

WORLD 9
US SETS DAILY RECORD, TOPS
126,000 NEW VIRUS CASES**SPECIAL 11**
DELHI
DAREDEVILS**SPORT 12**
DELHI FACE SRH IN
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**USUAL SUSPECTS**
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Trump's loss not that resounding

It is not always necessary to have passionate views on everything. The presidential election in the United States is very significant and has a bearing on life outside that country. That is because the US, for all its shortcomings, remains a global power and possibly the only superpower that is in a position to check the relentless forward march of Chinese hegemonism, a phenomenon that has a direct bearing on the future of India. Yet, in the ultimate analysis, and despite the far-reaching consequences of the voting preferences of American citizens, the election is an internal matter of that country. As Indians we have every reason to be interested in who occupies the White House for the next four years. However, interest has to be blended with detachment and the awareness that India must view bilateral relations as a continuous process. We have to engage and work with whosoever the US voters choose to run their country.

At the time of writing, neither Americans nor the rest of the world know who will occupy the White House till January 2025. Although it seems increasingly likely that the winner of the president contest is former Vice President Joe Biden, we can never be sure if President Trump's allegation of electoral malpractice will fail to stand up to judicial scrutiny. The charges have certainly not withstood media scrutiny, but as is increasingly evident, the US media tends to notoriously one-sided in its views on everything to do with Trump. The President, in its view, can do nothing right. Nor can his supporters.

This uninhibited partisanship that has brought an entrenched section of the US Establishment together to fight a maverick interloper is, of course, entirely an American problem. However, this phenomenon of perceptions being guided on the strength of condescension is becoming universal. In the American presidential election, for example, the opinions industry — still UN reconciled to the shock

Trump may very well lose the election but the defeat will not be resounding but by the narrowest of margins. This outcome wasn't certainly anticipated by the opinion polls, most of which forecast a landslide victory for Biden. Did the polls make a genuine mistake based on flawed sampling? That would be charitable explanation. However, it is more than likely that the serious under-estimation of Trump's support owed to what has been described as the 'social desirability bias'. In everyday language this translates into a fear among Trump's supporters that their support for the President would be seen to be unacceptable in polite company

environment that ostracised real sentiments on the ground. Yes, Trump did fight this insidious manipulation of real feeling but not successfully enough.

What are the implications of this coup — and I use this term quite deliberately — on the rest of the world? This is not idle speculation. Since American soft power is all pervasive, it is almost certain that the strategies used to prevent his re-election will now become a model for others to emulate. Without over-stating the point, it is instructive to note that rudiments of the anti-Trump strategy was also tried, though without success, in the 2019 general election against Narendra Modi.

The comparisons aren't exact. None of the three pillars of the traditional Establishment — media, academia and business — were totally united in their determination to oust Modi and, in any case, there was scepticism over the credentials of the challenger. But the rudiments of the approach successfully tried in the US were evident in India last year. The approach failed because the alternatives to Modi were extremely feeble but it is certain this is not the last we will hear of a concerted manipulation of public opinion, not least by telling a majority that it should be ashamed of itself.

On a more profound note, this election in the US demonstrated the power of the passive voter — those who want a say but are disinclined to queue up before the polling stations. Biden secured his advantage by securing the vast majority of those who either used postal votes or absentee ballots — a legitimate democratic approach as long as the votes were from genuine voters.

I do not share Trump's insistence that only those who actually vote on Election Day should be counted and others, in effect, disenfranchised. In America this gave a chance to professionals and the middle classes to flex their electoral muscles and favoured the Democrats. In other countries this may favour parties of the Right. It will depend on the context. What is however undeniable that the larger participation of people in any election strengthens democracy.

Bihar votes for change!

Exit polls project 120-161 seats for Grand Alliance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Swept by a whirlwind of change, NDA in Bihar seemed headed for a big setback in the State Assembly polls. The exit polls on Saturday projected the ouster of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and installation of a RJD-led Government headed by Tejashwi Yadav.

The third and final phase of the Bihar Assembly elections took place on Saturday with around 55 per cent turnout. Out of the 243-strong Assembly, 78 constituencies went to polls in the final phase.

While all exit polls gave clear edge to the Grand Alliance, the India Today-Axis Exit polls projected 138-161 seats to the Grand Alliance, while Chanakya projected 180 seats to it.

The exit polls forecast serve a grim message to the NDA that there are few takers for Hindutva-driven campaign if the Opposition could flag issues that concerned the common man.

If the exit polls projection comes true on November 10, then it will be a rude shock to the NDA strategists who till one month ago were confident of winning over 200 seats in the 244-member Assembly. After all, only 18 months ago in the Lok Sabha polls, the NDA swept the State winning 39 out of 40 seats and logging in 54 per cent votes as against 29 per cent by the Grand Alliance.

Apart from 15 years of anti-incumbency, Nitish Kumar also faced sabotage from Chirag Paswan, who put up candidates against each and

AGENCY	GRAND ALLIANCE	NDA	OTHERS
Today's Chanakya-CNN News18	180	55	8
India Today-Axis My India	139-161	69-91	3-5
ABP-CVoter exit poll	108-131	104-128	1-3
Times Now-CVoter	120	116	1
Republic TV-Jan Ki Baat	128	104	7
TV9 Bharatvarsh	120	115	8



every JD(U) candidates went to the poll Alliance, while Chanakya projected 180 seats to it. with the sole objective of ousting Nitish Kumar. Throughout the poll campaign, the BJP could not dispel the impression that Chirag was not fighting a proxy battle on its behalf to cut to size Nitish Kumar. In the end, the BJP seemed to walk away with 7-8 per cent votes, which would translate into loss of dozen of seats for the JD(U).

Political circles in Bihar were abuzz with speculation that the BJP wanted Nitish to get far less seats than it so that he himself will not lay claim to the post of Chief Minister on moral ground. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda did repeatedly claim that Nitish will retain his chair even if his party were to get less seats than the BJP, but their failure to publicly chastise Chirag kept the pot of confusion and distrust

boiling throughout the poll campaign.

In the end, both the BJP and the JD(U) paid the price as supporters of both the parties tried to sabotage each other on several seats. JD(U) MP from Bhagalpur Ajay Kumar Mandal was heard asking his workers not to vote for the BJP inviting severe tongue-lashing from Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi. He was not the lone leader to play spoilsport for the alliance. Several BJP leaders also tried to sabotage the JD(U) candidates. The confusion was all the more visible on the ground among workers from both the parties.

With Covid-19 causing extreme economic stress among the lower strata of the society and nearly 25 lakh migrant workers returning to Bihar under heart-rending conditions, the burden of anti-incumbency grew that much heavier for the NDA.

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BJP may get stronger after MP, Guj, UP bypoll results

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The exit polls for the bypolls in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have indicated that the BJP will consolidate its presence in the three States. According to the India Today-Axis My India exit poll, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government in Madhya Pradesh will survive with the BJP likely to bag 16-18 Assembly seats. The Congress is estimated to bag 10-12 of the total 28 seats that were up for by-election in Madhya Pradesh. If these estimates hold true, the BJP's vote share has risen by 5 per cent to 46 per cent while the Congress' vote share rose by two per cent to 43 per cent. It predicts 0-1 seats in MP going to the BSP.

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A security person carries an elderly voter to a polling station during the third phase of Bihar Assembly elections at Mahua in Vaishali on Saturday PTI

IMD to forecast malaria outbreaks from next monsoon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will start issuing forecast for malaria outbreaks from next monsoon.

"The IMD studied the phenomenon of occurrence in malaria and its relationship with rainfall and temperature. The IMD first studied the malaria data it got from Nagpur. This can be applied to other places as well. This can give predictions on large scale malaria outbreaks," Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary M Rajeevan said on Saturday.

According to the 2019 World Malaria Report, 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and India carried almost

85 per cent of the global malaria burden.

Rajeevan said the same technique can be applied to other monsoon-related diseases such as dengue and cholera. Malaria is rampant in parts of Africa and sub-tropical countries.

According to the National Health Portal (NHP), the majority of malaria cases are reported from eastern and central part of the country and from States which have forest, hilly and tribal areas.

These states include Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and some north-eastern States like Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

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Air pollution raised Covid cases in Delhi by 13%: IMA

'Masks, air purifiers may not provide full protection'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi has reported more than 6,000 Covid-19 cases daily in the past few days and 13 per cent of this increase has been estimated to be due to air pollution, the Indian Medical

DELHI'S AIR TO REMAIN 'SEVERE'

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality deteriorated to 'severe' category on Saturday as Punjab and nearby regions recorded the highest number of stubble burning incidents this season. Delhi's overall (AQI) was 427 on Saturday evening and 443 in the morning.

Kamala Harris VP-elect

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Democrat Joe Biden on Saturday defeated incumbent Republican US President Donald Trump in the closely-fought presidential election, according to American media projections.

The 77-year-old former US Vice President will become the 46th president of the United States, CNN reported, after a victory in Pennsylvania, the state where he was born put him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win.

With Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes, Biden now has a total of 273 electoral votes.

Before becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Biden served as vice president under former President Barack Obama. He is also Delaware's longest-serving senator.

Senator Kamala Harris, 56, who is of Indian origin, has become the first ever woman vice president-elect of the United States. She would also be the country's first Indian-origin, first Black and first African American Vice President of the country.

Biden and Harris would be sworn in as the President and Vice President of the country on January 20.

"America, I'm honoured



People celebrate outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia on Saturday after Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become 46th President of the United States AP

that you have chosen me to lead our great country. The work ahead of us will be hard, but I promise you this: I will be a President for all Americans — whether you voted for me or not. I will keep the faith that you have placed in me," Biden said in a tweet soon thereafter.

"This election is about so much more than" Joe Biden "or me. It's about the soul of America and our willingness to fight for it. We have a lot of work ahead of us. Let's get started," tweeted Vice President-elect Harris.

Trump was playing golf in Virginia when major media outlets called the race. He is now the first incumbent president to lose reelection bid after George HW Bush in 1992.

Major media outlets started calling Biden the winner after it became clear that he has taken a major lead the battleground State of Pennsylvania, which has 20 electoral college votes, making him cross the benchmark of the 270 electoral college votes.

Counting of ballots is still ongoing in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada and Georgia. Biden has the lead in all the four states, which according to major media outlets is unlikely to be reversed.

"Joe Biden will become the 46th president of the United States", CNN projects, after a victory in the state where he was born put him over the 270 electoral votes needed to win. Turn to Page 9

Gupkar Declaration alliance to fight DDC polls jointly in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In a major political development, the newly formed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration on Saturday decided to contest the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls unitedly in Jammu & Kashmir.

The eight phase DDC polls are scheduled to take place between November 28 and December 19 amid tight security arrangements along with bypolls on the vacant seats of urban local bodies in J&K.

It is for the first time the Kashmir-based regional parties, considered arch rivals, have decided to contest any polls under the same banner.

The alliance was earlier

founded to carry forward their "constitutional" fight for the restoration of Article 370 and 35-A in Jammu & Kashmir.

The announcement was made by the spokesman of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), Sajad Gani Lone, soon after the maiden meeting of all the constituents ended here in Jammu on Saturday. During the day several delegations from Jammu met these leaders at the residence of Farooq Abdullah and shared their assessment of the prevailing political situation in the region.

Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) also announced that it will contest the DDC polls.

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CAPSULE

INDIA LAUNCHES EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE



Sriharikota: India successfully launched its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01 and nine customer satellites on board its Polar rocket from the spaceport here on Saturday. EOS-01 is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

COVID -VE REPORT FOR HAJ PILGRIMS MUST Mumbai: Haj pilgrims will have to submit Covid-19 negative report 72 hours prior to their journey to Saudi Arabia in 2021, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,14,273	45,115	15,69,090
Karnataka	8,41,889	11,347	7,97,204
Andhra Pradesh	8,38,363	6,768	8,09,770
Tamil Nadu	7,41,488	11,324	7,11,198
Uttar Pradesh	4,95,421	7,180	4,65,250
Kerala	4,73,469	1,641	3,88,504
Delhi	4,23,831	6,833	3,71,155
West Bengal	3,97,466	7,177	3,54,732
Odisha	3,00,140	1,463	2,85,174
Telangana	2,48,891	1,372	2,27,583
Bihar	2,21,811	1,136	2,13,911
Rajasthan	2,09,438	1,979	1,91,132
Assam	2,08,389	938	1,99,455
Chhattisgarh	1,97,991	2,412	1,70,760
Haryana	1,80,424	1,897	1,62,814
Gujarat	1,78,633	3,751	1,62,946

Bizman hangs self, bros booked for abetment

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A businessman dealing in sale of coal was found hanging at his house in Hazratganj early Saturday morning. His wife accused his brothers of bullying him over a money-related issue by getting calls made by influential persons and even cops. Police registered a case for abetment to suicide against brothers of the deceased. The deceased was identified as Parvez Ahmed of Ram Teerath Marg in Narhi.

As per reports, Parvez was not on good terms with his brothers Owais Ahmed and Ghaus Moinuddin aka Bobby (both of Ujariaon in Gomtinagar). Two days back,

they had a verbal spat over division of property and money that their father had left for them. The police summoned the accused to explain their side of the story.

Deceased's wife Mahjabeen Fatima said Owais and Ghaus attacked Parvez on November 5 and forced him to sign a blank paper by threatening to frame him up in a case. "They boasted of their links with police and took Parvez to a bank where they forced him to sign an application which they submitted there on November 5," she alleged.

She said Parvez was terrified with the brawls which were taking place regularly. "We gave an application at Hazratganj while describing

the high-handedness of the accused. On November 6, the accused came to our house and threatened to kill us and grab all the property. They asked Parvez to give the money and property to them or face the music. Parvez was tense and he hanged himself using a rope. Bobby was present in his room but he deliberately took a lot of time in helping Parvez. I tried my best but failed to save his life," Parvez's wife told the police. She alleged that the accused and their family members also thrashed her and her relatives at the hospital where Parvez was taken.

A police spokesman said a case was registered in this connection and further investigation was underway.

One held for spreading communal hatred

Lucknow (PNS): The Sarojininar police arrested a 53-year-old man for allegedly spreading communal hatred by posting messages about the France killings and French president on Saturday. The police were informed about a man posting inflammatory messages on different social media platforms. The police worked on the case and arrested the accused, who was identified as Mohammed Naeem of Hasanganj locality. Naeem told the police that he had spread the message among his WhatsApp contacts and others.

Meanwhile, Talkatora police arrested a 21-year-old boy for blackmailing a girl and extorting gold ornaments and cash from her. The accused was arrested by a team of police. The accused was identified as Aditya aka Rohit of Hardoi and presently stays in Alamnagar. The accused owned his crime. He disclosed that he befriended the girl and secured her photos. He later morphed the photographs into obscene ones and started blackmailing her for cash and gold ornaments.

DUPED

A man was duped of about Rs 30,000 in the name of initiating online OTP services for his credit card, in Banthra on Saturday. As per reports, Sudhakar Singh Yadav of Mati in Banthra secured a credit card from a private bank some time back. The credit card had no facility for online OTP and so he contacted the customer care service of the bank on November 3. Yadav got a call the next day from the customer care and he was asked to share the OTP which he would get on his phone to install the service, and he followed the instructions. The next moment, he got a message regarding deduction of Rs 29,725 from his credit card. Yadav called back on the same number but the call went unattended.

LU's centennial convocation on November 21

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University will be holding its centennial convocation ceremony on November 21. Spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said Governor Anandiben Patel has given consent to the university to conduct the ceremony. He said the preparations for this special convocation ceremony have already begun.

"Due to Covid-19 restrictions in place on public gathering and keeping in mind the health of entire LU family, only 15 medals given by the university administration to some of the best students will be awarded at the convocation. All other departmental medals sponsored by alumni or otherwise will be conferred to students at a date which will be announced later.

He said the medals to be awarded by the Chancellor at the convocation will include Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal



for the best NCC cadet, Chancellor's Silver Medal for the best student among all students of all the faculties in PG, Chancellor's Silver Medal for the best girl student, Chancellor's Gold Medal for the best student in all the faculties, Chancellor's Bronze Medal for the best student in BA, BSc, BCom, BFA, LLB and Dr Chakravarti Gold Medal for Service for good behaviour.

‘Cancer treatment should begin soon after diagnosis’

Lucknow (PNS): Regional centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University, in collaboration with Super Specialty Cancer Institute and Hospital, organised a webinar on 'Cancer: Myths and Reality' on the eve of 'National Cancer Awareness Day' on Saturday.

Hospital director Dr Shaleen Kumar spoke in detail about cancer treatment facilities offered by them. "Cancer occurs because of the uncontrolled growth of cells. The most threatening is the cancer of brain and the common cancer includes that of throat, stomach and lungs," he said

Head of SGPGI's Radiotherapy department Dr Punita Lal said the treatment of cancer should begin soon after detection. She said biopsy is important to know the type of cancer and incomplete surgery increases the growth of cancer.

Medical superintendent of the cancer hospital Dr R Harshvardhan highlighted the cancer care programmes offered by the government. IGNOU regional director Manorama Singh, in her keynote address, stressed on healthy lifestyle for combating cancer.



Additional housing commissioner (property) Neelam handing letters to those allotted flats in Bhagirathi Enclave, Awadh Shilp Gram project of UP Awasth Vikas Parishad, in Lucknow on Saturday

Shilp Kumbh brings cheers to artisans

Lucknow (PNS): Coinciding with the festive season, NABARD is organising 'NABARD Shilp Kumbh-2020' in its office premises from November 6 to 12. The event is turning out to be a boon for artisans, handicrafts workers and weavers affected by lockdown. The fair was inaugurated by NABARD chief general manager Shankar A Pande and general manager of Bank of Baroda and SLBC convener Brijesh Kumar. Pande said it's an endeavour to constantly support the artisans involved in handicrafts, village crafts and weavers through NABARD's development and promotional programmes. "UP is a great

treasure house of handicrafts and each district has its unique products. NABARD is involved in training of the artisans, cluster development programmes, formation of Off-Farm Producers Organisation, facilitation for registration of GI products and facilitating marketing of the products through exhibitions, setting up of rural marts etc. Various artifacts like home furnishing from Baghpat, Nizamabad black pottery, Lucknow chikankari, Ghazipur wall hangings, Mirzapur durries & carpets, Gorakhpur terracotta, Siddharthnagar kala namak & rice and many more such products are available for sale in this 7-day fair," he said.

World judiciary supports CMS students' appeal

Lucknow (PNS): On the second day, the 21st International Conference of Chief Justices of the World opened to a series of enlightening speeches by visionaries and prominent personalities who laid the foundation for discussion and deliberations regarding global governance as a post-Covid imperative. Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and UP Assembly Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit expressed their views about global governance and its pressing need today.

Members of world judiciary rolled out their ideas for global governance and advocated the need for enforceable international law and reformulation of the UNO to create a more equitable society based on the universal laws of peace, unity and justice. Heads of states, speakers of parliament, chief justices and judges from 63 countries of the world extended support to the touching appeal by the students of City Montessori School to safeguard the future of 2.5 billion children of the world.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS

Due to operational reasons following Special Trains will remain temporarily cancelled on the dates shown against each :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Date from originating station
04421 Lucknow-Anand Vihar T. Special Train	12, 14, 16, 19 & 21.11.2020
04422 Anand Vihar T.-Lucknow Special Train	11, 13, 15, 18 & 20.11.2020
04401 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Special Train	12, 16 & 19.11.2020
04402 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Special Train	13, 17 & 20.11.2020
04519 Delhi Jn.-Bathinda Special Train	11.11.2020 to 20.11.2020
04520 Bathinda-Delhi Jn. Special Train	12.11.2020 to 21.11.2020

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

80% of corona carriers asymptomatic

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Eighty per cent of the coronavirus carriers are asymptomatic in Lucknow and they are the primary reasons for the spread of infection in urban pockets. A health official said as they were unable to detect these people, they started target sampling to check silent circulation and prevent a probable second wave.

"In targeting sampling, we are not targeting sympto-

matic persons but anyone working in different professions. At the outset too, 80 per cent of the patients were asymptomatic. Another reason why symptomatic persons go undetected is because of antigen testing, which is not confirmatory. Antigen tests are conducted only if a person is asymptomatic because we have limited resources which cannot be wasted," he said.

When asked about people losing their sense of taste and smell and still testing negative,

the official said they could be feeling the symptoms psychologically. "When you read about the symptoms, you start feeling that you also have the same, but it usually not the case. There have been people who tested positive and got sweet smells. The virus does affect the brain so may be a part of it is true," he said.

Regarding their preparations for the Covid-19 vaccination, he said they are still trying to compile the list and obtain the names of health

workers who would be the first category to be vaccinated.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said directions have been issued by the additional chief secretary (CM) that meetings should be held early in the morning at hospitals and in the evening at Integrated Control and Command Centre to check the spread of virus. He said the chief development officer would coordinate these meetings.

Skills lab inaugurated at KGMU's paediatrics dept

Lucknow (PNS): The Foundation Day of KGMU's department of Paediatrics was celebrated on Saturday. Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri, who was the chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the paediatric skills lab in the department. The lab is loaded with practice manikins, instructional videos, digital X-ray, CT scans, ABGs and ECGs collection, supplies and equipment. It will provide MBBS students a realistic, simulated clinical environment to practise and demonstrate competency of selected skills to meet their educational goals.

"In this lab, students will be able to practise injection techniques, intravenous fluid administration, naso-gastric tube insertion, airway management, endotracheal intubation and resuscitation of children, including newborns," head of the department Dr Shally Awasthi said.

In his address, Dr Puri expressed satisfaction and happiness on the hard work being done by the faculty members. He was moved by the expression of happiness, confidence and devotion with willingness exuding from the residents sharing their experi-

ence of working in Covid-19 areas. He appreciated that residents of this department were continuously posted at eight different locations of KGMU round the clock.

The annual progress of the department was presented by Dr Awasthi. She enumerated various achievements of the department during last year. She said the department has published 35 research papers in various national and international journals and 21 research projects are underway. "Faculty members and residents have prepared around 100 departmental

standard operating procedures to standardise various patient-related procedures, treatment protocols and teaching methods. This year, the department adopted six children with tuberculosis for nutrition support and care under the guidance of Governor Anandiben Patel on September 21. These children are regularly followed up by the faculty members that provide guidance for treatment and nutritional advice," she said.

She added that the department has also started a TB clinic every Monday and Thursday in the OPD.

