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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

the pioneer

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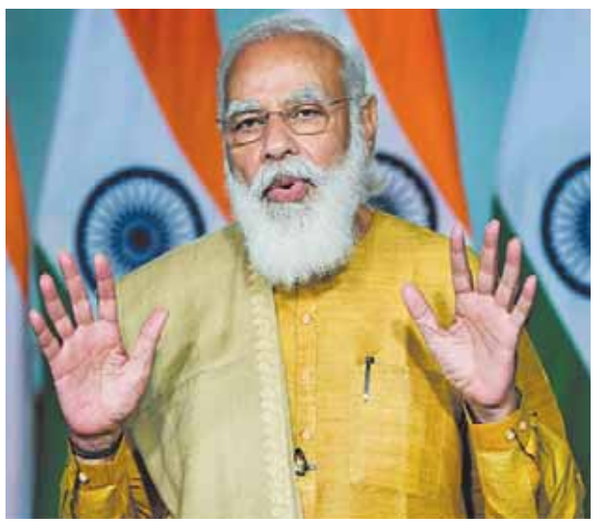
SONAM KAPOOR RECALLS DEBUT *SAAWARIYA* 12 VIVACITY

Promote local for Diwali: PM

Inaugurates projects worth ₹ 614 crore for Varanasi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



Going a step forward from his call of 'Vocal to Local' to 'Local for Diwali', Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a gift of over Rs 614-crore projects to his parliamentary constituency Varanasi ahead of the Festival of Lights while inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of about 30 projects through video conferencing on Monday.

"I am not calling upon you to throw your foreign made articles into the river Ganga but I want that only the products of locals should be used during the forthcoming festivals because it would help in accelerating the pace of our overall economic development," he said.

Extending festival greetings to the people, he said, "You are seeing today that along with vocal for local, the mantra of local for Diwali is resonating everywhere."

"Celebrating Diwali with local will give a new boost to the economy. I would like to say to the people of Varanasi and all countrymen that promote 'local for Diwali' big time," he said.

He said buying local products would not only strengthen local identity but would also brighten up Diwali for those who made them. "When every person will buy local products with pride, will talk about local products, hail them and take the message to others that our local products are so good, this message will go far," Modi said.

During his address, Modi also spoke about the agriculture reforms introduced by the government, saying they would connect farmers directly to the market and "send middlemen out of the system".

The prime minister also highlighted the steps taken by his government for the overall development of rural areas, especially the living condition of the farmers.

Highlighting various schemes launched by the government, Modi said under the Swamitva scheme, farmers would be issued property cards, which would not only help them get loans, but the "game of grabbing their properties will also end".

"The agriculture reforms will give direct benefit to farmers. They will be directly connected to the market and the middleman will be out of the system. The farmers of Purvanchal (eastern Uttar Pradesh) will also be benefited from this," he said.

The prime minister also said that Varanasi was witnessing all-round development in all sectors and this was giving a new identity to the city.

"All the remarkable developments are being witnessed in Varanasi with the blessings of Lord Vishwanath, Lord Kal Bahrain and Goddess Annapurna as 16 projects were inaugurated and foundation stones of 14 others were laid," Modi said, praising Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his team for their sincere efforts,"

"The development in Varanasi is not only helping the people of Purvanchal, who now will not have to go to Delhi for their works, but also helping people from other parts of the country," he added.

Modi was seen in different colours during his interaction when he did not use the local Bhojpuri dialect in starting of his address as he did most of the times during his visits in the past. But he spoke in Bhojpuri on some occasions. He appreciated the people of Varanasi for their "social unity" in fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

He hailed the farmers of Purvanchal, saying even during the pandemic, they worked hard in their fields and are witnessing good crops.

Modi also credited UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the various development projects.

"The credit of these projects goes to the chief minister and his team of ministers and officers. Now with the laying of foundation of new projects, we are also inaugurating projects and the process will continue. Whatever is being done here is due to the blessing of Baba Vishwanath," he said.

He said that under the Ganga Action Plan, Shahi Nullah had been diverted towards Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and the Khikhiya Ghat was being developed where the facilities of CNG would be available for boats to reduce the pollution in the river Ganga.

Besides, he said, tourists plaza was being developed near Dashaswamedh Ghat that would be a centre of attraction and small traders would benefit from it.

The prime minister said for the promotion of tourism, son et lumière (light and sound show) had been started at Sarnath apart besides completion of several development projects. He said two boarding bridges had been constructed at Babatpur airport that would further facilitate the passengers. "During the last six years, the number of flights at this airport has jumped from 12 to 48 per day," he said.

Earlier, during his interaction with three persons present at different places, the prime minister asked about their views on changing faces of the city. The prime minister talked in detail about the projects in his constituency and interacted with basketball player Prashanti Singh, a housewife Neelima Mehta and businessman Vipin Kumar Agarwal.

While talking to Neelima, the prime minister, after spotting a clean lane in which she was sitting, appreciated the locals, and remarked, "one can also have food sitting in this lane".

Neelima spoke about how the Smart City and other projects had changed the city with long pending water, sewer and other problems being resolved.

When the prime minister asked how it felt in the night when LED lights glow, Neelima replied, "It is a wonderful feeling."

From Prashanti, the prime minister asked about Diwali preparations in the city and how sports activities were going on amid the pandemic

The basketball player urged the prime minister to consider setting up a Khelo India Centre of Excellence in Varanasi also and was assured that the suggestion would be looked into.

Yogi Adityanath, who joined the event from Lucknow, said that during his six-year tenure as MP the "PM gave projects worth Rs 18,000 crore to Varanasi. He said while projects worth about Rs 9,000 crore had been launched the rest were in pipeline."

These projects, he said, had given a new identity to Varanasi world-wide.

The projects inaugurated by the prime minister include upgradation of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Ramnagar, sewerage related

Continued on Page 11

Trials show vaccine 90% effective against Covid

We are closer to providing much-needed breakthrough, say Pfizer and BioNTech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A vaccine jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech was 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19 infections in ongoing Phase 3 trials, the companies announced on Monday.

The protection in patients was achieved seven days after the second of two doses, and 28 days after the first, according to preliminary findings.

"We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis," Pfizer chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech SE are the first drugmakers to show successful data from a large-scale clinical trial of a coronavirus vaccine. The companies said they have so far found no serious safety concerns and expect to seek the US emergency use authorisation later this month.

If authorised, the number of vaccine doses will initially be limited. Many questions including how long the vaccine will provide protection, remain unanswered. However, the news provides hope that other vaccines in development against the novel coronavirus may also prove effective. BioNTech hopes immunisation effect of Covid-19 vaccine will last at least a year.

BioNTech in a statement said, "It was optimistic that the protective effect of its experimental Covid-19 vaccine, co-developed with Pfizer, would last for at least a year." While it was not yet known how long the protection would last, research on recovered patients and earlier findings on their vaccine led it to believe protection would not be short-lived," it said.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 85,82,773
DEATHS: 1,26,954
RECOVERED: 79,50,932
ACTIVE: 5,03,042

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,19,858	45,240	15,77,330
Karnataka	8,46,887	11,391	8,01,799
Andhra Pradesh	8,44,359	6,802	8,16,322
Tamil Nadu	7,46,079	11,362	7,15,892
Uttar Pradesh	4,99,190	7,231	4,69,003
Kerala	4,89,703	1,715	4,08,460
Delhi	4,43,552	**7,060**	3,96,697
West Bengal	4,09,221	7,350	3,67,850
Odisha	3,02,793	1,494	2,89,689
Telangana	2,51,188	1,381	2,30,568
Bihar	2,23,477	1,151	2,15,587
Rajasthan	2,13,169	1,998	1,94,629
Assam	2,09,117	948	2,01,839
Chhattisgarh	2,00,937	2,447	1,76,129
Haryana	1,85,231	1,919	1,66,595
Gujarat	1,81,670	3,768	1,65,689

Bursting firecrackers to invite 6-yr jail, ₹1L fine: Delhi Govt

NGT imposes total ban on sale, use of crackers in Delhi-NCR

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

As Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi touched severe plus category with 534 micrograms per cubic on Monday, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed total ban on the sale and use of crackers in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) starting from November 9 to November 30.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said action will be taken against those not complying with the ban on firecrackers under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act which invites a jail term of up to six years and a fine of up to ₹1 lakh.

Rai discussed the standard operating procedures to implement the ban at a meeting with district magistrates and senior officials of the Delhi Police and the environment and revenue departments. "As per the discussion, police can register an FIR and prosecute those violating the ban on firecrackers under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act," he told reporters.

"An offence can invite a fine and a jail term of minimum one and a half years and maximum of six years," the Minister said. Rai said according to experts, the smoke from farm fires is expected to keep the national Capital's air quality in the "severe" zone till Diwali.

The Delhi Government had last week imposed a complete ban on the sale and bursting of all types of firecrackers from November 7 to November 30.

An official in Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), VK Soni, said, "The air quality is likely to be recorded in the upper end of the 'very poor' category on Diwali if we discount firecrackers emissions. If people burst crackers, pollution levels can increase to 'severe' to 'severe plus' category (emergency)."

Not just AQI but fine particle Particulate Matters (PM) 10 was also recorded under severe plus category with 586 microgram per Cubic. The NGT directed all States/UTs to initiate drives to contain air pollution from all sources in view of potential of aggravation of Covid-19.

"The cities/towns where air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers be sold, and the timings for use and bursting of crackers be restricted to two hours during festivals like Diwali, Chhath, New Year/Christmas Eve etc., as may be specified by the state concerned," it said.

At other places, ban/restrictions are optional for the authorities but if there are more stringent measures under orders of the authorities, the same will prevail, said a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel.

Continued on Page 11

NCB raids Arjun Rampal's house in Bollywood drug mafia case

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Continuing their investigations into the much-discussed Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case, the Narotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Monday raided Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal's Bandra residence and summoned him to the NCB headquarters on Wednesday at 11 am.

A day after they raided noted film producer Firoz A Nadiadwala's residence, seized some drugs and cash of ₹3.59 lakh and arrested his wife Shabana Saeed and four others, the NCB officials carried out searches at Rampal's residence for seven hours and seized 11 electronic gadgets including a laptop, mobile phones and tablets from there.

They also seized some documents from Rampal's residence.

Varanasi firm fined ₹3 cr for polluting Ganga river

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Acting tough against those polluting the Ganga, the Namami Ganga department in Uttar Pradesh has slapped a fine of ₹3 crore on a Varanasi-based company for callousness in running a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) which led to pollution in the river.

The team raided 12 places across the State, checking the parameters and quality of effluents discharged from the STPs. "To ensure scaling up work on 'Clean and Flowing Ganga Mission', the Yogi Government has scaled up action and monitoring and checking of the parameters and quality of STPs, both Government and private. Nine teams are conducting surprise inspections of STPs," a senior official said in a statement here on Monday.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

CCI ORDERS GOOGLE PAY MALPRACTICE PROBE

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India on Monday ordered a detailed probe against internet giant Google for alleged unfair business practices with respect to Google Pay.

3 EX-PDP LEADERS JOIN CONGRESS IN J&K

Jammu: Three senior PDP leaders, who recently resigned from the party over remarks of its president Mehbooba Mufti on the tricolour, joined the Congress on Monday, ahead of the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

KENYA-BASED TEACHER GETS AHIMSA AWARD

London: Kenya-based teacher Peter Tabichi, who was awarded the $1-million Global Teacher Prize last year, has been conferred the 2020 Ahimsa Award by the Trustees of the Institute of Jainology in London.

Modi, Xi face to face today at SCO meet since LAC stand-off

Two will also be meeting virtually on Nov 13-15 for ASEAN Summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jingping will come face to face for the first time on Tuesday since the stand-off began in Ladakh in May. The two leaders, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, will take part in a virtual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Given the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, it is the first time that the SCO Summit will be held virtually. The SCO is a coalition of eight countries including India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Incidentally, an armed forces contingent of India pulled out of the SCO military exercises three months ago citing corona as the main reason. However, it was apparent India was registering its protest against China which was also participating in the drill, besides Pakistan.

