The main and recurring problem with the Kharif harvest is that it fluctuates widely and production falls below expectations unpredictably once in two years. If the harvest is below expectation, prices will skyrocket during the months of September and October. Hence, the retail prices of onions more than quadrupled between June and September in 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and now again this year. Last year, too, onion prices rose due to simultaneous damage to the standing crop in Karnataka as well as to the onion harvest stored in States like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat due to flooding.

Policy decisions, like a ban on exports and promoting sudden imports to bring down onion prices for the benefit of consumers, definitely hurt the farmers, who were hoping for better prices. They are of the opinion that when they bear the losses due to lower prices in a particular season, they have the right to reap the benefits of higher prices, too. Why should they bear the brunt both ways? In fact, farmers' organisations complain that the Government favours consumers more than it does the farmers. It intervenes in the markets when the prices rise but does not protect the agriculturalists when the prices dip, although Government agencies do procure the produce above market rates during the harvest period.

Even if we keep the problems of the farmers aside, the fact remains that the knee-jerk reac-

“THE CURRENT POLICY OF REGULATED TRADE IN ONIONS, ESPECIALLY IMPORTS, NEEDS TO CHANGE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW FARM ACTS. IN SUCH A REGULATED ENVIRONMENT, THERE ARE ALWAYS TIME LAGS BETWEEN SENSING SHORTAGES, ALLOWING IMPORTS AND ACTUAL IMPORTS ARRIVING IN THE RETAIL MARKETS. THIS ALWAYS LEADS TO HIGHER PRICE FLUCTUATIONS. THE BEST WAY OF SECURING THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE FARMERS AND THE CONSUMERS IS THROUGH AN OPTIMAL MIX OF ACREAGE ALLOCATION, BUFFER STOCKS AND FREE TRADE REGIME. THIS MUST BE BACKED UP BY SCIENTIFIC PRICE FORECASTING MODELS”



tion of an export ban diminishes India's credibility as a reliable supplier or exporter in the international community. It will also go against investments in the supply chain of onion markets and importers may look for alternatives.

If the recently-passed three farm Acts are implemented in an effective way, these recurring problems could be avoided. Let us look at some alternative policies in the light of the recent farm reforms.

Price forecasting: The new farm Acts clearly emphasise the need to strengthen market intelligence to track price fluctuations. Onion prices are unpredictable, rising from ₹10 per kg to ₹100 per kg within a short span of three to four months, sometimes even weeks. A localised flood during the harvest period increases the prices by three to four-fold. Hence, there is a need for strengthening price forecasting systems based on agro-meteorological data to inform farmers in onion-growing areas about taking optimal decisions regarding acreage, storage and marketing. This information system will help traders transport the produce from low price areas to high price ones. It will enable them to take decisions like storing the produce while the price is low and selling it when the price is high. This will help in stabilising prices across space and time.

Open market: Onion production is concentrated in only a few districts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka. In these districts, only a few traders in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis* handle a huge quantity of the bulb, with possible cartel formation to buy at lower prices from farmers and sell at higher prices to consumers to reap oligopolistic profits. There is a need to break these

cartels by encouraging the participation of private traders outside the APMC *mandis* so that the harvest can be sold to multiple players, including cooperatives, farmer producer organisation (FPOs) and direct farmer-to-consumer channels. This will inject competition in a highly closed system and deter cartel formation among traders.

Eliminate layers of middlemen: Before an onion stock can go from the farm gate to the consumer, it has to pass through as many as four layers of intermediaries. The onions have to be loaded, repacked and sorted between each of these middlemen and all of them take their share of the profit margin, which increases the retail price for the consumers. Besides multiple fees, more intermediaries mean an increase in the manual handling of the onions, which results in them rotting before they reach consumers. This can be avoided through contract farming or by forming FPOs of growers. In the case of onion farmers, it is easy to engage in contract farming as they are geographically concentrated and have the common purpose of getting higher prices.

Storage and processing: The Rabi harvest (arrivals in April-May) is stored in hessian bags and ventilated structures without any temperature and humidity control. These onions are sold in phases, up to September, depending upon the need and prices. Usually prices spike after the sale of all the onions stored after the Rabi harvest in September and October. With better price forecasting and adjustment of acreage and storage decisions, prices can be smoothened during this period. Further, there is a need for encouraging trade in dehydrated onion during price spikes, especially for bulk users like hotels.

Procurement and distribution policy: In 2019, the National

Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) procured 50,000 tonnes of onion during the peak market arrival months of April-May at about ₹10 per kg and offloaded it at ₹23.90 per kg during September-October. This was done under the Price Stability Fund (PSF) scheme of the Central Government to keep prices stable and tackle the scarcity of the bulb. Timely procurement and offloading based on price forecasting models may reduce price fluctuations. However, the size of the procurement has to be increased from the current low level of only one per cent of the domestic markets to at least 10 per cent, to have a significant impact on price stability.

Open trade policy: The current policy of highly-regulated trade in onions, especially imports, needs to change in the spirit of the new farm Acts. In such a regulated environment, there are always time lags between sensing shortages, allowing imports and actual imports arriving in the retail markets. This always leads to higher price fluctuations. The best way of securing the interest of both the farmers and the consumers is through an optimal mix of acreage allocation, buffer stocks and free trade regime. This must be backed up by scientific price forecasting models.

Onion is so vital in the Indian household and the domestic market that its price has become a yardstick for Government price policy performance. Free markets with the right infrastructure, better price forecasting tools and dissemination of price information will deliver a permanent solution to our onion woes.

(The writer is an agricultural economist, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad. Views expressed are personal)

Pandemic erodes quality of higher education

Limiting learning to theory and skipping practical applications hinder the learning process of students. A hybrid template is needed



RL RAINA

Every year, there are nearly 37.4 million enrolments in higher educational institutions in the country. This reflects the student density in India and also the expanding horizons of the education sector, which has been growing at a rapid pace every year. However, the sudden “COVID shock” created a tremendous negative impact. As a result of the outbreak and the danger it posed to human lives, universities and colleges had to be shut down and their syllabus curtailed. That was until the sector decided to initiate a revolution instead. Making a conscious choice to grow even in the time of crisis, it reinvented its approach and pedagogy and

decided to digitise several fundamental processes, which were core to its functioning. The education process reforms seen in India and globally, too, in the COVID-19 era are a perfect example of how necessity is indeed the mother of invention. However, getting back to “normal” is a long way off and in the current scenario, higher education institutions in India are facing two major challenges.

Operational challenges: Maintenance of staff, faculty and infrastructure is becoming difficult as fee payments have been pushed ahead. Expensive infrastructure and expert faculty members make up a substantial part of the expenses for most higher education institutions. Due to the impact of late payments and the unexpected changes in schedules, universities are struggling to cover costs. Across the nation, institutions are facing issues with cash flow as are families, faced with major salary cuts or job losses in a crumbling economy.

Another challenge comes from the parents and students, who are unable to

accept the ways and tools of online classes and find it difficult to adjust to the new methods of pedagogy. Besides, the fear surrounding classes in brick and mortar classrooms, even with social distancing norms in place, is widely prevalent and does not seem to be a viable solution for the moment.

Poor network in far-flung areas: Geography, too, becomes another hurdle as far as acceptance of the “new normal” is concerned. Numerous students residing in remote areas do not have a proper mobile network or alternative means for having a seamless digital experience. For example, a student who lives with his family near the suburbs of Kolkata faces regular network problems due to which his classes get disrupted and his learning gets compromised. Similarly, there is a lack of cyber connectivity even in cities like Jaipur. Students from tier-II and tier-III cities have to struggle a lot due to connectivity issues and often use dongles to be able to study online. That has its own challenges.

Earlier, students had to attend five



or six classes a day but now this has been curtailed due to online education. Plus, given the lack of blackboards at home, which are used by most teachers to demonstrate practical models of application, the faculty finds it difficult to explain problems and share solutions. And even if teachers research and share findings with the students online,

they cannot be assured of student participation as they cannot monitor them remotely.

Absence of peer to peer learning: Learning goes far beyond classroom education and also involves inter-personal engagement with fellow students. Extra-curricular learning has been known to provide a significant impetus to overall personality development. Peer to peer learning, which is a major source of new skills and knowledge in higher institutions, has been majorly compromised by distancing norms. Apart from this, there are tremendous problems being faced by design and engineering students as they can learn through simulations but are now sadly devoid of real experiences.

Limiting learning to theory and skipping practical applications hinder the learning process of students. The psychological and mental challenges that will result from prolonged isolation and lack of interaction for many students is another factor that needs to be addressed. Many institutions will need to create in-house expertise for the same.

The way forward: What is the solution to the challenges that the education sector is facing? While institutes struggle to provide an integrated and holistic learning experience to students, they need a blueprint to bring back a certain level of “normalcy” in the sector.

There is a need for Government intervention at this point. Even though it is doing its best to bring the outbreak under control, it will be a while before the pandemic goes away. Even then, fear and doubts will exist for a long time to come. Which is why there is an urgent need to create a plan for students and higher education institutions in order to sustain and increase the pace of growth of the sector in the coming days. Additionally, the nature of teaching should be such that it does not compromise on learning outcomes, particularly in courses which require laboratory practicals, case studies or group activity. These, too, merit some portions of the courses to be conducted in normal ways as opposed to online.

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur)



FOREIGN EYE



NOTHING GREAT ABOUT IT

None of the problems the US saw in this election were new. Inaccessibility, confusion and intimidation have been hallmarks of polls. Though politicians speak dreamily of the importance of voting, the US lags other democracies on measures of electoral success. In many countries, a turnout of about two-thirds wouldn't rank as particularly extraordinary. (The NYT editorial)

Markets maintain momentum for 3rd day

US POLL OUTCOME AWAITED

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices ticked higher for the third straight session on Wednesday, largely in tandem with global markets as investors awaited the outcome of the tightly-contested US presidential election.