UCO BANK

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Sl. No.	Name, Address of Borrower(s) & Branch Name	Amount Outstanding (Rs.)	Description of Property & Name of Owner	Dt. of Demand Notice / Possession taken
1.	Shri Alok Asthana S/o Narendra Kumar Asthana & Narendra Kumar Asthana S/o Jung Bahadur Asthana R/o House No - 418/1053 (117 A), Mohalla Garhi Peer Khan, Near Sakha Temple, P.S Sadatganj, Lucknow 226003, Owner: Narendra Kumar Asthana S/o Late Jung Bahadur Asthana, Boundary: North- Temple of Sekkan Maharaj, South- Open Land, East- Garden of Prem Chand Saxena S/o Late Shri Ram Jeevan Saxena, West-Lane, Area: 1210 sq. ft. Branch: Hazratganj	14,46,984.00 + Interest + Other Expenses	All the part and parcel of the property situated at House No- 418/1053 (117 A), Mohalla Garhi Peer Khan, Near Sakha Temple, P.S Sadatganj, Lucknow 226003, Owner: Narendra Kumar Asthana S/o Late Jung Bahadur Asthana, Boundary: North- Temple of Sekkan Maharaj, South- Open Land, East- Garden of Prem Chand Saxena S/o Late Shri Ram Jeevan Saxena, West-Lane, Area: 1210 sq. ft.	18.03.2020 05.11.2020

Date: 08.11.2020
Place: Lucknow
Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

शिक्षा व्यवस्था में बढ़ते कदम

वर्चुअल स्कूल

कक्षा-10 एवं 12 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल और कक्षा-9 एवं 11 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए चैनल e vidya-9 एवं e vidya-11 पर शैक्षणिक वीडियो के माध्यम से

9.11.2020 से 12.11.2020 तक ई-लर्निंग प्रसारण का बारहवां चरण

दूरदर्शन, उत्तर प्रदेश (DD UP) चैनल पर यू.पी. बोर्ड की कक्षा-10 एवं 12 हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी								
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-10				कक्षा-12			
	अपराह्न 1:00 से अपराह्न 1:30 बजे तक	अपराह्न 2:30 से अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:00 से सायं 4:30 बजे तक	सायं 5:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 1:30 से अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 3:30 से अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक	अपराह्न 4:30 से अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक	सायं 6:00 से सायं 6:30 बजे तक
9-11-2020 सोमवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-1	विज्ञान अध्याय-6 जैव प्रक्रम भाग-1	विज्ञान अध्याय-6 जैव प्रक्रम भाग-2	विज्ञान अध्याय-6 जैव प्रक्रम भाग-3	हिन्दी अध्याय-2 (काव्य) गंगावतरण भाग-2	वाणिज्य अध्याय-12 व्यापारिक संगणन एवं पत्र व्यवहार भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-3 वैद्युत रसायन भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-3 वैद्युत रसायन भाग-2
10-11-2020 मंगलवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-2	विज्ञान अध्याय-6 जैव प्रक्रम भाग-4	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-1 (विकास) आर्थिक विकास की समझ भाग-1	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-1 संसाधन और विकास भाग-1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-3 वैद्युत रसायन भाग-3	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-3 वैद्युत रसायन भाग-4	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-3 वैद्युत रसायन भाग-5	इतिहास अध्याय-11 विद्रोही और राज भाग-1
11-11-2020 बुधवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-3	हिन्दी अध्याय-2 अन्योंतिविहारास भाग-1	सामाजिक विज्ञान अध्याय-1 संसाधन और विकास भाग-2	वाणिज्य अध्याय-1 (बहीखाता) अन्तिम खाते भाग-1	इतिहास अध्याय-11 विद्रोही और राज भाग-2	हिन्दी अध्याय-5 (खण्ड ख) (संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका) जातककथा भाग-1	संस्कृत अध्याय-द्वितीयःसर्गः रघुवंश महाकाव्य भाग-1	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-6 संक्रामक रोग प्रसार एवं नियंत्रण भाग-1
12-11-2020 गुरुवार	मिशन शक्ति महिला सशक्तिकरण आत्मरक्षा प्रशिक्षण भाग-4	वाणिज्य अध्याय-1 (बहीखाता) अन्तिम खाते भाग-2	वाणिज्य अध्याय-1 (बहीखाता) अन्तिम खाते भाग-3	वाणिज्य अध्याय-6 नस्तीकरण या फाइलिंग भाग-2	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-इकाई-2 (परिसंचरण तन्त्र) रस्यत तथा लसिका भाग-1	गृह विज्ञान अध्याय-इकाई-2 (परिसंचरण तन्त्र) रस्यत तथा लसिका भाग-2	नागरिक शास्त्र शीतयुद्ध का दौर भाग-1	नागरिक शास्त्र अध्याय-2 शीतयुद्ध का दौर भाग-2

नोट : DD-UP, अब आप इन चैनलों पर भी देख सकते हैं, डी डी फ्री डिश-45, डेन-137, नेटविजन-138, डिश टीवी-229, लखनऊ 9-237, बिग टीवी-250, एयरटेल-400, हायवे-400, सिटी केबल-671, वीडियोकॉन डी 2 एच-889, टाटा स्काई-1195

चैनल e vidya-9 पर कक्षा-9 एवं चैनल e vidya-11 पर कक्षा-11 यू.पी. बोर्ड हेतु शैक्षणिक प्रसारण की समय-सारिणी				
दिनांक तथा समय	कक्षा-9		कक्षा-11	
	प्रातः 8:30 से प्रातः 9:00 बजे तक	प्रातः 9:00 से प्रातः 9:30 बजे तक	सायं 6:30 से सायं 7:00 बजे तक	सायं 7:00 से सायं 7:30 बजे तक
9-11-2020 सोमवार	विज्ञान अध्याय-9 बल तथा गति के नियम भाग-1/3	संस्कृत अध्याय-1 (खण्ड-क), रामस्य पितृभक्तिः संस्कृत पद्य पीयूषम (गद्य, पद्य तथा आधुपाठ) भाग-1/4	हिन्दी अध्याय-2 (खण्ड-क) कथा साहित्य जयशंकर प्रसाद-आकाशदीप भाग-1/1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-3 तत्वों का वर्गीकरण एवं गुणधर्मों में आवर्तिता (रसायन भाग-1), भाग-6/7
10-11-2020 मंगलवार	हिन्दी अध्याय-3 (संस्कृत) व्याकरण-शब्द-रूप एवं वातु-रूप (व्याकरण) भाग-1/1	संस्कृत अध्याय-1 (खण्ड-क), रामस्य पितृभक्तिः संस्कृत पद्य पीयूषम (गद्य, पद्य तथा आधुपाठ) भाग-2/4	गणित अध्याय-6 रेखिक असमिकाएं भाग-4/4	संस्कृत अध्याय-खण्ड-क-(गद्य) चन्द्रापीडकथा-असावधि पापः... संवैशम्पायनस्य धन्वापीडस्य, भाग-3/4
11-11-2020 बुधवार	विज्ञान अध्याय-9 बल तथा गति के नियम भाग-2/3	संस्कृत अध्याय-1 (खण्ड-क), रामस्य पितृभक्तिः संस्कृत पद्य पीयूषम (गद्य, पद्य तथा आधुपाठ) भाग-3/4	हिन्दी अध्याय-3 (खण्ड-ख) संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, सदाचारोपदेशः भाग-1/1	रसायन विज्ञान अध्याय-3 तत्वों का वर्गीकरण एवं गुणधर्मों में आवर्तिता (रसायन भाग-1), भाग-7/7
12-11-2020 गुरुवार	विज्ञान अध्याय-9 बल तथा गति के नियम भाग-3/3	संस्कृत अध्याय-1 (खण्ड-क), रामस्य पितृभक्तिः संस्कृत पद्य पीयूषम (गद्य, पद्य तथा आधुपाठ) भाग-4/4	हिन्दी अध्याय-4 (खण्ड-ख) संस्कृत दिग्दर्शिका, किमालयः भाग-1/1	संस्कृत अध्याय-खण्ड-क-(गद्य) चन्द्रापीडकथा-असावधि पापः... संवैशम्पायनस्य धन्वापीडस्य, भाग-4/4

नोट: e vidya-9, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी चैनल-950, वीडियोकॉन चैनल-447, एयरटेल चैनल-440, फ्री डिश-128 तथा टाटा स्काई चैनल-756 पर उपलब्ध है। e vidya-11, जियो टीवी एप, डिश टीवी-952 तथा NCERT OFFICIAL YouTube पर उपलब्ध है।

माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश की एक पहल

80 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 80 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Saturday, increasing the total number of cases to 17,381. The day also saw one death, increasing the toll to 279. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 51 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 13,592. As no patient has been discharged from any hospital,

the number remained at 2,831. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 16,423, leaving 679 active cases. The recovery rate has declined further to 94.48 per cent but the mortality rate has remained at 1.60 per cent. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 51 positive patients were found out of 3,080 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,47,727 and the results of 3,551 are

awaited. Out of them, 3,30,375 were negative, while 17,352 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,65,698. Earlier, two males aged 55 and 58 from Rajapura (Ausangani) and Shivpurwa respectively succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sunderlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of six new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,359 including 189 red zones. Eight green zones have been converted into red zones again.

There are 2,170 green zones with six new ones. Under ongoing mass/group antigen tests, all 315 tests at Shree Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Hospital, Kabirchaura, 238 at Government Women's Hospital, 92 at Swami Vivekanand Government Hospital, Bhelupur, and 235 at SSH BHU were found negative. However, five out of 185 at LBS Hospital, Ramnagar and one out of 107 at CHC Shivpur were detected positive.

91 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The decreasing number of corona-infected and active patients is relieving. At the same time, the Health department pulls its sock up to consider the conditions after Diwali as challenging. Covid care centres are being sanitised, which are currently vacant. On Friday, the number of infected in the district stood at 91. More than 112 positive patients beat corona. According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, 14 patients who got infection-free on Friday were discharged from Covid hospitals. At the same time, home

isolation of 98 people was completed. So far, home isolation of 17,389 people has been completed. The Health department is closely taking the statement of Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of AIIMS, in the case of Corona infection growing once again in Delhi. According to the CMO, the movement of people will increase on Diwali and there will be a crowd in the markets. In such a situation, it is a challenging task to follow social distancing. He said that the scope of Covid testing has been increased, but the number of infected people is decreasing.

He said that the infection is decreasing or aggravated; it will be crystal clear only till November 25. We are fully prepared for tracing and treating the infected, added the CMO. Death figure remained zero for the fifth consecutive day, only one died in eight days. There has also been relief in the death of corona infected from October 30 to November 6. In just eight days, on November 1, an infected person suffering from other diseases died. No patient died of corona for the fifth consecutive day. 131 infected are admitted

in Covid hospitals while 98 patients are in home isolation. According to Nodal Officer for Corona Dr Rishi Sahai, 24,425 persons have been found infected in the district so far. According to Health department data, 65 patients are admitted in L3 SRN Hospital on Friday, 44 in Beli and 22 in United Medical College. There is not a single infected patient at Covid Care Centre Kalindipuram, Railway Hospital. So far 17,389 people have become infection free in home isolation. In the same Covid hospitals, 5,829 patients have been treated.

Common service centre inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Postmaster General (PMG), Varanasi Region, KK Yadav inaugurated Common Service Centre (CSC) at Head Post Office, Cantonment here on Saturday where 73 public utility services will be available under one roof. Speaking on the occasion, Yadav said that in this era of corona pandemic, when the common people do not want to go to different places for various services, this CSC has been opened so that they can avail all services under one roof. By the end of this month, the same services will be started in 137 post offices of the region.



PMG KK Yadav inaugurating CSC in Varanasi on Saturday

Pioneer

Scheme, Ayushman Bharat Yojana and others, one's can apply at the CSC set up in the post office,' he said, adding that apart from this, one can also use the services available here for mobile and DTH recharge or fast tag, electricity, water, telephone, gas payment or booking tickets for bus, train and flight, along with the facilities of GST/TDS return and DSC/LLP registration.

Besides, Yadav said that as many as 14 facilities are available under Digital Service Portal while five under Election Portal, three under Labour Service, two under Pension Service, three under Employment Service apart from 16 e-services of various state governments in e-district service, four in other government to customer services,

seven in tours and travels, four in fast tag, seven in education, 10 in banking, three in insurance services, seven through Bharat Bill Payment System and four IT return related will be provided. For providing these services, only government fixed charges will be taken.

Assistant Director Praveen Prasoon informed that online training has been given to postal assistants for the effective running of CSC. Senior Postmaster of Varanasi Head Post Office RK Chauhan said that with the commencement of this service, people coming to post offices will be able to avail postal services as well as other services. This will save both time and resources of the people.

On this occasion, Assistant Director Shambhu Rai, Arvind Singh, Asha Rani, Naveen Srivastava, Ravindra Paswan, Narendra Ram, Dinesh Maurya and many others were also present.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A review meeting was held in Sangam auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Bhanu Chandra Goswami on the progress of 37 development priority programme. In the meeting, the District Magistrate has instructed the officials of all the concerned departments that the negligence or apathy in the works is not excusable at any stage.

If negligence or indifference is found in the works, strict action will be taken against the officer concerned. He instructed all the executing organisations to complete the work on time. If the work is not completed in time, strict action will be taken against the concerned.

The District Magistrate, while reviewing the Energy department, inquired about the latest status of power dues in government departments. The District Magistrate issued a stern warning to the Executive Engineer, Electricity department, that any negligence would not be excused if he failed to give correct information about the power dues.



While reviewing the works of the Public Works department, the District Magistrate took information from the concerned officials regarding the status of maintenance of the highways and directed that the pits of roads should be filled immediately. He directed the village development officers to ensure that information is provided through letter related to pits on the roads in their area. He said that if information is not provided by VDO in time, strict action will be taken against the concerned. Taking information about the construction of bridges, he instructed to complete the ongoing works of bridge construction in Phulpur and Meja.

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PNB opens integrated zonal office in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Now, the customers of Punjab National Bank (PNB), belonging to this eastern region of the state, are not required to go to Lucknow to get their loan applications approved, as it has opened its integrated zonal office in Varanasi where they could get loans up to ₹ 50 crore.

Earlier, the industrialists, entrepreneurs and others were required to go to zonal office of the bank in Lucknow, but after the opening of zonal office in the city, they could get loan up to ₹50 crore here, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) SS Mallikarjuna Rao informed the presspersons after inaugurating the new zonal office of the bank on Maqbool Alam Road near Khajuri, here, on Saturday.

To facilitate the loan seekers for agriculture and other purposes, the PNB has separate processing centre to approve loan application as early as possible, he informed adding, the customers could get loan from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore from retail processing centre, while the medium processing centre will provide loan from ₹1 crore to ₹50 crore. With this new



MD SS Mallikarjuna Rao inaugurating PNB's zonal office in Varanasi on Saturday

arrangement, the customers will get the loan easily as the skilled employees have been appointed at processing centres. There are five circle offices, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Mau and Rae Bareilly, under this zonal office. A total of 357 branches in 21 districts come under this new zonal office. In addition, The MCC and PLP/RAM have been opened at divisional level to get quick approval of Retail, MSME and Agriculture loan applications, he said.

The bank had made 20 per cent additional funding to

MSME on the loan up to ₹ 25 crore and a loan of ₹11000 crore was not only approved but also disbursed in a relief to come out of the crisis of COVID-19 pandemic, he informed adding, the bank has set a target to cover 25,000 villages by December 31 to facilitate the villagers and farmers with loan at their homes under Gram Sampark Abhiyan launched in view to COVID-19 pandemic.

The bank has a plan to launch a programme for the MSME Cluster and the bank officers will hold meetings in

such 225 clusters in the 2-3 weeks to come under the first phase, he said adding, the objective behind the meeting is to revive the MSME which is already recovering fast. The efforts are also being made to come out of the service sector of the COVID-19 crisis, he said hoping, the economy of the country will soon improve and the GDP of the country will also be better.

The PNB has been working as unit since July 1 after the merger of Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India in it and all the requirement of integration will be completed by December 31, he informed and said, the merger of banks will not only increase the size of PNB but also enhance its functioning capability. After the merger, it will be easy to approve loans even for the major projects, he added. Rao also held meetings with bank officers and reviewed the business of the bank. The Zonal General Manager Rajendra Kumar Vashisth, sub-zonal General Manager Pramod Kumar Tufan, Deputy General Managers Ifitikhar Ahmed and Himanshu Kumar were mainly present on the occasion.

Don's buildings demolished

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On Saturday the JCB machines of the Prayagraj Development Authority reached Arail area in the Trans-Yamuna Naini, and the target was an unauthorised construction of historysheeter and sand mafia Pradeep Mahra.

According to reports Pradeep Mahra had grabbed state land to construct a huge residential building without a sanctioned blue print of the building plan.

It may be mentioned here that on the instructions of the Chief Minister, the officials are tracing out illegally constructed buildings of mafia dons and criminals to pull them down.

Pradeep Mahra with Samajwadi Party connections, is a sand mafia and criminal



cases of murder, attempt to murder, extortion and many other are registered in different police stations, mainly in Naini.

Pradeep Mahra came on the Yogi radar after Atique Ahmed, Vijay Mishra, Dilip Mishra and dozens of their

associates whose buildings worth crores of rupees have already been razed to ground.

NR DRM inspects Cantt station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Lucknow Division of Northern Railway (NR) Sanjay Tripathi said that the projects of yard remodeling and Varanasi Junction (Cantt.) station redevelopment apart from construction work on the second entry side worth about ₹600 crore are going on. Tripathi was talking to the presspersons during his inspection at Cantt and some other adjoining station here on Saturday. After inspecting various parts of the station, DRM also talked to the senior officers and enquired about the progress of different projects from the officers of the Construction unit. He also held a meeting with the employees. A 'Grievance Redressal Camp' was organised at the station to solve the grievances of frontline railway employees and in the meet, according to the DRM, staff having doubts in grievances like salary, allowances and taxation were cleared on the spot



DRM NR Sanjay Tripathi inspecting Varanasi Cantt. railway station on Saturday

by the Personnel department officers. Later, at Bhadohi railway station, the DRM also inspected the facilities at different offices, keeping records and progress made in ongoing projects. He has instructed the officers to complete the projects in time. Besides, Tripathi also visited some satellite stations and inspected the goods sheds and talked to the concerned persons. Tripathi arrived here after inspecting several railway stations including Ayodhya. Earlier, he also inspected Jaunpur and other stations where he saw the passengers' amenities and instructed the concerned officers for betterment of facilities. He also talked to the passengers there and asked about their experiences. At Shivpur railway station in Varanasi he inspected the goods siding and took a stock of facilities offered to the traders. He also reviewed the work done towards the implementation of trade policies.

ADVOCATES STAGE DEMONSTRATION: The advocates on Saturday staged a demonstration at the office of the SSP in protest against the FIR lodged by the police against some of their colleagues for not using face masks during the meeting with the SSP a few days ago. The advocates in scores had reached the office of the SSP in the Collectorate here and staged a protest against the exploitation of some of their colleagues by the police. The Cantt police had lodged an FIR against them for not obeying the guidelines of COVID-19 and putting face masks during the protest. To raise their protest against the police action, the advocates in scores reached the office of the SSP and demanded that the FIR lodged against some of their colleagues should be withdrawn. Earlier, the Central Bar Association passed a resolution and decided to remain absent from the judicial process in protest against the police action against their colleagues. The annoyed advocates also submitted a memorandum of their demand to ACM. Nityanand Rai, Sanja Singh Dadih, Dheerendra Nath Sharma, Vivek Kumar Singh and others joined the demonstration.

against some of their colleagues for not using face masks during the meeting with the SSP a few days ago. The advocates in scores had reached the office of the SSP in the Collectorate here and staged a protest against the exploitation of some of their colleagues by the police. The Cantt police had lodged an FIR against them for not obeying the guidelines of COVID-19 and putting face masks during the protest. To raise their protest against the police action, the advocates in scores reached the office of the SSP and demanded that the FIR lodged against some of their colleagues should be withdrawn. Earlier, the Central Bar Association passed a resolution and decided to remain absent from the judicial process in protest against the police action against their colleagues. The annoyed advocates also submitted a memorandum of their demand to ACM. Nityanand Rai, Sanja Singh Dadih, Dheerendra Nath Sharma, Vivek Kumar Singh and others joined the demonstration.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

As many as 16 places have been identified in the city for selling firecrackers on Deepawali, where a fireworks shop will be set up. Shopkeepers will have to make adequate arrangements to prevent fire. Also, action will be taken against the shopkeepers concerned for setting shop against the rules and displaying fireworks. Arrangements will be checked by the Fire department and firefighters will be deployed along with fire tankers at the wholesaler location. Three days license has been issued for setting up shop at 14 places, while 15 days license has been given for the shop near BSNL office at Anglo Bengali and Nawab Yusuf Road.

The places where the shops will be installed included - Naveen Mundera Mandi, Dhumanganj, KN Katju College Ground, Kydganj, Radharaman Inter College, Daraganj, Alopibagh Ramlila Maidan, Daraganj, Basna Nala, Phaphamau, Balu Mandi, Teliarganj Shivkoti, Ground of Colonelganj Inter College, Colonelganj, Northern

Regional Regional Institute, Teliarganj, Lukarganj Durgapuja Ground, Khuldabad, Kalindipuram Colony Ground, CAV Inter College, Kotwali, Labour Crossing, Allapur Georgetown, Tulsi Marg, Allapur Georgetown, Public Inter College, Manouri, Anglo Bengali Inter College, Kotwali, Civil Lines, near BSNL office.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SET UP SHOP : The distance between the shops should be three metres, No store below the power line, Shop sheds should not be in front of each other, Lamps, gas lamps and lights should not be used in the shop, no sale of crackers to minors and Divyang. Keep a drum, sand and fire bucket filled with water, Place two fire extinguishers at each store, put up a board of non-smoking and emergency services.

CFO Ravindra Shankar Mishra said locations have been identified for the cracker shop. While setting up shop, it is very important to follow the rules and arrange fire prevention. Failure to do so will be awarded strict action against those found guilty. **15,000 STREET VENDORS**

DORS GIVEN LOANS: Under the Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Rozgar Yojana, about 15,000 street vendors have been given loans of ₹10,000 to restore their employment. Of this, money has directly transferred to their account of 10,440 vendors. With this, these street vendors have also started their jobs afresh. With this employment, their families have started prospering.

The Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Rozgar Yojana has been launched by the Central Government to re-establish the employment of street vendors who have lost their employment in lockdown. Under this scheme, a target has been set to give a loan of ₹10,000 to 57,000 street vendors in the district. Duda has been given the responsibility of disbursing the loan.

So far, 29,157 street vendors have been selected by the department. Out of this, online application of 24,172 vendors has also been filled and loans have been sanctioned to 15,000. The amount has also been transferred to the account of 10,440 vendors.

Apart from DUDA, online applications are being filled in

all the five zone offices of the Municipal Corporation. However, due to network problems, there are problems in applying.

Project Officer of DUDA, Vartika Singh said that the scheme is to be operational by 2022. By then the target will be completed. For this, the process of filling the application is going on in all the zone offices apart from DUDA.

UPPSC CHAIRMAN, SECY GETS THREATENING LETTER: Chairman and secretary of the UP Public Service Commission received a threatening letter. The letter reads that the results of the PCS 2018 should be re-announced, otherwise the chairman and the secretary along with family members will be eliminated.

This letter sent by ordinary post does not bear any name, but the envelope shows that the threatening letter has been sent by Bhrashtachar Mukti Morcha, Prayagraj. The Public Service Commission officials informed the SSP, who directed the LIU to submit a report. On the basis of the LIU report, an FIR has been registered against unknown persons by the Civil Lines police.

DC directive to complete super speciality hospital project by February 2021

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar has directed the GSVM Medical College principal and construction agency to hold meeting once every 15 days to resolve all the pending issues and to complete the project as scheduled by February 2021.

He issued the directives while carrying out an inspection of the construction site of the super speciality hospital project on the medical college campus. It is being constructed under the PMSSY Project.

During the inspection, the divisional commissioner was accompanied by the medical college principal, KDA secre-

tary, ADM (F&R), Jal Kal Vibhag GM, KESCo GM, SDM (Sadar) and other senior others.

The super speciality hospital is a Rs.200-crore project (Rs.120 crore from the Government of India and Rs.80 crore from the UP government). It was started in February 2019 and is to be completed by February 2021 as per the agreement.

It is one of the mega projects of Kanpur Nagar in the health sector and a very ambitious project. The Union government and the UP government are jointly monitoring this project regularly. This project has some issues and problems related to land ownership,

power connection, water connection, demand of faculty members for the institute, parking area etc.

The divisional commissioner also constituted a team of ADM (Finance & Revenue), KDA secretary, nodal officer from medical college, Apar Nagar Ayukt and SDM (Sadar) to review, examine and finalise the land ownership issue in the next one week and to submit the report to the office of divisional commissioner so that necessary action could be taken.

The divisional commissioner also constituted a team comprising medical college officer, KESCo EE, Jal Kal Vibhag EE and nodal officer of

the construction agency to work out modalities and to prepare the estimates for the power connection (including new line and sub-station) and water connection in a week and submit the same to the KESCo MD and Jal Kal Vibhag GM for necessary action.

He directed the medical college principal to personally follow up the issue of faculty members, other staff, parking area issues with the director general (medical education) and the government on a weekly basis and to get the pending works cleared as soon as possible so that the new facilities of the super speciality hospital could be started in the next 4-6 months without any delay.

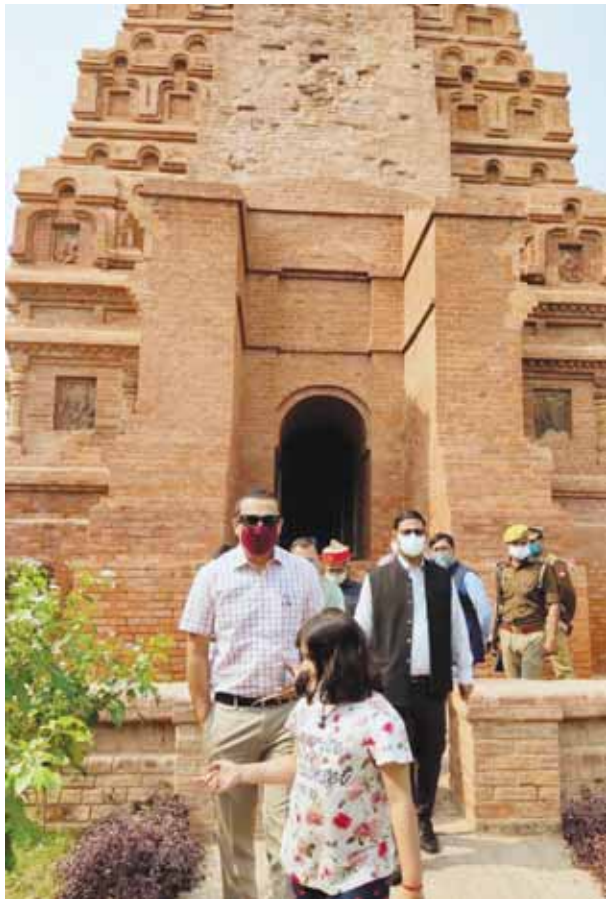
Plan to boost tourism potential of Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

With an objective to study the important tourism sites and plan a strategy to boost tourism potential of Kanpur Nagar, Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar visited the brick temple of Bhitargaon and Jagannath Temple of Behata Bujurg villages in Ghatampur on Saturday.