This is the third meeting where we will be participating as full members, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava had said Friday last. India became a full-time member of the SCO in June 2017, at the same time as Pakistan.

Modi and Xi Jingping had taken part in a virtual session of the UN General Assembly in September. They addressed the UN on different dates.

Modi and Xi Jingping's meeting on Tuesday comes against the backdrop of successive rounds of military and diplomatic level talks failing to defuse tension at the border. The stand-off began in early May and saw a bloody brawl on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel, including the commanding officer, were killed in the Galwan valley.

Both the countries have all along reaffirmed that dialogue is the way out to break the logjam. In September, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held bilateral talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sideline of the SCO Foreign Ministers conclave in Moscow.

The two leaders laid out five-point action plan for bringing peace and tranquility at the LAC and speedy disengagement and de-escalation. At present, more than one lakh soldiers from both the sides are deployed at the LAC besides heavy weapons. Also, both the armies are digging in for deployment during the winter months in Ladakh.

The last SCO Summit was held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in June 2019, where Modi held a separate bilateral meeting with President Xi. Modi invited Xi for a second round of their informal summit — the first was at Wuhan in 2018 — and it culminated in the October 2019 Mamallapuram informal summit.

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D-Day for Bihar! Count down begins

In Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Govt's fate hinges on bypoll results

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Workers prepare sweets ahead of the counting day for the Bihar Assembly elections 2020, in Patna, on Monday PTI

Bihar braces for a change of guard with festive mood in the RJD-led Grand Alliance which is eagerly looking forward to counting of votes on Tuesday. The exit polls have dampened the mood of CM Nitish Kumar's ruling party Janata Dal (United) and its ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Besides Bihar, the counting of votes would be held on Tuesday in Assembly bypolls to 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh, where the fate of Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government hangs in the balance, and 30 seats in 10 other States in the first major pan-India electoral exercise amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

If exit polls results hold, then Bihar is all set to see a change after 15 years of Nitish Kumar's rule.

According to Chief Electoral Officer HR Srinavasa, the commission has made elaborate arrangements for counting, by setting up 55 counting centres in 38 districts across Bihar, with 414 counting hall set up. This was the first major election held in the country amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Srinavasa said that a maximum of three counting centres each have been set up in four districts of East Champaran (which has 12 Assembly constituencies), Gaya (10 constituencies), Siwan (eight constituencies) and Begusarai (seven).

Rest other districts either have one or two counting centres each. The Commission has established a three-tier security system for strong rooms (housing the Electronic Voting Machines) and the counting centres. The inner core is being guarded by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), then there is the Bihar Military Police (BMP) and then the district police, he told reporters.

"We have deployed 19 companies of CAPF just for the security of the strong rooms and counting centres. Besides, we have 59 CAPF companies to ensure law and order during and in the aftermath of the counting process," he said.

After the exit polls predictions, workers of the RJD on Monday put up posters in Bihar, wishing the "to-be Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav" on his birthday. "Here is wishing Tejashwi Yadav, Bihar's youngest Chief Minister to a very happy birthday," the posters read.

If 31-year-old Tejashwi becomes the Chief Minister of Bihar, he will be the youngest person to have ever held the top post in any State in the country after MOH Farook who became CM of Puducherry in 1967 at the age of 29. Bihar recorded 57.05 per cent turnout in the Assembly elections this time, marginally higher than that of 2015 despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Continued on Page 11

CM advises caution during festivities

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked people to be vigilant and exercise caution during the festival season in view of COVID-19 as NITI Aayog has commended UP for better control of novel coronavirus infection in the state as compared to Delhi and Haryana.

Addressing a high-level review meeting at his official residence here on Monday, the chief minister said that despite the coronavirus cases declining in the state, any negligence or carelessness could be risky and therefore the people should be made aware of prevention from COVID-19 infection.

The chief minister directed officials to arrange better treatment facilities for patients suffering from COVID-19. He said that steps should be taken to further control the novel coronavirus infection.

Yogi also said that meetings should be convened regularly by the district magistrates and the chief medical officers at the Covid hospitals in the morning and at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in the evening. He said the measures taken for the control of COVID-19 should be reviewed and further strategy to combat this pandemic should be drawn.

The chief minister said the district authorities should be in regular touch with nursing home operators and Indian Medical Association (IMA) members so that they did not delay in sending the infected patients to Covid hospitals for treatment.

Meanwhile, the NITI Aayog has appreciated UP for containing novel coronavirus when Delhi and Haryana are seeing a steep rise in the number of fresh positive cases.

Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar said here on Monday that as per the NITI Aayog communiqué, the positivity rate in Delhi and Haryana had touched 15 percent but in UP districts near Delhi and Haryana it was below 5 percent.

"The casualty rate in Haryana and Delhi too has increased," he added.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed all the district magistrates, particularly of four districts where the number of positive cases is rising by over 100 per day, to review the COVID-19 situation twice every day and make arrangements for additional beds in hospitals.

Meanwhile, on Monday, 1,636 new COVID-19 cases were detected while 1,895 novel coronavirus infected people recovered.

There are 22,965 active cases in the state out of which 10,062 are in home isolation.

BJP announces nine candidates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh, on Monday, announced nine candidates, five for graduate and four for teachers constituencies, for the 11 seats of these constituencies of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council where polling is scheduled for December 1.

The BJP left two seats of teachers' constituencies and is likely to support some other candidates. The elections to these seats were delayed by six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic as these seats fell vacant on May 6 last after the

MLC POLLS

end of the tenure of five graduate constituency members and six teachers constituency members. The candidates are: Avith Kumar Singh (Lucknow, graduate constituency), Kedarnath Singh (Varanasi, graduate), Manvendra Pratap Singh (Agra, graduate), Dinesh Kumar Goel (Meerut, graduate) and Dr Yogesh Dutt Sharma (Allahabad-Jhansi graduate). The other four BJP candidates of the teachers constituencies are Umesh Dwivedi (Lucknow), Dinesh Chandra Vashistha (Agra), Shrichand Sharma (Meerut) and Dr Hari Singh Dhillon (Bareilly-Moradabad).

UP BJP vice-president Vijay Bahadur Pathak said here on Monday that nine candidates had been announced by the party though it was prepared to contest all the seats and win them comfortably.

"We started preparations for the Council polls well in advance and our system is working smoothly in all the constituencies," he said.

According to the programme, November 12 is the last date for filing of nominations. Scrutiny of papers will be done on November 13 and the last date for withdrawal of nomination is November 17.

Sources said that the polling would be held between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours on December 1 and counting of votes would be done on December 3.

The seats where the biennial polls will be held are Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut division and Allahabad-Jhansi division of the graduate constituencies and Lucknow division, Varanasi division, Agra division, Meerut division, Bareilly-Moradabad division and Gorakhpur-Faizabad division of the teachers constituencies. Congress and Samajwadi Party have announced some of their candidates for this crucial election to the Upper House of the state legislature.

The Congress candidates are, Rajesh Dwivedi (Agra, graduate), Jitendra Kumar (Meerut, teachers), Ajay Kumar Singh (Allahabad-Jhansi, graduate), Brajesh Kumar Singh (Lucknow, graduate), Sanjeev Singh (Varanasi- graduate), Nagendra Dutt Tripathi (Gorakhpur-Faizabad teachers) and Dr Mehndi Hassan (Bareilly- Moradabad teachers).

The Samajwadi Party candidates are Dr Aseem (Agra), Samshad Ali (Meerut), Ram Singh Rana (Lucknow), Ashutosh Sinha (Varanasi) and Dr Maan Singh (Allahabad-Jhansi), all for the graduate seats and Umashanker Choudhury Patel (Lucknow), Lal Bihar (Varanasi), Sanjay Kumar Mishra (Bareilly-Moradabad), Dharmendra Kumar (Meerut), Harendra Choudhury (Agra) and Awadhesh (Gorakhpur-Faizabad) for teachers constituencies.

Counting of votes for seven UP Assembly seats today

Lucknow (PNS): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has made elaborate security arrangements for the counting of votes on Tuesday for seven Assembly bypolls where polling was held on November 3.

An estimated 53.62 percent of the 24.34 lakh electorate exercised their franchise in these bypolls to seal the fate of 88 candidates in the electronic voting machines (EVMs). An exit poll has predicted that the BJP is expected to bag five to six of the seven assembly seats in UP while the Samajwadi Party is expected to win one to two seats and the BSP zero to one.

The BJP had held six of these seven Assembly seats while one seat was held by the SP. This was the first time that the BSP contested the bypolls, making the contest multi-cornered. According to the exit polls, the BJP is expected to get 37 percent of the votes and the main opposition SP is likely to get 27 percent votes.

While BSP is expected to get around 20 percent votes, the Congress which also claims to be a stakeholder in these poll could get just 8 percent of the votes.

The ECI sources here on Monday said that the counting of votes would be taken up from 8 am on Tuesday at all the seven Assembly constituencies under elaborate security arrangements. Central Para Military Forces have been deployed at all the seven counting centres.

In each of the seven Assembly constituencies, 15 tables have been set up for counting of the voter, one booth at each table. This time, a maximum of 1,000 votes were polled in one booth due to COVID-19 pandemic, due to which the number of booths has increased and it will take more time in counting. "The trends are expected to come within one hour of the counting and results are expected by late afternoon," officials said.

Ram Janmabhoomi verdict anniversary peaceful

Lucknow (PNS): The first anniversary of the historic verdict on Ram Janmabhoomi by the Supreme Court passed off peacefully amid tight security arrangements in the temple town of Ayodhya where any kind of celebration was banned.

The government spokesman said here on Monday that the situation was normal and the activities in Ayodhya were like normal days. "The authorities had banned celebrations by any organisation on the first anniversary (of the verdict) and tight security arrangements were in place to prevent any programme," the official said. On this day in 2019, the Supreme Court had delivered a historic judgement giving the entire Ram Janmabhoomi area for the construction of Ram temple. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5 last and the grand temple is expected to be completed in the next three years.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the public at large, and customers in particular that Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) has decided to shift the following branches i.e. 30.11.2020 as per details below:

S.No	Name of the Branch (Branch Code)	Present Address of the Branch	New Address of the Branch	Proposed Date of Shifting
1.	Aliganj Branch (210977)	1st Floor, Arif Chamber Kapoorthala, Aliganj, Lucknow UP	B 1/18 Sector A, Aliganj,Lucknow UP	30.11.2020
2.	Aishbagh Branch (210567)	342, Rajendra Nagar Aishbagh,Lucknow UP	215, Rajendra Nagar, Aishbagh, Lucknow UP)	30.11.2020
3.	Amethi Branch (211508)	Sarvanpur, Amethi, UP	Antu Road, Keshav Nagar Amethi, Uttar Pradesh	30.11.2020
4.	Ahimamau Branch (212851)	Ansal Properties & Infra Khasra 1202, Village Ahimamau Lucknow, UP	Office Number 552/UGF-305 Block D, Shopping Complex Sushant Golf, City Ahimamau Lucknow, UP	30.11.2020

It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Bank to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Bank's customers during the process of shifting and post-shifting. The accounts of all the customers shall continue with the branch in which the shifting is taking place. The customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid changes, which will be effective fromthe respective dates as mentioned above.They are further requested to ensure that they operate their accounts with the new branch from the said effective date. To avoid any inconvenience during theperiod of shifting to the proposed Branch, it is advisable that they operate theirlockers on or before date of shifting so that no damage is caused due to shiftingof the locker. In case any further clarification required and/or in case of any difficulty the customers may contact the Branch Manager of the concerned branch.

Zonal Head
Date: 09.11.2020 LUCKNOW ZONAL OFFICE

Khalid Rashid demands tax waiver for pilgrims

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahal, the imam of Idgah, has demanded that various pilgrimages, including Haj, be exempted from all taxes, including goods and services tax (GST), and also that the condition of filing income tax returns for Haj pilgrims be waived. Maulana Khalid Rashid, who is also the head of Islamic Centre of India, said that it was a small demand and the people who saved money all their lives to perform pilgrimage could not afford taxes.