Robust buying in market-heavyweight Reliance Industries and IT stocks boosted the benchmarks, even as a sharp depreciation in the rupee weighed on sentiment, traders said.

After a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 355.01 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 40,616.14.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 95 points or 0.80 per cent to 11,908.50.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 4.85 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, Infosys, Kotak Bank and Tech Mahindra. On the other hand, HDFC, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, ICICI

Bank, NTPC and L&T were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.02 per cent.

Sector-wise, BSE energy, IT, teck, consumer durables, healthcare, capital goods and oil and gas indices advanced up to 2.74 per cent, while realty, telecom, utilities and metal indices fell up to 1.90 per cent.

Broader midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.43 per cent.

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, a close contest in the US election spiked volatility in the global market after Tuesday's strong rally.

European markets slid at the open after US President onald Trump claimed that a "major fraud" was being perpetrated on the American people.

Trump said he will take the matter to the Supreme Court, even as the counting of votes was in progress in the battleground states.

"Trump played the voter

fraud card which unsettled markets as a long and protracted battle in the courts is precisely what investors do not want," said Deepak Jasani, Head Of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Later, Biden regained lead

resulting in European markets bouncing up from early weakness.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo ended with gains, while Hong Kong settled in the red.

Meanwhile, international

oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.72 per cent higher at USD 40.79 per barrel.

In the forex market, the rupee depreciated 35 paise to close at 74.76 against the US dollar.

Rupee hits over 10-week low, slumps 35 paise against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Wednesday plunged by 35 paise to close at its weakest level in over 10 weeks at 74.76 against the US dollar as investors appeared cautious looking for clarity on the US election outcome and the latest tranche of fiscal stimulus.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 74.74 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day

high of 74.57 and a low of 74.90. It finally settled at 74.76 - its lowest level since August 21 this year.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.35 per cent to 93.88.

"The rupee will continue to be in focus till clarity emerges on the US election outcome and the latest tranche of fiscal stimulus. In times of uncertainty,

investors tend to rush towards the USD which is a safe haven," Nish Bhatt, Founder & CEO, Millwood Kane International, said.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.38 per cent to USD 39.86 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, BSE benchmark Sensex ended 355.01 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 40,616.14; and the broader NSE Nifty climbed 95

Adani Green Energy profit plunges over 82 pc in Sept quarter

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy on Wednesday reported over 82 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹17.57 crore in September quarter mainly due to higher expenses. The consolidated net

profit of the company was ₹ 102.29 crore in the quarter ended on September 30, 2019, a BSE filing said. Total income of the company rose to ₹718.14 crore in the quarter from ₹711.96 crore in same peri-

od a year ago. It said that the impact of COVID-10 outbreak on the business and financial position of the group is not significant and the management will continue to closely monitor the performance of the

group. The group's activities revolve around renewable power generation and other ancillary activities. Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Green Energy Ltd said in the state-

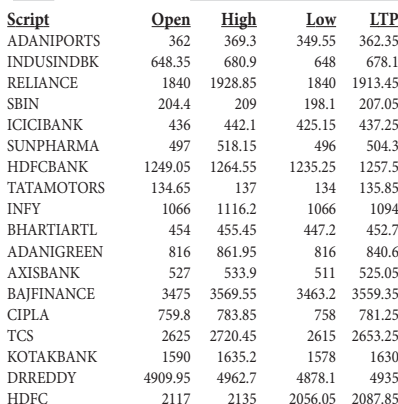
ment, "the company is coming together in line with our ambition of achieving of renewable power capacity of 25 GW by 2025 and becoming the world's largest renewable power company by 2030."

PTI

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	11783.35	11929.65	11756.40	11908.50	95	
INDUSINDBK	699.9	681	648	678.2	31.6	
SUNPHARMA	499.9	518.25	495.15	503.5	17.9	
DIVISLAB	3120.75	3210.10	3105.15	3200.00	110.1	
RELIANCE	1837.00	1929.00	1837.00	1910.50	60.1	
CIPLA	757.8	783.8	757.2	782.9	23.6	
INFY	1068.00	1116.00	1066.80	1094.75	32.2	
WIPRO	338	351.55	337.5	343.3	7.65	
ADANI PORTS	367.65	399.5	349.6	361.55	7.9	
TECHM	816	836	812.6	826	17.7	
KOTAKBANK	1589.00	1635.80	1578.00	1627.95	34.35	
BRITANNIA	3423.00	3506.00	3411.90	3472.00	68.35	
BAJFINANCE	3469.00	3569.95	3462.00	3561.00	70.2	
DREDDY	4901.75	4964.80	4877.40	4939.00	61.65	
IT	9342.5	9906.5	930	940.95	11.2	
TITAN	1199.95	1217.90	1192.70	1214.40	14.45	
TATAMOTORS	135.6	137	134	135.65	1.55	
BAJAJFINSV	5743.60	5839.00	5715.95	5797.50	53.9	
TCS	2610.00	2721.85	2610.00	2656.00	22.4	
HEROMOTOCO	2940.00	2978.00	2910.10	2961.00	23.6	
JSWSTEEL	3147.5	3187	3175	3175	2.4	
ASIANPAINT	2160.00	2213.85	2156.00	2169.95	15.3	
NESTLEIND	17000.00	17200.00	16825.00	16999.00	106.5	
MARUTI	6913.35	7054.00	6909.50	6952.00	38.65	
BAJAJ-AUTO	2905.00	2947.75	2882.40	2930.00	15.15	
HCLTECH	812.2	841.75	810.6	817.95	3.9	
HDFCBANK	1252.00	1264.80	1230.00	1254.00	60.8	
SBN	203.5	209	198.05	205.5	0.75	
SHRECEM	21876.10	22677.05	21725.25	21948.00	71.9	
ONGC	66.3	66.69	65.6	66.5	0.2	
EICHERMOT	2093.00	2124.95	2070.00	2100.00	5	
M&M	597.8	603.65	592	597.2	1.4	
HINDUNILVR	2050.00	2085.00	2049.95	2088.00	2.3	
SBI LIFE	796.75	796.75	783.8	789	0.1	
IOC	78	78.5	76.85	77.9	-0.1	
ITC	170.05	171.8	168.2	169.75	-0.35	
BPCL	350.5	352.93	344.2	350.1	-0.75	
ULTRACEMCO	4550.40	4611.00	4501.05	4528.25	-21.3	
BHARTIARTL	453	455.55	447.15	451.5	-3.1	
GAIL	84.5	84.65	83.05	83.3	-0.65	
HDFCLIFE	591.1	603.9	591.1	593.8	-5.25	
TATASTEEL	408.9	415.05	401.4	403.15	-3.75	
NTPC	861.5	87.1	84.5	85.05	-0.9	
GRASIM	790.4	79.5	77.87	78.15	-9.65	
COALINDIA	116.5	116.5	113.7	115	-1.5	
POWERGRID	179.95	180	174.65	176.9	-3.05	
HINDALCO	177	181.2	174.1	176.55	-3.2	
ICICIBANK	493.7	513.3	442	425.3	-9.5	
HDFC	2111.10	2134.95	2056.40	2085.00	-45.95	
AXISBANK	525.1	533.85	511	520.05	-14.1	
UPL	415.7	415.7	399	400.8	-16.25	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	27,674.00	27,810.55	27,550.75	27,788.40	184.85	
DMART	2,210.05	2,300.00	2,210.05	2,293.00	83.95	
LTI	2,950.00	3,069.35	2,945.00	3,038.00	101.65	
HAVELLS	781.6	814.9	772.3	808.25	24.95	
SIEMENS	1,314.05	1,337.60	1,302.70	1,336.80	30.45	
AUROPHARMA	770	795.7	770	782.3	12.65	
NAUKRI	3,580.00	3,650.00	3,557.30	3,607.00	27.95	
ALKEM	2,668.00	2,732.35	2,656.05	2,695.20	52.75	
ADANITRANS	292.5	297.7	284.05	295	3.9	
MOTHERSHS	107	110.65	106.9	109.45	1.4	
BANDHANBNK	309.9	313.45	303.25	312.2	3.9	
ADANI GREEN	834.4	862.7	823	840.4	10	
BERGEPAINT	631	639.45	628.45	639.1	7	
GODREJCEP	668.55	679.55	665.35	676	7.45	
TATACONSUM	491	498.55	489	494.5	5	
AMBUJACEM	262	265.3	259.65	264.5	2.5	
ACC	1,661.00	1,681.95	1,658.00	1,676.00	14.7	
HINDPETRO	186.4	188.1	181.15	187.2	1.55	
TORNTPHARM	2,579.90	2,612.85	2,558.35	2,598.00	21.05	
LUPIN	945	962.7	939.8	944.05	6.75	
DABUR	524	530	517.35	518.95	3.55	
PETRONET	225.9	228.4	221.6	226.3	1.45	
CADILAH	436.95	444.4	432.6	440	2.35	
SBCARD	815	824.8	810.3	818	4.35	
BIOCON	406.95	411.9	402.35	409.05	2.15	
ABBOTINDIA	15,844.00	15,900.00	15,750.20	15,870.00	58.45	
HINDZINC	214	215.8	210.65	213.15	0.7	
ICICI	1,226.15	1,238.35	1,220.20	1,230.00	3.85	
PGHH	10,100.10	10,271.85	10,100.10	10,225.00	24.8	
PEL	1,299.00	1,311.50	1,285.20	1,302.00	2.45	
MCOWELL-N	512	515.5	508.5	510.3	0.6	
CONCOR	400	407.1	395.3	399	0.15	
MARICO	370	374.55	368.5	371	0.1	
HDFCAMC	2,277.80	2,300.00	2,236.60	2,255.95	-0.55	
BAJAJHLDNG	2,320.00	2,322.25	2,300.00	2,300.05	-0.65	
ICICIPRULI	409.7	410	404.2	409.45	-0.25	
IGL	407	413.55	405.15	406.85	-0.3	
NMDC	86.3	86.5	84.25	85.15	-0.3	
PIDILITIND	1,570.00	1,580.70	1,548.15	1,560.00	-5.6	
BOSCHLTD	11,870.00	11,963.10	11,739.75	11,768.80	-5.2	
GICRE	122.3	124	120.15	121.6	-0.6	
UBL	934	945	922.2	927.8	-4.9	
DFC	90.95	91.8	89.65	91	-0.5	
PFL	163.65	164.65	160.05	162.6	-1.05	
COLPAL	1,495.00	1,511.80	1,462.05	1,478.80	-10.85	
BANKBARODA	447.5	453	43.4	44.7	-0.35	
OFSS	3,120.00	3,148.00	3,062.00	3,073.00	-29.45	
INFRATEL	182.65	182.65	167.65	178.5	-3.05	
PNB	27.9	27.95	26.95	27.3	-0.5	
INDIGO	1,356.85	1,372.20	1,323.55	1,340.25	-30	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,197.45	1,213.45	1,136.50	1,158.00	-32.15	