The Bhitargaon brick temple of 5th century is believed to be the oldest brick temple of India. It was built in the Gupta period and depicts its unique architecture and design. This temple has held back many secrets till now about the name of the temple, exact period of its construction (based on carbon dating), when and why it was destroyed and its unique Triratha style of architecture etc. As of now, around 40 tourists visit this temple every day of about 12,000 in a year. Most of them are local tourists. The temple is protected and managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

This place has a great potential to become a tourist attraction along with the nearby Jagannath temple (known



Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar visits the ancient temples in Ghatampur on Saturday.

as Barsati Patthar Mandir) of Behata Bujurg.

The famous Barsati Patthar Mandir of Behata Bujurg is a 4,200-year-old Jagannath temple. It is an amazing place which holds a combination of unique South India temple architecture and also the 'barsati patthar' of the temple exactly predicts the onset of monsoon a week in advance. Thousands of people visit this temple every month.

This place is also protected and managed by the ASI. During inspection, the divisional commissioner directed the officials to submit by November 30 a report on the number of tourists who visited these places in the last five years, mentioning the local, national and international tourists separately.

He said the administration would include these places in the annual tourism calendar and Tourism App of Kanpur for maximum reach in coming days.

He also asked the ASI's local officers to come up with a proposal in next one month to boost the tourism potential of these places and the basic amenities and facilities required at the site for tourists.

Kanpur metro rail service from Nov 15, 2021: Keshav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Managing Director Kumar Keshav, on Saturday, said that the metro rail service in Kanpur Nagar would be started by November 15, 2021.

Talking to media persons, Keshav said there were problems relating to land at two places but they had now been resolved. He said the problems faced in construction of underground route would also be resolved in due course.

Keshav inspected the casting work of U-Girder, Double T-Girder, and I-Girder at Indira Nagar depot and gathered information about the construction of elevated route between the Swadeshi Cotton Mills and Naubasta Mandi in the south city.

Earlier, during the inspection of the metro route from 8:30 am, he focused on gearing up the work of primary corridor. At the same time, he reviewed the progress of proposed construction of underground station and the elevated route between Swadeshi Mill and Naubasta Mandi.

He started his inspection from Motiheel, which is the last station of the priority section of the metro route. He said the work would be finished before time.

He also collected information about the completion of the Motiheel station from the officers.



UPMRC Managing Director Kumar Keshav inspecting the Metro work in city on Saturday.

TRADERS' LEADER ENDS LIFE

A traders' leader, Santosh Kumar Gupta (48), committed suicide by hanging himself in his house in Nawabganj police station area on Friday night.

The kin found him hanging from the ceiling on Saturday morning when they went to his room to wake him up. No suicide note was recovered from the room. Santosh Kumar Gupta of Sanjaypuram at Mauni Ghat was running wholesale kirana trade from his house. He was also an office-bearer of Arya Nagar Vyapar Mandal. His brother Sanjay Gupta said about 14 years ago, Santosh had met with a mishap which had seriously damaged one of his limbs and thereafter

he started running his business from his house.

About one-and-a-half-month back, after the sudden demise of his wife Dimple, Santosh had become mentally upset.

On Friday night, he went to his room after dinner and was found hanging from the ceiling on Saturday morning. Station House Officer Ramakant Pachauri said after the death of his wife, Santosh was in depression which may have forced him to end his life.

Further investigations are on.

JAISWAL DEMANDS FOUR-LANE ROAD ON NH 86

Former Union minister Sripirakash Jaiswal, in a letter to the Union Road, Transport

and National Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, has urged him to construct cement and concrete road of Hamirpur-Sagar National Highway No. 86 to ensure its long durability. Jaiswal said that the project for conversion of Hamirpur-Sagar National Highway No. 86 into a four-lane road was included by Gadkari in the government's projects.

He said in Hamirpur, the mining of maurang from the Yamuna river was carried out regularly and it was transported by trucks to several parts of the country.

He said the overloaded trucks running on this road damaged the highway hence a cement and concrete four-lane road highway should be constructed.

91 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 91 more coronavirus positive cases on Saturday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 91 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Friday evening and Saturday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,366 cases. He said that 4 cases were discharged from hospital and cured figure stood at 7667.

He said no COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Friday evening keeping the death toll to 738. A 60 years old man had died at LLR Hospital on September 19 and the figure was updated on portal now.

The CMO said at present 740 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4353 samples were sent for testing in the city.

CSJMU takes lead in implementing Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Kanpur, has become a role model for all other universities by implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign.

The university has prepared a database of 3,000 migrant workers who had returned to their native places during the lockdown in a bid to arrange their re-employment.

As the New Education Policy (NEP) prominently envisages the importance of self-reliance, the university has started the campaign for the Atmanirbhar Kanpur.

A slide presentation of the campaign was given before Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath by CSJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Neelima Gupta in Lucknow on Tuesday.

She told the chief minister that many job-oriented courses, including fashion technology and engineering designing, had been started on the university campus.

National secretary of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas Dr Atul Kothari said the model for Atmanirbhar Kanpur presented by the CSJMU would prove to be a milestone for other universities of the country in providing jobs to unemployed people.

Man duped

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A man was allegedly duped of ₹10 lakh by the director of a motion picture company on the pretext of doubling his money, in Jhijnjak town of Kanpur Dehat district about two years ago. The victim has now lodged an FIR against seven persons, including the director.

In his complaint submitted to the superintendent of police on Saturday, Ujjwal Gupta of Nehru Nagar, Jhijnjak, said in 2018, when his father Vinod Gupta was admitted to SIS Hospital, a local resident, Harinandan Singh, had introduced him to Manu Prasant Vig and Ashok Vig, directors of Blue Fox Motion Picture.

Gupta alleged that Harinandan Singh had lured him to invest ₹10 lakh in the company by promising to double the money soon and the amount was transferred to Harinandan Singh's account by him. Singh had claimed that the company produced Bhojpuri films. After some time, on demanding refund of his money, Singh dilly-dallied the issue and no office was found at the indicated address of the company. On the orders of the SP, an FIR was lodged against Harinandan Singh, Abhay Dixit, Priyansh Sinha, Pankaj Goel, Harjit Singh of Awasth Vikas, Kalyanpur, directors of Blue Fox Motion Picture Manu Prashant Vig and Ashok Vig of Rama Devi, Chakeri.

SHO of Mangalpur police station Amod Kumar Singh said FIR had been registered against seven persons on the orders of the district police chief.

NTPC Raising Day celebrated

CORRESPONDENT ■ RAE BARELI



The employees of Unchahar plant celebrated NTPC Raising Day on Saturday. The chief guest at the programme was Bhola Nath, head of project, Unchahar, who hoisted the NTPC flag at the administrative building. He said that the Unchahar team was known for its commitment and dedication towards work. Addressing the gathering, Bhola Nath highlighted the glorious history of NTPC and its contribution to the development of the country. He threw light on the story of Unchahar project. He said that the NTPC, the country's largest electricity generating company, reiterated its commitment to nation building and continuous power supply to the nation on the occasion of its Raising Day. NTPC now with immense opportunities is fully prepared to complete the next phase of development and transformation in the power sector in the country. In view of situation arising out of Covid-19 pandemic the NTPC organised its Raising Day-related

programme by maintaining physical distancing and through online platforms. The Raising Day this time also becomes special because all the employees of NTPC worked round the clock during the lockdown phase earlier this year to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the nation. Electricity is an essential part of our lives and providing 24x7 electricity during lockdown not only facilitated the operation of emergency services, but also helped in the smooth operation of life-saving equipment. This placed additional responsibility on NTPC and the company distributed more electricity than demand. During the programme GM (Operation and Maintenance) Asit Dutta, GM (Operation) Arindam Banerji, GM Centre of Excellence-Human Resources (COE-HR) Keshav Kumar, GM (Maintenance) SK Jha, GM flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) Deependu Mandal, head of HR, Vandana Chaturvedi, AGMs, HoDs, CISF officers and jawans and all employees were present.

Encourage working on e-DAS: GM

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR



GM NER Vinay Kumar Tripathi addressing the review meeting

In continuation of the review of the working and achievements of various departments and divisions by General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Vinay Kumar Tripathi on Friday at a meeting organised at General Manager's auditorium, Gorakhpur, the working of Signal and Telecommunication and Safety departments were discussed in detail. Addressing the review meeting, General Manager Vinay Kumar Tripathi said that during the ongoing works on the NER instructions issued to prevent the incidents of cable cutting should be followed and in order to know the location of the cable the cable route locator can also be used. The Department of Signal and Telecommunication should complete the work of upgrading the signalling system within the stipulated time-frame and ensure quality too, he said. General Manager said working on e-DAS (drawing approval system) should be encouraged and the speed of internet should be increased to make the e-office work smoothly. He also instructed to give proper training to the employees working on e-office. During this time the General Manager got information about the

working of Gorakhpur Signal Workshop. It may be pointed out here that point machines manufactured in this workshop are also supplied in other railways other than North Eastern Railway. The work of making electric lifting barrier is also done here. The GM gave instructions to make efforts to control untoward incidents and said that all safety-related cases should be investigated effectively within the prescribed time limit. He gave instructions to put an effective check on incidents of alarm chain pulling. Tripathi stressed on dedicated and concerted efforts to ensure safety of railway passengers and property at all levels. Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunications Engineer Shrikant Singh and Principal Chief Security Commissioner /RPF Atul Kumar Srivastava gave detailed information about their respective departments through power-point presentation and assured to follow the instructions given by the GM. Subsequently the General Manager inspected the headquarters-situated Operating, Safety, Mechanical, Medical, Personnel, Signal and Engineering departments and directed the officials concerned for necessary improvements in the disaster management room.

Rlys to run more puja spl trains

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Keeping in mind the convenience of passengers during the forthcoming festivals the railway administration has decided to run more puja special trains in a single trip. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved category and passengers traveling in it will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

MAU-DARBHANGA PUJA SPECIAL: The 05174 Mau-Darbhanga puja special train on November 8 (for a single trip) will depart from Mau at 15:30 hours, from Ballia at 17:30 hours, from Chhapra at 18:40 hours, from Sonpur at 20:05 hours, from Hajipur at 20:25 hours, from Muzaffarpur at 22:10 hours, Samastipur at 23:40 hours and will arrive at Darbhanga at 01:00 hours on the second day. A total of 20 coaches will be attached in this train, including three of SLRD, three of general second class, five of sleeper and one of air conditioned third class.

CHHAPRA-SAHARSA

PUJA SPECIAL: The 05176 Chhapra-Saharsa puja special train on November 8 (for single trip) will depart from Chhapra at 13:45 hours, from Sonpur at 15:05 hours, from Hajipur at 15:25 hours, from Shahpur Patori at 16:22 hours, from Barauni at 17:30 hours, from Begusarai at 17:58 hours, from Khagaria at 19:30 hours and will arrive at Saharsa at 23:30 hours. A total of 20 coaches, including three each of SLRD and general second class, 11 of sleeper and one of air-conditioned third class.

TRAINS TO BE CANCELLED DUE TO FARMERS' STR

In view of the ongoing farmers' agitation in Punjab, the following special trains will be cancelled, short-originated and diverted, CPRO PK Singh said. The 04624 Amritsar-Saharsa special train to run from Amritsar on November 7 will remain cancelled. The 04623 Saharsa-Amritsar special train to run from Saharsa on November 8 will remain cancelled. The

05251 Darbhanga-Jalandhar City special train to run from Bhalgalpur on November 7 will remain cancelled. The 05252 Jalandhar City-Darbhanga special train to run from Jalandhar City on November 8 will remain cancelled. The 02588 Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur puja special train running from Jammu Tawi on November 7 will remain cancelled. The 04650 Amritsar-Jaynagar special train to run from Amritsar on November 7 will be run from Ambala. This train will remain cancelled between Amritsar and Ambala. The 04674 Amritsar-Jayanagar special train to run from Amritsar on November 8 will be run from Ambala. This train will remain cancelled between Amritsar and Ambala. The 04652 Amritsar-Jayanagar special train to run from Amritsar on November 8 will be run from Delhi. This train will remain cancelled between Amritsar and Delhi. Meanwhile the 05910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh special train running from Lalgarh on November 6 and 7 will be diverted via Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak.

Training programme inaugurated

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), launched a two-month-long program to train local farmers for cultivation and processing of mushroom under skill development programme in a CSR initiative with the support of NCL-IIT(BHU) Incubation Centre, Varanasi. Collector, Singrauli RS Meena virtually inaugurated the training programme at Semauwar village panchayat. General Manager (CSR) NCL, Atmashwar Pathak, and General Manager, Block-B Area, Harish Duhan, were also present virtually in the inaugural ceremony. On the occasion Collector Singrauli RS Meena praised the endeavour of NCL and said that this programme was in line with PM's vision of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India) and is a significant step toward self-reliance of local farmers as well as increasing their income. Start-ups of NCL-IIT BHU Incubation Centre are playing an instrumental role in organising the said mushroom cultivation and processing-based training programme. Under it on-site training to 20 local villagers and 20 students of ITI Waidhan will be provided by a team of professionals on various aspects like initial set up, post-harvest management, storage, marketing etc. NCL will assist to provide a market to sell the grown crop as post-training assistance. Notably, NCL is also working on plans to help in the cultivation and processing of vegetables and pearl under its skill development programme which are in pipeline for implementation in near future.

Two apprehended

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Two punters were nabbed in Makarikoh locality under Katra Kotwali police station. After SP Ajay Kumar Singh got inputs about punting in IPL cricket match he directed the crime branch of the police to take necessary action and nab the culprits. Through electronic surveillance the police got success regarding mobile numbers. SHO Katra Kotwali Ramesh Yadav was tipped off by an informer about the presence of punters following which he raided the house of Vikas Agrahari in Makarikoh locality along with SOG team. The police arrested Vikas Agrahari and Manish Agrahari, sons of Bhola Nath Agrahari. The third accused, Kaju Soni, a resident of Ganeshganj managed to flee. ASP City said that the police had recovered ₹70,000 in cash, two mobile phone sets, recording of money transaction etc. The police sent the accused to jail.

ELECTION: District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel has informed that in view of the MLC poll election code of conduct had become effective till further orders of the Election Commission. At a meeting organised at the Collectorate on Friday, he said in view of the model code of conduct no programmes like ceremony for laying of foundation stone or dedication to public were to be held. He directed the officers to ensure complete compliance of the conduct in their respective areas. During the meeting four teams were constituted which will monitor poll campaigning, expenditure etc and if violation of the conduct was found legal action will be taken. CDO Avinash Singh was made officer incharge of personnel and a team of officers was formed to assist him. For transportation Jagdamba Singh was made the incharge and ADM(F&R) was made the incharge for overall activities. All the officers were directed to remain active and ensure the free and fair conduct of the election. The team responsible for bringing the ballot papers was directed to ensure its timely availability and seek help from the administration, if required.



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ


OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. Dy.CEE/C/CNB/20-21/Tender-116 **Dated- 06.11.2020**
 Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), N. C. Railway, Kanpur for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.	Description of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)
Dy. CEE/C/CNB/ 20-21/T-116	Provision of feeder wire and its associated work from Kanpur to Ghaziabad of Prayagraj division of North Central Railway in connection 2x25 kV OHE in the jurisdiction of Dy. CEE/C/Kanpur.	155,76,16,685.59	7938100.00

Cost of Tender Form (Rs.): NIL **Date of closing Tender:** 26.11.2020 12:00 Hrs. **Date of completion:** 18 Months. **Validity of Tender:** 60 days. • Tender on line can be submitted up to 12:00 hrs on 26.11.2020. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. • Allocation No 20167103 **1193/20(AN)**

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





NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender No. : PRYJ-Slg-018-2020-21 **E-Tender Notice** **Dated: 06.11.2020**

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Coordination / North Central Railway / Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invite **E-TENDER** on prescribed form for the following works up to **12.00 hrs.** on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. **The details of the Tender are as under :-**

S. Tender N.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost of work (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)
1.	018	Provision of Intermediate Block signalling between Manikpur-Panhai, Panhai-Dabhaura and Dabhaura-Katayadandi in Allahabad-Manikpur.	₹ 3,39,48,028.00	₹ 3,19,800.00

Cost of Tender Form (₹) : 0.00; Completion period : 06 Months; Date of Opening of tender : 01.12.2020. 2. Availability of tender form :- Tender forms are available on www.ireps.gov.in. **3. Earnest Money to be deposited :-** The prescribed amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form Online through internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer(s) should note that, in any case, the Earnest Money in any other form than specified above shall not be acceptable. Tenders without earnest money shall be summarily rejected. **4. Time & place of opening of tender :-** Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj at or after 12.30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. **5. Validity of offer :-** 45 days from the date of opening. **6. Right of Railway to deal with tender :-** Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reason. **1189/2020 V**

 North Central Railways
 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in
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कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, महोबा

अति अल्प कालीन निविदा सूचना


पत्रांक : 625 /न0प0प0 महोबा/2020-21, दिनांक- 05.11.2020

राज्य वित्त आयोग निधि के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से मुहरबन्द निविदायें दिनांक 13.11.2020 को अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं, जो उसी दिन सायं 4:00 बजे ठेकेदारों की उपस्थिति में पालिका कार्यालय में सक्षम अधिकारी के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा निर्धारित मूल्य पर दिनांक 13.11.20 को कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, महोबा से समय प्रातः 10:00 बजे से अपरान्ह 1:00 बजे तक क्रय की जा सकती है। निविदा क्रय करते समय निर्धारित जमानत/धरोहर धनराशि अधिशाषी अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद, महोबा के नाम डाकघर द्वारा सावधि जमा /एन0एस0सी0/सी0डी0आर0/एफ0डी0आर0 बन्धक के रूप में जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। शेष अन्य नियम व शर्तें किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देखी जा सकती हैं।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	आगणन की धनराशि (रु० लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (रु० लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य समस्त करों सहित (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	शासन द्वारा नामित समासदों के निवास स्थान के मार्ग में इन्फामेट्रीट्रो रिप्लेक्टिव बोर्ड लगाये जाने का कार्य	1.81	0.18	268.00	15 दिवस

नोट- वर्तमान शासनादेश के अनुसार रायल्टी/अन्य सभी कर तथा परफोमेंस सिक्योरिटी देय होंगे।
(राजेश यादव)
अधिशाषी अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद, महोबा

(दिलाशा सौरभ तिवारी)
अध्यक्ष
नगर पालिका परिषद, महोबा





NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E Tender Notice

Tender Notice No: 4920202021 **Dated: 05.11.2020**
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) / North Central Railway / Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. on 02.12.2020. The details of the tenders are as under:

S Tender N	Tender No	Name of work	Approx Cost of work	Earnest Money	Completion Period
1	149	Repair to Cess / Formation Widening and other associated works in CNB - RRR Section under ADEN / Line / CNB	₹3,92,61,167.41	₹3,46,300/-	12 Months
2	150	Associated P-way works in Connection with BPCL Siding, BPCL Pankidham Kanpur under ADEN / Line / CNB.	₹54,86,114.03	₹1,09,700/-	04 Months
3	151	Provision of Ballastless Track (Washable Apron) on BPCL Siding in BPCL Pankidham Kanpur under ADEN / Line / CNB.	₹3,46,52,611.77	₹3,23,300/-	05 Months

Date of Opening of tender : Sr.1 to 3 Date- 02.12.2020, Similar work for Eligibility Criteria For Sr. No. 1-Earth work in formation, For Sr. No. 2 - P.way Work, For Sr. No. 3 - Any RCC/PSC Work. Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. **02.12.2020**. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenderer shall submit a copy of certificate as given in tender document in standard format for Tender No. **149,150 & 151** having advertised value more than **50 Lakh**, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 5. The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 6. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 8. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 02.12.2020. 11. Along with other instructions given to Tenderers, Tenderers are required to Pay special attention on Para 10.0 of Tender document for document submission along with tender, Para 12.1 (a) Note -(ii) (iii) & (iv) of Tender Document for EM Deposit and Para 13.0 (h) of Tender Document for Rate quoting and Performance Guarantee submission, 12. E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. **1185/20(AN)**

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

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड मऊगंज जिला रीवा (म.प्र.)

E-mail. ephemauganjrewa@gmail.com

निविदा सूचना क्र.08/20-21/ब.ले.लि/का.य./लो.स्वा.यॉ./20, मऊगंज, दिनांक 05.11.2020

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदाएं ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति से पोर्टल <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर रीवा जिले के लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड मऊगंज के अन्तर्गत विकासखण्ड मऊगंज, हनुमान एवं नईगढ़ी के विभिन्न ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन के अन्तर्गत द्यूबवेल पर आधारित उच्च स्तरीय टंकी एवं सम्पवेल, राईजिंग मेन एवं वितरण नलिका रेड्रोफिटिड पाइप जलापूर्ति का निर्माण, निष्पादन, सबमर्सिबल मोटर पंप की स्थापना, विद्युत पावर कनेक्शन, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं मिनी पम्प हाऊस का निर्माण कार्य तथा 90 दिवस के ट्रायल रन एवं कमिशनिंग आदि समस्त कार्य हेतु निविदाएं निम्नानुसार हैं।

निविदा क्रमांक /दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	विकासखण्ड	ग्रामों की संख्या	निविदा की कुल लागत रु. (लाख में)	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की समयवधि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
08/ Dt. 05.11.2020	113247	मऊगंज	2	61.15	61150.00	10000.00	06 माह	नवीन
	113248	हनुमाना	6	252.49	252490.00	15000.00	(वर्षा)	केन्द्रीयकृत
	113250	नईगढ़ी	2	169.08	169080.00	15000.00	ऋतु सहित)	पंजीयन प्रणाली

- ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 19.11.2020 17.30 बजे
- ऑनलाईन निविदा दर डालने की अंतिम तिथि 19.11.2020 17.30 बजे
- ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथि 23.11.2020 15.00

निविदा फार्म ऊपर दर्शित वेबसाईट पर (Online System) क्रेडिट कार्ड या ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर ही क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा एवं उससे संबंधित जानकारी ऊपर दर्शाई वेबसाईट पर देखें।

कार्यपालन यंत्री
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
मऊगंज जिला रीवा (म.प्र.)

G-15363/20 **जब तक कोराना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक हिलाई नहीं।**

DELHI AIR ‘SEVERE’, TO IMPROVE AFTER DIWALI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Air quality in Delhi was recorded in the 'severe' category on Saturday with 32 per cent contribution of stubble burning from the neighbouring States escalating value of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 to 306. This is five times higher than abnormal limit which is 60 (µgm-3) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for India. While the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded 456 on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI), Delhi's map has turned 'dark red' first time in the season. In its air quality forecast, SAFAR said city's air quality is likely to remain 'severe' on Diwali as well.

After a short respite from pollution, Delhi's air deteriorated further with 4528 farm fire incidents observed on NASA's observatory leading health emergency in the National Capital of India popular for winter pollution.

Citing MeT and stubble burning , major cause of pollution, SAFAR in its health bulletin advised any outdoor activities causing unusual coughing, chest discomfort, wheezing,



breathing difficulty, or fatigue and consult Doctor.

"If the room has windows, close them. If the air conditioner provides a fresh air intake option, close it. Avoid burning anything, such as wood, candles or even incense. Keep the room clean — dont vacuum. Do wet mopping frequently," SAFAR said, adding, "Masks known as

N-95 or P-100 respirators may only help if you go out. Do not rely on dust masks for protection."

Mentioning about reasons of sudden spike in pollutants values, it said, "Despite moderate day time dispersion condition, air quality has declined, owing to sustained unusually high fire emissions. Surface winds have become calm today

Eight held for obtaining credit cards on fake documents

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of eight persons, including four women, the Delhi Police has busted a gang of cheats who used to prepare Government documents and then obtained credit debit cards of various banks on fake ids. Over 60 cards, jewellery and Rs 14 lakh cash recovered from their possession.

The accused have been identified as Ajay Kshatriya (35), his wife (32), Manish Kshatriya (40), Kawal Raj (66), his wife (65), wife of Manish Kshatriya (37), Arun Sharma and his wife.