He also said that such benefits should be given for the pilgrimages of all religions,

He also said that a letter had been sent to the government listing the demands by the Islamic Centre of India.

The Islamic Centre of India has made three demands to the government. First, all means of travel for pilgrimages be used instead of relying only on air travel. He said Haj pilgrimage was getting expensive day by day, so alternatives should be looked for to make it cheaper. Secondly, the GST and all types of taxes should be waived for Haj pilgrimage and other religious journeys. Third, the condition of filling the income tax return for the Hajis should be abolished.

Meanwhile, UP's Minister of State for Minority Affairs Mohsin Raza rejected the demand raised by Maulana Farangi Mahali. He said that GST and all other taxes were levied on everybody, irrespective of caste and religion, so there was no discrimination.

He asked Maulana Khalid Rashid to reconsider the issue before making the demand for tax relief. The Samajwadi Party, meanwhile, supported the demands for exemption of GST and filing of income tax return by the Haj pilgrimages.

SP leader Anurag Bhadauria said that the government should consider the demands of the people irrespective of religion.

"If the poor people of any or all religions can be benefited by the tax relief then the government must consider the demand and act accordingly," he said.

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STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

(Rs. in Lakh)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.09.2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2019 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2020 (Unaudited)
1	Total Income	28.83	23.57	44.41
2	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional Item and Or extraordinary Item)	(1.79)	(14.01)	(10.06)
3	Net profit /(Loss) for the period before Tax (After Exceptional Items and or Extraordinary items)	(1.79)	(14.01)	(10.06)
4	Net Profit /(Loss) for the period after Tax (After exceptional Items and or Extraordinary items)	(1.63)	(13.84)	(9.70)
5	Total comprehensive Income (Comprising Profit/ Loss for the period and Other comprehensive Income)	(1.61)	(0.58)	(9.66)
6	Paid up Share Capital	399.90	399.90	399.90
7	Other Equity	–	–	312.47
8	Earnings Per Share for continuing operation (of Rs.10/- each) Basic and Diluted	(0.04)	(0.35)	(0.24)

NOTES:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's website at http://www.bseindia.com and also on the Company's website at www.sael.co.in.
2 Corresponding figures of the previous period have been regrouped / rearranged, wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board
(T. B. Gupta)
Managing Director
DIN: 00106181
Place: New Delhi
Date: 09.11.2020

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my name from FURQAN to FURQAN KHAN. In all future purpose. Furqan Khan S/o Chand Mohammad R/o Village-Zafarpur, Kaushambi.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I, Priya Kumari D/o Sri Vijay Prakash Sharma R/o 6/58, Kathari Bagh, Neelmatha, Lucknow 226006. Have changed my name to Priya Kumari Sharma for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I, Chand Sultana Shaikh wife of Army No. 13998233-L, Rank - HAV, Manirul SK, Unit 1 MT BN, AMC, Center & College, Lucknow have changed my name from Chand Sultana Shaikh to Chand Sultana In my husband service record my name should be corrected.

NOTICE

My son name Yash written in my Air Force records which is not complete. His complete name is Yash Yadav in future he will be known as Yash Yadav. Vijay Singh (EX. SGT) 640-G New Viman Nagar Harjinder Nagar, Kanpur-7

सूचना

मेरे मकान सं0 DS 212 Sec g LDA Colony Knp road Lko की मूल रजिस्ट्री दि0 21/11/09 बही जिल्द सं0 10698 पृष्ठ 41 से 60 क्रमांक 13839, खो गयी है, जिसका उपयोग अवैध होगा। सन्ध्या त्रिवेदी W/o एम.सी. त्रिवेदी A3ACPH रेलवे कालोनी, आलमबाग, लखनऊ।

NOTICE

My self Amit Kumar S/o Shri Jairam Village Paraspura post Dumraon Police Station Sarai Lakhansi District Mau Uttar Pradesh. I declare that name of my son in his birth certificate is Aasmit Kumar which is not correct while his name is ARNAV ARYA which is correct and mentioned in all document. He is identify by ARNAV ARYA in present days so I want to modify It in ARNAV ARYA.

Several leaders join SP

Lucknow (PNS): Over a dozen former leaders of Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress joined the Samajwadi Party here on Monday.

The BSP leaders who joined the SP include former MP Kailash Yadav. Former Congress MP Bal Kumar Patel also joined the SP.

Welcoming the leaders into the SP fold, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said it was a great day for the party as such a large number of senior leaders of the BSP and the Congress had joined the SP.

Consortium of banks sanctions ₹ 250 cr for Gkp link e-way

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A consortium of public sector banks on Monday sanctioned a fresh loan of Rs 250 crore for the Gorakhpur Link Expressway project.

The expressway will link Gorakhpur with national capital Delhi through the Purvanchal Expressway. It is being constructed by the UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).

The Bank of Maharashtra has also joined the consortium and Punjab National bank and UCO Bank have already provided credit of Rs 750 crore and Rs 250 crore, respectively, for the project.

UPEIDA Chief Executive Officer Awanish Awasthi said so far three PSU banks had provided Rs 1,250 crore for the Gorakhpur Link Expressway project.

He said for the total fund requirement of Rs 2,250 crore for the Gorakhpur Link Expressway project, a consortium of banks would soon be constituted. He said the UP cabinet had already granted approval for setting up the consortium of banks for funding the expressway project. He said the Punjab National Bank would head the consortium of banks. The Gorakhpur Link Expressway project will commence from National Highway 27 near Jaitpur village in Gorakhpur and pass through Ambedkar Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar and link with the Purvanchal Expressway at Azamgarh. There will be two toll plazas, three ramp plazas, seven flyovers, 16 vehicular underpass, 35 pedestrian underpasses, seven major bridges, 27 small bridges on this expressway.

The CEO said so far 5 percent of the physical work of the expressway had been completed which included over 16 percent earthwork.

Meanwhile, a memorandum of understanding was signed between UPEIDA and M/s Navraj Metal Works on Monday for investment in the defence manufacturing corridor.

The company will make an initial investment of Rs 6 crore in the upcoming defence manufacturing corridor. The company will manufacture tungsten alloy which is used in anti-tank ammunition (armour piercing bullets). The project is likely to create fresh employment for 400 persons.

Awasthi said that land for the project would soon be made available to the investor. He said for the six nodes of the defence manufacturing corridor, 1,456 hectares of land had been identified in Aligarh, Kanpur Nagar, Jhansi and Chitrakoot and ownership of 1,338 hectares of land had been transferred to the UPEIDA,

Awasthi said for investment in the Aligarh node, 22 companies had signed MoUs with the UPEIDA and investment of Rs 1.047 was proposed to be made.

The UPEIDA CEO said many companies had evinced interest in investing in the defence manufacturing corridor.

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK E-AUCTION NOTICE
R.O : C 33/2, Sri Prem Complex, Chandua, Varanasi-221002. Ph: 0542-2220631

Sale of immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS**" and "**AS IS WHAT IS BASIS**" and "**WHAT EVER THERE IS BASIS**" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform on **26.11.2020** between **11.00 am to 2.00 pm** provided at the Web Portal **"https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi ".**

Sl No	Name of the Branch and Borrower Name	Brief Description of mortgaged Property/ies	Outstanding Dues (Rs. in Lakhs)	Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs) A/c No. where the EMD to be deposited/ IFSC codes	Name of contact Person & Mob. No.
1.	PROPERTY AT GORAKHPUR **Branch : VIJAY CHOWK Borrowers : M/s STAR COSMETIC & GENERAL STORES (Proprietor. Smt. Naz Begum) and guarantor Sh. Liyaquat Husain Khan (Husband of Smt. Naz Begum).**	EM of A Four storied commercial-cum-residential building (Lower Ground Floor, Upper Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor) Mohalla: Shahmaroof (Ghanta Ghar, House No: 127-D, Tappa-Kasba, Pargana - haveli, Adjacent to the Super Bazar/market), Gorakhpur, UP., Total area : 835.75 Sq.Ft. in the name of Naz Begum W/o Liyaquat Husain Khan **Bounded : North** : House of Hamid Ali, **South :** Super Bazar Shopping Complex of Liyaqat Husain khan, **East :** 6 Feet wide Road, **West** : House of Musarrat Abbasi.	1,27,01,106.64 as on 31.08.2020 with further intt + other cost	52.50	5.25 04520113301010 IOBA0000452	Ravindra Nath Jha Mob : 8004985161
2.	PROPERTY AT CHITRAKOOT **Branch : Chitrakoot Dham Borrowers : Sh. Narendra Kumar and guarantor Ms. Seema Devi, 225 Ward No. Laxmanpuri, Karwi - 210205**	All that part and parcel of property consisting of house no. 323 in survey no. 923/2ka, Ward No. 4(Old), 6 (New) situated at mauza-Karwi Sarkar, Laxmanpuri, within the registration sub-District, Karvi, Distt. Chitrakoot. **Bounded : North** : Road, **South :** Baundry of G.G.I. Collage, **East :** Plot of Smt. Maina Devi, **West** : Land of Jevan Das and Ram Das.	5,52,249.18 as on 07.11.2020 with further intt + other cost	49.00	4.90 24720113301010 IOBA0002472	Amit Yadav Mob : 9838686777
3.	PROPERTY AT GORAKHPUR **Branch : VIJAY CHOWK Borrowers : M/s Delhi Disposal Goods (Pro- Sri Usman Gani) House no.1 at Transformer Chauraha Moh. Janpriya Vihar Colony Humayunpur North (Gorakhpur) and Rashada Praveen w/o Usman Gani**	All that part and parcel of Pucca & Partly Sheet Roofed Double Storied Residential Building in the Name of Mr. Usman Gani S/o Noor Mohammad at LIG 01, Janpriya Vihar Colony, Humayunpur North, Gorakhpur 273001 in an extent of 901.58 Sq.ft. **Bounded : North** : House of Owner thereafter Pitch Road, **South :** Colony of Pavar brick road hereafter house of others., **East :** House of Others, **West** : Transformer & pitch road.	35,69,827.80 as on 31.10.2020 with further intt + other cost	45.00	4.50 04520113301010 IOBA0000452	Ravindra Nath Jha Mob : 8004985161

Inspection of properties : Till 25.11.2020 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Submission of online application for bid with EMD : 09.11.2020 onwards
Last date for submission of online application for bid with EMD : 25.11.2020 by 5.00 p.m. E-Auction Date & Time : 26.11.2020, 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

TERMS AND CONDITION OF E-AUCTION SALE:- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: **(i)** The properties are being sold on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS'. **(ii)**The particulars of secured Assets Specified in the schedule-here in above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable, for any error, misstatement, or omission in this proclamation. **(iii)** The secured assets will be not sold below the reserve price. **(iv)** The auction sale will be 'online through e-auction' portal **"https://auctions.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi"**. **(v)** The bidders are also advised go through the portal http://www.ibapi.in for detailed terms and conditions for e-auctions sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. **(vi)** The interested bidders shall deposit the EMD through NEFT/RTGS before last date of depositing of EMD i.e. 25.11.2020 before 5.00 pm. For other terms and conditions of e-auctions please visit website http://www.ibapi.in **Helpline No.:** 033-22901004, **E-mail : varanasilaw@iobnet.co.in**

Date : 09.11.2020 Place : Varanasi **Authorised Officer- Indian Overseas Bank**

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Covid recovery rate of dist 95%

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The recovery rate of Lucknow has further increased to 95 per cent this month. However, the circulation of continues to be a problem in some areas and containment activities are being carried out for the same.

According to a senior official at the CMO office, Gomtinagar is amongst the five focal areas with maximum coronavirus cases as on November 8. Details related to containment zones are sent to the state government on a daily basis. The official said a trend which they have noticed in Gomtinagar is that most of the people got infected through domestic helps visiting the houses of VIPs.