BSE 500



Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
ADANI PORTS	362	369.3	349.55	362.35
INDUSINDBK	648.35	680.9	648	678.1
RELIANCE	1840	1928.85	1840	1913.45
SBIN	204.4	209	198.1	207.05
ICICIBANK	436	442.1	425.15	437.25
SUNPHARMA	497	518.15	496	504.3
HDFCBANK	1249.05	1264.55	1235.25	1257.5
TATAMOTORS	134.65	137	134	135.85
INFY	1066	1116.2	1066	1094
BHARTIARTL	454	455.45	447.2	452.7
ADANI GREEN	816	861.95	816	840.6
AXISBANK	527	533.9	511	525.05
BAJFINANCE	3475	3569.55	3463.2	3559.35
CIPLA	759.8	783.85	758	781.25
TISS	2625	2720.45	2615	2653.25
KOTAKBANK	1590	1635.2	1578	1630
DREDDY	4909.95	4962.7	4878.1	4935
HDFC	2117	2135	2056.05	2087.85

HINDPETRO	185.75	188	181.2	186.75
TATAPOWER	53.65	53.95	52.35	53.25
LT	2959.95	3068	2959.95	3037
M&M	599.8	603.65	592.2	596.75
COALINDIA	116.7	116.7	113.75	114.75
PNB	27.8	27.9	26.95	27.4
BIOCON	406.2	411.5	402.4	410.45
STAR	660	673	636.85	645
MOTHERSUMI	107.95	110.6	107.3	109.8
NAUKRI	3590.35	3648	3558.45	3608.9
IBULHSGFIN	142.15	144.75	139.1	141.6
IOC	78.6	78.6	76.9	77.95
AJANTPHARM	1650	1665.45	1590	1612.5
INFRAEL	182.45	182.45	176.7	178.05
BEML	607	619.25	602	607.45
COFORGE	2144	2227	2144	2180.3
IPCALAB	2386	2395	2325.6	2367.2
CANBK	88.6	89.9	86.9	89.4
BALKRISIND	1368	1393	1331	1373.85
NESTLEIND	17100	17200	16852	16995.6
INDIGO	1341	1370.35	1324.05	1341.25
GMFINRA	23.2	23.5	22.9	23.05
AMARAJABAT	775.8	792.45	770.4	789.35
POWERGRID	180	180	174.65	177.1
PIIND	2228.5	2295	2221.2	2280.7
L&TFH	65.5	65.5	64.05	65.05
SBCARD	818.9	824.5	810.1	820.4
HDFCLIFE	591.9	603.8	591.9	594.9
M&MFIN	126.7	127	124.8	126.65
IRCTC	1292	1308	1291	1300.35
GOROMANDEL	733.5	749.45	727	744.45
BATAINDIA	1300	1317.3	1295	1313.4
HONAUT	28483.45	30425.5	28448.8	29660.1
TORNTPHARM	2577.25	2611.2	2560.85	2600.11
HAL	670.1	674	660	661.05
ADANITRANS	287.1	297	284.15	292.9

Twitter flags Trump’s tweet accusing Biden campaign of stealing poll

Washington: Twitter on Wednesday placed a “disputed” label on a tweet from President Donald Trump in which he accused the rival Biden campaign of trying to “steal” the tightly-contested 2020 presidential elections.

In his first reaction to the election results, Trump tweeted, “We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election. We will never let them do it. Votes cannot be cast after the Polls are closed!”

The tweet was placed behind a warning on the president’s account that the content shared is “disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process.” Twitter has taken similar action against



Trump’s account in the past.

Facebook also flagged the post of president Trump. “Final results may be different from initial vote counts, as ballots counting will continue for days and weeks,” Facebook said, quoting Bipartisan Policy Center.

The social media giant also flagged the second post by Trump in which he claimed that he is winning big and will soon make a statement.

“I will be making a statement tonight. A big WIN!” he said.

Flagging the post,

Facebook said, “the winner of the 2000 US Presidential Election has not been projected.”

Earlier, Twitter pinned a warning on a Trump campaign tweet declaring victory in the battleground state of South Carolina, saying it was premature and not confirmed by official sources.

A message under the tweet, in which the campaign trumpeted that Trump had won the Southern state, said “official sources may not have called the race when this was Tweeted,” the Politico reported.

The action came even as multiple news outlets - including The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN and POLITICO - have similarly projected that President Trump will win the state, the report said.

The tweet, said the social media giant, violates a rule rolled out for this election that requires such tweets to be backed by calls from at least two of seven specified news organisations.

Twitter, though, left alone a similar Trump campaign tweet declaring victory in Florida because, the company said, it included a nod to one of Twitter’s seven approved race callers.

The US’ biggest social media companies have in recent days said that so-called premature declarations of victory were one of their primary concerns headed into this fraught Election Day, especially on a night expected to be full of close contests across the country. **PTI**

Exit poll: About 69% American-Muslims vote for Biden

AP ■ NEW YORK

All four Dems Indian-origin lawmakers re-elected to House of Representatives

Washington: In an impressive show, all the four Indian-American Democratic lawmakers — Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi — have been re-elected to the US House of Representatives.

The Indian-American community has emerged as a force to reckon with for the first time in the history of the US presidential election. Both the Democrat and the Republican campaigns had initiated several measures to woo the approximately 1.8 million members of the community who have emerged as a critical voting bloc in the battleground states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

The so-called ‘Samosa caucus’, a term coined by Krishnamoorthi for informal grouping of Indian-American lawmakers, might expand with at least one more as physician Dr Hiral Tipirneni was leading against Republican incumbent David Schweikert from the sixth Congressional district of Arizona when last reports came in. **PTI**

Dems Torres scripts history by becoming 1st gay Black man elected to Cong

Washington: Democrat Party’s Ritchie Torres has made history by becoming the first openly gay Black man elected to the US Congress.

Torres, 32, a New York City Council Member, won the election from New York’s 15th Congressional District, defeating Republican Patrick Delices to become the next representative, New York Daily News reported.

“Tonight, a new era begins for the South Bronx,” Torres said in a statement. “It is the honour of a lifetime to represent a borough filled with essential workers who have risked their lives so that New York City could live. **PTI**

US formally exits Paris climate deal

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement on Wednesday amid election uncertainty, three years after President Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year.

The US exited the pact after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended on Wednesday.

The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.

Trump has repeatedly criticised the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025.

He also said it gave other major emitters, like China and India, a free pass.

The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. It can still attend negotiations and give opinions, but is relegated to “observer status”.

Trump stated that he intended to renegotiate the details of the United States’ membership within the Paris Agreement that can better protect US workers in industries like coal, paper, and steel.

The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China.

But whether the US exit turns out to be brief or lasting depends on the outcome of the presidential contest, The Washington Post said.

A possible second Trump term would make clear that an international effort to slow the Earth’s warming will not include the US government.

Hindu temple vandalised in Pak, Hindu families saved by Muslims from angry attackers

Karachi: A Hindu temple in Pakistan’s Sindh province was vandalised by an angry mob that also attempted to attack over 300 Hindu families, but were stopped by Muslims from entering the century-old neighbourhood, a media report said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Sunday in Sheetal Das compound, housing 300 Hindu and 30 Muslim families.

Residents of the neighbourhood said that scores of men had assembled outside the compound’s only gate and many of them intended to attack the Hindu families.

However, the Muslim families, residing in and around the compound, were quick to reach the gate and stop the mob from entering the area.

“Police, too, reached the spot within a few minutes after they were informed,” a Hindu man, requesting anonymity, told The Express Tribune.

Another Hindu man said: “Some of the angry men had managed to reach the temple and tried to vandalise it.” **PTI**

China vowed Wednesday that it will make a “proper and necessary response” if the US proceeds with its latest planned arms sale to Taiwan.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the sale of USD 600 million in armed drones to the island “brutally interferes in China’s internal affairs and seriously undermines China’s sovereignty and security interests.” The US should cancel all such sales to Taiwan “so as to avoid further damage to China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait,” Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, will make a “proper and necessary response according to the development of the situation,” Wang said. The State Department said Tuesday it had greenlighted Taiwan’s purchase of four “weapons ready” remotely piloted aircraft and related equipment, the latest in a series of arms transfers for the island. In its announcement, the department said the proposed

China vows ‘proper’ response to US arms sale to Taiwan

AP ■ BEIJING

sale “serves U.S. National, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient’s continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability.”