According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Economic Offences Wing (EOW), The Citibank, after its internal audit, filed a complaint with EOW regarding identification of 36 customers who got the savings accounts opened in different names and addresses.

"They also procured PAN cards, Voter IDS and Aadhar Cards on the basis of fake documents. These customers also obtained Citibank credit cards. In the complaint filed



before EOW, Citibank also mentioned that several customers had obtained credit cards on the same residential address," said the Joint CP.

"During subsequent verification by the Citibank team, several customers were found missing from their addresses,"

also. On the basis of their complaint, a case was registered and investigation was taken up," said the Joint CP.

"The accused were arrested after raids by the police team at different locations and they revealed that they have prepared several fake PAN Cards, Voter ID Cards, Aadhar cards on impersonated fake details viz different surnames, date of birth, parentage and address. On the basis of these fake identity documents they opened accounts in different banks and also obtained credit cards from these banks," said the Joint CP.

"These credit cards were immediately used by the accused persons for heavy shopping of jewellery, other costly items. The accused have their own swiping machines and they further misrepresented to banks that credit cards were swiped but payment couldn't credited and got credited provisional payments from the banks. After that they also obtained loans on these credit cards and thereafter absconded by changing their addresses," said the Joint CP.

RIISING POLLUTION, SURGE IN COVID-19 CASES

Hospital beds in Delhi begin to fill up fast

New Delhi: The twin factors of rising air pollution and a surge in Covid-19 cases have increased the burden on Delhi's hospitals with the number of vacant beds shrinking fast and out patient departments (OPDs) witnessing a spike in footfall, doctors said on Saturday.

Besides, the ICU beds with ventilators at most top private hospitals and major Centre-run facilities are also getting filled up with spiralling cases in the last few days.

Delhi recorded over 7,000 Covid-19 cases for the first time, taking tally to over 4.23 lakh on Friday, while the toll rose to 6,833 with 64 more deaths, authorities said.

The 7,178 fresh cases came out of the 58,860 tests conducted on Thursday, while the positivity rate stood at 12.19 per cent

amid the festive season and rising air pollution in the city, according to the bulletin issued by the Delhi health department.

The previous highest single-day spike was 6,842 cases recorded on Wednesday.

The number of daily cases had crossed the 6,000-mark for three consecutive days from November 3-5.

Sixty-four new fatalities were recorded, pushing the death toll in the national capital to 6,833. On Thursday, 66 fatalities were reported from Covid-19.

The air quality in the national capital has also deteriorated and greater movement of people in public places, especially crowded areas such as markets and shops, and laxity in adhering to safety norms, have led to surge in cases, experts have said.

Rana A K Singh, Medical Superintendent at RML Hospital said, there is a rise in the number of patients visiting the hospital with complaints of respiratory problems probably due to spike in pollution levels and because of change in weather.

"On top of that, the number of Covid-19 patients coming to the hospital has also increased," he said.

"Our Covid and non-Covid ICU facilities are at full capacity and to create ICU beds at the stroke of the hammer is not possible because it requires equipment and manpower," Singh said.

Large number of coron-

morning and pollutants are accumulating near the surface."

SAFAR synergized stubble fire counts over Punjab, Haryana, UP, Uttarakhand, and neighboring areas increased and stood at 4528 yesterday, the highest of this season.

The boundary layer wind direction is Northwesterly, and favorable for the fire-related intrusion to Delhi NCR region,

stubble burning share in PM2.5 in Delhi's air is estimated as 32

per cent." "Surface winds are forecasted to decrease on the November 8 and 9. No quick recovery is expected unless a drastic reduction in fire counts takes place. Air quality is forecasted to stay at the Severe to the higher end of very poor," it added.

Meanwhile, AQI at Siri fort — 398, PUSA — 379, Mandir Marg 417 Dwarka —236, Kirti Nagar — 343,RK Puram- 398,IBHS-380 recorded.



Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited

(CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)
 Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram-122016, Haryana, Tel: 0124 6681199, Fax: 0124 6681111
 Website: www.indiabullsin Integrated Services.com, E-mail: helpdesk@indiabulls.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of **Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited** ("the Company") will be held on Friday, November 13, 2020, to consider and approve, inter alia, the unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2020.

For further details, please visit the website of the Company (www.indiabullsin Integrated Services.com) or that of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com) and BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).

for **Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited**

Sd/-
 Priya Jain
 Company Secretary

Place : Gurugram
 Date : November 7, 2020



SORIL Infra Resources Limited

(CIN: L52190HR2005PLC077960)
 Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram-122016, Haryana, Tel: 0124 6681199, Fax: 0124 6681111
 Website: www.sorilinfraresources.com, E-mail: helpdesk@indiabulls.com

NOTICE


Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of **SORIL Infra Resources Limited** ("the Company") will be held on Friday, November 13, 2020, to consider and approve, inter alia, the unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2020.

For further details, please visit the website of the Company (www.sorilinfraresources.com) or that of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com) and BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).

for **SORIL Infra Resources Limited**

Sd/-
 Vikas Khandelwal
 Company Secretary

Place : Gurugram
 Date : November 7, 2020



DMI Finance Private Limited

CIN - U65929DL2008PTC182749
 Express Building, 3rd Floor, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

STATEMENT OF UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

₹ in Million

S. No.	Particulars	Un-audited Half year ending September 30, 2020	Un-audited Half year ending September 30, 2019
1.	Total Income from Operations	3,529.43	2,774.31
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	837.59	970.41
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	837.59	970.41
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	624.05	714.24
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	623.43	751.07
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	6,402.44	5,667.06
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	28,436.51	18,881.69
8.	Net worth	34,838.95	24,548.75
9.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	20,028.64	9,764.82
10.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	0.00	0.00
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.57	0.39
12.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)		
	1. Basic:	0.91	1.35
	2. Diluted:	0.90	1.34
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	81.21	81.21
14.	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	N.A.	N.A.
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.

Notes to the Financial Results:

- The above financial results of DMI Finance Private Limited ("the Company") for the half year ended September 30, 2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently ap-proved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on November 06, 2020. The standalone financial results have been subjected to a limited review by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
- The above results is an extract of detailed format of the half yearly financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Require-ments) Regulations, 2015. These financial results are available on the website viz. www.dmfinance.in and on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com).
- The financial results have been prepared in accordance with requirement of Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as modified by Circular No. CIR/CFD/FAC/62/2016 dated July 5, 2016 read with C/MID/DFI/69/2016 dated August 10, 2016
- For items referred in sub clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to BSE Limited(BSE) and can be accessed on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website i.e. www.dmfinance.in
- There is no Debenture Redemption Reserve created as Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) registered with Reserve Bank of India are not required to create DRR for privately placed debentures.
- Figures for the prior year / period have been regrouped and / or reclassified wherever considered necessary.

For **DMI Finance Private Limited**

Sd/-
 Yuvraja Chanakya Singh
 Joint Managing Director

Date: November 06, 2020
 Place: New Delhi

Modi urges IITians to recognise Atamnirbhar Bharat's aspirations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked IIT graduates to recognise the needs of the country and connect with the changes on the ground.

Addressing the 51st Annual Convocation Ceremony of IIT Delhi as chief guest via video conferencing, the PM also asked them to identify with the aspirations of the common people in the context of Atamnirbhar Bharat.

The Prime Minister encouraged the fresh graduates to take up the AtmaNirbhar Campaign that he claimed gives opportunities to youth, technocrats and tech-enterprise leaders of the country.

The Prime Minister said post-Covid world is going to be very different and technology will play the biggest role in it. He said Virtual Reality was never thought of but now Virtual Reality and Augmented



Reality have become the Working Reality. He said the present batch of students has a first mover advantage to learn and adapt to the new norms emerging in the workplace and he urged them to make most use of this. He said Covid -19 has taught Globalisation is

important but Self-Reliance is equally important

He claimed that a favourable environment has been created for implementation of the ideas and innovation of the technocrats freely and to scale them and market them easily. He said that today's

India is committed to provide 'ease of doing business' to its youth so that they can bring changes in the life of crores of their countrymen through their innovation.

"The country will give you 'ease of business' you just work for 'ease of living' of the people

of this country," Modi said.

He further explained that this has been the thought process behind the major reforms that have been done in almost every sector in the recent past. He listed the sectors where opportunities have been created for innovation and new start-ups for the first time due to the reforms.

The Prime Minister said Other Service Provider (OSP) guidelines have been simplified and restrictions have been removed recently, which would reduce the Burden of Compliance for BPO Industries. He said BPO Industry has also been exempted from various requirements including bank guarantee.

The PM added that provisions that prevented the Tech Industry from facilities such as Work From Home or Work From Anywhere, have also been removed. This will make the country's IT sector globally competitive and will give

more opportunities to young talent.

The Prime Minister said India is among the countries where corporate tax is the lowest. More than 50 thousand startups have started in India since the Start-up India campaign. He listed the outcome of the Government's efforts with respect to promoting startups like the 4 fold increase in the number of patents in the country in the last five years, a 5-fold increase in trademark registrations. He said over 20 Indian unicorns have been established over the years and this number would increase further in the next one or two years.

The Prime Minister pointed out that today from incubation to funding, Startups are being helped. He said for funding of startups, Fund of Funds has been created with a corpus of ₹10 thousand crores. In addition for a period of 3 years, startups are offered many facilities like Tax Exemption,

Self-Certification and Easy exit.

The Prime Minister said today under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, investment of more than ₹1 lakh crore has been planned. This will create a state-of-the-art infrastructure across the country that will meet the needs of both present and future. He said today the country is working in new ways to achieve maximum potential in every field.

The Prime Minister also gave four mantras to the students for their workplace- focus on quality; never compromise; ensure scalability; make your innovations work at a mass scale; assure reliability; build long-term trust in the market and bring in adaptability; be open to change and expect uncertainty as a way of life.

He said working on these basic mantras will bring shine on one's identity as well as on brand India, since students are India's biggest brand ambassadors. He remarked the work

of the students will give global recognition to the country's product and will accelerate the efforts of the country.

The Prime Minister said the country has shown in the recent past, how technology can be the most powerful means for the governance to reach the poorest of the poor.

He listed the schemes of the government which have reached the poorest of the poor with the help of technology like construction of toilets, gas connections etc. He said the country is making rapid strides in digital delivery of services and making the lives of ordinary citizens easier. He remarked technology has made last mile delivery efficient and reduced the scope of corruption. In the case of Digital Transactions also, India is far ahead of many countries of the world and even the developed countries want to adopt Indian platforms like UPI.

ISRO launches EOS-01, 9 other satellites



PNS/PTI ■ Sriharikota \ New Delhi

In its first mission this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic, India on Saturday successfully launched its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01 and nine international customer spacecraft on board a Polar rocket from the spaceport in Sriharikota. The pandemic induced lockdown 'disturbed 10 missions being planned by the agency.

The Indian Space Research Organisations work-

horse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C49) injected EOS-01, intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support and other satellites one by one in orbit around 20 minutes after lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), about 110 km from Chennai, at 3.12 pm.

The nine customer satellites are from the USA, Lithuania and Luxembourg. ISRO Chairman K Sivan described the mission as a

"success" and termed it as "unusual" for ISRO as a rocket launch cannot happen like "work from home" and all engineers and technicians had to travel from different centres and work together at Sriharikota for rocket launches.

"Today, I am extremely happy to declare that PSLV-C49 successfully placed earth observation satellite EOS-01 as well as nine customer satellites precisely into 575 kms orbit," he said at the mission

control centre.

Subsequent to the successful launch, the primary satellite commenced operating its own functions including deployment of solar panels, Sivan added.

In view of the pandemic, ISRO implemented precautions for COVID-19 and scientists, mission directors, project directors, were seen with face masks and maintaining social distancing at the mission control centre. There was no gathering of media

persons and the public viewing gallery too was closed. ISRO made arrangements for live telecast of the launch through various platforms, including its website and social media sites.

In a text book sequence, the four stage 44.5-metre tall PSLV-C49, in its 51st flight, blasted off from the first launch pad of SDSC at 3.12 pm at the end of the 26-hour countdown and soared into the sky. The launch, originally scheduled for 3.02 PM, was delayed slightly as the scientists before lift-off "decided to put it on hold following debris on the path of the rocket and inclement weather conditions."

After the 10 minute delay, the rocket blasted off amid heavy rain leaving a trail of orange fumes before vanishing into thick clouds over the spaceport. After a flawless flight with all four stages performing as programmed, the rocket first injected primary satellite EOS-01 into orbit around 15 minutes after lift off, followed by the customer spacecraft as the mood at the mission control centre turned jubilant with scientists breaking into cheers.

PSLV Mission Director S R Biju announced that all the 10 satellites were separated and were placed into desired orbits.

ED raids houses of former officers of Comunidade of Serula in PMLA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday conducted searches at the residential premises of former functionaries of Comunidade of Serula in a money laundering case related to illegal allotment of plots as well as illegal acquisition of land belonging to the Comunidade of Serula, Goa.

Those whose premises were searched are Agnelo C. Lobo, former Attorney of Comunidade of Serula, his brother Reginaldo Lobo, former official of the Comunidade, Joseph D'Sa, former clerk, and Rajesh Suhas Verenkar, under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in illegal allotment of plots as well as illegal acquisition of land belonging to Comunidade of Serula in Goa.

PMLA investigation was initiated by the ED on the basis of FIRs registered by the Crime Branch, Goa Police. According to the FIRs, the members of Managing Committee of Comunidade of Serula were involved in illegal allotment of plots by fraudulently citing and using duplicate file numbers per-



taining to files of Offices of various Administrators of Comunidades and Gazette Notifications of Government of Goa, thereby cheating the Comunidade of Serula and other authorities.

"During the course of searches, incriminating documents and records relating to the illegal allotment/acquisition of plots/land belonging to the Comunidade of Serula have been seized," the ED said in a statement here on Saturday.

The incriminating documents, the agency said, include old blank Indian stamp papers of 1960s, old blank papers having Portuguese stamps used for making forged documents and Deeds of Sale used for illegal acquisition of land belong-

ing to Comunidade of Serula. The documents seized also include old registers belonging to the office of Administrator of Comunidades, Bardez, Government of Goa which were being used for the purpose of illegal allotment of plots, the agency said.

The ED is conducting further investigation in coordination with the Crime Branch, Goa Police.

The Comunidades of Goa were a form of land association developed in Goa where land-ownership was collectively held, but controlled by the male descendants of those who claimed to be the founders of the village. It was the predominant form of landholding in Goa before 1961.

91.54% turnout in Manipur bypolls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Saturday said that the polling percentage recorded in the by-elections to Lilong and Wangjing-Tentha seats in Thoubal district, Saitu in Kangpokpi and Wangoi in Imphal West in Manipur was 91.54 per cent. The by-elections were necessitated after Congress MLAs of the four constituencies resigned from the state Legislative Assembly, quit the party and joined the BJP.

According to the EC, the polling percentage at Lilong was recorded at 93.29, Saitu at 90.88 per cent, Wangjing Tentha at 90.86 per cent and 91.19 per cent was recorded at Wangoi.

The Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) has been alleged of threatening voters to vote for BJP. A video that has gone viral shows a woman from Leimakhong crying as she wasn't able to vote as per her choice. The EC official said that 11 candidates



from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian National Congress (INC) and National People's Party (NPP) are in the fray, including three independent candidates.

The ruling BJP is contesting in three seats and supporting an independent candidate in Lilong assembly segment, while the opposition Congress is in the fray in all four constituencies.

The Wangoi assembly segment will witness an interesting battle as the National People's Party (NPP), a coalition partner of the BJP-led Government in the state, has fielded its candidate against the nominees of the Congress and the saffron camp.

The counting will be conducted on November 10.

India records 50,356 fresh Covid infections, 577 deaths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's COVID-19 caseload mounted to 84,62,080 with 50,356 infections being reported in a day, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 78 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 92.41 per cent, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday.

The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,25,562 with 577 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

A total of 78,19,886 people have recuperated from COVID-19 so far pushing the national recovery rate to 92.41 per cent, while the case fatality rate has further declined to 1.48 per cent.

The number of active cases of COVID-19 remained below 6 lakh for the ninth consecutive day.

There are 5,16,632 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country as on date which comprises 6.11 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

Fadnavis Govt wanted to exploit Aarey Colony land commercially: Cong

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Questioning the very intention behind the previous Devendra Fadnavis Government's decision to choose Aarey colony as the venue for Mumbai Metro-III car shed, the Maharashtra Congress charged that the then ruling BJP wanted to commercially exploit part of the land at Aarey colony.

Giving a dimension to the MVA Government's decision to shift the Mumbai Metro-III car from Aarey colony to Kanjurmarg, the Congress alleged that the previous BJP-led Devendra Fadnavis government had chosen Aarey colony as venue for the metro-3 car shed project "only from a commercial point of view".

A day after he claimed that it was the previous BJP-led government that had planned to shift the project to Kanjurmarg and that there was no dispute over the land as was being made out by the Opposition BJP now, Maharashtra state Congress' general secretary and spokesperson Sachin Sawant said: "The proposal for the Kanjurmarg site was deliberately rejected. It has now been proved that a private person will have to be paid ₹5,000 crore for the Kanjurmarg land was a lie floated by the Fadnavis Government".

Sawant charged that that despite knowing that the metro project in Aarey Colony required only 20 hectares of land, the previous Devendra Fadnavis government had allocated 62 hectares of land for the project so that it could exploit the remaining 41 hectares of land.

SC stays Delhi HC order asking SpiceJet to deposit ₹243 crore



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has stayed a Delhi High Court order asking cash-strapped airlines SpiceJet to deposit around ₹243 crore as interest in connection with a share transfer dispute with its former promoter and media baron Kalanithi Maran and his firm KAL Airways.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian also issued notices to Kalanithi Maran and his firm on an appeal of SpiceJet Ltd and its promoter filed against the September 2 order of the Delhi High Court.

"Issue notice returnable within four weeks. There shall be a stay of operation of the impugned order until further orders," said the bench in its order after hearing both parties via video conferencing on Friday.

SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh were asked to deposit around ₹243 crore as interest payable on ₹579 crore, which the high court had in 2017 asked the airline to deposit under the 2018 arbitration award in the share transfer dispute.

The high court had granted six weeks to SpiceJet Ltd to make the payment and the deadline for paying the money, as per the September 2 order, expired on October 14.

After this, Maran and his firm had moved the high court for attachment of the entire shareholding of Singh in SpiceJet and taking over the management for non-payment of ₹243 crore.

The top court took note of the appeal of the SpiceJet and passed an interim order staying the high court order.

Maran and KAL had moved the high court over a share transfer dispute with SpiceJet, demanding that 18 crore warrants redeemable as equity shares be transferred to them.

The high court on July 29, 2016 had asked both parties to settle the share transfer dispute under arbitration. It had directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit ₹579 crore in the high court's registry.

SpiceJet was permitted to furnish a bank guarantee for ₹329 crore and make a cash deposit of the remaining sum of ₹250 crore by the high court.

BIHAR POLLS

Postal ballot facility, extension of polling time for Covid patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Noting that the coronavirus pandemic presented a unique challenge for the poll panel in holding safe elections, Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Saturday said various facilities were extended to COVID-19 patients to cast their vote in the Bihar Assembly polls, including postal ballot facility and extension of polling time. He said the Election Commission cannot remain "silent" to situations where persons suffering from COVID-19 are unable to exercise their democratic right.

"This time, besides senior citizens and women, we had to make additional arrangements for COVID patients... We extended polling time by one hour," he said addressing an event. Chandra said though postal ballot facility was extended, any person wanting to cast vote at the polling station was free to do so.

"Our polling officials were fully equipped with PPE kits and other measures to handle the situation," he said. Many people suffering from COVID-19 came to cast their votes in all the three phases on October 28, November 3 and November 7 (Saturday). "We cannot remain silent, we cannot remain spectators that a person suffering from COVID ... and he be deprived of casting vote. That is the basic theme of EC," he said. Chandra said the voter turnout in the first two phases has dispelled all fears and doubts, adding the voters of Bihar have defeated the fear of virus as they came out in large numbers. In its broad guidelines issued in August for holding polls amid the pandemic,



the poll panel extended the option of postal ballot for electors who are marked as persons with disabilities and those above 80 years. Electors who are COVID-19 positive or are suspected of having the infection and in quarantine at home or at an institution were also allowed to exercise the postal ballot option.

An official explained that this postal ballot facility is different from the one extended to service voters. Here, those will-

ing to use the facility have to fill up a form. Officials then carry the ballot to the residence of such voters and videograph the voting to ensure transparency.

"COVID-19 patients who are quarantined will be allowed to cast their vote at the last hour of the poll day at their respective polling stations, under the supervision of health authorities... Sector magistrates shall coordinate this in their allocated polling stations," the guidelines said.

Ayodhya Deepotsav set to be a grand event this year

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With decks being cleared for the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya, the Deepotsav function on Diwali is set to be historic this year.

Having a deep emotional connect with Ayodhya,

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is personally monitoring the preparations for Deepotsav and has already seen presentations on the entire schedule of the function.

Deepotsav 2020 will be organised by the UP Tourism department, Ayodhya district administration and

Ram Manohar Lohia Awadh University jointly from November 12 to 16.

After winning accolades across the globe for organising a successful, safe and clean Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj, the chief minister now has his eyes set on Deepotsava and plans to make the event both unprecedented and spectacular.

A government spokesman said that the chief minister said at a high-level meeting that 5.51 lakh earthen lamps would be lit at Ram ki Paidi ghats in Ayodhya as part of the celebrations. Yogi is also slated to visit

After winning accolades across the globe for organising a successful, safe and clean Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj, Chief Minister Yogi now has his eyes set on Deepotsava and plans to make the event both unprecedented and spectacular.

Ram Janmabhoomi at Ayodhya to light lamps. This will be the fourth Deepotsav during the Yogi Adityanath regime and the state government is bracing to better a Guinness Book record set last year for lighting the maximum number of earthen lamps at a single function at Ayodhya Deepotsav.

The spokesman further said that people's excitement was at the pinnacle though it had been dimmed a little by the COVID-19 pandemic aftermath. Hence this year, only a handful of people will participate in the event at Ayodhya while others would

be following it virtually from the safe confines of their homes.

Meanwhile, UP Tourism Minister Neelkanth Tiwari said that crores of devotees would have attended this year's Deepotsav, the first since the Supreme Court verdict on Ram temple construction, had the pandemic not surfaced and dragged on.

"Over 5 lakh earthen lamps will be lit this year on Deepotsav and it will be held for the first time at Ram Janmabhoomi site, which has been awaiting Ram temple construction for the last 500 years," the UP minister added.

Kerala adds 7,201 new Covid cases

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala recorded 7,201 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, including 61 health workers, as the toll climbed to 1,668 with 28 new fatalities.

As many as 7120 have been cured of the disease, taking the total recoveries so far 3,95,624, while 83,261 are under treatment, Health minister K K Shailaja said in a press release.

The Covid case load in the state has mounted to 4,80,669

with the new additions.

In the last 24 hours, 64,051 samples have been tested while so far 50,49,635 samples have been sent for testing.

Ernakulam reported the maximum number of cases (1042), followed by Kozhikode 971, Thrissur 864 and Thiruvananthapuram 719, the minister said.

Of the positive cases, 6,316 persons were infected through contact while 96 had come from outside the state.

Covid -ve report must for Haj aspirants

MUMBAI: Haj aspirants will have to submit COVID-19 negative report 72 hours prior to their journey to Saudi Arabia in 2021, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.

After holding a meeting with the Haj Committee and other stake-holders, the minister for minority affairs told reporters that December 10 is the last date for submitting applications for Haj pilgrimage 2021.

"The applicants can apply online, off-line or through Haj mobile application as well. In view of the coronavirus pan-

demia, we are making it mandatory for all the pilgrims to submit their COVID-19 negative report of RT-PCR test. The date of testing should be 72 hours prior to boarding a flight to Saudi Arabia," he said.

Naqvi also said embarking points for Haj 2021 have been reduced to ten in view of the COVID-19 situation and the feedback received from Air India and other agencies.

Previously, there were 21 such embarking locations across the country.

He said the ten boarding spots are Ahmedabad,

Bengaluru, Cochin, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Srinagar.

Naqvi said applications filled for Haj 2020 by women in "without mehram (male companion)" category are valid for Haj 2021 as well.

"Besides, new applications are also being accepted from women who want to perform Haj 2021 without mehram," he said.