"Domestic helps are catching the infection and spreading it to people in Gomtinagar. We have found that these people are not symptomatic and since they work in different houses in Gomtinagar, locals and even VIPs have tested Covid positive," he said. However, he pointed out that the previous trend of cases emerging from multi-storey buildings was no longer prevalent. He said that in the sanitation drive which was carried out in the slum areas of Indiranagar on Sunday, the residents were asked to get themselves tested for coronavirus. "People residing in the slum areas were informed that the testing team was also there and if people had fever or other symptoms, they could get themselves," he said.

Chief development officer Prabhash Kumar, who also heads the Integrated Control and Command Centre, said meetings are organised to review the situation in the district on a daily basis. He said he has held discussions with doctors and senior officers who told him that the Covid-19 situation was under control in the district. "Cases are emerging from urban areas and not from rural areas. Patients are being found mainly in market areas but the number of cases is still less than 250 whereas it had gone past 1,100 at one point in October," he pointed out.

He said as of now, there are sufficient surveillance and rapid response teams and the same will be increased, if need be. The CDO said the number serious cases is the same as it has been since last week.

Meanwhile, with the increasing rush in markets in the run-up to Diwali, Adarsh Vyapar Mandal president Sanjay Gupta said only few traders have tested positive for coronavirus.

"Only one per cent of the traders have tested positive in contrast to the time when the lockdown was lifted initially and a large number of the traders tested positive. Also, regular testing is being carried out by the health teams," he said.

However, he admitted that carelessness was evident in people. "Bigger shops and showrooms are following proper Covid-19 protocols but it is not the case with smaller shops and roadside vendors, which is unwise. People have started eating out and many of them do not even mask up. At public functions too, virtually no one follows Covid-19 safety protocols. My appeal to traders and people in general is that they should follow social distancing, wear masks and keep washing hands or using sanitisers to prevent a probable second wave," he added.

207 more test positive

Lucknow (PNS): The city tally of Covid cases rose by 207 on Monday while 216 patients recovered. The death toll stands at 918. The new patients included 26 from Indiranagar, 21 from Rae Bareli road, 14 from Talkatora, 13 from Thakurganj and 10 each from Chowk, Ashiyana, Jankipuram & Hazratganj.

There were four deaths in the city and two of the deceased belonged to Lucknow while the rest to Ghazipur and Basti. One patient who died at KGMU was a 52-year-old man from Lucknow. Across the state, 1,647 persons tested positive, including 163 in Gautam Buddhnagar and 102 from Meerut, taking the UP tally to 4,99,199.

There were 25 deaths in the state, including three each in Prayagraj & Meerut, two each in Kanpur, Varanasi & Shahjahanpur, and one each in Gorakhpur, Saharanpur, Ayodhya, Ballia, Azamgarh, Basti, Ghazipur, Sultanpur, Farrukhabad, Amethi & Auraiyya, taking the toll to 7,231.

Investors duped of ₹6.9 crore by pvt company

Lucknow (PNS): Managing director and other staffers of a trading company were accused of duping different investors of Rs 6.9 crore in Vibhuti Khand police station area on Monday. The complainant, identified as Surendra Kumar of Barabanki, alleged that he was introduced to Vishwajeet Vishwas, Shanker Gayan, Vinod Mazumdar, Sandeep Maity, Bharat Modi and Dheeraj Srivastava through an acquaintance for investing money in the company for attractive returns. The company officials told Surendra that they put the money collected through investment in different ventures and share the profit with investors. The company promised the investors to pay Rs 4,000 per month as interest against an investment of Rs 1 lakh.

Impressed by the plan, Surendra and his relatives invested Rs 31 lakh while other investors deposited about Rs 6 crore with the company. However, Surendra said he was threatened, as were other investors, when they demanded that their money be refunded as the company failed to fulfil its promises.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi, along with Commissioner of Police Sujeet Pandey, inspected the women cell at Hazratganj Kotwali on Monday evening and directed the officials to handle cases of crime against women on priority. He expressed satisfaction over the working of women cops deployed there. The UP government has set up women help desk at police stations to help women complainants.

Youth thrashed, slips into a coma

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth was thrashed so badly that he slipped into a coma and was admitted to KGMU Trauma Centre on Monday. He was identified as Akmal of Gudamba. Akmal was beaten up after he confronted the attackers of his brother in Gudamba.

As per reports, Akmal's brother Mohammed Owais is a tuition teacher and visits the house of one Mujib-ur-Rehman in the locality. On Saturday evening, he went to Mujib's house but returned on finding the house locked.

On the way back, two youths, (Ayan, Imran) and their friends waylaid him and asked him to stop visiting Mujib's house. As Owais confronted them, he was thrashed black and blue. However, he somehow managed to return home where he narrated the incident to his family.

On Sunday morning, Akmal left the house to complain to Ayan's family. On the way, Ayan, Imran and others stopped him and Akmal asked them why they did they thrash Owais. Akmal was attacked with sticks and stones till he fell unconscious. He was later rushed to the KGMU Trauma Centre where Akmal was said to have slipped into a coma.

Virus traces found in sewage water a pointer to early signal of second wave

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A study was designed and conducted by Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) to detect the virus traces in waste water collected in Lucknow during October. The study was conducted on city's sewers that offer real-time data on the spread of coronavirus as faeces and urine can contain coronavirus shed by infected people. The results show a significant amount of viral load in the excreta, pointing to an early signal of a second wave.

Technical incharge of BSIP's Covid lab Dr Nagarjuna said the scientists examined different sewage samples collected across the city for coronavirus and detected traces of the virus significantly. "The load of the virus shows that there is a possibility of a second wave soon after the festive period. The findings could help scientists and the government understand the prevalence of virus and the pattern of its spread," he said.

BSIP STUDY

Scientist Niraj Rai said city's sewers offer real-time data on the spread of coronavirus because of the presence of excreta there.

"Several studies showed that within three days of infection, coronavirus could appear in faeces, which is earlier than the time taken for people to develop symptoms severe enough for them to seek hospital care," he said.

He added that another advantage of sewage sampling is that it picks up virus associated with a vast number of people who are infected with coronavirus but do not show any symptoms.

"Shedding of the virus varies over the course of the infection of an individual. A sewage system blends these variations into an average that represents the wider community. Consequently, waste water also represents the type of virus strains presents in a sewage system which is nearly impossible to understand by individual sampling of coronavirus," Rai said.

Nagarjuna said BSIP suggests monitoring of waste water in the city at regular intervals, which can pick up a sharp rise in viral concentrations in sewage before cases explode in the hospital.

"Earlier identification of the virus's arrival in a community might limit the health and economic damage caused by Covid-19. The advantage of cheap and non-invasive tool shows its potential to warn against a second outbreak," he added.

Unable to pay back loan, youth hangs self

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under pressure to pay back the money which he had borrowed, a private company employee hanged himself at his house in Chinhat on Monday. The deceased was identified as Utkarsh Tripathi (26) of Hargaon in Sitapur. He was staying at a rented house in Govind Vihar Colony in Kamta locality. On Monday, Utkarsh was found hanging in the bathroom with a shirt tied around her neck.

During investigation, police recovered a suicide note in which Utkarsh had scribbled that he had borrowed Rs 4,000 from a finance company and was unable to pay back. He had further written that was given a week's time but he could not arrange for the money and was thus ending his life. The police sent the body for autopsy and informed the family of the deceased about the incident.

Meanwhile, a youth working as domestic help at a house in Viram Khand of Gomtinagar was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Monday. The deceased, identified as Satish Yadav (25) of Mahmoodabad in Sitapur, had been working at the house of Dr Jitendra Swaroop Mathur of Viram Khand-2 for the last 10 years. Around 10 pm, he went to sleep in his room after having dinner on Sunday. However, he did not wake up on Monday. Mathur called him but there was no response. He then went to the room but found it bolted from inside. Mathur broke the window pane and went inside, only to find Satish lying dead on a cot. He informed police after which a team of cops reached the scene. The body was sent for autopsy and further investigation was started.

In another incident, a 42-year-old man, identified as Rakesh Kumar Gautam of New Haiderganj in Thakurganj, ended his life at his house on Monday. Reports said Rakesh was found hanging from the ceiling with a *gamchha* tied around his neck. Police said Rakesh was an e-rickshaw driver.

CJs' conference concludes

Lucknow (PNS): Heads of states, chief justices and judges of supreme courts of 63 countries of the world participating in the 21st International Conference of Chief Justices of the World stressed on the need for world to unite under the umbrella of global governance to ensure the safety and security of 2.5 billion children of the world and the generations yet to be born. They said this world government would see to it that every human being was provided with the basic necessities of life, clean environment, a peaceful world order, food shelter, education, health facilities and a safe future.

Kidnapped 15-year-old girl rescued after five months

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Five months after the kidnapping of a 15-year-old minor, the Meerut police rescued her from the clutches of the kidnapper. The accused was arrested by the police on Sunday and sent to jail. The victim revealed that the accused also raped her during the confinement.

According to reports, a girl hailing from Sindhwali village under Kankarkhera police station in Meerut district went missing on May 31 this year. The family of the girl accused one Shakib of kidnapping her.

For more than five months, no information came out about the girl and the police took no serious cognisance of the matter.

However, recently during a campaign against love jihad some, Hindu outfit activists staged a protest along with the victim's family and also exerted pressure on the police to act swiftly and free the kidnapped girl from Shakib's clutches as the case was between the two communities. Sources said that the Meerut police subsequently swung into action and also managed to arrest Shakib. The arrest came when Shakib was on his way to Delhi with the kidnapped girl.

The girl was rescued from Shakib's possession. The police team comprising Inspector Tapeshwar Sagar of Kankarkhera police station and SOG in-charge Varun Sharma claimed that after being grilled in police custody, Shakib confessed of holding the girl hostage in a brick kiln in Baghpat and also that he raped her. According to Kankarkhera police station in-charge, the girl was sent for medical examination.

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old woman was found dead near an ancient bridge over a dry rivulet in Chhapar police station area of Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Monday. The body of the unidentified woman with boy-cut hair was found at a desolate place near Bawan Darrah bridge on Sunday, police said, adding that nothing was found on the victim's body to identify her.

The body was sent for post-mortem and efforts were on to identify her, the police said. In the neighbouring Shamli district, an eight-year-old girl was molested by a 21-year-old youth, who was arrested after the incident was reported to the police.

The incident occurred in Kairana town of the district where accused Momin lured his neighbour's daughter to his house and molested her.

After the victim's father reported the matter to the police, a case was registered against Momin under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code for using criminal force to outrage the modesty of the girl child, and he was arrested.

In Sant Kabir Nagar, the police arrested a man, who was out on bail, in connection with the alleged abduction, rape and killing of a seven-year-old girl.

Superintendent of Police Brijesh Singh said the girl had gone missing on November 4 and her body was recovered on Saturday. The post-mortem report confirmed rape. The SP said that the accused, who was arrested on Sunday, confessed to his crime.

He told the police that on November 4 when he saw the girl all alone, he abducted her and took her to a jungle where he raped the girl and then killed her. The accused was recently released from jail on bail in a case of having unnatural sex with a boy.

BJP MLA's son booked for thrashing BKU leader

Lucknow (PNS): Thrashing and pointing a pistol at the district chief of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Rashtravadi) in Shahjahanpur proved costly for the son of a Bharatiya Janata Party MLA as he and five of his accomplices have been booked by the local police.

The FIR was registered against them on Sunday after the farmers' union threatened to stage a protest. The farmer union leader, Mahendra Singh Yadav, was allegedly thrashed by Arvind Singh, son of the Dadraul BJP MLA Manvendra Singh, along with his bodyguard, an advocate and three others, police said on Monday.

Yadav told reporters, "I was speaking to the tehsildar of Sadar regarding a complaint against a land mafioso when Arvind Singh and others barged in and began misbehaving with me inside the office. When I later stepped out, Arvind pointed a pistol at me and threatened to kill me, before thrashing me with the other accused."