Just last week, the administration approved plans for a 2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan. That came hours after Beijing had announced sanctions on US defense contractors, including Boeing, the lead contractor on the Harpoon deal, over a previous weapons deal.

China’s ruling Communist Party threatens to use force to annex Taiwan, which it has regarded as a breakaway province since the sides split amid civil war in 1949.

Washington maintains only unofficial ties with Taipei in deference to Beijing but remains the islands most important source of weaponry and is legally bound to ensure its armed forces can mount an adequate defense.

Chinese-US relations have plunged to their lowest level in decades amid disputes about security, technology, the coronavirus pandemic and human rights.

Parliament backs England’s lockdown No. 2

London (PTI): England will enter a second stay-at-home lockdown from Thursday until at least December 2 as members of Parliament approved the new shutdown, announced last week by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in an attempt to curb the spike in coronavirus infections in the country.

In a House of Commons vote on Wednesday, the parliamentarians supported the new measures by 516 to 38, a

majority of 478.

It means that, from one minute past midnight on Wednesday, pubs, bars, restaurants and non-essential shops will close across England and stay shut until the rule expires on December 2. It will replace the three-tiers of regional restrictions across England for four weeks, after which the tiers will be re-imposed.

A total of 34 members of Parliament from Boris Johnson’s ruling Conservative

Party rebelled against the lockdown, including former Conservative leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith and Sir Graham Brady, the chair of the powerful 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers.

During a three-hour debate, ruling Conservative Party rebels and several Labour parliamentarians from the North-West of England said England’s tiered system, brought in two weeks ago, had not been given a chance.

Johnson’s predecessor, Theresa May, said: “The evidence is, from Liverpool, that cases are falling.”

Former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith echoed May’s point and said the data presented to ministers to justify the lockdown had “subsequently unravelled in the last few days”.

Johnson said a second lockdown was “not something any of us wanted to do,” but he added: “I am not prepared to

take the risk with the lives of British people.”

“While it pains me to call for such restrictions on lives, liberty and business I have no doubt that these restrictions represent the best and safest path for our country,” he told the members of Parliament.

The Scottish National Party did not take part in the vote. In Scotland, a new five-tier restrictions system came into force on Monday.

Wales is in a “firebreak”

lockdown until November 9 and Northern Ireland is also under tighter restrictions.

Explaining the Labour Party’s decision to back the government, Opposition Leader Sir Keir Starmer said: “Nobody votes for the regulations today with anything other than a heavy heart.”

He urged Johnson to use the four-week lockdown to come up with “something better” than the three tier system, as it was “not working”.

India seeks expeditious extradition of Mallya, Nirav Modi from Britain

London (PTI): India has strongly underlined its interest in the expeditious extradition of former Kingfisher Airlines chief Vijay Mallya, who has completed all the legal processes related to extradition from the UK, during talks between Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and UK Home Secretary Priti Patel in London.

On the last leg of his three-nation Europe tour, Shringla has been holding discussions in London with several UK ministers and officials and during his interactions with Patel and UK Foreign Office Minister for South Asia, Lord Tariq Ahmad,

on Tuesday, the issue of economic offenders being extradited to face the Indian judicial system was among the issues raised.

We strongly underlined our interest in seeing the early, expeditious extradition of Vijay Mallya, who is an economic offender who has completed all extradition procedures in the UK. We would like him to return to India as soon as possible, said Shringla.

Also, Nirav Modi. I raised this with both Lord Ahmad and the Home Secretary, and both took very careful note of our priority and sentiments in that regard, he said.

Mallya, wanted in India over fraud and money laundering charges in relation to loans taken out by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines from state-owned Indian banks, has been found to have a case to answer in India by the UK courts. He is currently on bail, undergoing a confidential legal issue before Priti Patel can consider signing off on his extradition order.

On the other hand, Nirav Modi, the fugitive diamond merchant accused of fraud and money laundering in relation to the state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB), is currently lodged in Wandsworth

Prison in London as he fights his extradition to India at Westminster Magistrates’ Court.

Shringla arrived in London following visits to Paris and Berlin on Tuesday and has held a series of meetings to cover a wide range of issues, including the India-UK vaccine partnership in a post-coronavirus world and climate change as well as highlighting India’s outlook on the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific region. On India-UK bilateral ties, the Foreign Secretary noted the backdrop of Britain’s exit from the European Union (EU) paving the way for a

reset in the relationship both with the UK and the EU.

“We are looking at early harvest deals, which would bring benefits to both our countries, followed by a more detailed, either preferential trade agreement or a free trade agreement,” said Shringla.

“Obviously, a limited deal means we work on those areas on which both sides can immediately agree to. We need more time to conclude a more comprehensive trade agreement but our ministers are in touch and will work on trying to close such a deal,” he said.

“We are also looking at a similar deal at the EU level, but

bilateral agreement is always different from an agreement with a group,” he added.

The Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Gaitri Issar Kumar, highlighted the five priority areas of food and drink, life sciences, information and communications technology (ICT), chemicals and services that have been narrowed down by both sides, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss set to take stock of the level of movement in these areas during talks scheduled for November 9.

Meanwhile, Foreign

Secretary Dominic Raab and Prime Minister Boris Johnson are among the high-level visits from the UK to India scheduled for 2021, depending on the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown situation.

Foreign Secretary Shringla noted that with the UK currently undertaking an Integrated Review of its policy framework, the Indo-Pacific region is expected to play a key part in the transformational relationship that Raab has previously made reference to vis-à-vis India.

We believe in the vision of free, open, transparent and inclusive Indo-Pacific stake-

holders; we believe in multipolarity. The framework is there in France and Germany and we see it in the UK also, though it is yet to be articulated in policy framework. It (the Indo-Pacific) has become more significant, relevant and topical, said Shringla.

Besides his ministerial-level and official talks, the foreign secretary also conducted a host of discussions with leading business chiefs and CEOs and is scheduled to interact with representatives of the Indian diaspora later on Wednesday before he heads back to India at the end of his European tour.

FROM PAGE 1

3RD COVID WAVE IN DELHI: CM

“The Delhi Government had increased their numbers (ICU beds in private hospitals) but, unfortunately, the Delhi High Court stayed our decision. We are moving the Supreme Court today to urge it to vacate the stay,” Kejriwal said.

In September, the Delhi High Court had stayed the AAP Government’s decision to reserve 80 per cent ICU beds for coronavirus patients in 33 private hospitals.

On October 29, Health Minister Satyendra Jain had said the AAP Government had changed its anti-coronavirus strategy by conducting aggressive tracing and testing in the city, citing it as one of the reasons for a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in the past few days. The 6,725 fresh cases, recorded on Tuesday, came out of the 59,540 tests conducted the previous day.

The previous highest single-day spike -- 5,891 cases -- was recorded on Friday. Forty-eight new fatalities were recorded, pushing the death toll in the national capital to 6,652. The city recorded 4,001 Covid-19 cases on Monday with the positivity rate hovering around 11 per cent.

The Centre had attributed the sudden surge in daily incidences in the last few days to greater movement of people during the festive season and laxity in adhering to safety norms. The active cases tally on Tuesday stood at 36,375.

ARMED FORCES PROPOSE HIKE IN RETIRING AGE OF OFFICERS, PENSION FORMULA REVIEW

The DMA is responsible for human resources issues besides coordination between the Army, Navy and IAF.

Justifying the move to review the existing pension formula, sources said the need for such a step was felt as there is concern over the increasing pension bill after the grant of One Rank One Pension (OROP).

The pension bill in the current financial year is pegged at Rs 1,33, 819 crore which is more than 29 percent of the Defence Ministry budget of Rs 4,71, 372 crore.

RAHUL ALLEGES EVM IS ‘MODI VOTING MACHINE’

“When youths today ask Kumar during his public meetings about the jobs he had promised, he threatens them, chases them away and gets them thrashed,” Rahul alleged.

“He (Nitish) tells them he doesn’t need their votes. Fine then. The youth of Bihar will not vote for you,” he said.

He said he was not scared “whether its MVM or Modiji ka Media (Modi jis media)”. “Truth is truth, justice is justice. I am fighting a war of ideology against this man. We are fighting against their thoughts. We will defeat their thoughts,”

he said.

“I won’t budge an inch until I defeat Narendra Modi,” he said.

He also raised the issue of Minimum Support Price for maize and paddy and said the money that the farmers should be getting is actually going to the middleman.

He alleged that the PM, through the three recently passed agricultural laws, has “cleared the way for new middlemen. Not the smaller ones but the bigger ones -- Ambani and Adani”.

“You would never have seen the Prime Minister holding the hand of a poor farmer, but must have seen him embracing Ambani and Adani,” he alleged.

DOMESTIC AIRLINES ALLOWED TO OPERATE AT 60% CAPACITY

Modifying its previous order of June 26 where it had put the 45 per cent limit on the number of domestic flights, the Ministry issued an order on September 2 stating that, “45 per cent capacity may be read as 60 per cent capacity.” Scheduled international passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country since March 23 due to the pandemic.

However, special international flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under bilateral air bubble pacts signed with various countries since July.

500 FARMERS BODIES PLAN NATIONWIDE CHAKKA JAM TODAY

The farmers’ organization have decided to hold an all-India “chakka jam” (road blockade) between 12 noon and 4 pm on November 5. The federations, which included the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), also gave a call for “Dilli chalo” (come to Delhi) to farmers on November 26 and 27.