The minister also said Muslim women applying in "without mehram" category will be exempted from the lottery system. **PTI**

30 farmers in Fatehpur booked for flouting stubble burning ban

Fatehpur/Lucknow: Cases have been registered against at least 30 farmers in different areas of Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district for allegedly burning farm stubble in the past two days and eight of them were sent to jail as they could not pay the fine, police said on Saturday.

Several states, including Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, have banned stubble or crop residue burning to check air pollution.

To stop stubble burning in the state, awareness programmes are being held in all districts and they are showing good results, a senior government official said in state capital Lucknow.

"On Thursday, in Bhairampur village, cases for burning farm stubble were registered against eight farmers and the sub-divisional mag-

istrate has recovered the fine from them," Station House Officer (SHO), Hussainganj, Satyendra Singh Bhadauria said.

The action was taken on reports from lekhpals (revenue officials), he said. "Eight farmers have been sent to jail as they were unable to pay the fine to the sub-divisional magistrate," SHO, Mallawa, Sher Singh Rajput said.

His Kotwali counterpart, Ravindra Srivastava said that action has been taken against three farmers in his area and a fine of Rs 10,000 has been recovered from each of them.

SHO, Thariyon, Upendranath Rai said that late on Friday night, cases were registered against 14 farmers in his area. Prior to this, almost a fortnight back, cases were

registered against six farmers at the Khakheru police station and four farmers at the Khaga police station for violating the ban on stubble burning.

District agriculture officer Brijesh Kumar Singh said that so far cases have been registered against 28 farmers for burning stubble, and fine has been recovered from them.

However, a senior district police officer alleged that the agriculture department was not giving correct figures.

In the last fortnight, cases have been registered against over 100 farmers on complaints lodged by revenue officials, he said.

Bundelkhand Kisan Union president Vimal Kumar Sharma said that the action taken against farmers amounts to "atrocities". **IAN S**

Rebel JD(U) leader in Bihar poll fray dies of corona in Patna

Patna: While the three-phase Bihar Assembly elections are slated to come to a close on Saturday evening, an independent candidate in the poll fray from Benipatti segment in Madhubani district died of coronavirus at AIIMS here.

Sanjay Jha died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where he was admitted for the last 10 days. Jha, a former Janata Dal-United leader, rebelled against the party after denial of ticket from Benipatti.

Reports said a 45-year-old woman was mowed down by a speeding car in Supaul district on Saturday morning while she was returning after casting her vote. The accident occurred in area in the jurisdiction of Lalit Gram police post on National Highway-57. Meanwhile, Congress Rajya Sabha member and AICC incharge of Bihar affairs, Shaktisinh Gohil tested positive for coronavirus after an RT-PCR test. Gohil tweeted on Saturday: "I will fight coronavirus too with your blessings. Nothing to worry about." **IAN S**

Maha cases dip to 3,959; 150 more die

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 infections plummeted to 3,959 and the number of deaths came down marginally to 150 in Maharashtra, even as the pandemic toll crossed 45,000 mark in the state.

A day after it logged to 5027 infected cases and 161 deaths, Maharashtra recorded the second lowest number of infections (3959) in five months. Earlier on October 26, infections plummeted to 3645. Subsequently on November 2, the daily infections had come down to 4009.

With fresh infections, the total number of infections jumped from 17,10,314 to 17,14,273.

The daily death tally came down 161 to 150 during the last 24 hours. With fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll crossed 45,000 mark as the deaths jumped from 44,965 to 45,115.

in Maharashtra on Friday, as 161 people succumbed to the pandemic in various parts of the state.

As 6,748 more people were discharged from various hospitals the number of people discharged from the hospitals after full recovery since the sec-

ond week of March this year went up to 15,69,000. The recovery rate in the state rose from 91.35 per cent to 91.53 per cent.

Of the 150 deaths reported on Saturday, Pune accounted for a maximum of 38 deaths, followed by 32 deaths in Satara, 23 in Mumbai and 16 in Thane.

In the lower range, there were seven deaths in Nashik, 6 each in Solapur and Sangli, 4 in Nanded, 3 each in Yavatmal and Nagpur, 2 in Latur and one death each in Raigad, Ahmednagar, Dhule, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri,

Aurangabad, Beed, Bhandara and Chandrapur.

With 23 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai climbed from 10,399 to 10,422, while the infected cases went up by 576 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 262,473 to 263,049.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" in the state came down one lakh mark as the total cases dropped 1,02,099 to 99,151. The fatality rate in the state stood at 2.63 per cent.

Currently, 10,71,163 people are in home quarantine while 9,799 people are in institutional quarantine.

UP's 1st VVPAT warehouse ready in Aligarh

PNS ■ ALIGARH

UP's first VVPAT warehouse in Aligarh is ready with a budget of ₹2.5 crores which is having a capacity to store 5500 VVPAT machines. Election Commission was made necessary to install VVPAT machines at every booth from the last election.

There are 2700 booths in the district according to which the same number of VVPAT machines were sent by the Election Commission.

Hathras case: Family ready for audio test instead of polygraph

PNS ■ ALIGARH

In Hathras's case, the victim's brother has refused to undergo a polygraph test, but the family is ready for the audio test.

The call detail record of the conversation with the main accused Sandeep with the SIM number purchased in the name of the victim's husband has also been denied by the brother once again.

The brother told that the CBI asked him to do a polygraph test, but he refused by saying that he did not know

what is there in it, but he is ready for the audio test.

The victim's brother said CBI must interrogate the accused in the jail and asked them how they killed my sister. For the last week, the victim's family is avoiding media. The CBI talked to the victim's mother and brother for two hours, after which both were returned to their house. After a while, the media people tried to talk to them, but they went inside their room. The victim's father said that they have a severe headache and will not be able to talk.

Multinationals hiring students despite economic slowdown

Aligarh: Samsung, Reliance Jio, Zoho Corporation, Ultra Tech Cement, UHM Vacations, Softnise and EFS Facilities recently hired 40 Arts, Social Sciences, Commerce, Engineering and Science graduates from the Aligarh Muslim University despite the economic slowdown triggered by the Covid-19 outbreak. These students were selected in an on-campus placement drive arranged by the Training and Placement Office-General of the university. The candidates were hired through virtual interviews and online pre-placement talks with their employers. **PNS**

India expected to become 'Fastest Growing' major economy from FY22: PHD Chamber

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to become the 'Fastest Growing' major economy from FY22, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said on Saturday.

According to Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the country's economy is "going to attain its fastest growth trajectory from the next financial year 2021-22 onwards".

In a recent growth estimate by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is projected

to become the fastest growing economy among the top 10 major economies in the world economic system from 2021 to 2025. "The average GDP growth of Indian economy in next five years from 2021 to 2025 will be at 7.8 per cent, highest as compared with top 10 economies including 6.2 per cent of China, 3 per cent of France, 2.9 per cent of United Kingdom, 2.9 per cent of Canada, 2.4 of United States, 2.3 per cent of Germany, 2.3 per cent of Italy, 2.3 per cent of Brazil and 1.4 per cent of Japan," Aggarwal was quoted as

saying in a statement.

"The size of the economy will increase from Rs 203 trillion in FY 2019-20 to Rs 331 trillion in FY 2025-26 at current prices, which becomes at around US\$ 4.42 trillion considering the exchange rate at 74.9 (average of current fiscal year 2020-21; April-October)."

Besides, the industry body pointed out that percolation of more and more economic reforms at the ground level with effective implementation would be crucial to attain the potential trajectory of \$5 trillion in the next 6 financial years

by FY 2026-27 (GDP at current prices; considering the exchange rate between 74-75).

"On the back of various reforms undertaken by the government, economic recovery has become visible in the high frequency economic and business indicators of the recent months," he said.

Recently, PHD Chamber on the basis of PHDCCI Economic and Business Momentum (EBM) Index, estimated that the GDP growth will be at around (-) 7.9 per cent for the current financial year 2020-21 as compared with

the median forecasts of (-) 9.3 per cent by various national and international forecasting organisations.

"At this juncture, demand creation measures are needed to attain a positive growth trajectory sooner rather than later," he said. "Demand creation along with increased spending on infrastructure will have multiplier effects on the economic growth trajectory by boosting private investments, creating new employment opportunities in the country, generating demand for commodities such as steel, cement and power."

Govt allows flexibility in selection of power supplies under RTC bids

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

With the aim to drive bids for round-the-clock (RTC) power supply, the Ministry of Power has amended the guidelines for tariff-based competitive bidding for power procurement from such projects, allowing them bundling with any non-renewable source of energy rather than just coal-based thermal projects.

The earlier guidelines for bundled projects required a bidder to place tariff bids after allowing power generated from renewable resource and via based thermal power projects.

With the changes in guidelines, a bidder for a RTC tender can quote tariff by bundling power from renewable and any other non-renewable resource such as thermal and hydro, including power from energy storage systems.

The measure is expected to give more flexibility to gener-

The penalty will be higher at 400% even for any shortfall in supply of committed level of renewable power

ators while placing bids for RTC. However, under the amended guidelines, bundling will be allowed only with one non-renewable resource and not multiple resources.

Also, the amended regulations have made stricter provisions for penalty if a power generator is unable to meet commitments on power supply. The regulations provide that the generator maintain minimum power supply of 85 per cent annually and if it falters, it would have to pay a hefty penalty equivalent to 400 per cent of the cost of power they fell short of. The penalty level earlier was 25 per cent.

The penalty will be higher at 400 per cent even for any shortfall in supply of committed level of renewable power.

Global push, local cues to accelerate equities' rise

IAN S ■ MUMBAI

Past paced economic recovery along with healthy earnings results are expected to accelerate the rise of India's main benchmark equity indices during the upcoming trade week.

Besides, analysts opined that positive global cues such as an early outcome of the US Presidential elections will buoy sentiments.

On the domestic front, healthy reading in high frequency data on factory output data, along with better than expected quarterly results with a rise in auto sales volume and robust GST collection will continue to support the upward trajectory.

"The overall structure of the market remains positive. With the economic activity recovering fast, more earnings upgrade cannot be ruled out," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head

- Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

"Further strong global markets can keep the liquidity abundant in the system, thus providing support to the overall market."

In terms of the US Presidential election, Deepak Jasani- Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities pointed out the process was still unresolved going into the weekend, but even "if Biden is declared winner, close votes and lawsuits are likely to result in recounts". "Technically apart from positive global cues and FPI flows, the local corporate results give one more reason to cheer going into key festival week," Jasani said.

"Nifty is just 167 points away from its all time high. Though it does not seem difficult at all going by the momentum seen over the last few days, global markets show signs of slowing down.

SC stays HC order asking SpiceJet to pay around ₹243 cr to Kalanithi Maran, firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has stayed a Delhi High Court order asking cash-strapped airlines SpiceJet to deposit around ₹243 crore as interest in connection with a share transfer dispute with its former promoter and media baron Kalanithi Maran and his firm KAL Airways.

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deposit around ₹243 crore as interest payable on ₹579 crore, which the high court had in 2017 asked the airline to deposit under the 2018 arbitration award in the share transfer dispute.

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China smartphone market drops 14.3% in Q3 2020, Huawei leads

IAN S ■ BEIJING

The China smartphone market witnessed a 14.3 per cent drop in the third quarter this year with 84.8 million units shipment, according to an IDC report, as the country faced soft demand, Huawei's supply constraints and delayed flagship launches from both Huawei and Apple.

At the top of the table with 41.4 per cent share, Huawei cautiously managed its shipments across its product lineups and lowered the production of some popular models like the Mate 30 series.

Its channel management and prioritisation also resulted in a supply shortage in the lower-tier cities, delaying purchases from loyal customers, said IDC 'Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker'. "The escalated US trade restrictions in August ultimately impeded Huawei's momentum in its home market.

Delegation of officers of Raj Administrative Service met Commissioner

Jaipur: Housing Commissioner Shri Pawan Arora to Rajasthan on FridayA delegation of administrative service officials met and metResidential plan being developed in Pratap Nagar, Jaipur for officersDemanded for inclusion in "AIS Residency". The Commissioner showed a positive stance on his demand and said that first he was willingBring the list of officers, then it will be considered. Before this Through the presentation of this scheme by the concerned officials to the delegationInformation given In this delegation, Shri Arun Garg, Officer of Rajasthan Administrative Service, Shri.Ramnivas Mehta, Mrs. Alpa Chaudhary, Mrs. Sanchita Vishnoi, Mr. Manish Goyal, Mr. RakeshSharma, Dr. Prabha Vyasa and Mrs. Madhu Rajvanshi were present.

Armed men held outside counting centre in Philadelphia: Reports

Were trying to deliver fake ballots

New York: Two heavily armed men “coming to deliver a truck full of fake ballots” have been arrested near the Philadelphia convention center where election workers were counting votes from the undecided US presidential election, police said.

Antonio LaMotta, 61, and Joshua Macias, 42, both of Chesapeake, Virginia, were arrested on Thursday night outside the center on suspicion of carrying handguns in Pennsylvania state without permits, according to US media reports.

Philadelphia police said they found the men on Thursday night after receiving a tip that people with firearms were heading to the Pennsylvania Convention Center in a silver Hummer



A supporter of Vice President Joe Biden demonstrates outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center where votes are being counted in Philadelphia

truck.

Both men were carrying loaded handguns, and police found an AR-type rifle in the Hummer, authorities said at a news conference on Friday.

About 160 rounds of ammunition were found in the

weapons and the vehicle, authorities said.

Details about the alleged fake ballots -- including where they came from, whether they were found in the Hummer, or what was marked on them --

were not immediately available,

CNN reported.

It's unclear what those men were allegedly intending to do. The FBI and Philadelphia Police are investigating the incident, CBS News reported.

Prosecutors say text messages show the men say they

were concerned about the vote counting happening at the Convention Center and they were “coming to deliver a truck full of fake ballots to Philly.”

The vehicle with Virginia tags was found unattended on the 200 block of North 13th Street in Center City.

A few minutes later, officers stopped two armed men on the street. Police say they did not have a license to carry in Pennsylvania and were placed under arrest.

Stickers and a hat with logos of the far-right QAnon conspiracy movement were found in the vehicle, Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner said.

“I don't have information that any of them are known members of an extremist group,” Krasner said.

The two men were charged with having a concealed firearm without a license and carrying a firearm on a public street or public property, Krasner was quoted as saying by CNN.

Evangelicals stick with Trump, see upside even if he loses

Washington: The conservative evangelical Christians who helped send Donald Trump to the White House four years ago stuck by him in 2020. But even if Trump doesn't get a second term, some conservative Christians see reasons to celebrate in this year's election results.

White evangelical voters made up 23% of the vote nationwide and overwhelmingly favoured Trump this fall, with about 8 in 10 backing him, according to AP VoteCast.

Their support may not have been enough to reelect the president yet evangelicals still took heart in their strong presence at the polls and the GOP's success in down-ballot races.

3rd court blocks Trump's order on congressional seat count

Washington: A panel of three judges on Friday became the third federal court to rule that President Donald Trump's effort to exclude people in the country illegally from the numbers used for dividing up congressional seats is unlawful.

The federal court in Maryland prohibited the Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, from sending to the president any figures that include the number of people in the country illegally in each state when transmitting the apportionment count at the end of the year.

Federal courts in New York and California already have issued similar orders. The Trump administration has appealed the New York case, and the Supreme Court

is hearing arguments on it at the end of the month.

The Maryland decision was more like the New York ruling in that it merely found Trump's order unlawful, rather than unconstitutional. The California court decided that Trump's order violated the Constitution and federal law.

The Maryland lawsuit was brought by several advocacy groups and individuals who said Trump's order discriminates against Hispanic people and immigrant communities of colour, and that they will be harmed because the states they live in will lose congressional seats if the order is enforced.

The census determines not only how many congressional seats each state gets, but also the distribution of \$1.5 trillion a year in federal spending.

Police question children for supporting teacher's beheading

Le Pecq: Police in France questioned four 10-year-olds who voiced support for the beheading of a schoolteacher and who said they would kill their own teacher if he lampooned Islam's prophet, the government reported as the prime minister warned Saturday that Islamic extremists are recruiting in France with “ignorance and hate.”

The children and their parents were detained and questioned for several hours Thursday by police in the Alpine town of Albertville, Interior Ministry spokeswoman Camille Chaize said.

On Monday, when French schools held a nationwide minute of silence to honour the slain teacher, Samuel Paty, the children voiced support for

his killing last month near Paris, the spokeswoman said in a video statement Friday night.

They “justified the teacher's assassination by arguing that it was forbidden to offend the prophet and adding that they would kill their teacher if he caricatured the prophet,” she said.

Paty was killed on October 16 outside his Paris-region school by an 18-year-old refugee of Chechen origin after he showed his class caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad for a debate on free expression.

The children in Albertville were released after questioning. Judicial authorities ordered educative training for them, the ministry spokeswoman said. Police also searched their

homes.

Paty's killing was followed Oct. 29 by the killing of three people in a knife attack at a church in Nice. Leading a Saturday memorial for the three victims in the Mediterranean city, French Prime Minister Jean Castex warned that extremists were recruiting French citizens. “We know the enemy,” Castex said.

“Not only is it identified, but it also has a name: It is radical Islamism, a political ideology that disfigures the Muslim religion by distorting its texts, its dogmas and its commandments to impose its dominance by ignorance and hate, an enemy that benefits from support overseas but, alas, also counts French citizens in its ranks.”

Tens of thousands in B'desh protest against France

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

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

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

UAE announces relaxing of Islamic laws for personal freedoms

Dubai: The United Arab Emirates announced on Saturday a major overhaul of the country's Islamic personal laws, allowing unmarried couples to cohabit, loosening alcohol restrictions and criminalising so-called “honour killings.”

The broadening of personal freedoms reflects the changing profile of a country that has sought to bill itself as a skyscraper-studded destination for Western tourists, fortune-seekers and businesses despite its legal system based on a hard-line interpretation of Islamic law.

The changes also reflect the efforts of the Emirates' rulers to keep pace with a rapidly changing society at home.

The announcement also follows a historic US-brokered deal to normalise relations between the UAE and Israel, which is expected to bring an influx of Israeli tourists and investment.

Changes include scrapping penalties for alcohol consumption, sales and possession for those 21 and over.

The legal reforms were announced on state-run WAM news agency and detailed in state-linked newspaper The National.

Previously, individuals needed a liquor license to purchase, transport or have alcohol in their homes. The new rule would apparently allow Muslims who have been barred from obtaining licenses to drink alcoholic beverages freely.

Another amendment allows for “cohabitation of unmarried couples,” which has long been a crime in the UAE. Authorities, especially in the more free-wheeling financial hub of Dubai, tend to look the other way when it comes to foreigners, but the threat of punishment still lingered for such behavior.

Egyptians vote in 2nd stage of Parl election

AP ■ CAIRO

Egyptians began voting Saturday in the second and final stage of the country's parliamentary elections, after a relatively low turnout in the first stage that embarrassed the government of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

Polling centers opened at 9 a.m. In 13 of Egypt's 27 provinces, including the capital Cairo and the restive northern part of the Sinai Peninsula.

Nawaz Sharif a ‘jackal’ trying to create ‘rebellion’ in Pak Army: Imran Khan

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday lashed out at three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif, describing him as a “jackal” who is trying to create “rebellion” in the Army by accusing it of involvement in the country's politics and calling for a change in the military as well as the ISI leadership.

Sharif, the 70-year-old supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) who was ousted from power in 2017 by the apex

court on graft charges, had last month for the first time directly named Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and ISI head Lt Gen Faiz Hameed for interfering in the general elections of 2018 to ensure victory of Khan.

Sharif had made the comments virtually on October 16 during a joint rally organised by the Opposition parties under the banner of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), formed to oust the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) government.

Prime Minister Khan said that Sharif is sitting in London “like a Jackal” and targeting the Army. Hitting out at Sharif, Khan said the former prime minister was “trying to stir up a rebellion in the Pakistan Army by alleging it is involved in politics and calling for changing the Army and ISI chiefs,” Khan said while addressing a public gathering in Mingora in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

Bangladesh opens first madrasa for transgenders

Dhaka: A madrasa has been opened for transgenders in Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka, believed to be the first-of-its-kind initiative for the community in the Muslim-majority country. More than 100 students of any age can study in the non-residential Islamic school, Dawatul Quran Third Gender

Madrasa, at Lohar Bridge Dhal in Kamrangirchar, the bdnews24.Com reported At the inauguration on Friday, 40 transgender people joined. Besides the Islamic teachings, the madrasa authorities also plan to launch a separate department of technical education for the transgender people.

Kyiv (Ukraine): Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Saturday formally opened the country's first nuclear power plant, a project sharply criticized by neighbouring Lithuania.

Lukashenko said the launch of the Russian-built and -financed Astravyets plant “will serve as an impetus for attracting the most advanced technologies to the country, and innovative directions in science and education.”

Lithuania has long

opposed the plant, located about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of its capital, Vilnius.

Lithuanian authorities say the project has been plagued by accidents, stolen materials and the mistreatment of workers.

In line with a law banning electricity imports from Belarus once the nuclear plant started up, Lithuania's Litgrid power operator cut the inflow of electricity from Belarus when the plant began producing electricity on Tuesday.

FROM PAGE 1

BJP MAY GET STRONGER AFTER MP, GUJ, UP BYPOLL RESULTS

In UP, the BJP could bag five to six seats. In addition, the Samajwadi Party could win 1-2 seats and the BSP 0-1 Assembly seats where bypolls were held. In Gujarat, the BJP could win 6-7 of these Assembly seats. Similarly, the Congress could bag 0-1 seats where bypolls were held.

According to Times Now-CVoters exit polls, the BJP could win 16 to 18 seats, while the Congress party will have to settle with just 11 seats in the MP bypolls. The BJP may win 6-7 seats, the Congress could win just 0-1 seats. In 2017 Assembly polls, the BJP had won 100 seats while the Congress bagged 77 seats, 15 up from what it had in 2012.

Dainik Bhaskar exit polls predicted 14-16 seats for the BJP; 10-13 seats for the Congress and one for others in MP.

Bypolls were held for 28 seats in MP, 8 in Gujarat and 7 in UP. Similarly, Assembly seats were up for bypolls in Karnataka (2), Jharkhand (2), Odisha (2), Nagaland (2), Haryana (1), Chhattisgarh (1) and Telangana (1). The counting for bypolls will be done on November 10 and results are also expected to be announced the same day.

BIHAR VOTES FOR CHANGE!

Add to that massive unemployment caused by Nitish Kumar's decision to enforce liquor prohibition, and it was a tailor-made situation for the Opposition to politically exploit by promising a welfare-oriented “change.”

The exit poll will gladden the heart of former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad, who is incarcerated in a Ranchi prison

as a fodder scam convict. Unlike Lalu Prasad, who practiced brazen caste politics, his son Tejashwi Yadav kept the focus squarely on the issue of employment, health, education and development. If M-Y was the campaign slogan for Lalu Prasad for 15 years, then Tejashwi invented the catchy slogan of A to Z, implying he would try to carry every caste and grouping together to make a new Bihar. That was the reason the youth voters rose over the caste lines to support him. Unlike the divided NDA, the Grand Alliance ran a smooth campaign with few hiccups. The Grand Alliance leaders didn't react to aggressive Hindutva card played by the Prime Minister and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and stuck to their campaign theme.

Exit polls also show that younger voters who have only heard about the so called “jungle raj” and not lived in it, have overwhelmingly voted for the Grand Alliance. That's where the NDA poll campaign went totally wrong. The focus on jungle raj didn't resonate with this class of voters who wanted to embrace the future and move out of the shadow of the past.

GUPKAR DECLARATION ALLIANCE TO FIGHT DDC POLLS JOINTLY IN J&K

“The PAGD has unanimously decided to fight the DDC elections unitedly. Despite the abruptness of the DDC elections in terms of timing it is important that this sacred space in democracy is not allowed to be invaded and marauded by the divisive forces,” Sajad Lone said while reading out a brief statement in the presence of senior leaders Dr Farooq Abdullah, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, Omar Abdullah, Muzaffar Hussain Shah

of Awami National Conference, MY Tarigami of CPI(M) and Javid Mustafa Mir of the People's Movement.

Lone said that all the modalities and new administrative rules will be looked into and the alliance president Dr Farooq Abdullah will declare the names of contestants on his own. Interestingly, none of the leaders responded to the media queries and dispersed.

Addressing a news conference in Jammu, Mir said that after consultation with all the leaders of Congress party from different districts, they have decided to contest the upcoming DDC polls. He said Congress is the oldest party in J&K and it has never stayed away from the democratic process.

“We will not give a free field to BJP in the DDC polls,” he said, adding that the Congress party has some serious concern regarding the conduct of DDC polls in J&K and all these issues were put up before the State Election authorities.