Hundreds of farmers led by Yadav, who was accompanied by his family, protested inside the collectorate premises on Saturday, demanding action against the accused, after which, a probe was ordered and an FIR was registered in the case only on Sunday.

Once upon a time, LU was Badshah Bagh!

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University was Badshah Bagh once upon a time, a building and a garden constructed by the first King of Awadh for his wife and is hence imbued with heritage and history.

Retired professor PK Ghosh from LU's History department, who has carried out research on heritage areas of the university, said the land was purchased by Ghaziuddin Haider who wanted to lay a beautiful garden in the name of his wife Badshah Begum. "However, the structure was completed by his son Nasiruddin Haider because Badshah Begum was not very happy with it. Nasiruddin was a prince at that time," he recalled.

He said that the relics of history which remain at LU now are a few gates and Lal Baradari. "There is also a well which I had discovered at the university. It is a heritage and I will reveal more about it in a presentation which I will be making at the university next week," he said.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

He said there was a building located at the place where the registrar's office stands now aud it was called Kabootar Kothi. "There is nothing left of the building now. It was different from the 'kabootar khana' which existed on the other side of the river and was built by Wajid Ali Shah," he said. Litterateur Yogesh Praveen, who is well-versed with the monuments of Lucknow, said Begum Qudsia Mahal used to reside in the same premises and she died there too. "She was one of the favourite wives of the Nawab and when he died, he had willed that he should be buried beside her grave at Karbala Iradatnagar," he said. According to former DG, ASI, Rakesh Tewari, the unique feature of LU building is the main façade which looks the same as it did years back and amplifies the feeling of heritage and history. "The heritage structures at the university are built with lakhori bricks, with which most of the ancient monuments in Lucknow are constructed. The main façade, however, creates the first impact," he said. A senior ASI official said that the heritage areas of LU carry the influence of English and Mughal architecture which was later came to be known as Awadh architecture.

LU GETS ₹1.15-CR GRANT

Lucknow University has received a grant of Rs 1.15 crore for the session 2020-21 from the state government. Spokesperson Durgesh Srivastava said the use of funds has been permitted under certain conditions. "It has to be ensured that the amount is spent in the 2020-21 session and used for works which it is meant for," he said. He said the interest collected on the main amount would have to be deposited in the treasury. He said that the state government has also extended the use of grant given in 2018-19 for establishing a centre of excellence.

KASHI JEWELLERS BECOMES BEST RETAILER OF THE YEAR - WORLD

KANPUR. Kashi Jewellers has added yet another 'Kohinoor' to its crown by becoming the best retailer showroom of the country on the basis of its faith, honesty and innovation earned in the hearts of its valued customers during past 70 years. It was really a 'Kohinoor' for Kashi Jewellers as no other jeweller of the country could earn this historical achievement so far. Kashi Jewellers of Birhana Road, Kanpur, has been felicitated with the 'Retailer of the World' Award, the supreme honour for a retailer, by none other than JNA Awards, known as the Oscar of the Jewellery Industry for its. Kashi's young partner Ridhi Kapoor Gala also won the prestigous 'Young Entrepreneur Of The Year' Award this year also. Though the grand Award Ceremony of JNA Awards could not take place in Hong Kong following Covid-19 pandemic, but the importance of this Award was increased manifold due to virtual nominations for participation. It was for the first time when the jewellery houses and companies from as many as 120 countries filed their nominations to vie for the Award. Over 2000 jewellers of the world, operating thousands of branches globally, took part in the competition but Kashi Jewellers, owning only one branch, was adjudged the 'Best Retailer of the World'. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Kashi Jewellers worked for safely bringing its customers upto the showroom, following best safety norms in comparison to any other jewellery showroom of the world, innovating new methods to energise the market during slump, removing scare of Corona from the minds of people and presenting innovative designer jewellery before its customers.

Winning 'Retailer Of The World Award' After Passing Through Stiff Tests.

Kashi Jewellers have converted the challanges of lockdown into opportunities. It utilised the lockdown period from March 22 to May 15 in research and planning. By organising international webinars through Zoom App, it shared views with top speakers of the world. Madhuraj Hospital specialists were consulted to prevent from the effects of pandemic and safely restart the business. After research, it was observed that it would be difficult to bring customers to the showroom with ordinary safety measures. Hence, in a bid to wipe out terror of Corona from the minds of customers, a 500 sq ft Covid Screen Room was set up equipped with Madhuraj Hospital's doctors and trained paramedical staff.

"The credit for this historical achievement goes to our devoted team which, with their astounding efforts, made us crown this prestigous award. Heartfelt gratitude to our valued customers for their faith and association during past 70 years. Due to their faith and love, we attained this proud achievement. With this achievement, name of Kanpur also shines on global map. Don't be scared of Corona and visit our showroom fearlessly with full safety."

Shreyansh Kapoor
Vice President, Kashi Jewellers

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

CATEGORYWISE AWARDS WON BY KASHI SINCE 2012.

- *Three decades of Excellence Award - 2012.*
- *Outstanding Enterprise of the India - 2013.*
- *Young Entrepreneur of the Year - 2014.*
- *Outstanding Enterprise of the India - 2015.*
- *Retailer of the Year 2017 (in 450 outlets or less than this category) (Kashi won the award even with only one showroom).*
- *Outstanding Enterprise of the India - 2019.*
- *Retailer of the World Award - 2020.*
- *Young Entrepreneur Award - 2020.*

Pioneer In Jewellery Design

Britain's princess is also fond of Kashi Jewellers's unique designs. Special collection of Polki, Diamond, Platinum, Gold Temple, Meenakari and Kundan jewellery are available at Kashi's aesthetic showroom. Kashi Jewellers have expertise to prepare jewellery and design of one's choice also, known as Imaginational to Reality.

Add : 24/44, Birhana Road, Kanpur.
ADVT.

61 more test positive in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 61 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Monday, increasing the total number of cases to 17,505. The day also saw two deaths, increasing the toll to 282. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 65 and out of them, 63 have been recovered from home isolation while two from the hospitals, increasing the number to 13,657 and 2,833 respectively. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 16,490, leaving 733 active cases. After several days, the recovery rate has improved to 94.20 per cent but the mortality rate has increased to 1.61 per cent.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 31 positive patients were found out of 3,045 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,54,262 and the results of 3,829 are awaited. Out of them, 3,36,787 were negative, while 17,475 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,72,511. Earlier, a male aged 80 from DIG Colony succumbed to COVID-19 at Sir Sunderlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of four new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,368 including 191 red zones. Three green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,177 green zones with 12 new ones.

SSP Amit Pathak inspecting markets during Sunday night in Varanasi Pioneer

Earlier, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak inspected several areas by foot seeing the stock of situation of security in wake of forthcoming festivals. Just a day ago, he inspected several areas riding on motorcycle. During his inspection he also warned many shop keepers who did not close their shops till late night hours. He also gave instructions to concerned police personnel at several places. According to him, under the 'Mission Shakti' campaign, a total of 3,967 women / girls were mobilised at 156 places and 1,259 leaflets were distributed. A total of 430 women / girls were sensitised by the Anti-Romeo Squads at 113 places. Action was taken against two under 34 Police Act, one under 151 CrPC apart from warning 56 eve teasers. Besides, the police arrested 26 persons under Section 151 of CrPC, while challaned under Section 188 and took action under Section 51 of Disaster Management Act against five persons. During checking at various points, 1,640 vehicles were challaned and 15 seized. Apart from this, ₹ 1,45,100 were realised from 175 vehicles while ₹ 26,200 from 802 persons for moving on the roads without wearing masks.

69 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Coronavirus within the last 24 hours affected a total of 69 people, including Professor of Prayag Mahila Vidyapeeth and Assistant Manager of IFFCO. While three people died on the same day.

In the meantime, 67 people became infection free. In this, 18 people have been discharged from the hospital while home isolation of 49 infected people has been completed. Dr. Rishi Sahai, the Nodal Officer for Corona confirmed this findings.

CMO Dr GS Bajpai said that after getting 69 new infected on Sunday, a total of 24,571 people of Corona in the district have been infected so far. Of these, 321 people have died. Three people died on Sunday as well. One of these is being told of Kaushambi district. All three were undergoing treatment at L3 SRN Hospital.

Those who died of corona included a 70-year-old elderly, another 59-year-old middle aged and a third 42-year-old female. After the death, the three were cremated at Phaphamau. In addition, 23399 people have become infection free. Eighteen people were discharged from SRN and Beli Hospitals on Sunday and two from a private hospital. While home isolation of 49 people has been completed.

About 131 people are admitted to different Covid hospitals. Of them the L3 SRN Hospital has 66 infected, 44 in Beli and 21 in private hospitals. On Sunday, people working in religious places have been tested. Corona was confrmed on Sunday in an IFFCO's Assistant Manager, Professor of Prayag Mahila Vidyapeeth College, two High Court review officers, two advocates including many other employees.

3 criminals nabbed after encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Khuldabad police on Monday morning arrested three criminals after a brief encounter under the overhead water tank near the Allahabad High Court. One of the criminals has sustained bullet injury in his leg. They were involved a good number of thefts, vehicle lifting, chain snatching, and even murder.

Taking the sudden rise in snatching incidents, higher police officers held a meeting on Sunday night and passed strict instructions to the subordinates to deal with the criminals with iron hand. Just hours after the meeting three Pulsar bike borne miscreants tried to snatch chain of the woman near the rear gate of Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, a favourite spot of the morning walkers. The police were informed that wireless messages were passed immediately to nab the chain snatchers.

The CCTV cameras showed that the Pulsar borne criminals were moving towards the Khuldabad flyover. The Khuldabad police positioned themselves near the overhead tank. When three persons on a bike were stopped, they fired at the police party with a country-made pistol, which could not hit the target. In return the police also opened fire and the person driving the bike sustained bullet injury in his leg, and fell down. The other two tried to run away, but the police gave them a hot chase and nabbed the two.

Criminal injured in police firing

The arrested criminals, involved in a good number of vehicle lifting, chain snatching, theft, and murder, had changed the number plate of the bike they had stolen a couple of days ago.

The arrested Mahtab (injured), Nawab, and Saleem accepted their involvement in dozens of crime. Now, on information revealed by them, the police are trying to nab the persons who used to buy the stolen gold ornaments from the above snatchers.

It may be mentioned here that the Naini police had also shot at and injured a chain snatcher to arrest him a couple of days also when he had laid hands on a family member of a senior police officer

Congress, SP candidates file nomination papers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With the filing of nomination papers by Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) for MLC seats from Varanasi Graduate and Varanasi Teacher's constituencies respectively here on Monday, the election for these seats of Legislative Council has started gaining momentum. In the coming three days, it is expected that all other aspirants would also file their papers. The last day of nomination is November 12. Though the nomination process has started on November 5, it was the first day when activities were seen at Divisional Commissioner Office premises when the two candidates reached there to file their papers. They reached there along with their supporters.

Sanjeev Singh is Congress candidate from Varanasi Graduate constituency. Actually, earlier he was the regional chief of Aam Admi Party (AAP) but later on, after resigning from AAP he had joined the Congress and since his joining the party it was expected that he would be the Congress candidate, though there was some resentment among the old party leaders of giving ticket to a new entrant. Lal Bihari Yadav also filed papers as SP candidate but his nomination is from Varanasi Teachers constituency. On the occasion, elaborate security arrangements were made at the premises. Though both the candidates reached their along with their scores of supporters, only candidates and their proposals were allowed to enter the respective offices where the nomination process is going on.