According to farmers leaders who have received support from 200 other unions associated with AIKSCC, they will be blocking all national highways between 12 noon to 4 pm. In Punjab, they will be blocking all State and national highways. Other than this, it has been decided to continue the gherao of businesses owned by corporate houses - toll plazas, petrol pumps and retail businesses, and outside the houses of BJP leaders in Punjab.

Amarinder alleged that the Centre has failed to pay Punjab its quarterly Goods and Services Tax dues and was cutting off access to the Disaster Relief Fund. “We’re buying power from National Grid from funds we’re left with,” he said. “The constitutional guarantee of receiving quarterly GSTs has not been fulfilled and is pending since March. Rs 10,000 crores is due. This step-motherly treatment is wrong.” We don’t have money, our coal stocks are over,” he said. Amarinder began the day

by paying his respects to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. He later proceeded to Jantar Mantar to kickstart the dharna along with Punjab Congress MPs and MLAs. The Chief Minister said though they had earlier planned a relay ‘dharna’ at Rajghat but they had to shift to Jantar Mantar as Delhi police clamped section 144 at the area.

According to officials, Punjab State electricity board on Tuesday announced that it would have to impose power cuts of at least two-three hours from the evening as three private thermal plants have shut down and two electricity stations nearly running out of coal. The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has been forced to purchase 1,500 to 1,700 MW power from the power projects. An estimated Rs 5-10 crore is being spent on buying power every day. Non-movement of the coal rakes has forced the authorities and private thermal power plant owners to shut the units bringing the power generation to a grinding halt.

Stoppage of goods trains has resulted in shortage of various essential items such as coal, petroleum products, urea, di-ammonium phosphate and jute bags. The shortage of jute bags is likely to impact procurement of paddy. While 30 per cent of jute bags are provided by the authorities, 70 per cent are procured by the rice sellers. The blockade of rail and road transport has hit the supplies. Punjab mostly gets jute bag supplies from West Bengal. Similarly, Punjab needs 14.5 lakh tonnes of urea for win-

ter crops, but the State has only about 75,000 tonnes, according to Government officials.

At the protest, the Chief Minister said they had asked President Ram Nath Kovind to explain the situation in Punjab but he has not replied. “So we thought we’d come and share our views on the matter,” Singh said. “I haven’t asked for time from the PM [Prime Minister Narendra Modi] but I will in due course.”

On the other hand, a railway spokesperson in a statement said the Railways continue to lose revenue as freight operations remain forcibly suspended due to the track blockages in Punjab. Till Date more than 2,225 freight rakes could not be operated upon carrying vital commodities. Loss already expected to have crossed Rs 1,200 crore already,” the spokesperson said.

Earlier in the day, a few Congress MLAs including Navjot Singh Sidhu were stopped by police at the Delhi border. Sidhu, who was also accompanying MLAs Raja Warring, Avtar Henry Junior, Rajinder Beri, Kaka Lohgarh, and Surjit Singh Dhiman, posted on Facebook a video of him arguing with the Delhi police. Sidhu said: “This is democracy. We are representatives of 10 lakh people. But they do not understand that we will hit back as much as we are suppressed.” The Delhi Police later escorted Sidhu and other MLAs till Punjab Bhawan, where the party MLAs had assembled to participate in the dharna.

Trend Slazer

Sonam supports film preservation

Bollywood actor **SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA** took to social media to announce her support to the Film Heritage foundation. A not-for-profit organisation founded by filmmaker and archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur in 2014, it is dedicated towards film preservation, restoration and archiving of historic Indian films.

Talking about her association with the foundation, Sonam took to Instagram and said, "A legacy worth saving: the heritage of cinema. It gives me immense honour and pride to be associated with the organisation to bring into focus the neglected but necessary art of film preservation and restoration. In the coming months, I will be exclusively showing you the art, hardwork and perseverance that goes into archiving the legacy of films — not just in Bollywood but globally."



'Boondi Raita has already been announced with its posters. I am not allowed to speak about it but this film is very close to my heart. It's a lovely story. I am glad that today audience is accepting content-driven films. I am really enjoying my journey in this industry and I think the most important point is yet to come in my career.'

—Himansh Kohli

Swedish-Greek actor **ELLI AVRRA** has shared her life mantra in her latest post on social media.



Elli posted a string of pictures on Instagram. In the images, she is seen posing with a colour palette, paint brush and a canvas.

Alongside the image, she wrote: "Eat, paint, love — Elli's way!" she wrote.

Back from a vacation in Maldives, Elli recently posted a string of photographs from her holiday on Instagram. In the images, she was seen standing on a giant size chess board dressed in a white top and black mini skirt.

Jeff spans two career phases

Hollywood actor **JEFF DANIELS** says there was a time when he was picking projects to support his family, and is glad that he has reached a point where he can risk failure and challenge himself.

"There have been two phases to my career," Daniels said as he added, "One was to take the best of things that you are offered at the time because I have to work to support my family. So everything leading up to 'The Newsroom' was getting the best out. Sometimes, it ended up being really good projects like *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Something Wild* and *Dumb and Dumber*. It wasn't just doing a film that people forget," added the Emmy-winning star.



THE LAND OF RISING ROBOTICS

From assisting customers in shops to guiding patients in hospitals, the Japanese incorporate technology into their everyday lives. The world can take lessons



Japan is considered as a nation for restoring culture, where traditions are deep-rooted and technology is the fulcrum. The incredibly developed technology is what makes life full of conveniences there. From the provision of vending machines containing clothes and shoes to ETAF automatic doors that open shifting bars according to your body shape; the Japanese incorporate technology into their everyday lives.

The government introduced the use of smart gates at airports for foreign nationals visiting Japan. These passengers using the facial recognition system need to have a passport with electronic chips, which are scanned by the dedicated devices at the gates to automatically match the photo in the travel document taken at the gate. The system allows passengers to finish customs declaration procedures through an app on their smartphones. Some of the airports have recently introduced personal mobility machines.

The autonomous machines are designed to replace wheelchairs by transporting passengers who face difficulties in walking long distances or who have limited mobility to their designated boarding gates. The system is compatible with the WHILL autonomous models and operates using sensors and area maps. After transporting the passenger, the self-driving machine is capable of returning to the base automatically. At Haneda Airport, they are introducing contactless systems to allow passengers to check-in and check their luggage without meeting an employee. Through the use of posters, we ask passengers to refrain from having conversations in locations where people are in close proximity. This is to encourage passengers to stay at a safe distance from each other by suggesting a standard dis-

'AS GLOBAL TRENDS SHOW THE ROLE OF ROBOTS BECOMING EVEN GREATER, JAPAN USES CUTTING-EDGE ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGIES IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS BESIDES MANUFACTURING WHILE KEEPING IN MIND SOCIETAL DEMANDS'

tance and changing the way they use the public area.

One of Tokyo's most popular districts has recently added some unusual new attraction: transparent public toilets. Designed by Shigeru Ban Architects, the two new sets of see-through restrooms have been installed in Shibuya, the bustling city centre famous for its busy pedestrian crossing. Though the restrooms sound risqué, they're actually part of an innovative project aimed at changing people's perceptions of public toilets. It focusses on two important aspects — cleanliness and another person's availability inside. The architects design tackles these two concerns by offering a toilet with glass walls that — at first — allows the pub-

lic to see through from the outside. But once a user enters the toilet and locks the door, the walls turn opaque to provide privacy. The goal of this new renovation project is to get rid of old stereotypes about public toilets and ensure that anyone can use the facilities, including people who are disabled while maintaining the safety and hygienic levels.

One thing that every tourist immediately notices there is a large number of vending machines. Known locally as jidou hanbaiki, you'll find them on every corner, at every station, outside every convenience store and adjacent to every rice paddy. You'll even find vending machines on top of Mount Fuji. Japanese vending machines are at the forefront of a convenience renaissance. There are 4.14 million vending machines there, according to Japan vending system manufacturers association. For reference, that means more vending machines than sushi restaurants. The vending machines can tell you the weather, help you take a selfie or use facial-recognition software to guess your age and gender and then offer a personalised beverage recommendation. To further ensure safety, these machines now have a sheet with antibacterial effect on vending machines.

As we all know, robots are imperative to Japanese culture. They have been around for the longest time. Right from assisting customers in shops to guiding patients in hospitals robots are now present in every corner of Japan. Some entities are even highlighting robotic colleagues as a selling point to young recruits.

As global trends show the roles of robots growing ever greater, the 'Robot Nation' of Japan is putting to use cutting-edge robotic technologies in a variety of fields besides manufacturing while keeping in mind societal demand. Robots are now working on the front lines in a diverse array of areas, including aeronautics, medicine/welfare, disaster mitigation, disaster investigation and rescue. The use of age-old technologies and the invention of robots have proved to be a blessing in today's scenario for the Japanese and the world can follow.

Melody as muse

Here's a round-up of the playlists and favourite tracks of popular music artists

Over the years, we've seen music integrate with our moods and moments across our day. The right song may brighten you up in more ways than one. And if there's one thing that's as good as the right song, it's the right playlist. This holds true for everyone, including renowned artists. If we talk of playlist curation, it is not confined to one genre or mood, rather there's a playlist for everything — household chores, grocery shopping, chill time and more. Perhaps, we all have a playlist to cater to our moods and moments. But have you ever wondered, 'What music do artists listen to?', we have an answer for you. And even you can make your own, personalised playlist on Spotify. Seeking inspiration? Read on.

FROM THE NORTH

Did you know India's favourite artists from the North love genres ranging from 'Latin' to 'Electronic'? Stream Bhangra beats and then some chill music to cool down and unwind after.