“There are some security concerns also and we have forwarded all our concerns before higher authorities and state election authorities, who have assured us that these issues will be looked into,” he said.

On the other hand, newly appointed National General Secretary of the BJP, in-charge of J&K affairs Tarun Chug Saturday chaired a meeting of BJP leaders in Jammu to take stock of the situation ahead of DDC polls.

Addressing a press conference here at party headquarters he made it clear under no circumstances Article 35-A will be restored in Jammu & Kashmir. He also labeled the People's Alliance for Gupkar declaration a group of “day dreamers.”

While responding to a direct question over People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, Chug termed it as a day dreamer's group, adding that these leaders are exploiting people of Jammu and

Kashmir through a bundle of lies. “There is no chance of restoration of Article 35-A in Jammu & Kashmir,” Chug said.

Regarding rehabilitation policy for militants, BJP's national general secretary said that “we will not talk to anybody holding guns and those holding guns have only one place and that is grave.”

He added that a long plan for development of Jammu & Kashmir is in offing and the Government is working on it.

IMD TO FORECAST MALARIA OUTBREAKS FROM NEXT MONSOON

In India, malaria cases have consistently declined from 2.08 million in 2001 to about 4 lakh in 2018. Of the countries hardest hit by malaria, only India showed progress in reducing its disease burden, the NHP said.

Delivering a lecture on “recent advances in weather and climate predictions”, organised by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Rajeevan on Saturday said India also plans to ramp up its high performance computing (HPC) facility from the existing capacity of 10 petaflops to 40 petaflops, a step that will significantly help in improving weather predictions. Currently, India is only next to the US, the UK and Japan in HPC.

A report released by the Ministry of Earth Sciences this week said nearly Rs 990 crore spent on the National Monsoon Mission and HPC had yielded dividend 50 times the investment made. In his lecture, Rajeevan said 90 per cent of the meteorology-related data comes from satellites. The rest of it comes from conventional sources like Doppler radars, buoys in the sea, ship and aircraft observation and other

observations.

AIR POLLUTION RAISED COVID CASES IN DELHI BY 13%: IMA

“Increased air pollution leads to increased inflammatory response. In the last few days, Delhi has reported more than 6,000 Covid-19 cases per day. 13 per cent of the increase has been estimated to be due to pollution,” the IMA said. The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi on Saturday remained above 350 while safe limit is 0-50. The WHO's ambient air pollution data shows that the levels of PM 10 and PM 2.5 in Delhi are way above the normal levels, the IMA stated.

Poor air quality may result in the aggravation of asthma, COPD, high BP and even cardiovascular diseases. Merely walking could result in health complications due to the high concentration of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 in Delhi's air. “N-95 masks and air purifiers may not provide full time protection. An AQI of above 300 makes it difficult not only for people with respiratory problems, but healthy people as well. Hence, it is advisable that people do not go out early in the morning when pollution levels are the highest. Elderly and children are more likely to develop infections and allergies due to smog,” the doctors' body said.

The major sources of air pollution in Delhi are vehicular pollution, construction activities, carriage of construction material, dust on roads, burning of agricultural or crop residue, industrial and powerhouse emissions, burning of municipal wastes, thermal energy power plants and mining in Aravalli hill areas, it said.

It listed measures such as use of public transport, buying energy efficient

vehicles, planting a garden wherever possible, making use of solar energy, using recyclable products which can be adopted by the people to help reduce pollution. There is also a graded response action plan in Delhi and NCR which includes measures such as prohibition on entry of trucks into Delhi, ban on construction activities, introduction of odd and even scheme, closure of brick kilns, ban on diesel generator sets, garbage burning in land fill etc. Banning of crackers and stubble burning in hinterland are helpful public health measures.

“Implementation of long term measures is important,” the IMA added.

JOE BIDEN IS 46TH US PRESIDENT

“Former vice president Joe Biden is projected to win Pennsylvania and its 20 electoral votes, according to Edison Research, putting him over the 270 needed to win the presidency,” The Washington Post reported.

The call came about 11:30 a.m. Saturday (local time), after a report of more counted votes from Pennsylvania. “Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. Was elected the 46th president of the United States on Saturday, promising to restore political normalcy and a spirit of national unity to confront raging health and economic crises, and making Donald J. Trump a one-term president after four years of tumult in the White House,” The New York Times said. Biden's victory amounted to a repudiation of Trump by millions of voters exhausted with his divisive conduct and chaotic administration, and was delivered by an unlikely alliance of women, people of colour, old and young voters and a sliver of disaffected Republicans.

HOME THEATRE

Weak execution



MISS INDIA
Netflix
***ing: Keerthy Suresh, Rajendra Prasad, Jagapathi Babu, Naresh, Nadihya, Naveen Chandra, Sumanth Shailendra**
Rated: 4/10

Some movies have a great subject and story but unfortunately, they fall flat on their face due to the manner in which the plot unfolds and the story is told. Directed and written by Narendra Nath Miss India, a Telugu drama film, loses on many counts.

First, how is it possible for a newbie uprooted to San Francisco, US girl who has yet to get used to coming to America manage to get a job as a tele-marketer after an MBA from the US? If this is what she had wanted to do, why do an MBA at all?

Second, how does the brother manage to afford such a luxurious house on his first salary even if he is brilliant?

Third, the men our heroin encounters seemingly want only two

things — either for her to be a submissive dutiful wife or throw her out? She takes the latter and walks away. While Nath time and again reiterates that our girl is strong and independent and wants to do things her way — no harm here — the problem is that she sure manages to attract the wrong kind of men and therefore even though the entire movie rests on her slim shoulders, the end result is a flop show.

Fourth, Naresh, who plays Samyuktha's (Keerthy Suresh's father) is detected with Alzheimer's. How he behaves, belittle those who actually suffer from the disease.

Finally, it is bizarre that a seasoned businessman who has been in the US for decades is outwitted and outsmarted by Samyuktha. His strange proposals to bring her down are downright childish and so un-businessman-like.

It is sad that a movie that has such a great idea, would end up a damp squib. One needs to stay away from this cup of *chai*

— Shalini Saxena

Cute even if predictable

OPERATION CHRISTMAS DROP
Netflix
***ing: Kat Graham, Alexander Ludwig**
Rated: 5.5/10

This is the festival season and the whole idea is to spread joy all over even to those who live in far-flung areas and have no access to civilization for thousands of miles. Their only connection with the rest of the world is the drop of essentials they get every Christmas.

Operation Christmas Drop is all about spreading the joy of sharing on, of course, Christmas. But there has to be a scrooge. In this one, it is a Congresswoman who is hell bent on shutting an air base that does the good deed — saving taxpayers' money is important for the country's strategic location military wise.

But we all know how a feel-good movie is going to end. From



the word go, the film is predictable. Yet, it is sweet and cute especially when there is romance in the air. The smell of romance during the holidays? What could be better.

However, if you are the kind that finds such movies too sweet

— Shalini Saxena

Where is the thrill quotient?



PEPPER CHICKEN
ShemarooMe Box Office
***ing: Dipannita Sharma, Boloram Das, Baharul Islam**
Rated: 5/10

It is extremely sad that a movie that was lending itself out as a psychological thriller has not even an ounce of thrill factor and takes nearly 45 minutes into the film of the one hour and 36 minutes of run time to get to the point.

There are a few things that don't make sense in this one directed by Ratan Sil Sarma.

Which girl, who takes a cab late at night would stop somewhere to have a bite with the cabwalla? Obviously, Sarma has not taken into account the number of incidents involving the cab drivers and their lady passengers. Even if we stretch our imagination and go with the premise that it is a movie and hence make-belief, the idea is bizarre and alien at least in Indian setting.

Then there are the whole three bikes following the cab and when the lone cab driver confronts the six guys with just an iron rod in his hand, they disappear. Either, the men were just trying to be funny or pansies. Or maybe the director was trying to build the scare-quotient. All it does end up doing is make the viewer bang the head against the nearest wall.

Also, the title of the film doesn't have any bearing on what transpires unless one gives credence to the fact that our villain cooks chicken for his victim. Bang head again.

Plan Your Day

Ambience Mall in Vasant Kunj and Gurgaon are gearing up to make Diwali special, gratifying and safe for city shoppers.

Starting from November 1 to November 14, the malls will celebrate the auspicious festival by treating shoppers to various offers, as well as opportunities to win extravagant prizes.

Both the malls are decked in colourful handmade hangings decorations inspired by "Vocal for Local" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative by the government. In Ambience Mall Gurgaon, shoppers will get to see a grand 23ft installation of Shri Ram and Sita Mata, handcrafted by ace artisans from Kolkata. The statue will be adorned with exquisite and original ornaments.

To make the 'Festival of Lights' even brighter for shoppers, Ambience Malls have organised a Shop and Win* campaign with various lavish prizes up for grabs. Lucky shoppers who have

shopped for INR1lakh or more get to win a brand new iPhone 12 from iWorld. It will be a Golden Diwali for shoppers with a total purchase of ₹50,000 or above, who will take home gold coins from Diamond Tree or diamond pendants from Carat Lane (Gurgaon) and Bluestone (Vasant Kunj).

Shoppers with total purchase of ₹25,000 stand a chance to win electronics goodies and accessories, courtesy of Reliance Digital, Chroma and Sunglass Hut.

The fun doesn't stop here as there are more exciting winning prospects.

Social Media savvy shoppers can get on Instagram and take part in mall's online contest called Fun with Filter. Just by clicking a picture with Ambience Malls' Diwali filter and sharing it, shoppers can win gift vouchers worth ₹500. There is also a festive bonus for Loyalty Members; who till November 14 can avail an additional 20 per cent on their shopping point value.

TREAT YOUR LOVED ONES

With an unprecedented and mayhem of a year — the pandemic, the lockdowns, and various other setbacks have dampened our spirits and have toned down the celebrations but the hope and joy of Diwali gifting are still the same.

Ferns N Petals, this year has specially compiled a wide variety of gifts that are thoughtfully packed and dispatched to the destination of your choice with absolute ease. All the gifting options and combo deals are available at a reasonable price range so that the customers are granted with Diwali gifts that suit every budget.

Indoor Plants: During this unprecedented time of Pandemic, Indoor Plants are the best gift to express love and concern to the dear ones. The beautifully handcrafted planters will not only enhance the décor of the house but refreshes the house too.

Immunity Hampers: As Covid-19 has fundamentally changed the world and people have become more health-conscious, Ferns N Petals has a range of Immunity Boosting and Healthy Savories gift hampers which are the perfect gifting options for individuals as well as corporates. The immunity gift hampers have an assortment of branded products like multivitamin supplements, healthy snacks, gluten free cakes by FNP, Dry Fruits, Green Tea, and others.

TELLY TALE

MEET PINAKI AND HAPPY

Post the launch of nine successful IPs, Nickelodeon is introducing the world to a genre which is not explored by any other kids brand. Pinaki and Happy — The Bhoot Bandhu's is a show about Pinaki being raised by the family of ghosts within the four walls of a mansion till the age of 10 before he decided to step out in the real world for the first time. This is where the things go crazy and ghostly funny!

Will it be easy for him to make new 'living' friends and blend in? Watch on Sonic to know more. Read on to know more about the characters.

A 11-year-old smart but misfit boy who has been brought up by his unusual family of ghosts. A well-read kid, Pinaki is a notorious boy but generally makes things work in this favour. Things take a turn when he gets admission in a local school and interacts with humans for the first time in his life. Like most kids, he is generally not scared of things like bats, insects, or darkness and most importantly Ghosts!! Pinaki is a bright kid, scores good



marks and is very attentive in class. He is the teacher's favorite.

Happy is like an elder brother to Pinaki and have a very friendly equation. He is the youngest and funniest ghost in the family. He is 19 years old, flirtatious young boy who is not only artistic but also carries a camera with him most of the time. He also has a great sense of humor, his one-liners even in serious and intense situations make things funny and distracts others.

Special Power: His pocket is like *bhanumati ka pitara*, he can pull out almost anything from it. All he needs is to know what he needs to pull out!

'JUHI KNOWS HER CRAFT WELL'

As a part of the content extravaganza that Zee TV plans to offer its viewers in the festive month of October, the channel presented a heart-warming story that captures the essence of the ever-evolving dynamics of the saas-bahu relationship in Indian society. A relationship, often portrayed as typically at loggerheads, political and manipulative especially on Indian television, will now make way for an equation that is based on trust, hope, a friendship that has the two going out on a limb for each other in Zee TV's new show

Hamarwali Good News. In fact, the show presents a most unique role reversal between the daughter-in-law Navya (Srishti Jain) and her mother-in-law Renuka (Juhi Parmar) to give their family the much awaited 'Good News.'



Versatile actress Juhi Parmar plays the role of Renuka in the show, who is the mother-in-law and the lifeline of the Tiwari family. She is a strong-headed and God-fearing person who is also an active member of a *kirtan mandli* consisting of the neighbourhood women. Shakti Anand, on the other hand, is seen essaying the pivotal character of Mukund, who is Renuka's husband and Navya's father-in-law. A grocery shop owner, known for being a miser, he follows the motto of, '*Jaisa chal raha hai badiya hai*, what is the need for change?'

Both these powerhouse performers are well established household names, however, even after 20 years in the entertainment industry, this is the first show they're doing together. Yes, Juhi and Shakti have been a part of several top shows over two decades, but they've never shared a frame until now. And looks like they are quite ecstatic of teaming up with each other for the very first time. In fact, they are bonding quite well on the set too.

Talking about their first show together, Shakti Anand revealed, "*Hamarwali Good News* is my first show with Juhi and the experience has been great till now. She is a well-trained, seasoned and phenomenal actress and what should I say about her. She knows her lines, she knows exactly where to stand, how to take cues and how to improvise, so she is fantastic and knows her craft well. She has been in the industry for two decades now, so she knows when to do what and how to make a scene better. It's been great shooting with her, and we've

bonded quite well." Juhi also added, "Shakti is a great actor and it has been great shooting with him for the show."

While Shakti Anand and Juhi Parmar bond on the sets of *Hamarwali Good News*, Mukund and Renuka's arguments continue on the show.

DARE TO DREAM WITH SONY SAB

It's often said if you can dream it, you can do it. Dreams and ambitions play a crucial role in our lives but the key difference in its success and failure is often described by the attempts one makes to fulfil it.

Dreams have no control, it knows no boundaries and it knows limits. Then why do we often define our dreams by the gender of the person?

Taking this thought forward and inspired by actual events, Sony SAB will bring the touching story of two sisters from Rohtak, *Kaatelal & Sons*, starting from November 16, 2020. The show features veteran actor Ashok Lokhande alongside the chirpy duo of Megha Chakraborty and Jiya Shankar.

Kaatelal & Sons is a true testament to Sony SAB's philosophy to produce positive and progressive stories and inspire the audience with compelling content that touches people hearts.

The show is an inspirational journey of sisters, Garima (Megha Chakraborty) and Susheela (Jiya Shankar), who believe 'Dreams know No Gender.' As the show progresses, the audience will get a more in-depth insight into what it actually means, but let's hear it from Megha and Sushila herself.

Megha Chakraborty sharing her thoughts on the concept of the show said: "The concept of the show weaves in a beautiful thought that dreams know no gender. *Kaatelal & Sons* brings a light-hearted story blended with humour to inspire the dreamer in you. Garima and Susheela while coming from a small town in Haryana will bring about a question, if our pursuits and dreams in life should ever be restricted by gender? Like for example, a woman can be an ace barber, while a man can don the chef's hat and prepare a lavish meal for the entire household. This show inspires this thought to look beyond the pre-conceived notions that we have. Even for me this show has been an eye opener on many levels and I am so glad to be portraying the role of Garima and living her life. If even one person gains the courage to pursue their dreams through *Kaatelal & Sons*, it will mean a lot to me. As they say, we can't change our past, or predict our future. But we can shape our present."

Jiya Shankar further added: "The show has a beautiful underlying message which my character Susheela rightly says '*sapno ka koi gender nahi hota*'. I have stepped entirely out of my comfort zone with this role and what I simply love about Susheela is the fact that she is courageous and challenges the set notions in the society. She isn't a girl who fits into the set stereotypes. She weight lifts and undergoes training for boxing. The prospect of having an opportunity to inspire our women as Susheela was something I want to give my 100 per cent to. The concept of the show is also something I truly believe in — which is un-gendering your dreams. Dreams do not have any gender and this show will bring this belief alive."

'You have to be true to your character'

AMAR UPADHYAY, who will be seen in Colors' new offering Molkki, which will go on air from November 16, speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about his role, how the industry has changed in the last two decades and that he can't play a spineless character

■ **What is your role in Molkki?**

I play Virender Pratap Singh, he is the *mukhiya* and runs 40 villages. He gets married to a molkki girl, who is half her age. There is no connection between the two and the show revolves around their struggles and how he handles situation. Molkki is a tradition in Haryana, where the man has to buy the bride from outside the State because women are less in number. The tradition is good but it is being misused.

■ **How is this different from Dharam Suryavanshi in Saath Nibhaana Saathiya?**

There is a major difference between the two characters, apart from the fact that both Dharam and Virender get married to a much younger girl. Both the shows and the stories are different. Dharam wanted to take revenge from the Modi family, hence he married Meera, but here it is a different concept. Molkki is a tradition that Virender has followed. In *Molkki*, a poor girl has been bought by a super rich family and the story talks about how things change drastically in their lives.

■ **What is your take on shows that give out a social message?**

It is good. Even for *Molkki*, I didn't know that such a tradition does exist. I had to do my research. Through, the show we are getting to know about this old tradition in Haryana. Hence, there is a need to come up with more shows that give out a social message to bring in awareness.

■ **How does it feel to be back to work after lockdown?**

I was very excited for the show. After spending so many months at home, it was something I was looking forward to. When I was offered this show, I found myself to be lucky to be able to work after the lockdown was lifted. Also, I am back on Colors after *Bigg Boss 5*, so it does feel great.

■ **From Dekh Bhai Dekh to Molkki, how has your experience been?**

Brilliant. I feel lucky to have started working so early and that I am still working. When I got *Dekh Bhai Dekh*, I had no idea of what was happening around me. It was like an acting school for me. Till date, 95 per cent of my shows have been Number 1. It has been a long journey and I have no complaints at all. I have got to play brilliant characters, there is nothing I could have asked for more. Yes, this industry is demanding and one needs dedication to survive here. You have to work for 12 hours a day, but having said that I have enjoyed every bit of this beautiful journey. Even today, I feel that I have just started. One thing that I have learnt in the industry is that you have to be true to your character. You can just feel that people know me well and I will be able to pull off a character. At least for me it is not like that, I put in all the efforts for every character that I take. Even for Virender, I had to learn that Haryanvi accent and work upon my body language a bit. If you are not true to your role, you can't survive in this industry for long.

■ **You have been in the industry for**



about 27 years now. How do you think it has evolved?

From having VHS recorders on sets to now hi-tech equipments, the industry has become huge. TV has grown and I have grown with TV. Back then, there was no pressure on the producer or the actors in general. There were no daily soaps, it was a weekly thing and everyone had ample time to prepare and shoot. We used to reach our sets at 9 am and around four hours were reserved for improvising things. We did rehearsals or were just randomly listening to the script. Now things have become fast forward. There is pressure on the producer and the creatives to create good content everyday. Because the audience has become habitual to watching daily soaps. Then the producer has to get the desired TRPs, it is an added pressure. If not, then there are chances that the show might get off-air. Also, there are way more channels now. TV has become a game changer now and there is high competition in it. Even film actors come to TV shows to promote their films, so it has grown leaps and bounds.

■ **Was there a moment when you felt like quitting?**

Not really. But there were times when I didn't know what to do with a character. Like in *Kyonki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*, I had a lot of confusion with the makers for the character. I have had faced situations that were completely new and so I didn't have anyone has an example for me. In fact, I became an example for many with the choices that I made.

■ **What kind of roles attract you?**

I am very clear about the roles I do. I can't stand uselessly in a scene. I like to do characters that have a spine. Hence, I always sort things out with the makers beforehand. Not that I have to be there in every scene, but when I am there I should do something and play my part. When it is the other character's part, I won't mind that. But it's just that my part has to be clear.



DELHI DAREDEVILS

From a 27-year-old artist who battled suicidal thoughts and gave birth to Portraits of Patriots to a 57-year-old plantologist who has given life to 3,90,000 trees across 16 Indian States, Yeh Dilli Hai Mere Yaar, powered by JSW Group, a series by Delhi Capitals throws light on individuals who decided to take the road less travelled by and create social impact. MUSBA HASHMI brings you a report

Painting memories on canvas

Financial crisis, suicidal thoughts, loss of a loved one and getting fired from the job, he has seen it all at 27. Meet Hutansh Verma, a Delhi-based artist, who has seen the worst of times and is still standing strong.

“Art has always been of interest to me, but painting portraits of martyrs happened only in 2014. It was actually my father’s idea. He knew my love and passion for painting. One day, while he was watching news of a soldier who was martyred in Jammu and Kashmir, he asked why not I make portraits of these *jawaans* and gift it to their families. Back then, the idea sounded a bit weird to me. Because my only focus in life was to earn enough money for my family. I wasn’t aware of what was going in the country and neither did it was of interest to me. Hence, I just said okay and tried to ignore it. But my father was serious enough and he insisted that I should do it at least once a year,” Verma, who works as a Fine Arts teacher in Manav Rachna International School, Noida, tells you.

After listening to his father’s advice, Verma finally thought of making the portrait. That is when he realised that he had no clue about the martyred and or his family or even how many wars India has fought till date. “It was like a self-realisation for me. Then I started reading about the Kargil War and got to know that around 527 families were destroyed during that war. That hit me hard and in May, 2014, I decided to start making the portraits. I wrote several mails to army people to seek details about the martyrs and their families. Till September that year, I was able to make around 12 portraits and courier them to their families. I told my father about that and together we came up with the theme — Portraits of Patriots,” Verma explains.

Life gave Verma a major blow when in the same month, his father passed away due to several medical conditions. “My father took his last breath in my arms. He suffered multiple organ failures and was gone in a matter of a day. I was left shattered. It left a void inside me that could never be filled. That was the time when the artist inside me was about to die. And it did, at least for the next few months. It was only in 2015 that I decided to take up painting again. This time, more seriously than ever. So much so, that I made up my mind that instead of sending the portraits via courier, I would visit the families of martyrs and gift them the portraits myself. It was because may be now, I was able to connect with their pain,” he tells you.

The first family that Verma visited was of Captain Vijayant Thapar’s in Noida. “I made his portrait and went to



Hutansh Verma gifting the portrait of Captain Vijayant Thapar to his family in Noida

visit his family. When his father saw the portrait, he said: “*Aesa lag raha hai hamara beta hi vapas aagaya hai.*” Those words got engraved in my heart and that feeling can’t be put into words. I was extremely happy,” he says.

His father’s demise wasn’t the only time he had to go through a tough phase in his life, losing his job and getting suicidal thoughts were there too.

“My childhood was filled with challenges. Financial crisis was just one of them. Hence, I always made sure that I was working even when I was in school. It was after I passed Class XII that I was laid off my job. It was a showroom that I worked in and I was just asked to leave without being given a reason. I felt that I have lost everything. I was questioning myself that how will my family survive now. I felt suicidal and decided to take my life on a railway track. I started walking on the track in the opposite direction of the train, so as to I don’t get to know when the train comes closer to me. It was when the train was hardly a kilometer away that within a fraction of second my whole life was flashed in front of my eyes. That’s when I realised how much my parents have struggled for my education and upbringing and leaving them alone was not a wise decision. Immediately, I got off the track and convinced myself that I am stronger than all this and that I would never try to do it again,” Verma recalls.

Till date, Verma has made 65 portraits and delivered them to their families. “From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, I have travelled all over India to deliver the

portraits. I have met dozens of families and the most common thing that I found in all of them was that via that portrait they all felt that their son has come back home,” he says.

However, on his way, Verma had to brave a lot of stares and taunts. “Initially, many of my relatives felt that I have gone nuts. They told me that this thing won’t take me anywhere. Some of them mocked me, while others gave a piece of their advice. But, I was positive. Today, when celebrities call me over for a meet-up or when people recognise me, those people who once mocked me are the first ones to introduce me as their relatives,” he tells you.

Money was another challenge that he faced. “These portraits are not commercial. I fund them. Once, there was a time when I had made a portrait but was unable to go and give it to the family because of financial constraint. I wrote about this on my social media pages. A generous man, who never disclosed his identity, reached out to me and offered me a sponsored trip. So, I believe if you are on a way to do good, things will eventually fall into place on their own,” he says.