Congress candidate Sanjeev Singh going to file nomination for MLC (Graduate) constituency in Varanasi on Monday Pioneer

SP candidate Lal Bihari Yadav going to file nomination for MLC (Teachers) constituency in Varanasi on Monday Pioneer

As per the schedule, the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on November 13 while the candidates can withdraw their names by November 17. The election will be held on December 1 between 8 am and 5 pm while the counting of votes will be held on December 3. For electing their representative from Graduate constituency, 2,07,039 would cast their votes from eight districts of the region including Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and Ballia while 32,649 of the same areas will elect their representative from Varanasi Teachers constituency. The constituencies include the entire areas of Varanasi and Vindhyachal divisions and only Ballia district of Azamgarh division. At present, both the seats are being held by the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) MLCs Kedar Nath Singh and Chet Narayan Singh from Graduate and Teachers constituencies respectively who will try again to retain their seats this time also.

No headway in petrol pump employee shooting case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Mauaima police failed to get any clue of the goons involved in the shooting at a petrol pump employee near Sarai Khwaja village in Mauaima. The incident took place in broad daylight by gangsters while the former was out for a duty. Even after two days of passing, the police could not arrest the accused named in the case.

The family of the victim is upset over the lacklustre attitude of the Mauaima police. On the other hand, doctors took out the bullet trapped in the spine of the petrol pump employee who is now out of danger, police said.

It may be pointed out here that a petrol pump worker was shot at and injured for the second time in a span of one and a half years over a land related dispute. The petrol pump employee was coming to join the duty from home on Friday evening when he was shot at by some unidentified motorcycle borne miscreants.

On hearing the sound of firing, the attackers fled when the people nearby reached the spot. On getting the information, the police took the injured petrol pump employee to CHC whereupon doctors referred him to the district hospital after first aid.

Kanhai Lal (40) son of Dayaram Yadav, resident of Sheetalpur village in Mauaima police station area, works at a petrol pump located in Block Market in Mauaima. On Friday evening, he got off his bicycle for duty in the night shift. On the way he had hardly reached the Sarai Mazre of Khwaja village when suddenly two young men came on a bike and stopped by overtaking in front of his bicycle. After this, one of them whipped out a country-made pistol and shot a fire at him.

Kanhai fell on the ground bleeding profusely as soon as the bullet hit him. The villagers rushed on hearing the sound of firing. The villagers saw that Kanhai was lying on the road in a pool of blood.

He was brought to the hospital. Kanhai Lal's family members also came after receiving the news.

The relatives alleged that one and a half years ago, while going to duty, Rahul and Manoj shot at him in the village, in which he was seriously injured. A case was booked against both the accused for attempt to murder murder on base of the written complaint given by the victim, but the police gave a final report in the case.

Inspector incharge Ramkeval Patel said that after getting a complaint, a case will be registered and the accused will be arrested and sent to jail.

Six health centres awarded under NHM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as six health units of the districts including two state hospitals, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya (DDU) Government Hospital and Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital, a Community Health Centre (CHC) Cholapur, two Primary Health Centres (PHCs) at Baragaon and Harahua and one Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) Manduadih have been awarded under the Kayakalp (rejuvenation) programme of National Health Mission (NHM) for 2019-20. For maintaining their better health facilities, DDU Hospital and Cholapur CHC, popularly known as 'Mini District Hospital', have received the awards for the fourth consecutive year while Bargaon PHC got the same in third year in succession.

All these health units meet six standards set by the government for their rejuvenation under the guidance of Additional Director (AD) Dr BN Singh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. VB Singh and Divisional Consultant Quality Assurance Dr RP Solanki. According to Dr Solanki, under the Kayakalp programme DDU Hospital secured 80.3 percentage points for the award while SSPG 74.4. Besides, Cholapur CHC got 80.7 percentage points while Bargaon PHC 85.6, Harahua PHC 74.4 and Manduadih UPHC 73.3. For this, DDU Hospital has received ₹3.5 lakh, SSPG ₹3 lakh, Cholapur CHC ₹1.5 lakh, Baragaon PHC ₹2 lakh and Harahua PHC ₹ 50,000. Dr Solanki said that medical units and health centres were enrolled in three phases under internal, peer and external evaluation. Through these steps, the health centre was evaluated on all the points like - promoting basic health facilities, sanitation and waste management, infection control, support and hygiene, in which internal assessment was monitored by local team, peer assessment was monitored by state level team carried out by. He said that in the future the aim of the Health department is to make Sevapuri PHC and the remaining medical units and health centres also meet all the standards and be selected for the rejuvenation programme. He also informed that the central government has already sent a letter for final assessment from the state level for National Quality Assurance Certification to the Government District Women's Hospital (77.59 percentage points) and Baragaon PHC (83.59, which will be completed soon.

NCR's Jhansi div sets record in throughput of freight trains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Jhansi Division of North Central Railway has set a new record in throughput of freight trains. Being primarily a passing through railway, mobility of trains over North Central Railway plays an important role in overall rail transportation in the country. In a record performance, Jhansi division of NCR achieved best ever interchange of 227 freight trains on November 8, 2020 which is 33 trains more than the previous best interchange of 194 trains achieved on January 16, 2019.

As many as 227 freight trains interchanged by Jhansi with adjoining divisions includes 106 incoming and 121 outgoing freight trains with interchange of whopping 10539 wagons. This record performance also includes best ever interchange of 42 freight trains at Bhimsen and best ever interchange of 14 freight trains at Gwalior. Besides improved mobility, North Central Railway is also maintaining positive growth in originating freight loading and so far in November 2020 it has loaded 4.1 lakh tonnes freight against 2.8 lakh tonnes fright loaded in the same period of November 2019.

General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry complemented officials for this achievement and advised the three divisions to closely monitor and increase average speed of freight trains for further improvement in mobility of trains over North Central Railway.

Liquor in huge quantity recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The local police claimed to have recovered liquor of branded company in huge quantity worth ₹35 lakh and arrested a smuggler in this connection.

According to the information, the sub-inspector of Rohania police station Gaurav Pandey was at Akhri bypass along with cops late night on Sunday and in the meantime, he got tip off about the liquor in huge quantity being taken to Bihar illegally where sale of liquor is banned. He informed to incharge of police station Parashuram Tripathi who reached the spot along with cops.

Acting on information, he started checking vehicles and saw a DCM truck. When he asked the driver to stop the vehicle he tried to escape from the scene by accelerating the pace of vehicle instead of following the instruction of police but the cops succeeded in forcing the driver to stop the vehicle.

When the cops checked the vehicle, they were shocked to find liquor of branded companies kept in 205 cartoons.

The police recovered a total of 1,822 bottles of liquor worth ₹35 lakh.

The police took the driver identified as Sukhwinder Singh of Haryana.

The police informed that the recovered liquor was being taken to Bihar from Haryana illegally.

Call to boycott Chinese goods

ALLAHABAD (PNS): Memebers of Bharatiya Janata Party Sanskritik Prakasht motivated the people to boycott Chinese goods this Diwali.

It was discussed to oppose Chinese goods and adopt Swadeshi instead. A strategy was also chalked out in the meeting to motivate people for this move. People will be made aware that they should boycott Chinese product like firecrackers and other items on Deepawali. They demanded the people to promote local for vocal.

A meeting was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Bharatiya Janata Party Sanskritik Prakosht district convenor Tirtharaj Pandey Bacha Bhaiya at the Prayagraj Seva Samiti office in Daraganj. Three resolutions were passed in the meeting. The first emphasis was on banning Chinese firecrackers, boycotting Chinese idol and decorative items of Ganesh Laxmi and promoting local for vocal.

Calling these three proposals to reach the people, District Convenor Tirtharaj Pandey said that everyone should cooperate in this boycott campaign for a strong and self-reliant India.

He urged the masses to oppose the Chinese things so that this Diwali can prove to be a doom for China. In the end the speakers said that PM Modi is the first Prime Minister of the country, who promoted Indian culture and Indian product.

All the people present in the meeting were thanked by Dr Abha Madhur, Co-convenor Pandit Madhukar Shastri, Ramesh Kumar Prominent among those present on the occasion including Pt Madhukar Shastri, Rakesh Kumar Mishra, KC Pandey, Bhaktaraj Pandey, Ashok Srivastava, Surendra Srivastava, Annu Gupta and Akash Nishad.

FAKE CEMENT UNIT UNEARTHED: Racket of fake cement manufacturing was unearthed on Monday when senior officers of the district administration and the police raided a house in Neebi Lohgara area under the trans-Yamuna Bara police station and recovered 73 bags of cement packed in the bags of leading brands.

Officials of Ultra Tech cement had received information regarding the sale of fake cement in their bags in the trans-Yamuna area.

They lodged a complaint in this regard, and the officials traced out the real location from where these bags of fake cement were being supplied. The officials also recovered bags with Utra Tech mark, sealing equipment and weighing machine.

However, no arrest could be made as Sonu Dubey and Deepu Dubey involved in this criminal act had fled seeing the police force. Now raids are on to put them behind the bars.

Corona Warriors honoured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Members of the Corona Cell of SP (Traffic) were felicitated at a function organised by the Kanpur Hotel, Guest House, Sweets and Restaurant Association here on Monday.

Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Basant Lal was felicitated with a memento for his able stewardship.

Other Corona Warriors felicitated at the function with Corona Yoddha memento by the SP (Traffic) included intelligence officer Sanjiv Dixit, Naresh Bhagtani, Shubham Gupta, Gurvinder Singh Shergil, Gulshan Dhuper, Sonia Damele, Kavita Misra and Rameshwar Kushwaha.

Association's president Sukhbir Singh Malik, general secretary Raj Kumar Bhagtani and acting president Shyam Lal Mulchandani were also present.

Patron Vijay Kapoor praised the efforts of the Corona Warriors for contribution the spread of novel coronavirus infection in the city.

Intelligence Officer Sanjiv Dixit being felicitated as Corona Warrior on Monday Pioneer

Speaking on the occasion, the SP (Traffic) said these warriors had performed selfless service by putting their lives at risk during coronavirus pandemic.

Zila Abhihit Adhikari VK Singh was honoured by Inderjeet Singh.

Mulchandani said that with the district administration, intelligence officer Sanjiv Dixit, Gurvinder Singh Shergil helped in free distribution of goods and ration kits.

Manoj Bhatia and Sudhanshu Rai also addressed the gathering.

Trade unions' call to make Nov 26 strike a grand success

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a bid to make the proposed one-day November 26 strike against the government policies a grand success, leaders of the Joint Forum of Central Trade Unions organised a convention at the Ramasrey Bhavan here on Monday.

Addressing the members, the trade union leaders said due to the pro-capitalists policies of the Central government, unemployment and prices of commodities were increasing day by day and farmers were heading towards disaster.

They alleged that in a bid to benefit a select group of capitalists, all the government organisations, including airports, were being privatised. They said for the workers of the unorganised sector, there was no provision for payment of minimum wages to carry out livelihood of their families nor a guarantee for their social security. They appealed to workers of organised and unorganised sectors to make the proposed nation-wide strike on November 26 strike in protest against the anti-workers policies of the government, a grand success.

Trade Union Leader of Central Government Officers Sharad Prakash Agarwal speaking at the Central Trade Unions' Convention on Monday Pioneer

Their main demands include fixation of minimum wages at ₹.24,000 per month, revival of the old pension scheme, abolition of contract work, revision of EPF pension according to recommendations of the Koshiyari Committee and adherence to the existing labour laws.

The trade union leaders who addressed the convention included Ashok Tewari (convenor), Sharad Prakash Agarwal (Central government officers and employees), Rajiv Khare, Rajnish Gupta (bank), RP Kanaujia, Asit Kumar Singh, Ram Prakash Rai, Gaurav Dixit, Kuldeep Saxena, Ram Kishore Tripathi, SAM Zaidi, Rana Pratap Singh, Shailendra Dixit (postal), Kishan Lal Yadav (state government employees), Yogesh Thakur, Ram Singh, Dharm Deo, Siyaram, Mohd Washi, Arun Tewari, Rekha Tewari, Om Prakash, Dashrath and representatives of different employees/labour unions.

The proceedings were conducted by Rajiv Nigam from the insurance sector.