While Rapper Badshah's favourite is latin hits, B Praak makes its obvious by choosing *B Praak Musical*. Harrry Sandhu



goes after *Drive Like Me* and Harshdeep Kaur likes songs soothing to the soul.

FROM THE SOUTH

Discover music collections ranging from the 60s to the latest across languages — Malayalam, Tamil, even Hindi — with these artists from the South. What's even better is that they're curated with love, so if you're looking for peace and hope at home, look no

further.

Film composer and singer Anirudh Ravichander chooses *Chill Pill*, A R Rahman goes his own way with — *ARR Eclectic*. Anurag Kulkarni goes the basic way, Happify and Gopi Sunder makes it obvious again with *Favourites of Gopi Sundar*.

FROM THE WEST

No matter what your emotion is, these artists from the West got

all your moods covered (especially if pop music's your jam). Tune into these playlists to listen to the likes of Ariana Grande, Beyonce, Drake, Justin Bieber, Lauv, Maroon 5, Rihanna, Shawn Mendes, and more (it's a concert, isn't it?)

Popular among the youth, Armaan Malik and Darshan Raval choose *Hooked* and *My Melodies* respectively. Next, we all can certainly guess Prateek Kuhad's choice — sad but full of excitement.

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

Model-actor **MILIND SOMAN** wishes himself on his 55th birthday by streaking on the beach; fans start meme games

When it comes to celebrating his birthday, model-actor Milind Soman sure believes in doing it with some originality. He celebrated turning 55 by posting a picture that shows him running nude on a Goa beach and netizens have come up with funny memes in reaction.

"Happy birthday to me! #55," he wrote while sharing the picture on Instagram and Twitter, and gave photo credit to his wife Ankita Konwar. The comment sections in his social media are full of hilarious messages and memes. "When you and your girlfriend having some quality time at her home and her parents enter the home with duplicate set of keys," a user wrote.

Another edited the photo and added a swimsuit on him, and wrote: "Fixed it for you @milindrunning."

Another added

to the atmospherics of the image by adding a dinosaur chasing him in an edited photo.

One even cracked a joke featuring actor Anil Kapoor, also a fitness enthusiast who seems to have defied age. Sharing a collage of a shirtless Anil and Milind's photo, the user compared Kapoor and Milind with a joke.

"I don't think clothes are too heavy to carry while running sir. Meanwhile happy Birthday," wrote a user.

This is not the first time Milind has bared it all for the camera. He created quite the frenzy way back in the early 1990s when he posed nude along with former Miss India Madhu Sapre for an advertisement.

Milind was last seen in the web series *Four More Shots Please* as Dr Aamir Warsi. IANS





A GIFT OF NATURE

Tribes India unveiled 100 products as part of the Forest Fresh Naturals and Organics range in the second week of its launch

Over 100 additional products in the Forest Fresh Naturals and Organics range were unveiled online on Monday. Since October 26, Tribes India has been expanding its product range and catalogue by including 100 new products/ produce on a weekly basis.

The produce/products will be available in 125 Tribes India outlets, Tribes India mobile vans and also on online platforms such as the Tribes India E-marketplace (tribesindia.com) and e-tailers.

Speaking on the occasion, Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED, said, "This is the second set of 100 organic, essential natural immunity-boosting products that have been included in our catalogue. It is our continued endeavour to promote and empower tribals (both

artisans and forest dwellers) across the country and create an *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (a self-reliant India)."

Sourced from different parts of the country, among the products launched in the second edition, include Gora rice, roast and plain Kurthi dal, the tribes of Jharkhand; a new range of beeswax cosmetic products, a range of Ragi products from the tribes of South India; dry chilli, black rice, magic rice, Assam tea from Assam and the North East; bamboo products like floor lamps, table mats and baskets; honey Gulkand from the tribes of Uttarakhand. There is also fresh produce such as Kinnauri walnuts, almonds and Rajma have been procured from the Kinnaur tribes in Himachal Pradesh make for some

ethnic, natural products. Different forms of rice (magic, red, gora, and black) from various tribes of India have also been launched.

With the launch of these new, unique products on a weekly basis, both the customers and tribal population will be positively benefitted. On one hand, pure natural produce, a gift of nature will reach and boost families across the country, and on the other, it will support tribal livelihood.

Adapting 'Go Vocal for Local' mantra in these troubled times, TRIFED has been striving to ameliorate the condition of the distressed and affected tribal people by putting in place several pathbreaking initiatives, in addition to its existing flagship programmes and implementations, which have emerged as a panacea and relief, especially in these times of COVID-19 pandemic.

Rupsi Airport ready



The Airport Authority of India's (AAI) Rupsi Airport in Assam is ready to commence operations under the Regional Connectivity Scheme.

The airport has been re-developed at an estimated cost of ₹69 crore and has also received its license by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The airport is one of India's newest in the RCS route, which will cater to the local population providing direct connectivity to cities like Guwahati, Assam, and Kolkata, West Bengal.

Spread across 337 acres of land, the newly developed airport has a terminal building with an area of 3,500 sqm. Equipped with 10 check-in counters, the terminal is designed to process 200 passengers during the peak hours. The newly built runway of the airport is suitable for landing ATR-72 type of aircraft.

The city side of the airport has car parking available, for arrivals and departures in same level having a capacity of accommodating 100 cars. The airport is also provisioned with sustain-

ability features like rainwater harvesting system, solid waste management system, horticulture works, etc. The airport is covered by fenced forest with rich fauna and flora.

The project work which includes construction of Terminal Building, ATC Tower, Security Hut and other allied works and development of air side facilities like strengthening and re-carpeting of runway, taxiway, apron and allied works, including car parking, approach road, and boundary wall, have been completed and its commercial operation is likely to begin from January 2021.

The foundation stone for development of Rupsi Airport was laid on February 22, 2019. The airport will cater to the needs of air travellers from four districts of Lower Assam viz Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Goalpara as well as neighbouring states like West Bengal, Meghalaya and some parts of Bhutan. The airport is located 64 km from the Kokrajhar district in Assam.

IN SHORT

Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 was observed at POWERGRID, Northern Region-I from October 27 to November 2 at RHQ, Faridabad. Chief Guest, OP Singh, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Faridabad, graced the occasion. DK Singh, ED (NR-I) welcomed the Chief Guest by presenting a book and a plant. RP Singh, Sr GM (HR) NR-I briefed the significance of celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week every year as it coincides with the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as he represented the best values in the Indian tradition so far when it comes to talking about governance. The theme of this year's Vigilance Awareness Week was *Vigilant India – Prosperous India*. Singh distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions held during the week. Manoj Kumar, GM [Vig.] NRTS-I gave vote of thanks.



Vigilance Awareness Week was observed at Hqs Office, Delhi and field offices/ hospitals of ESI Corporation located across the country from October 27 to November 2. Various

programmes and activities to create awareness amongst the stakeholders and the public regarding vigilance activities were organised by the ESIC. The theme for the week this year was *Vigilant India, Prosperous India*. It started with the Integrity Pledge by the officers and staff. Anuradha Prasad, Director General, ESIC, in her address stressed upon the importance of integrity and uprightness in one's life. Garima Bhagat, CVO, ESIC also delivered an informative speech on 'Mapping Integrity Risks in Procurement — Preventive Vigilance Approach', which was attended and appreciated by all the field offices/hospitals. In the poster making competition, Shreya Singh, Chahat Mongia and Laxmi Bisht, each from different age groups, were declared the winners and were rewarded with prizes. Posters made will be displayed in the office for public awareness.



The Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 was observed at NTPC DBF-HQ from October 27 to November 2. KK Singh, RED (DBF & Hydro), administered the 'Integrity Pledge' to the employees on virtual platform through MS teams. The employees took an oath to be more vigilant and transparent about their work ethics and to work for eradication of corruption. Various competitions such as essay writing, slogan writing, video making and quiz competitions were organised for employees, UPL staff and their family members. Entries were invited via email following COVID-19 protocols.



Northern Railway celebrated the Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 from October 27 to November 2. On the fifth day, Chandrakleha Mukherjee S.D.G.M./Northern Railway inspected the Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station. Mukherjee interacted with the passengers for their feedback. Senior Vigilance Officer also inspected at New Delhi & Delhi Jr railway stations. The Vigilance Officer interacted with the passengers at the stations and carried out inspection of CCTV Room, Public Announcement System, Train/Coach Guidance Board at platforms, availability of 139 Facility, Child Helpline Corner & other passenger amenities etc.

REMCL DISTRIBUTES TRICYCLES TO DIVYANGS



Rajeev Mehrotra, CMD-RITES and Chairman-REMCL, and Arun Thakran, Secretary, Haryana, Weightlifting Association (in centre), giving away a motorised tricycle to one of the beneficiaries

Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL), a subsidiary of RITES Ltd, organised a programme for distribution of tricycles to *divyangs* at its office in Gurugram on October 29, Thursday.

Motorised tricycles providing mobility to 21 *divyangs* were distributed by Rajeev Mehrotra, CMD-RITES and Chairman-REMCL; Arun Thakran, Secretary, Haryana, Weightlifting Association, and

Ajay Kumar Singhal, Chief Executive Officer, REMCL.

The dignitaries presided over the event underlined the need for the public not to just show compassion, but to instill confidence among the *divyangs*.

The camp, where motorised tricycles worth ₹9.86 lakh were distributed among 21 beneficiaries, demonstrates the company's commitment to the social welfare of the *divyangs* and engagement with local communities.



NTPC INCREASES FLY ASH SUPPLY

In its endeavour towards 100 per cent utilisation of the by-product produced during power generation, NTPC Ltd has started collaborating with cement manufacturers around the country to supply fly ash. The power producer is leveraging Indian Railways' sprawling network to transport fly ash in an economical and environment-friendly manner.