From writing mails to army personnel to now getting requests for portraits, Verma has already come a long way. “People now reach out to me and request for portraits. Even children reach out to me on my social media handles and request for portraits of *jawaans* who were martyred from their area. It’s such a proud feeling that even the youth today are doing their bit and are becoming more responsible,” he tells you.

PLANTING LIFE

At 57, this Delhi-based environmentalist and plantologist is making the world a better place to live, if not the best. Till date, she has planted 3,90,000 trees pan India. Meet, Radhika Anand, CEO of Plantology, an organisation which is working towards the cause under the initiative *Fal Van*.

“Environment is in my DNA. My father and grandfather also loved plants, so it naturally there in me. I always had this thing in mind that I will plant trees, no matter what I was doing and who I was talking to, the thought never left my mind,” she says.

It was only in 2014 when Anand decided to work this cause. “On a train journey, I met an army man and I shared my idea with him. Later, I came to know that he was the General and he welcomed my idea. He told me that I should go forward with my idea. That’s when I thought of giving it a try,” he tells you.

Things were not as easy as it seems, there were several roadblocks on Anand’s way. “I have done a lot of work with the Delhi government, and the Central government, but initially some were agreeing to my idea, while others criticised it by saying: “What are you saying ma’am, do you see any land available in Delhi, where will you grow trees here?” Some even said: “Ma’am, *aap to hume phaswa doge*.” I asked them the reason to which they said: Ma’am don’t you know there is a situation of drought in two States, from where will we get water for the trees. We can’t afford it,” she tells you.

Not that our Government is not doing enough, they are, but unfortunately, we love to live in this world of status quo, “*Jaise chakra hai vaise chalne do*,” don’t knock the board, she says.

“This was possible only when I decided to utilise my savings and giving it back to the Mother Nature. I went to various army men and shared my ideas with them. One of them agreed and asked me



how many lakh trees I wanted to plant. They talk in big numbers and I was a bit shocked with it. I told my husband, Sharad Anand who is an ex-banker, about it and he asked whether I was sure about putting my money into this. He told me to start with a lesser number first, in hundreds. But then, I planted 85,000 trees back then,” she tells you.

Anand is a one-woman man army and believes in doing things all by herself. “I was and am a one-woman army. I get a little support from my family company — Parijat Industries, basically the back-office help, but I am the face of Plantology, which I started in 2005. When I work with the army, I give them my know-how and there are three stages in which I visit the site where the plantation has to take place. First, either I go right in the beginning and do recce and see what kind of plants can be planted here so that research is my part and since I am an environmentalist, this much homework I can easily do. The second is, sometimes they call me in the middle of the plantation so that some photo op can hap-

pen. The third is when all he plantation is over and I just go in the end to probably cut a ribbon. The best part working with the armed forces is there are no big challenges as such, because it’s just a piece of cake for them,” she says.

She tells you that the biggest lesson we should learn from this pandemic is that we should never try to be the master of environment, it will always be our master.

Her family, she says, has always been supportive and have respected her decisions. “I am a mother to two boys, both of them are married. In my life, I had gone through a very difficult period medically, so there was a time when I was almost bed-ridden and struggling. I was trying to live for my children. That period stayed for about 22 years, so my boys know that their mother has wisdom from the phoenix, she had got that grit and determination, if she can come out of that, then she can do anything. Hence, my family has been very supportive and they have never ever questioned my decision, not even when I was giving up my money. In fact, somewhere in the back of their mind they are

happy that their mom is up and about, she is doing so much and she is getting all the energy from the environment. Yes, they do get concerned about my health, when I go overboard. So, I have to balance it out,” she tells you.

To her credit, she has been awarded the title of Green Ambassador by the Army. “That was very exciting. I was elated that day. It all started when I was in NSG for the plantation day and there was one gentleman in plain clothes, who was a VVIP. He took my business card and vanished. The next day, I was called to the CISF office. When I went there, to my surprise, this gentleman who had taken the card, was no one but the Director-General of the CISF. They were all waiting for me in a huge conference room, where there must have been 40-50 officers. The Director-General stood up and asked me “Ma’am, can you be our Green Ambassador for CISF?” I was left awestruck. And then they organised a planting day in Ghaziabad, and there they honoured me with the title. After knowing this, the director-general of NSG called me and said, “Ma’am how can this happen, how can CISF steal our idea?”, and I found out that NSG were also making me their Green Ambassador, so at the next function, they graciously awarded me the Green Ambassador, and eventually, the BSF also did it. So, I’m the Green Ambassador for all three of them. It was humbling experience for me,” she tells you.

There are a few lines that Anand recites whenever she addresses a talk on environment and it sums up the message that she wants to give. “If the heat bothers you, plant a tree; if the water bothers you, plant a tree; if you like birds, plant a tree; if you like fruits, plant a tree, and if you like life, plant many trees. You have to start very young so that the seed of the environment is embedded in you and that seed can grow into a beautiful tree,” Anand tells you.

It was a season of two halves for us. As the wicket got slower we could not adapt, and batting first provided further challenges in the last five games

"When the Kookaburra batters gets old you have to think about how to keep runs down as the wickets are tough to come by."

Bruno scores twice and assist one for Cavani's first Man Utd goal in 3-1 comeback away win against Everton

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Olle Gunnar Solskjaer lashed out at the Premier League's scheduling after Manchester United fought back to beat Everton 3-1 on Saturday, saying his struggling team were "set up to fail".

Man-of-the-match Bruno Fernandes scored twice after Bernard had given Everton the lead, before Edinson Cavani opened his account for United, easing the pressure on the beleaguered United boss.

United started the match at Goodison Park a lowly 15th in the Premier League table, smarting after defeat to Arsenal and an embarrassing loss to Istanbul Basaksehir.

A visibly angry Solskjaer praised his players after the match but fired a broadside at league bosses for scheduling United's match early on Saturday after their midweek Champions League commitments.

"We were set up to fail," the Norwegian told BT Sport.

"The kick-off time set us up to fail. We have been to Turkey, played loads of games this season already, we got back Thursday morning and we are playing Saturday lunchtime, it's an absolute shambles.

"These boys deserve better. Luke Shaw has got injured because of it. It's a hamstring which might be a long one and Marcus Rashford might be struggling.

"The authorities set us up to fail, who is responsible? We've had enough of that. Players this season, in these times, a pandemic, mentally and physically it's draining. Let us play on a Sunday, there's an international break after this, it's a joke."

AWAY FORM

The victory at the home of Carlo Ancelotti's early-season



pacesetters was United's seventh straight Premier League away win.

Their form on the road contrasts sharply with their struggles at Old Trafford, where they have not won a single league game so far this season.

Bernard put Everton ahead in the 19th minute. The ball fell

to the Brazilian after a long Jordan Pickford punt upfield.

He shuffled the ball onto his right foot, beating Aaron Wan-Bissaka, before driving a shot past David de Gea at his near post.

United's heads could have dropped but they were level six minutes later when Fernandes,

given far too much space in the box, headed a Shaw cross into the top corner past Pickford.

Lucas Digne had a chance to put Everton back in front as the game opened up but smashed his shot against the outside of De Gea's near post from a tight



angle. United, now playing with far more zip and purpose, were ahead in the 32nd minute. Rashford collected the ball before feeding Fernandes on the left of the box. The Portuguese, thriving in

the absence of Paul Pogba, who was left on the bench, curled over a cross for Rashford, who failed to connect with his attempted header but the ball crept in off the far post.

Everton dominated possession in the early stages of the second half but United's defence, marshalled by the



impressive Harry Maguire, was largely untroubled.

United had a shout for a penalty on the hour mark after a clumsy Pickford challenge on Maguire but Everton escaped.

Solskjaer brought on Pogba and Cavani with eight minutes to go and the Uruguayan scored his first goal for United deep into stoppage time from Fernandes's unselfish pass, lifting United to 13th in the table ahead of the international break.

Everton, who topped the Premier League table earlier this season, have now suffered three consecutive league defeats.

"I hope that after the international break we will back in a different shape," said Ancelotti. "It is not only a problem of the defenders, it is all of the team.

"I know how to manage difficulties, every year you have them. We can start again after the break, we are really bad at the moment but we started well." Frank Lampard's Chelsea have the chance to climb to third in the table if they beat Sheffield United at Stamford Bridge later Saturday.

Elsewhere, Crystal Palace host Leeds and West Ham welcome Fulham to the London Stadium.

Leo turns it around

AP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi came off the bench at halftime to score two goals as Barcelona beat 10-man Real Betis 5-2 on Saturday to end its four-game winless streak in the Spanish league.

Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman gave Messi some rare rest during the first half. It was Messi's first league game as a substitute in more than a year. Assistant coach Alfred Schreuder said before kick-off that Messi "was not fresh."

Osmane Dembele blasted a shot past former Barcelona goalkeeper Claudio Bravo to give the hosts the lead in the 22nd minute. Betis forward Antonio Sanabria equalized in the final seconds of the first half that featured four clear misses by Barcelona's struggling forward Antoine Griezmann, including a penalty blocked by Bravo.

Messi spent the first half tucked in a winter coat and wearing a face mask like other substitutes in the otherwise empty Camp Nou. That all changed when Messi went on at the start of the second half for Ansu Fati and had a decisive impact.

Messi only needed four minutes to impact the match



Hazard, Casemiro test Corona +ve

AFP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid's Belgian forward Eden Hazard and his Brazilian teammate Casemiro have both tested positive for coronavirus, the La Liga club announced on Saturday.

"Real Madrid informs that our players, Casemiro and Eden Hazard, have tested positive in the Covid-19 tests undertaken yesterday (Friday), in the morning," the club said in a statement. "Neither player will feature in the side to

take on Valencia on Sunday. Nor will they be able to join up with their respective national teams during the coming international window as both are required to go into isolation.

It marks another setback for Hazard who missed the start of the season owing to a series of ankle injuries. He only returned to the Madrid line-up for the Champions League meeting with Borussia Munchengladbach on October 27.

when he smartly skipped over a pass to let it run though for Griezmann to tap home. Messi continued to show his playmaking skills. Deep inside Betis' area, Messi turned and fed a pass to

Dembele, whose shot was goal-bound when defender Aissa Mandi blocked it with his arm. A video review led to Mandi being shown a red card for impeding a clear goal.

I-League 2020-21 to start on Jan 9

OPTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 14th edition of Hero I-League will kick off on January 9 next year in Kolkata, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Saturday.

The 11 participating teams will be required to enter a bio-secure bubble 14 days prior to their first match according to the schedule, which will be announced shortly.

The matches will be telecast Live on ISports.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the previous edition of the second-tier league was stopped abruptly before football action resumed in India through the I-League Qualifier in October this year.

The West Bengal Government and Indian Football Association (IFA) joined hands with the AIFF to organise the qualifiers successfully.

All the 11 teams will face each other once in the first leg of the league before they are divided into two different groups.

The top six teams, according to the points table, will face each other once again to decide the winner while the other five teams will play against each other in a one-leg league format.

The team with maximum points (cumulative points collected from all fifteen matches) will be the winner of the I-League 2020-21.

The tournament will be organised by adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines released by the union health ministry and no spectator will be allowed inside a stadium during a match.



Zverev see off Nadal

AP ■ PARIS

Alexander Zverev advanced to the Paris Masters final for the first time by beating top-seeded Rafael Nadal 6-4, 7-5 on Saturday, denying Nadal the chance to win a tournament that continues to elude him.

The fourth-seeded Zverev faces No. 3 Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's final, and leads him 5-1 in career meetings.

Nadal has won 86 titles, including a record-equaling 20 Grand Slams and 35 Masters events, but lost his only final here in 2007 to David Nalbandian.

Serving for the match at an empty Bercy Arena because of the coronavirus pandemic, the imposing Zverev opened with his 13th ace.

He double-faulted on his first match point at 40-0. But on the next one, Nadal's forehead down the line went wide to give the 23-year-old German only his second win in seven matches against the Spanish veteran.

Nadal was broken to love in the third game and dropped the opening set for the third time in his four matches. Zverev won 78% of points on first serve compared to 60% for Nadal and led 9-1 in aces in that set. He clinched it with a sliced shot at the net which Nadal could not reach.

Zverev broke Nadal again in the third game of the second set. A frustrated Nadal punched his racket head when he failed to convert two break points in the sixth game, but held his nerve to save four break points in the next game and then finally broke Zverev to make it 4-4.

But an erratic and agitated Nadal was conceding too many chances on his serve and, after Zverev broke him for a third time, he sat shaking his head during the changeover.

Earlier, Medvedev reached the Paris Masters final for the first time after beating Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6 (4) in a contest between big servers. He secured the win with a smash at the net.

The 10th-seeded Raonic has never won a Masters event and missed out on a second final here, having lost to Novak Djokovic in 2014. The Canadian had 12 aces compared to seven for Medvedev and both players won around 80% of their points on first



serves. "I don't think it was the best tennis I have played this year, but it was definitely one of the best matches," Medvedev said. "I was playing good in the beginning of the year, and then there was a stop (because of the pandemic)."

Raonic missed a chance in the second set when Medvedev saved three break points at 0-40 down in the eighth game, but Raonic finally broke him on his fourth break point in the 12th game to make it 6-6.

"I think in some key moments he found a way to be a bit more the aggressor. He was dictating a bit more, I was trying to change the pace up," Raonic said. "He was a lot more efficient at creating his opportunities." Medvedev raced into a 4-0 lead in the tiebreaker and sealed victory on his first match point. The 2019 U.S. Open runner-up is seeking his eighth career title and first this year.

DREAM COME TRUE FOR DJOKER

Novak claims year-end world No 1 ranking for sixth time to match Sampras feat

AFP ■ MONACO

Novak Djokovic on Friday emulated childhood hero Pete Sampras by claiming the year-end world number one ranking for the sixth time. Djokovic, 33, was confirmed in the position after Rafael Nadal, the only man who could deny him top spot, opted not to play in the Sofia event next week.

Djokovic was also a season-ending world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. "Pete was somebody I looked up to when I

was growing up, so to match his record is a dream come true," said Djokovic.

The Serb star, a winner of 17 Grand Slam titles, had already moved past Sampras' tally of 286 weeks in the top spot in September.

Djokovic can go past all-time record-holder Roger Federer's mark of 310 weeks on March 8 next year.

"To finish the year as No 1 is one of the most impressive achievements in our sport, one which requires sustained excellence across the season," said ATP chairman

Babar leads Pak to big win

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Captain Babar Azam hit a fluent half century and spurred Pakistan to a six-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in first T20I on Saturday.

Azam made 82 off 55 balls to reach his 15th half century in T20s as Pakistan eased to 157-4 in 18.5 overs for a 1-0 lead in the three-

match series. Mohammad Hasnain made a quickfire 21 off 13 balls, but Zimbabwe's top order struggled to accelerate against fast bowlers Haris Rauf (2-25), Wahab Riaz (2-37) and (1-25). The second match will be played on Sunday before Zimbabwe, which lost the ODI series 2-1, wraps up its limited-overs tour to Pakistan on Tuesday.



Chigumbura to retire after Pak series

Rawalpindi: Former Zimbabwe captain Elton Chigumbura will retire from international cricket after the conclusion of the ongoing T20I series against Pakistan, his country's cricket board said on Saturday.

The veteran Zimbabwe all-rounder will bring the curtain down on a 16-year international career that began in 2004. The 34-year-old Chigumbura had featured in 14 Tests, 213 ODIs and 54 T20I matches before the start of his farewell series. He made

his Zimbabwe debut in 2004.

According to ZC, the all-rounder is retiring because "injuries had continued to take a toll on him as well as to pave the way for young blood in the national side".

Te all-rounder had amassed 5782 international runs and taken 138 wickets, including two hundreds and 26 half-centuries. He is only the second player from Zimbabwe to achieve a double of 4000 runs and 100 wickets in ODI cricket, after Grant Flower. PTI



■ **What inspired you to write Sir Sarla?**

The play was written back in 2001. I have been playwriting since 1988-89 — short plays. The journey turned to writing one-act plays. Till 2000 I was writing plays which were abstract and absurd. I was experimenting with a

Talktime

MAKARAND DESHPANDE

He has been seen in supporting and pivotal roles in films like Sarfarosh and Swades. His contribution to theatre includes over 50 short plays and 40 full-length plays, including Sir Sarla. The actor speaks with Shalini Saksena about what made him write this play, his theatre group and why he has chosen to play only small roles in films

lot of space all the time. I felt that there was a need to write around love. Pure love, after a parents' love it is that of a student for the teacher. This is from where you evolve and learn about life. So, I wrote a play keeping this in mind. Since then the play has been running for 20 years now and standing tall.

■ **What makes this play so popular?**

Nobody sees the complications or simplicity of a relationship between a Professor and a student. It is so pious and everyone knows their limitations and yet so much is offered unconditionally. All the four characters — Professor and his three students — in the play have been identified by people in real life. There are so many people who find a connection and think of the girl they could never confess their love to and say: "Aree Sarla, I love you." Or that I got married to Keshav but still love the Professor. That is why people find a connection here. The cast and the dialogues also make a difference.

■ **Is it difficult to write, direct and act**

in your own projects?

I love doing all three. It is the actor that gives the rhythm to the writer — to write for the character. The director helps the writer to write in such a way that you have, in playwriting, set a craft. Everything is interlocked perfectly.

■ **How did you get interested in acting?**

I had been part of the inter-college theatre since forever after Class X. We used to take these competitions very seriously. I was a sports person and part of kho-kho, cricket and a mountaineer. But I felt I wanted to create and be part of something from where I didn't have to retire. I felt that writing helped me to answer questions that I had. I used to act and decided to concentrate on it.

■ **Why is theatre in Mumbai different from the rest of India?**

The Mumbai audience is willing to buy tickets and watch theatre. In Delhi, people want passes. In Mumbai, we have a show even on the weekday at 4 pm in Marathi. We have a 6 pm and 9 pm show at Prithvi Theatre. It is nice that I have had the audience for so many years. People here want to see plays.

There have been instances where people have come to see a play even though there has been a blockbuster film or a cricket match.

■ **You have been part of Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi, Telugu and Malayalam cinema. How did you end up being part of diverse languages and cinema?**

I need to thank the South cinema for this. It is they who decide whom they want to cast. They really go out of their way to cast you. That is how I ended up in their projects.

■ **In many of your Hindi films, you end up playing a drunkard. Why?**

I chose to play characters that were smaller. I chose to take up roles where I had little to contribute since I wanted to do more theatre. I used to be offered bigger roles. I was offered the role in Circuit in *Munna Bhai MBBS*. But I turned it down because I wanted to be around the theatre.

■ **What is the best thing about doing theatre?**

Money is not the attraction of being part of the stage since it doesn't

pay that much. Theatre gives a thrill and experience. There have been cases where I have performed with no audience because it was a new place and we were trying to create awareness. There were instances when there was no transport and we walked. We have done two shows back-to-back. It is one hell of a job.

■ **Tell us about Ansh Theatre.**

I have been doing original theatre for Ansh barring one by Rabindranath Tagore's Chitrangada. I want to put out original work, not that I am trying to boast about this. When I say original, I mean a play that has never been staged before where it answers questions that I have.

■ **What is your take on showcasing plays on TV?**

We tried and ensured that it doesn't look like a TV serial or resemble a project on an OTT platform. Care has been taken that the essence of theatre has not been lost. Due to the pandemic, no plays are being staged, Zee Theatre has a wide reach and people who have only heard of the plays can now watch them on TV.

Come festivals and all one is excited about apart from eating the delicious foods is receiving gifts. Hence, it makes it all the more important to make our loved ones feel special by showing these sweet gestures in these testing times.

Here are a list of gifts one can choose from:



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Channel your inner altruist this festive season, with Kiko Milano gifting products and pick something off your wish-list from the wide range of classic favourites or the new must-have makeup products & discover the gift you didn't know you wanted so severely.

Precious like a diamond: This festive season, Kohinoor Jewellers Agra aids you to up your gifting game with its offerings of select precious jewels within the range of 20k — 'Precious Sweets'. A range of reasonably priced and exquisite jewels, that are sure to bring enormous amounts of joy to your loved ones this Diwali. Versatile, delicate and designer baubles form the crux of this collection. Lightweight & trendy, rings, earrings or pendants, Kohinoor Jewellers Agra is here to spread pocket-friendly precious love.

Shoes speak: There's no better way to embrace festivities than to get your favourite pair of footwear because festivals are a great excuse to grab hold of what you have been eyeing all this while. Keeping up with the spirit of this festive season, Alberto Torresi in their latest collection 'The Ordain' has launched the most progressive designs and an exploration of the most avant-garde production methods & technical fabrics.

Feel good in and out: Diwali is undoubtedly the most anticipated festival on the Indian calendar. And to make it more special, The Body Shop is offering a range of exquisite products that are carefully formulated to spread goodness amongst your family and friends. Replace or compliment your

LIGHT UP YOUR MOOD

While festivities this year don't feel the same, there are a few things one can do to uplift the mood and bring in the spirit of Diwali.

SUNDAY PIONEER tells you more

sweet boxes and dry fruit baskets with a thoughtfully designed gift hamper from The Body Shop. The assortment of gift hampers are not only pleasing to the eye but nourishing for the body. Whether you wish to select from our pre-made gifts or Create Your Own Gift, it will carry with itself a personal touch that is bound to make your presence felt and a reminder of the appreciation you have for your loved ones.

Gift of health: From saying 'No to Crackers' to welcoming 'organic & healthy' Diwali gift variations, people are now more inclined looking for more considerate gifting options for their loved ones. This Deepavali, give your loved ones

the gift of premium flavours, freshness, and bountiful good health with Vahdam India luxury gift collection. Break the chain of regular sweet boxes and monotonous gifting options and opt to shower love with a gift of a box of good health and stronger immunity. ₹749 onwards

Love is in the air: The el Love collection is an ode to Desigual's essence, which is to discover the artist within us all. Sneakers are on trend, and Desigual is bona fide sneaker-ermaniacs. This season, the focus is

strongly on embellishments to adapt sneakers to previously unimagined moments of the day. Snakeskin effect, Sparkles, Lace, Sequins, Bows, Denim, Crochet and foil tones too. Backpacks, handbags, bum bags and sneakers all make up the soul of a collection that oozes the Desigual essence. ₹5790 onwards

Slaying it: This Diwali, worry not; as Slay Coffee for the first time; launches a perfect kit to brew your coffee at the comfort of your home and convenience of your time without compromising on the flavour of a perfectly brewed gourmet coffee. Their DIY coffee brewing kit is all you need for the perfect cuppa! The thoughtful kit comes with a packet of grounds and a French press to brew your coffee. Additionally, the DIY kit has flavour sachets, for those who like customised coffees and a ceramic mug that lets you relish the aroma while you sip your coffee.

Their DIY coffee brewing kit is all you need for the perfect cuppa! The thoughtful kit comes with a packet of grounds and a French press to brew your coffee. Additionally, the DIY kit has flavour sachets, for those who like customised coffees and a ceramic mug that lets you relish the aroma while you sip your coffee.

Isn't this the most exciting time of the year when all you're binging on is delicious food and enjoying the gorgeous festive feel? However, sometimes the sweet quotient goes overboard and needs to be kept in control. Listing few substitutes to yummy Diwali sweets.

Carrot Delight: If innovating in the kitchen is something you enjoy, then try making this baked carrot sweet this Diwali. Mix orange



Let's chill

It's that time of the year again where life is all about diyas, lights, rangolis, mouth- sweets, and happiness. While Diwali is mostly celebrated on one of darkest nights of the year, you all would agree when we say that 2020 has been one of darkest years in all our lives. This pandemic has not only taught us the importance of health, but also the importance of home-cooked food. This Diwali, it's time to ditch those packaged drinks and colas, and instead indulge in some delicious and simple DIY mocktails that will keep you hydrated.

Cucumber Mojito: This refreshing drink is probably the easiest one to make. All you need are some sliced cucumbers, fresh mint leaves, water, sugar and lime juice. Blend the mint leaves and cucumber and strain the juice. Add that juice to the water. Additionally, you can add sugar and lime juice to that minty water according to your taste. This recipe is perfect to kick start your Diwali celebrations.

Trusty ol' Jaljeera: No festive season is complete without the famous tangy *Jaljeera*. This mocktail has been our go-to-welcome drink since generations. So after you have gorged on some delicious Diwali food, you must gulp down a glass of this digestive drink. Trust us, your stomach will thank us later! All you need to do is mix some dry mango powder, dry mint powder, black salt, cumin powder, black pepper powder and add this to a glass of water. And voila, you're done!

Red Blood: This one is a hatke mocktail. If you like the taste of tomato juice, then this recipe is something you definitely need to try. You'll need fresh tomatoes (peeled, deseeded, blended), fresh orange juice, fresh green chilly, crushed ice cubes and some black salt. Mix these ingredients together and you'll love the concoction. It's definitely for the faint hearted, but if you like a kick in your mocktail, you can definitely try this one.