Experts discuss COVID-19 pandemic & its aftermath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The chemistry department of Christ Church College, Kanpur in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Biological Sciences, Lucknow is organising a 3-day international conference on COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath on the GoToWebinar platform.

This conference, which stared on Sunday, has brought academicians, researchers, industrialists and representatives from pharmaceutical companies on one e-platform for deliberations on the affects of the pandemic on various sectors and ways to overcome these unforeseen hurdles of life.

This pandemic has not just resulted in loss of lives but has also had an adverse impact on business, commerce and the global economy on account of lockdowns and restricted movement. The outbreak of COVID-19 brought societies and economies around the world to a halt.

As the world is passing through an unprecedented time and facing a global crisis, in order to be safe and overcome the situation, academic leaders are committed to providing constant guidance to their fraternity and inspiring them to make productive use of this period.

The first day of the conference started with a prayer offered by Dr Dorothy Rai, head of the English department, for the well-being of the people and uninterrupted flow of the conference proceedings.

Christ Church College's governing body secretary, Rev Samuel Paul Lal, apprised the gathering about the hard time each sector is facing and how God Almighty is looking after the well-being of the people.

Principal Dr Joseph Daniel said at this time of crisis, such webinars helped in staying connected.

"We are able to listen to experts from various fields and can enrich ourselves from the deliberations. Coronavirus is a buzzword going around the world. It has not only locked us in our homes but has also taken away our near and dear ones. The pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War II," he said.

Convenor of the conference and professor at the chemistry department, Dr Anindita Bhattacharya, highlighted that despite the difficult times that the world is going through, there are some lessons that can be learnt for the future.

Dr Bhattacharya said the lockdown to control COVID-19 posed its own set of challenges. She also mentioned that ICPA-2020 would address the multidimensional effects of the pandemic and discuss how to deal with the various challenges it has posed.

The conference will deliberate on various issues and effects of the pandemic.

Former additional director of Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi, Dr Dipankar Saha, was the chief guest. He is an expert member, Environmental Appraisal Committee, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. He emphasised that the key principle of sustainable development underlying all others is the integration of environmental, social and economic concerns into all aspects of decision-making.

"Environmental sustainability concerns the natural environment and how it endures and remains diverse and productive. Since natural resources are derived from the environment, the state of air, water, and the climate are of particular concern. Environmental sustainability requires society to design activities to meet human needs while preserving the life-support systems of the planet," he said.

Dr Saha emphasised that sustainable development was vital for winning the battle against the pandemic.

The special guest on the occasion was Dr Hari S Sharma from the department of pathology, Institute of Cardiovascular Research University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Guest of honour Anil Kumar Yadav (registrar, CSJM University, Kanpur) emphasised the effect of the pandemic on the education system of the country and how the students were affected at large.

Head of chemistry department, Dr Sudhir Gupta, proposed the vote of thanks.

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions with insightful talks by three resource persons in each session.

The first technical session on the pharma world started with a talk by Dr Sushmita Bhattacharya, head, Medical Writing (India), ICON, Bengaluru, followed by talks by Dr Swarnalata Saraf, Director, University Institute of Pharmacy, Raipur, Dr Deepankar Gahlot, University of Manchester, and Dr Ajanta Chakraborty, senior scientist, Virology Lead, Perfectus BioMed (UK) Ltd.

The second technical session started with a talk by Sagarika Bhattacharya, business manager, BARCLAYS, United Kingdom, followed by Molly Kapoor, head, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd. and Shefali Mudgal, regional manager, State Bank of India, Jabalpur.

The organising team had Dr Meet Kamal, Dr Shweta Chand, Dr Jyotsna Lal and Dr AK. Nathaniel and Dr Archana Dixit. The section chairpersons were Dr Meet Kamal and Dr Anindita Bhattacharya. The section rapporteurs were Dr Shweta Chand, Dr Firdos Katiar, Dr Dorothy Rai and Dr Shalini Kapoor.

Around 450 participants are attending the conference using GoToWebinar and live YouTube streaming.

80 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 80 more coronavirus positive cases on Monday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 80 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Sunday evening and Monday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,512 cases. He said that 15 cases were discharged from hospital and cured figure stood at 7694.

He said one COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Monday evening keeping the death toll to 740.

The CMO said at present 773 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4597 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Five held for loot at trader's house

KANPUR (PNS): The Vidhnu police, on Monday, arrested three criminals along with two juvenile delinquents for looting cash and valuables from the house of a construction material trader in Swarn Jayanti Vihar about two months ago by holding all the family members hostage.

The police recovered Rs 5,000 in cash, looted jewellery and country-made pistols from the arrested persons,

After identification of the criminals by the trader's wife, the police sent them to jail.

Trader Saurabh Singh, a native of Hamirpur, was living in an under-construction house on rent in KDA Swarn Jayanti Vihar for the past four years.

On September 17, he had gone to Lucknow on a business tour. His wife, Poonam, newly-born son, Kunal, and grandmother, Prem Kumari, were present at the house.

Around 2 am, the miscreants broke into his house and held all the family members hostage at knife-point. They removed ₹12,000 cash and jewellery worth around ₹2 lakh from the house and escaped.

In the CCTV footage, police noticed three miscreants escaping from the spot and launched raids to nab them on the basis of their physique.

Station House Officer Pushpraj Singh told media persons that around 6:30 am on Monday, acting on a tip-off, he raided a place at New Azad Nagar on Satbari road and arrested five persons when they were going to sell the looted articles while one of their accomplices managed to escape.

Those arrested were identified as Arjun Katiyar of Varun Vihar, Barra; Mohit Yadav of World Bank Colony, Barra; Rahul Verma of Kamla Nagar, Nazirabad and two juvenile delinquents.

The accused who escaped was identified as Salman of Kachchi Basti at Ramgopal Chauraha.

The arrested miscreants were paraded before the victim's wife Poonam who immediately identified Rahul, Mohit and Arjun.

Cases for loot and theft held in the past were also found to be registered against all the accused at Colonelganj, Vidhnu and Kalyanpur police stations.

THEFT

Unidentified miscreants stole cash and goods worth ₹2.50 lakh from a grocery shop in Chakeri police station area early morning Monday.

The burglars broke open the shutter of the shop to commit the theft. The local police along with forensic experts reached the spot and carried out investigation.

Uttar Pradesh Adarsh Vyapar Mandal's district president Mahesh Verma of Raja Market in Ahirwa (Chakeri) said the miscreants broke open the shutter of the grocery shop of his brother, Saurabh, early Monday morning and stole ₹ 1.50 lakh from the cash box and tins of refined ghee worth ₹1 lakh.

On seeing the broken shutter, the local residents informed Mahesh Verma about the theft and he called the police.

The CCTV footage showed a Bolero stopping in front of the shop at around 3:10 am and three youths alighting from it and committing the theft. Vyapar Mandal office-bearers also reached there and raised questions on police patrolling.

Illicit liquor factory unearthed

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Dehat Kotwali police unearthed an illicit liquor factory of and arrested one accused on Sunday. As per the reports received here, the police had inputs about illicit liquor trade in the area adjacent to Barkachha market. Acting on the information the men in khaki raided the Barkachha Khurd village under Dehat Kotwali police station. At the exact clue when the police reached a garden near Bhonkawa dam they found a burning furnace in a bush and nabbed the culprit identified as Naresh Sonkar, a resident of Naipurva Padara Hanuman village near it who was making the liquor. After arresting Naresh the police recovered 40 litres of liquor, raw material along with pots used for preparing it. The police damaged the furnace and seized the materials found at the spot.

TAX EVASION: Mines officer PK Singh said that if any vehicle was found transporting more than the quantity mentioned in the permit it was to be treated as tax evasion too.

He said that during checking seven vehicles were found violating the rules and were handed over to Adalhaat, Chunar, Ahraura, Kachhawaan and Katra Kotwali police. He said that after depositing a fine of ₹4,00,000 these vehicles could be released on the order of the DM.

Strengthen beat system, SOs told

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel and Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Singh jointly held the crime control meeting and Sainik Sammelan on Sunday. The meeting started with hearing the problems of police personnel who had gathered from each branch of the police and the officials concerned were directed to redress the grievances within the deadline.

DM Sushil Kumar Patel and SP Ajay Singh holding the crime control meeting at Police Lines in Mirzapur on Sunday Pioneer

The officials concerned were directed to mend their ways and told no any matter should be brought to the Sainik Sammelan if it could be disposed of by the authorities concerned. Harassment would be treated as a matter of punishment, the SP added. During the review of crime the cops were directed to follow the precautions as per guidelines and take preventive measures strictly. The officers were of the view that despite the unlock precautions were the need of the hour and violation of guidelines was not acceptable at all. The cops were directed to comply with the court orders without any laxity and the court summons should be served on priority. The cops were directed to get the help of the common people in controlling crime and adopt precautions regarding the Covid-19 positively. Reviewing the other points the cops were directed to pursue the court cases effectively. The cops were directed to deal with those involved in land grabbing, illegal mining, cattle smuggling, illicit trade of liquor, road hold-up etc with an iron hand. The cops were directed to keep a close watch on those who were granted bail recently, even those who were involved in crime earlier but at present there were no cases against them, history-sheeters, Top-5 and Top-10 criminals, the gangsters etc. The SOs were directed to keep themselves updated with the activities in their areas, maintain a rapport with ex-servicemen of army as well as police, do regular patrolling in their areas and strengthen the beat system. The meeting was attended by the ADM, ASPs, COs, RI, all the branch heads of the police and SHOs as well as SOs.

MEETING: A meeting of officers was held at Collectorate to review the departmental progress along with priority points of the Chief Minister. Chairing the meeting District Magistrate Sushil Kumar Patel was informed by the Electricity department officials that ₹8.26 crore was due on Basic Education department, ₹10 crore on Jal Nigam and ₹6 crore on PWD. The DM directed the officials concerned to seek the budget from the headquarters and clear the bills without delay. The DM directed the PWD to complete the ongoing projects, strengthen roads and do the patch repair as per the requirement. The progress in the bridge works was also reviewed. Deputy agriculture officer was directed to ensure that no bogus beneficiary of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi availed the facility and if any one was found the availed money should be recovered. About the cow shelter homes the officer concerned was directed to ensure the ear tagging of each cow and wire fencing should be done at shelter homes if wall fencing was not constructed. Reviewing the progress of health department the DM expressed his discontent over the working and directed to improve it. The Health department was further directed to make available the medicines as per requirements and carry out immunisation. The DSO was directed to allot ration shops to the self-help groups (SHGs) formed under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) scheme prior to Diwali following the norms. During the meeting the schemes like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Khadi Gramodyog Yojna etc were reviewed. Jal Nigam authorities were directed to keep all the hand pumps operational. All departments were directed to achieve the target within stipulated time-frame and were expected to utilise the budget for the financial year timely.

BLOOD DONATION: Inspector General (IG) police Vindhyachal range Piyush Srivastava said that blood donation was a way of saving life so it could not be compared with other donations. These views were expressed by him as the chief guest during a blood donation camp organised by Rotary Club Mirzapur Gaurav on Sunday. Appreciating the initiative of the club the IG appealed to the youth to come forward for such a noble cause which was not harmful for their health at all but it could save the lives of those in need of blood. After inaugurating the camp he extended his best wishes to the club in serving the society. Earlier the IG was accorded a warm welcome by president Ashish Mehrotra and his team. On the occasion the club members donated 21 units of blood. On the other hand, some others got their names registered for donating blood in future as per need. Prominent among those present during the camp were Dr Chandraketu, Dr CB Jaiswal, Dr Anand Kumar Singh, Dr JK Jaiswal, Tasveer Singh Sarna, Deepak Kushwaha along with Rotary members.