NTPC Mouda expanded its footsteps towards the ash utilisation by sending the by-product to cement manufacturers through railway rakes. The plant transported 3,186 metric tonnes (MT) of dry fly ash in 51 BCCW wagons to Rajshree Cement (a unit of Ultratech Cement) Kalburgi in Karnataka. With this mega initiative, NTPC Mouda has become the first power plant of NTPC in Maharashtra to send a massive amount of dry fly ash through rail.

During the financial

year 2019-20, almost 23.57 lakh metric tonnes of fly ash was utilised for various productive purposes by NTPC Mouda. The power plant produces approximately 25 lakh metric tonnes of ash annually, out of which 80 per cent (approximately 20 lakh metric tonnes) is fly ash. Presently, almost 100 per cent of ash is being utilised for the production of cement and fly ash bricks, construction of road embankment, development of low-lying land, and raising of ash embankment.

With a total installed capacity of 62.9 GW, NTPC Group has 70 Power stations comprising of 24 Coal, 7 combined cycle Gas/Liquid Fuel, 1 Hydro, 13 Renewables along with 25 Subsidiary & JV Power Stations. The group has over 20 GW of capacity under construction, including five GW of renewable energy projects.



'Correct news is important'

Information and Public Relations Commissioner Mahendra Soni said that no news is ever confidential. It is the responsibility of an administrator to examine the facts thoroughly and give the right news of public interest to the media at the right time.

Soni addressed the trainee officers of the Indian Administrative Service at the *Session on Media Handling* programme held at Harishchandra Mathur State Public Administration Institute, Ripa, on Tuesday.

He shared his nearly 30 years of administrative experience and media-related experience of the Commissioner in the Information and Public Relations Department.

He informed the trainee officers about the structure of the Public Relations Department, the work of the District Information Centre and the functioning of the department, and also informed about the various dimensions of media through various media such as print, electronic, radio, digital and social media.

He said that the information, public relations department, the government's action plan, policies, for publishing programmes, messages, information etc, in public interest, press notes, releases, information are published in print media, TV channels, MM radio, social media, websites, etc. are used.

"In today's era, media is of utmost importance. In this time of viral and breaking news, we should be wise and quick enough to decide to give the right news to the media with proper facts, and should not carry any mistakes. He said that as a skilled administrator you should treat all media equally," he said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY REVIEWS PROJECTS

For the first time after taking over as the General Manager of Northern Railway, Ashutosh Gangal conducted a review meeting with the departmental heads and DRMs of Northern Railway through video conferencing. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on safety, punctuality during Chatth and Diwali festival rush.

Gangal, expressing his keen concern about minimising accidents on tracks as well as within yards, stressed upon better coordination between adjoining divisions of other zonal railways.

He also reviewed the arrangements for Diwali at Delhi stations. He instructed that additional arrangements may be placed for better crowd-control, keeping in mind COVID-19 protocols for safety and social distancing. He said, if required, special, additional and reserved trains will ply, additional counters at stations will be setup to facilitate the passengers.

He further emphasised on the railway working, which should be "transparent." He stressed upon maximum use of technology so that human intervention can be minimised and transparency in all sphere of railway working may be established. He told the efforts should be enhanced to minimise the human failure in train operations.

He added that the monitoring system of progress of construction projects should also be a prime area of focus as the development/improvement of railways are very much dependent on these projects. He told the department heads to expedite and complete the work in stipulated time manner in particular construction projects. He also reviewed

the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and the removal of scrap lying near the tracks. He instructed the divisions on conducting drives to enhance the safety and counsel the staff whenever necessary.

In another meeting, Gangal reviewed the performance of Business Development Units setup at Zonal and Divisional levels this year with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conferencing. The meeting aimed at enhancing the share of freight business of railways, customer mapping and engagement.

He informed that the efforts of BDUs has started giving yields as Northern Railway has successfully reached new areas of freight business like loading of sugar to Nepal, operation of Vayapar Mala trains, TEEVRA services, SMS alerts to consignees, etc. As of now, 52 meetings of BDUs have been organised at various levels with different stakeholders.

He said that through constant help from BDUs, there is a 26 per cent increase in loading and 30 per cent increase in earnings in October 2020, which is quite significant given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The food grain loading is about 50 per cent.

Talking about the freight business developments, he took stock of the outreach of the Business Development Units. He also instructed that BDUs should create an environment of trust, support and confidence amongst the customers. He informed that loading of food grains and other items have steadily increased with every passing month.



The Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Council's market fair, currently running at the River Heights Complex, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad, is a pilot project of the UP government, where finished products are being sold within the country so that small-scale and medium-scale entrepreneurs of the country can get a chance to move forward.

The Apohan India Group's stall of organic products, that is the Jeevan Mitra items, have become the centre of attraction among the public at the fair. The operator of this stall is Dr. Rahul Chaturvedi, who lost both his eyesight in a chemical accident. Dr. Chaturvedi has also been the Ayurvedic physician of former President of India Pranab Mukherjee. At present, he is also in charge of the Ayurvedic medicine of the President, he says that when chemical can make the eyes light, then fertilizer products made from

The lamp of hope

ASHOK NIRWAN takes a walk across the Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Council's market fair at Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, and reviews products

chemical can harm too! It is very difficult to imagine how much damage can be done to life. This incident inspired Dr. Rahul to take life-friendly items among ordinary citizens. Under the banner of the Apohan India group, at this time all kinds of puja ingredients prepared with all kinds of indigenous pulses, rice, ghee, vegetable and flower juices, magic pots made from special clothes, beauty cosmetics, amla and sugar sweets made from amla, laddu, Besan and flour from the windmill are attracting the people a lot. The special thing is that the income that comes from the sale of these prod-

ucts is spent on the education of poor, promising students from the countryside. In Swarnajayanti Puram, Ghaziabad, Dr. Rahul Chaturvedi runs a Gurukul under the aegis of the National Society and Charitable Service Institute where 42 poor students are studying. At the fair, Dr. Rahul also informs consumers about the benefits of consumption of Jeevan Mitra items. During this time, he also informs consumers about the identity of fake and real-life friend items. This time for lighting pollution-free Diwali festival, for lighting they have prepared.

Rohit is a very good player, and he hasn't played many matches so I am not sure about his touch, and that means that we can definitely take advantage of it

Fitness-wise he (Hardik) is fine. We just wanted to give him a break and provide an opportunity to some other guys but I am sure he will be ready for the playoffs

We took it (MI game) like just another match and if everyone does their thing it would be really easy for us to win...It feels good when you beat such a good and strong team

I pride myself on getting my team to a great start. That is my duty, my job. Fortunately the last few games have been great and we have been able to go in a positive manner



Mumbai Indians' Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav shake hands with Delhi Capitals players' after IPL game in Dubai on October 31

IPLT20.com

MI stand b/w Delhi & IPL final

Eyeing first decider berth in 13 years, DC take on defending champions in 1st Qualifier today

PTI ■ DUBAI

They stand on the opposite ends of IPL's success spectrum but there is little to separate between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals in the tournament's 13th edition as they head into a blockbuster first qualifier here on Thursday.

The team to beat in the league stage, four-time winners Mumbai lost a bit of their momentum after a 10-wicket defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday.

While chasing their maiden title, Delhi Capitals roared back to form by thrashing Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets to grab the second spot, after four successive losses.

The biggest positive for Mumbai has been the return of skipper Rohit Sharma, who had missed four games to recover from a hamstring injury. The star opener, though, perished cheap-

ly against SRH and needs to come good on the big day.

The defending champions boast an explosive batting line-up coupled with an equally lethal bowling attack, but the batters had an off day against SRH.

Their bowlers too were taken to the task — a wake-up call before the crucial game.

Mumbai top-order has been firing on all-cylinders and young Ishan Kishan (428 runs) has been a revelation. Quinton De Kock (443) would be keen to continue his sublime form while opening with Rohit.

And so would Suryakumar Yadav (410), who has played some scintillating knocks.

Known for their six-hitting prowess, Hardik Pandya (241), Kieron Pollard (259) and Krunal Pandya (95) have pummelled bowling attacks to submission.

Pollard's six-hitting ability was on display again when he plundered four maximums against SRH. The three could prove to be the difference.

Mumbai rested key bowlers — Jasprit Bumrah (23 wickets) and Trent Boult (20 wickets) — against SRH. Both have been lethal at front and at the death. Spinners Rahul Chahar (15 wickets) and Krunal (5 wickets) will need to forget the hammering they received from David Warner and Wriddhiman Saha before taking on DC.

One the other hand, Delhi's middle-order has been sluggish and heavily dependent on one or two batters.

But the good news is Ajinkya Rahane (111 runs) is back among runs after scoring a match-winning 60 against RCB.

Shikhar Dhawan (525) has been in blazing form, with two

hundreds and three fifties, but will need support from others in a big game.

A major cause of concern is

We'll take advantage of Rohit's lost touch: Dhawan

NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals' flamboyant opener Shikhar Dhawan is enjoying one of his best seasons in the IPL, having already scored 525 runs at a personal best average of 47.72. The left-hander has effectively used his experience at the top of the order for the Delhi Capitals throughout the season, and will look to impress again as his team faces Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 1 on Thursday.

Speaking to the media over a virtual press conference on Wednesday, the 34-year-old batsman when asked if Mumbai Indians have an upper hand going into Thursday's encounter, Dhawan said, "I don't think they have an upper hand. We've got a quality team and we know we can beat any team. We just have to play good cricket and have to be very clear with our plans. I believe if we manage to do that, we can certainly win."