Tip: Using the chilly if you're planning on serving this mocktail to your kids

By Kriti Gulati, Expert at Momspresso

'A mission to take Indian music every where'

Singer SUR's latest number Asar has got rave reviews. He speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his journey, challenges faced due to lockdown and why he chose to sing in Punjabi as a first solo



■ **How did you end up as a singer?**

I grew up in New Hampton in the UK. Where I grew up, there were lots of kids who were into different styles of music like Hip-hop and 80s pop. For Indians living outside, my parents were always playing Bollywood music, Punjabi *bhangra* and *qawwali*. There was so much music around me as a kid. I was always encouraged to perform when we had family and friends over. My dad would set up a camera and music and my sister and I would dance. When I was six-seven I was given the opportunity to sing at our *satsang*. Even though it was a spiritual environment and I was in front of only 30-40, it gave me an adrenaline rush of just singing. I grew older, my interest only increased and knew that I wanted to pursue music even when my father is a businessman and wanted me to join him.

■ **What is your Asar about?**

While we were writing the song with producer Bharat Goel and lyricist Siddhant Kaushal, before we would start the session, we would catch up with what was happening with each other. We were talking about relationships and how difficult it is in the age of Tinder and Snapchat and striving to be what we are not. I told them how I was sure about who I am rather than pretend to be what I am and how I have improved as a person because of my partner. So, on the basis of this, we started writing this song. It is more of a self-love song — how your asar on me has made me a better person.

■ **What were the challenges due to the pandemic?**

I came to know that the song had been selected for competition that Universal Music are doing with Sterling Reserve when I was back in London. I was told that I would have an audition in front of Shaan and Devraj Sanyal. MD & CEO, India & South Asia at Universal Music Group. I had to do an online audition. I was a bit apprehensive since I had not sung in months but it was successful. The biggest challenge was to shoot the video. We couldn't go through the normal auditions. The lead opposite me tested positive, we had to reschedule and look for another actress. We all had to all take the test to rule out COVID-19. We had to take frequent breaks to air out the room. Even the direction was happening remotely; he was in India. We just learnt how to make do with what we had.

■ **Is this your solo song?**

Yes, this is my first Punjabi solo single. Before this, I used to be part of a band and released a few songs in India. But this is my first song since I have moved here.

■ **How tough has been the shift?**

Since I was part of this band, we had already released a few labels here. In 2014, I came to Delhi, I spent a couple of months making the video with the band and realised that I liked the kind of music that was being made here. I ended up living here for two years and worked with a few artists here. It became a personal mission that I share the great music being made here with the rest of the world.

■ **Does it help, creatively, that you can go back to the UK?**

Definitely. The way technology works, one doesn't have to be in a particular place to record music. I can carry my equipment in my bag now and record it. When I produced my first song, I was lying on a hospital bed but I had my laptop and headphones. The benefit of being able to be in the UK and here is that in India, one hears more Bollywood and Punjabi music. In the UK, one hears western music. This exposure to different music has helped me develop my music.

■ **Why choose a Punjabi song as your first solo?**

I was in an English band and sang and wrote in English. But I grew up in a Punjabi family. Any artist or musician who does music out of passion and not just for money, every time, they find something new that becomes exciting to them, they pursue it. I found I loved singing in Hindi and Punjabi because of the language. I loved the techniques used here. While it is easy for me to sing and write in English, to do a Hindi or Punjabi song, the feeling is great. It is more fun.

'Music provides normalcy in abnormal lives'

AMIRA GILL, a vocalist, songwriter and music therapist, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her latest song, her collaboration with Jason Sibi Okumu and why she chose to pursue music therapy as a profession

■ **What is your song Black Coffee about?**

The song was done during the lockdown due to COVID-19. The year has been very volatile and damaging for a lot of people globally. So many people have lost their jobs and have had to make life altering decisions. This song is a reminder to people to just breathe in and let music and small activities of your life be. The video is as heartwarming as the song itself - featuring friends from all over the world enjoying and surrendering to everyday activities and truly

finding comfort in the small pleasures.

■ **What is Chori Chori about?**

I come from a rich Punjabi culture. I just wanted to revisit my roots and one way of doing this was revisiting the music that was born in undivided India. The stories and sentiment of the culture has been dispersed through the songs created by the poets and singers of that era. Chori Chori is one such song originally sung by iconic singer Reshma. I have been singing this song for years now and

decided to reinvent this classic with producer and guitarist Karan Pandav. It is a contemporary take on electronic production and beats but retaining the folk. There is sarangi in the middle played by maestro S u h a i l Y u s u f Khan.

■ **What made you pursue music therapy?**



Over time, my music taste and preferences started to evolve and change. I realised that I wanted to do more than just perform. I wanted to do something more with my music. The drummer of the band I was a part of left for Berklee College of Music in Boston.

He told me about the programme on music therapy. I knew what I wanted to do. I got accepted to Berklee on scholarship to pursue music therapy and have worked with a variety of clients ever since.

There are many situations a music therapist can help - the scope is vast. My personal experience has been in a hospital setting and with neurologic music therapy. In the hospital I worked with chronically and terminally ill patients. These patients have to be in the hospital for extended periods

of time, sometimes their entire lives. They experience pain, social isolation, medical trauma, financial burdens, and a lot of times end in the demise of the patients. Music supports them in providing normalcy in their abnormal lives. Music also is used in accompanying procedures to reduce stress and pain perception. Songs written by patients and their families are recorded and are memories with those patients who pass away. However, due to COVID-19, this has shifted online and things have to be done differently.



the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

That flight can wait

The break from vicious pattern of 'passing the virus' depends to a large extent on those belonging to higher income groups

2



4

Astro-analysis can surprise

Planetary positions in one's horary chart can be very telling and a reasoned astrological prediction can be surprising

You get what you give. What you put into things is what you get out of them
— Jennifer Lopez



THE REVIVAL OF INDIAN STORIES THROUGH COMICS

In recent years, comic books have seen a resurgence in India. The advent of digital technology and social media are helping new designers and artists create and promote their work more easily, writes KANINIKA MISHRA

India is a land of stories. The tales from our ancient past have been told and re-told over millennia in different ways and forms. We have heard them from elders; seen them depicted in art through the devotional scrolls of *Pichwai* and *Phad*; experienced their enthralling rendition in *Ram Leela* or *Kathakali*; and even watched them come alive in festivals such as *Dahi Handi*. Modern historical figures such as Rani Lakshmi Bai, too, have become a part of our storytelling traditions. Indeed, our sense of history, cultural and moral sensibilities have been shaped by our indigenous stories. The legends of the heroes and heroines have inspired us through our growing-up years.

THE WRITTEN WORD

Along with the various oral storytelling traditions in India, the written format has also existed for centuries. Long before the printing press came to the country, Indians have been preserving their stories on birch or palm leaf manuscripts. *Panchatantra*, one of the most ancient fables in the world has been found preserved in both the ancient manuscripts and also 18th century hand-written paper versions with colourful illustrations. In contemporary times, old stories from Vedic and Puranic literature continue to inform, entertain and educate us as they adapt to new forms and mediums.

Hinduism with a huge pantheon of revered characters and universally relevant themes provides artists and writers with enormous creative fodder. It is also the only major religion in the world that allows great freedom in artistic representations of its Gods. The inherent liberalism of Indic thought not just accepts, but also encourages new expression. The breadth and brilliance of its texts also lend well to fantastical adaptations in illustrated mediums. It is not surprising therefore that these tales were the springboard that catapulted the Indian comic industry to popularity and success for almost three decades from 1960s onwards.

THE COMIC WORLD

Comic books came to India a couple of decades later than the West. The initial comics published in the country were the American ones. Indian comics, however, saw their most successful phase later when *Amar Chitra Katha* with its beautifully illustrated comic series from Hindu literature and Indian history became a household name. The blend of art and story brought India's culturally history alive for the 20th century and it became a hit with both children, teachers and parents.

A children's magazine of that era, the classic *Chandamama*, though not a comic book *per se*, was known for its illustrations and published long-running mythological stories that ran for years. The stories embedded in the never-ending story of King Vikramaditya and *Betal* (Vampire), an adaptation of an ancient Sanskrit work *Baital Pachisi*, brought wide repute to this magazine.

The story was adapted in the form of a television series in 1985. This shift was portentous. As the number of television sets grew exponentially over the next decade, reading became a less favoured pastime. Stories from ancient India such as *Vikram-Betal*, and series such *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* still remained popular but the medium had changed. By the time the century ended several comic book publishers were out of business.



SIGN OF TIMES

In recent years, comic books have seen a resurgence. The advent of digital technology and social media are helping new designers and artists create and promote their work more easily. Today's comic artists are both passionate creators and smart entrepreneurs. They are driven by a strong conviction about the type of work they undertake but also know how to effectively reach the readers. The graphic novel has now moved from being focussed on children to targeting adults.

During the research for my book *The Indic Quotient, Reclaiming Heritage through Cultural Enterprise*, I came across one such comic book venture, Vimanika comics. The founder Karan Vir Arora told me that his motivations to start this venture were multi-pronged. "I had a three-point agenda: firstly, educating the youth around the world about Indian culture, heritage, and spiritual values. Secondly, I felt the need to share the stories in a format that appeals to young people. And thirdly, I wanted these graphic novels to be ultimately created into live-action and animated films like Superman and Batman," he said.

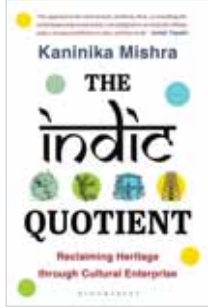
Vimanika's stories are steeped in Indian mythology, but the art is highly stylised. Apart from a team of animation artists, writers, and editors, Vimanika also has archaeologists, researchers, and historians, who help keep the content authentic. Arora says that they pick up historical events that

have created an impact, especially those that exemplify individual courage. "Our comics are a complete package of drama, emotion, action, and spirituality. They also have fantastic artwork." Vimanika is a part of the new wave of comic books in India. Not only is the expression more in tune with the times, the comic book publishers are using unconventional ways to promote and market their books.

COMIC CONVENTIONS & NEW MEDIA

Conventions like Comic Con are specifically curating events around comic books and their characters and drawing thousands of visitors in Indian cities. These gatherings do not only sell the books, but also other paraphernalia connected with popular comic book themes. Comic Con attracts young professionals, college kids and parents. Since this consumer segment has more disposable income it brings higher publicity and sales. Inspired by this trend, Arora too has tried to build a new revenue channels based on his comics. "We decided to take our heroes beyond books," says Arora, adding, "We have ventured into merchandise, collectibles, and toys."

While Indian comics take tentative steps into new channels to boost visibility and sales, innovative digital platforms are setting a new trend in the West. With comic apps and dedicated mobile based platforms, comic books are finding it easier to reach a generation that is more comfortable with smart phones than physical copies of books. Marvel Comics, one of



WHILE INDIAN COMICS TAKE TENTATIVE STEPS INTO NEW CHANNELS TO BOOST VISIBILITY AND SALES, INNOVATIVE DIGITAL PLATFORMS ARE SETTING A NEW TREND IN THE WEST. WITH COMIC APPS AND DEDICATED MOBILE BASED PLATFORMS, COMIC BOOKS ARE FINDING IT EASIER TO REACH A GENERATION THAT IS MORE COMFORTABLE WITH SMART PHONES THAN PHYSICAL COPIES OF BOOKS



America's biggest comic book company was an early mover and launched its digital app several years before the others caught up. While Marvel and DC Comics, which is Marvel's biggest competitor, have their own apps, there are others which work like e-readers for comic books and offer a range of comics from different publishers. They provide readers a catalogue of comic titles for a specific download price or work on a subscription model with unlimited access to their library.

With growing downloads and increasing revenues, the digital app-based graphic novel has become a game-changer in comic book publishing. In India, too, comics have adapted to the digital ecosystem. Not only do we find bigger names such as *Amar Chitra Katha* and *Tinkle* comics available as apps but several other players have leveraged the this medium to reach out to readers. These include both graphic novels based on war heroes such as those by Indian War Comics as well as stories from Indian legends from the fast-growing comic company Graphic India.

Graphic India states, on its website, "In the same way that America created superheroes and Japan created anime, Graphic is tapping into the creativity of India to launch a new wave of enduring characters and mythic heroes to captivate the imaginations of youths in India and around the world." The company says that it is using uses digital comics and animation to develop new stories targeting the 550 million Indian youth under the age of 25 and the 900-mil-

lion-person mobile market as they take their stories directly to smartphones.

Graphic India, in fact, is highly focussed on the new media. It is sparking a new creative revolution in comic book storytelling by using enhanced visual effects and interactive elements that lend well to a digital medium. It made waves when it recorded 20 million views for the first of its kind short-form comic books '18 Days: The Mahabharata', and its female superheroine series, 'DEVY' which it launched on the video-content platform TikTok for a limited period of time.

Graphic India is now expanding their motion comics and audio comics to include new languages beyond English and Hindi, and a quick look at Google Playstore reveals that many lesser known Indian comic apps are also available in Hindi and other regional languages.

As comic book players continue to pursue new creative ways to compete in an increasingly competitive space, the best is perhaps yet to come. The past two decades have seen an expansion in the genres and formats of Indian comics. While the storytelling is getting more attractive and the formats more diverse, Indian themes form the bulk of the comics sold. It seems like Indian stories rooted in tradition and cultural ethos are here to stay.

The writer is an author. She has recently published *The Indic Quotient, Reclaiming Heritage through Cultural Enterprise* with Bloomsbury India

An excerpt from *Hacks for Life and Career: A Millennial's Guide to Making it Big* by Sandeep Das, published by SAGE Publications India/SAGE Response

India-US relations to remain robust

Although it will take a few weeks for a formal declaration of results of the November 2020 presidential election in the United States, the results and lead reported so far make it quite clear that there will be a change of guard in the White House.

On January 20, 2021, as the new President, presumably Joe Biden, takes oath as the next President of the United States, a post-Trump era will dawn with substantial challenges for the American people and even for the world.

This election was contested in the midst of a global Covid-19 pandemic that hit the American people the hardest in terms of lives lost, livelihood in jeopardy and health security in absolute red zone. Yet the voters' turnout was the highest in more than a century. Physical security of people, economic security of the nation, and Americas standing in the world were all in stake.

Analysts had begun to ponder whether the Trump era in the country's history would be an aberration or a new trend. But the fact that about four more million people voted for Donald Trump in 2020 than they did in 2016 speaks volume of the post-Trump phase of events in the US even if a Democratic candidate assumes office in the White House. The race has been very close and Trump supporters have proved all poll survey results wrong the way it did in 2016.

Significantly, a new presidency without adequate support in the US Congress is bound to face political hurdles in achieving the policy objectives. The pious intentions of uniting the country, preserving the American values and giving a healing touch to the nation may prove to be a Herculean task.

Today's America is less white and much younger with changing values of Generation Z. The role of the Baby



Democratic presidential candidate and former US Vice President Joe Biden takes his face mask off as he arrives to speak on Friday in Wilmington

AP

Boomers and Generation X has declined and role of the Millennials and Generation Z is becoming increasingly prominent.

There is notable demographic shift in the society and the political dynamics have changed with people of colour and minorities being more conscious of their rights and political role. Donald Trump's immigration policy, attitude towards racism, views on the white supremacists, the Black-Lives-Matter movement with supports from a large number of white population are all indicative of an America that is divided.

The priority of the next American President will, of course, be providing a healing

touch to the bruised and wounded society in an utterly divided nation. But how? It is not going to be easy. President Trump may no longer be in the White House, but his influence is unlikely to disappear anytime soon. Sooner the Republican Party is able to discover a more temperate, tolerant, classy and compassionate leadership better it would be for the country to face the shifting reality of a changing demography and settle down with a new societal consensus.

The next US Administration will also have to ensure health security, improve economic wellbeing of the masses and promote racial equity. In all these, the role of the Indian-American commu-

nity is going to be crucial. And this is where the roots of the socio-economic connection between India and the United States can be located.

The Indian-American community has of late provided the strong social bridge between the two countries and the political and the economic role of this community in the US are critical to sustaining the momentum of India-US strategic partnership. This is a complex connection and it cannot be explained in plain language. But it needs emphasis that the Indian Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has successfully engaged the Indian-American community in a manner that serves the interests of India as well as the

United States.

Detractors would likely spread their discourse that Prime Minister Modi through the Indian-American community endorsed President Donald Trump in an election year and thus Joe Biden may play hardball with India. They may also draw attention to Pakistan bestowing "Hilal-e-Pakistan" on Joe Biden in 2008 and thus argue that a Biden presidency may be friendlier with a Pakistani Government.

The reality is quite different. First, Prime Minister Modi had gone to America to bolster India's ties with that country and sought to impress upon the President the role of a vast number of Indian-Americans in promoting American society

and economy. He would have done the same thing in the Houston rally or Ahmedabad roadshow, had it been a different person in the White House.

Reasoning that Biden's policy towards Pakistan will be influenced by an award he received about 12 years ago is likewise untenable and fallacious. After all, Biden was the Vice President when Osama bin Laden was killed in Pakistan!

Significantly, India-US strategic partnership began to take shape since President Bill Clinton's path-breaking trip to India in March 2000 and signing of a Vision Statement with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is that partnership envisioned by an American

President and an Indian Prime Minister about 20 years ago that has borne fruit today and India-US relationship has never been better than what it is today.

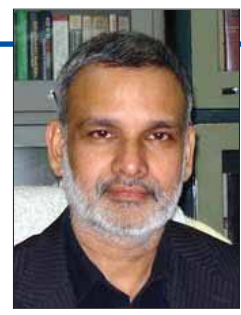
Twelve years of Republican Administration since end of Bill Clinton's Democratic Administration have not erected any barriers to America's strategic partnership with India. Eight years of Obama Administration and now next four years of Biden Administration cannot but further strengthen the US-Indian ties.

It was President Clinton who established a strategic partnership with India not long after India went nuclear. It was President George W Bush who signed the 123 Agreement to bolster India-US civil nuclear cooperation. It was President Obama who considered India a "lynchpin" of his "Asia Rebalancing" strategy and it was President Trump who made India a key anchor of his "India-Pacific" strategy. It was the Obama Administration who started the Defence Dialogue between the Pentagon and the Ministry of Defence. It was President Trump who expanded it into 2+2 dialogue to include the State Department and Ministry of External Affairs. What else example can be given to underscore the robust bipartisan support in the US for having a strategic partnership with India!

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has an extraordinary capability to forge personal bond with key world leaders with a view to promoting India's national interests. He did that with President Obama, President Trump and now he can do so with Joe Biden, presumably the next US President.

(The writer, Prof Chintamani Mahapatra, an expert on US studies, is presently Rector, JNU, New Delhi)

President Donald Trump may no longer be in the White House, but his influence is unlikely to disappear anytime soon. As for relations with India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has an extraordinary capability to forge personal bond with key world leaders with a view to promoting India's national interests. He did that with President Obama, President Trump and now he can do so with Joe Biden, presumably the next US President



CHINTAMANI MAHAPATRA

PERSPECTIVE

Pakistan Democratic Movement: Heralding chaos or change?

Looking at Pakistan's tumultuous political and historical past, it can be safely concluded that the PTI Government will not survive the test of time. Economic woes faced by Pakistan at the moment are offering a rare advantage to the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition led by two of the most prominent political parties i.e. the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)



MAKHAN SAIKIA

Nearly eleven political parties have been up in arms against the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Government almost for a month now over a number of issues, especially on the economic front.

Economic woes faced by Pakistan at the moment are offering a rare advantage to the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition led by two of the most prominent political parties — the Pakistani Muslim League (Nawaz) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) among others to attack the Government.

The first PDM rally was organised in mid-October. For now, the veteran Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), is heading the PDM. Just before beginning his first public appearance, he clearly underlined the objective of the coalition, "The Opposition is committed and there should be no impression that any of the parties are waiting for an agreement. All parties are committed and are united in restoring the sanctity of the people's vote." Outlining the PDM's united role in its fight against the PTI Government, he said, "We don't have personal enmity with anyone. But it should be specified that Pakistan belongs to Pakistanis. It does not belong to western entities." He also stressed on the fact that "Pakistan did not come into power to be ruled by the global establishment. It all implies that the PDM is solidly behind the Maulana and they want an Imran-free Pakistan wherein there would be no western intervention at all.

Maryam Nawaz, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter and vice-president of the PML(N), while embark-

ing on this journey, regarded herself as the "Nawaz's foot soldier". She vowed to continue her father's mission for Pakistan. Meanwhile Billawal Bhutto-Zardari, the PPP chairman and son of former President Asif Ali Zardari and late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, too has joined the struggle and made it a united front to bring down the Imran Government.

Indeed, these second-generation leaders of the two main Opposition parties have put forward a rare fight to the Army-backed PTI Government in Islamabad.

The 26-point charter released by the PDM is very significant. It clearly spells out that there should be an end to the establishment's role in politics. Among other things, it also highlights that Imran must resign immediately, and demanded production of missing persons and reduction of the prices of basic commodities. The PDM has also announced a clear line of action for the immediate future. Apart from its huge Gujranwala rally, the alliance will hold joint rallies across the four provinces of the country. Also it says that these rallies will be followed by mass protests across the country in December and a long march to the capital city of Islamabad in January 2021. The coalition lawmakers may also consider the option of resigning from the country's National Assembly.

At the moment, PML(N) founder Nawaz, who was convicted of corruption in 2018, is now based in London after getting bail on medical grounds, had given fiery video speeches at two different rallies organised by the PDM. In one of his speeches, he created almost a history of sort. He called out



Supporters of the Pakistan Democratic Movement take part in an anti-Government rally in Karachi on October 18, 2020 AP file photo

the name of the head of the Pakistan's Army General Qamar Javed Bajwa and accused him of engineering his ouster in 2017 and 2018 victory of the PTI in the general election. It's in fact very rare for a senior politician of a former Prime Minister's stature to

make specific allegations against a sitting Army chief of the country. This is a worry signal for the country at this moment. But Nawaz in his speeches maintained that his fight is not against Imran but only against those people who has brought him to power.

And undoubtedly, it is clear that he is pointing finger at the country's Army establishment. Questioning the all powerful Army is somewhat prohibited in a country like Pakistan as it's popularly known as the "deep state" of the country. Besides, the Army in that country

absolutely regulates all internal and external moves of any civilian Government that has ever come to power since its formation.

Precisely, in the last 73 years of Pakistan's history, there were four occasions when the Army ruled the country. And such Opposition alliances had in the past came together against military rulers and at times with significant successes. In the late 1960s, the Opposition parties had thrown out Field Marshal Ayub Khan from the office of the President of Pakistan. However, the Opposition parties could not register similar success in regard to General Zia-ul-Haq's presidency in the 1980s. The charges against Zia were led by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD). Again, such an alliance called Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) came up to dethrone General Pervez Musharraf in the 1990s. It's not that these Opposition parties only rallied against the military dictators but they also came up to pull down civilian governments in the past. For example, the popularly elected Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Government was pulled down by such alliances in the year 1977 to bring home the General Zia presidency. But here we must remember that there were specific allegations of election rigging and manipulation of economic policies against the then Bhutto Government. In those days, the Opposition coalition was led by the Pakistan National Alliance.

When it comes to the coalition against Imran Government, it must be noted here that it is fully backed by the Army unlike the Bhutto Government of the 1977. So today's PDM struggle is very unique in that sense and it goes

further, it may garner more public support for it.

What has exactly enraged the Opposition and the public is deep economic crisis accompanied by the severe attack of the global corona pandemic across Pakistan. The acute shortage of wheat and sugar has pressed a large number of people to look out for an alternative government in the country. Besides these two problems, the devastating floods and locust attack on grain fields have together accentuated the current crisis in Pakistan.

It is an open secret that corruption of successive establishments, including the PTI in Islamabad, has severely plagued the entire administrative system of the country. It has become an inseparable part of Pakistan's public governance system. Sadly, Imran has added an extremely poor political discourse to the existing public sphere of the country. His scant disregard for political opposition and arrogance in public forums has further aggravated the problems for the Government.

Currently, ousting the PTI Government is seemed to be an insurmountable task. The simple reason is that it is solely backed by the Army of Pakistan. But how long this support sustains is a matter of big question. Till then, Imran is safe. The traditional rivalries of the two Opposition parties within the PDM i.e. the PML (N) and the PPP must make it sure their differences should not break the alliance in the days to come. Looking at Pakistan's tumultuous political and historical past, it can be safely concluded that the PTI Government will not survive the test of time.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