Thursday's clash could see the return of Rohit Sharma to Mumbai's starting XI, and

Dhawan was asked if his team will look to take advantage of the former having missed some matches. "Rohit is a very good player, and yes he hasn't played many matches so I'm not sure about his touch, and that means that we can definitely take advantage of it. My best wishes to him, but yes as opponents, we can take advantage of that for sure and make plans accordingly," PNS

the form of two youngsters — opener Prithvi Shaw (228) and Rishabh Pant (282) — who haven't lived up to their true potential. So has been the case of their key overseas players — West Indian Shimron Hetmyer (138 runs) and Marcus Stoinis (249 runs).

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (421) will

have to play the anchor's role.

On the bowling front, the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (19) have been exceptional.

Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel have also done well to suffocate the opposition teams.

'No team wants to face Mumbai'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond on Wednesday said no team wants to face them, knowing the extent of damage they can do with their explosive batting and lethal bowling attack.

Defending champions MI entered the play-offs with nine wins and 18 points.

"We have got as good batting line (up) as anyone in the tournament, our bowling line up is as good as anyone's in the tournament."

"I think we are the team that nobody really wants to play,

because they know if we play well, we can do some damage," Bond said on the eve of the first qualifier.

"We have got a whole lot of players, who have experienced winning the tournament. They know how to win with one tight game, so we go in with that weight behind us and that makes a huge difference," the former Kiwi pacer added.

He said that the team has a set of players who knows how to play in key matches and that could be an advantage for the four-time champions against Delhi Capitals.

"You have got Pollards, the Rohits, Pandya brothers now,

Suryakumar... Guys who know how to win, they know the intensity of the finals, pressures of the finals, they have played well and have had success in those finals.

"So if you take that into the final (play-offs) against the team which hadn't had success and are nervous, then it goes in your advantage," he said.

"We are a team that knows how to win, we have got some big players in our team, we still have to play bloody well, because we play whoever has earned their spots and are outstanding teams."

"There is confidence in this group that we know how to get the job done."

Rohit being fit & available is best news for Indian cricket: Gavaskar

DUBAI: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar is delighted to see a "fit-again" Rohit Sharma back in action which he feels is the "best news for Indian cricket" ahead of the tour of Australia.

Rohit, who sustained a left hamstring injury during an IPL game against Kings XI Punjab (October 18), was back in the park against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday, a week after being excluded from the Australia-bound squad on fitness grounds.

"Whatever has transpired earlier with regards to his (Rohit) injury, keeping that aside, I would say it's a great news for Indian cricket that Rohit Sharma is fit," Gavaskar told *Sports Tak*.

Gavaskar, however, said that

concerns raised by head coach Ravi Shastri and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly while urging the senior player not to rush his comeback are also "valid".

"Look, the concern shown by everyone collectively that there could be a rupture (if he hurries his return) is a valid one. But he looked confident. He fielded at the boundary ropes and also in the 30-yard circle," Gavaskar said.

The legendary opener said that if BCCI wants to put Rohit through another fitness test, there is no harm.

"He played the match to show that he is fit but if BCCI wants to test his fitness again, then there is nothing wrong in it. Because they want to check if he is fully fit or not." PTI

Velocity restrict Supernovas to 126/8

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht lscaped three batters as Velocity put up a disciplined bowling effort to restrict defending champions Supernova to a modest 126 for eight in the opening match of Women's T20 Challenge, here on Wednesday.

Apart from Bisht, New Zealand off-spinner Leigh Kasperrek (2/23) and medium pacer Jahanara Alam (2/27) also contributed in stifling the holders.

Jahanara dismissed key batters — Harmanpreet Kaur (31) and Chamara Atapattu (44) — to derail Supernova.

Sri Lankan T20 skipper Atapattu and her Indian counterpart Harmanpreet had seized control in the back end but their



47-run partnership was broken by Jahanara with Veda Krishnamurthy taking calm-headed skier in the long on.

Jahanara later dismissed

Harmanpreet for 31 after the Indian skipper holed out at short fine leg. It triggered a collapse as the defending champions lost four wickets for 15 runs.

Chamari slammed two sixes and two boundaries in a 39-ball 44, while Harmanpreet hit two sixes and one boundary.

Velocity made some early inroads with their spinner duo of Leigh Kasperrek and Ekta Bisht dismissing Priya Punia (11) and Jemimah Rodrigues (7) inside eight overs.

But Supernova took control in the back end with Chamari breaking free against Manali Dakshini.

The Sri Lankan T20 skipper hit Manali inside out over cover and in the next over pulled Kasperrek over deep mid-wicket for her second six to lift the run-rate.

But Chamari fell six runs short of a half-century as Supernovas failed to shift gear afterwards.

Ronchi appointed NZ batting coach

WELLINGTON: Dual international wicketkeeper Luke Ronchi has been appointed batting coach of the New Zealand cricket team, starting with imminent home series against the West Indies.

Ronchi was born in New Zealand but first played international cricket for Australia, appearing in four one-day and three T20Is in 2008.

He returned to New Zealand and played four Tests, 81 ODIs and 30 T20s between 2013 and 2017, when he retired from international cricket.

Ronchi was part of the New Zealand coaching staff during last year's ICC World Cup in England and was confirmed on Wednesday as New Zealand's fulltime batting coach, taking over from Peter Fulton.

"I'm absolutely pumped," he said.

"I've really enjoyed being back with the team in recent seasons and it's exciting to be given the opportunity full-time this summer."

"Getting the chance to continue working with our batsmen is a great honor and I'm looking forward to seeing how I can help improve their games and best prepare them to perform at the highest level." AP

AFP ■ BERGAMO

Diogo Jota scored a stunning hat-trick in Liverpool's 5-0 demolition of Atalanta in the Champions League on Tuesday, as holders Bayern Munich scored six and Real Madrid struck late to beat Inter Milan in a thriller.

On a prolific night across Europe which also saw a rampant Borussia Monchengladbach hit six in Ukraine, the star individual performances came from Jota and Alassane Plea.

Portugal forward Jota joined Liverpool from Wolverhampton Wanderers in September and has wasted little time making an impact with seven goals from just five starts.

In Bergamo, against an Atalanta side who reached the quarter-finals last season, Jota was brought

into the starting line-up in place of Roberto Firmino and required just 16 minutes to open the scoring.

Another emphatic finish allowed the 2019 Champions League winners to double their lead before the break, and Mohamed Salah then broke away to get the third just after the restart.

Salah set up Sadio Mane for Liverpool's fourth before Jota got his hat-trick goal as the Premier League champions recorded their biggest win in Europe since beating Porto 5-0 away in February 2018.

"I'm playing in the best team of my career so far. I don't know if it's the best moment of my career but obviously scoring goals is my way of playing football," Jota told *BT Sport*.

With three wins from three, Liverpool are well on course to top Group D, with Ajax and Atalanta both five points back.

Ajax won 2-1 away to Midtjylland in Denmark, as Brazilian young-



Diogo Jota celebrates with Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane after hat-trick

©LFC

ster Antony opened the scoring in the first minute and Dusan Tadic netted from an indirect free-kick inside the box soon after. Anders

Dreyer got one back for the hosts, who remain pointless.

French forward Plea had earlier scored a hat-trick as Gladbach

Dio goals Jota

Liverpool's new summer signing scores hat-trick in 5-nil away win

claimed a stunning 6-0 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk in Kiev, the German side's biggest European triumph since their 1970s heyday.

The unfortunate Valeriy Bondar scored an own goal, with Ramy Bensebaini and Lars Stindl also scoring as Gladbach went top of Group B, a point clear of Shakhtar and Real Madrid.

RODRIGO WINS IT FOR REAL

Real, the 13-time European champions, ran out 3-2 winners in a dramatic encounter with Inter behind closed doors at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium, as Vinicius Junior set up his fellow Brazilian substitute Rodrigo to lash in the decisive goal 10 minutes from time.

Karim Benzema had put the hosts ahead and Sergio Ramos

headed in his 100th Madrid goal in the 33rd minute, but Lautaro Martinez pulled one back shortly after.

Inter were missing the injured Romelu Lukaku but looked set to escape with a draw when Ivan Perisic equalised midway through the second half, only for Rodrigo to pounce and leave the Italians bottom of the group.

BAYERN MAKE IT 14 IN A ROW

Reigning champions Bayern have now won a record-extending 14 consecutive Champions League games after a 6-2 victory against Salzburg in Austria.

German forward Mergim Berisha gave Salzburg an early lead only for Robert Lewandowski to level from the penalty spot, and a Rasmus Kristensen own goal put Bayern ahead before the break.

Japanese substitute Masaya Okugawa restored parity midway through the second half only for Bayern to run away with the game late on.

Jerome Boateng headed them

back in front. Leroy Sane got their fourth and Lewandowski strained to head in his 12th of the season, before Lucas Hernandez wrapped up their win.

"We never give up — that's what sets us apart," Boateng told *Sky Germany*.

Hansi Flick's side are firmly in control of Group A, five points ahead of Atletico Madrid, who drew 1-1 at Lokomotiv Moscow.

Jose Maria Gimenez's header for Atletico was cancelled out by Anton Miranchuk's penalty.

Meanwhile, Marseille's 3-0 loss away to Porto saw them equal Anderlecht's record of 12 consecutive Champions League defeats.

Moussa Marega gave Porto an early lead before Dimitri Payet blazed a penalty over for Marseille.

Sergio Oliveira then scored from the spot to make it 2-0 for Porto and Luis Diaz sealed the win for the home side in Group C.

Manchester City are firmly in control of that section after Pep Guardiola's side eased past Olympiakos 3-0, with Ferran Torres, Gabriel Jesus and Joao Cancelo netting.