Drive to create awareness about Covid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

During the Jan Andalon organised on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in accordance with the instructions of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on Sunday the Public Relations Department through social media like audio/video messages made the people aware about prevention of Covid-19. The objective of this campaign is to motivate the BLW personnel and officers to follow the appropriate behaviour for prevention of Covid-19 such as wearing masks, following social distancing and taking care of hand hygiene. The slogan of this campaign is *'Jab tak dawai nahi tab tak dhilai nahi.'* (No carelessness till a medicine is found). Earlier at BLW under the leadership of ambulance officer of St John's Ambulance Brigade, BR Vishwakarma Dudhnath Prasad, Sarbodh Patel and Rajesh Kumar, the BLW personnel were made aware about Covid-19 pandemic at the entrance of the administrative building and design office.

TRAINING PROGRAMME: A two-day-long disaster management training programme was organised for all doctors and nursing staff working in the Central Hospital, BLW, Varanasi in which under the presidentship of CMO, BLW, Dr Sujit Malik, through lecture series on all aspects of disaster management the technical area of the topic like first aid and CPR were discussed in detail. Additional Chief Medical Superintendent Dr Devesh Kumar with special reference to Covid-19 epidemic gave a lecture on first aid treatment and CPR methods, precautions and protocol. Besides Divisional Medical Officer Dr Vishal Mishra gave a practical training on CPR.

Campaign to promote Indian handicrafts

PNS ■ VARANASI

The Indian handmade carpet industry plays an important role in our economy and provides employment to a vast segment of craftpersons in rural and semi-urban areas and also generates substantial foreign exchange while preserving traditional heritage of the country. The Ministry of Textiles convened a meeting through video conferencing recently. Minister of Textiles, Child and Women Development Smriti Zubin Irani, Secretary (Textiles), Ravi Capoor, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Shantmanu and other senior officials and representatives of all EPCs and trade bodies attended it. CEPC Chairman Siddh Nath Singh, members COA, CEPC, Umesh Kumar Gupta, Abdul Rub, Feroze Waziri, Bodh Raj Malhotra, Husain Jafar Husaini, Satish Wattal, Sanjay Gupta, Shree Ram Maurya and Executive Director, CEPC, Sanjay Kumar, represented the Indian handmade carpet industry in it. Secretary Ravi Capoor welcomed the participants and mentioned that the campaign of Textile Ministry on Handloom Day with the tag line 'Vocal for Local' was a grand success. The ministry decided to run a campaign on the occasion of Diwali to promote Indian handicrafts and carpets which will definitely benefit the poor artisans/ weavers directly, he said. Irani appealed to participants for their wholehearted support with their entire team to make this campaign a success through social media. She requested everyone to purchase items made by Indian manufacturers this Diwali to bring a smile on the faces of poor artisans and weavers. Siddh Nath Singh mentioned that this campaign will help the Indian handmade carpet industry in a big way and appealed to members to give their full support to the campaign and use the opportunity for increasing the share of Indian handmade carpets in the domestic market.

Arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ CHANDAULI

The Sadar Kotwali police on Sunday arrested a criminal carrying a reward of ₹15,000 on his head. He was later identified as Shivkumar Mishra alias Shivam (22), a resident of Masauni village. It is learnt that several criminal cases had been registered against him at Sakaldiha, Balua and Chandauli police stations. Giving details in this connection, Sadar Kotwali incharge Ashok Kumar Mishra said that the police got this success during a campaign launched against the criminals on the instructions of Superintendent of Police. He said that a search for nabbing Shivam Mishra was going for the past many days. He wanted under the Gangster Act and carried a reward of ₹15,000 on his head. He was caught from Kotwali area itself. Besides the Kotwali incharge the team which succeeding in making the arrest comprised constables, Ankit Verma, Pankaj Gond and Deepak Yadav.

Buy local products this Diwali, exhorts Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday appealed to people that along with "vocal for local", they should promote 'local for Diwali' big time and buy local products this festival season. Modi said that celebration of Diwali with local will give a new boost to the economy and advantages to the local artisans.

"I would like to say to the people of Varanasi and all countrymen that promote 'local for Diwali' big time," he said while inaugurating projects for Varanasi via video conferencing. When every person will buy local products with pride, will talk about local products, hail them and will take the message to others that our local products are so good, this message will go far, Modi said.

"Not only local identity will be strengthened, the people who make these local products, their Diwali will also brighten up more. Going for local doesn't mean only purchasing 'diya' but everything you use in Diwali. It will encourage those making them," PM said. While extending festival greetings to people, Modi said, "You are seeing today that along with vocal for local, the mantra of local for Diwali is resonating everywhere." The Prime Minister launched 16 schemes worth Rs 220 crore and informed that the work has already begun on 14 schemes worth Rs 400 crore in his constituency Varanasi.

The projects inaugurated include Sarnath Light and Sound show, upgradation of Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Ramnagar, sewerage related works, infrastructure facilities for protection and conservation of cows, multipurpose seed storehouse, agriculture produce warehouse of 100 MT, IPDS phase 2, a housing complex for players in Sampurnanand Stadium, Varanasi city smart lighting work, along with 105 Anganwadi Kendras and 102 Gau Ashray Kendras. Addressing the event, he said tourism is also a part of the development plan of the city and countryside in Varanasi.

He said this development in itself is an example of how Varanasi has gained the pace of development in every field like cleanliness of River Ganges, health services, road, infrastructure, tourism, electricity, youth, sports, farmer, etc. He announced that renovation of sewage treatment plant project under Ganga Action Plan has been completed.

He listed the infrastructure works carried out in Varanasi like Ghats being decorated, introduction of CNG to reduce pollution, Tourist Plaza at Dashashwamedh Ghat. He said these efforts towards the Ganga are also the resolve for Kashi and the path of new opportunities for Kashi. Gradually, the situation of the ghats here is improving. He said along with the cleanliness and beautification of Ganga Ghats, Sarnath is also getting a new look.

Will hold Tricolour, J&K flag together: Mehbooba

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Even after announcing their participation in the District Development Council (DDC) polls under the banner of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) beginning November 28, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti has not stopped playing "discordant" notes over the issue of restoring special status of the erstwhile State of J&K and the State flag.

In a veiled reference to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Mehbooba on Monday alleged, "Those moving with half pants and where their leader sits do not hoist the tricolour [at their headquarters] and they are giving us lessons on the national flag."

Addressing a press conference before returning to the Kashmir valley, Mehbooba Mufti said, "My father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed picked up the national flag when they were being dismissed as 'insects of filthy drain' and subjected to social boycott".

"We, including the BJP members, have taken an oath that we will affirm our faith in the Constitution of J&K and will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India. First, it was the J&K Constitution and then the sovereignty and integrity of the country. How is it, they cut one finger and leave the other, it is not right," she said.

Asked whether she will hold the tricolour, Mehbooba Mufti said, "I had already replied to that. I have taken an oath of the J&K Constitution when I became the MLA for the first time and I affirm my faith in the Constitution of J&K and uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India — both of which are interlinked. J&K flag and Indian flag, I will hold both these flags together."

Cornering the BJP-led Centre Government over their poor handling of Kashmir affairs after the Abrogation of Article 370 Mehbooba Mufti also alleged the graph of militancy has witnessed a sharp rise in the last one year in J&k. She said the government may claim that the militancy is on the decline but the reality is 10-15 boys from a single village still go missing.

Mamata seeks Modi's intervention to control prices of essential commodities

Asks for restoring State's power

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to urgently intervene to control hoarding, increase supply and to bring down the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities.

Banerjee, who is among the most vocal critics of the BJP-led government at the Centre, also urged the prime minister to restore the states' power to control prices of essential food items, like potato and onion which was "usurped" following the amendments in The Essential Commodities Act.

"In view of the seriousness of the matter, I would urge the Central Government to urgently step in to control hoarding, to increase supply and to bring down the rising prices of essential commodities, as public is facing acute crisis. Otherwise, the power of the state

governments be restored for exercising control over the production, supply, distribution and sale of agricultural commodities," she wrote in her four-page missive to the prime minister.

Banerjee also urged Modi to permit the states "to bring about an appropriate legislation in this regard".

Referring to the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020, the letter said "We (state governments) had raised our serious concerns that these enactments were hurriedly made without adequate thought process or discussion and consultation with the states.

"The adverse impact of these new Central Acts upon the farmers and consumers in terms of availability and prices of essential agricultural commodities is already visible now, as these Acts are against the interests of farmers and consumers," Banerjee wrote.

The Trinamool Congress supremo also mentioned that the amendments in the Essential Commodities Act have removed the cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. These were "seriously encouraging hoarders in hoarding" thereby resulting into price rise and consequent sufferings to the consumers and the common people.

"Moreover, the amendments, have effectively usurped the powers of the state government in facilitating the supply-chain disruptions putting common people to huge discomfort. Only the central government has the power to regulate these agri-products," she wrote to the PM.

Banerjee referred to a similar situation in 2014-15 and said it was effectively control using the authority then vested upon the state governments under the Essential Commodities Act.

"It is unfortunate that without proper planning and developing mechanisms to control hoarding and profiteering, the power of state has been bulldozed," she said. ***PTI***

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि0, लखीमपुर – खीरी

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु अनुभवी निविदाकारों से दो अलग–अलग भागों में निविदाएं ई–टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, विवरण निम्नवत है :– निविदा जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय 17.11.2020, समय 1700 बजे, निविदा के भाग–1 खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 18.11.2020 समय 1100 बजे, 01–निविदा सं0 101/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत विद्युत वितरण खंड द्वितीय (मितौली) लखीमपुर के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र मितौली (ग्रामीण) से निकलने वाली 11 के0वी0 मितौली (ग्रामीण) फीडर पर टेढ़े पोल को सीधा करने, क्रास आर्म को सीधा करने जर्जर लाइन की मरम्मत पोलो की आवश्यकतानुसार ग्राउटिंग करने ढीले तारो को टाइट करने आदि का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2000.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु0 1180.00 मात्र। 02–निविदा स0 102/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत विद्युत वितरण खंड द्वितीय (मितौली) लखीमपुर के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेन्द्र रेवाही से निकले वाली 11 के०वी० रुद्रपुर फीडर पर टेढ़े पोल को सीधा करने, क्रास आर्म को सीधा करने, जर्जर लाइन की मरम्मत, पोलो की आवश्यकतानुसार ग्राउटिंग करने ढीले तारो को टाइट करने आदि का कार्य धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2000.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 03–निविदा सं0 103/वि0वि0मं0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत विद्युत वितरण खंड प्रथम लखीमपुर के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत विद्युत वितरण उपखंड गढी (नवसृजित) कार्यालय संचालन हेतु फर्नीचर, कुर्सी मेज, कम्प्यूटर सिस्टम माय यूपीस, एलईडी एवं सीलिंग फैन आदि की आपुर्ति का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2500.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 04–निविदा स0 104/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत विद्यत वितरण खण्ड प्रथम लखीमपुर के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत खंड कार्यालय हेतु 01 नग कम्प्यूटर माय यूपीस एवं प्रिंटर उपखंड प्रथम हेतु 03 नग प्रिंटर, उपखंड गढ़ी (नवसृजित) कार्यालय हेतु 02 नग अलमारी, 03 नग प्रिंटर एवं मडल कार्यालय हेतु 03 नग अलमारी की आपुर्ति का कार्य, धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2100.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 06–निविदा सं0 105/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत् वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत विद्युत् वितरण खण्ड प्रथम लखीमपुर के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत विद्युत् वितरण उपखंड गढ़ी (नवसृजित) कार्यालय कार्यों के सुचारू सम्पादन हेतु 01 अदद अनुभवी कंप्यूटर ऑपरेटर की आपूर्ति का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रू0 1600.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 06–निविदा स0 106/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत् वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अन्तर्गत विद्युत् वितरण खंड प्रथम लखीमपुर के क्षेत्रान्तर्गत विद्युत वितरण उपखंड गढी (नवसृजित) के उपखंड अधिकारी हेतु 01 अदद डीजल वाहन माय चालक उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2640.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 07–निविदा स0 107/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत् वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर एवं विद्युत के परीक्षण खंड लखीमपुर के उपयोगार्थ ए–4 साइज कागज एवं विभिन्न प्रकार के फाइल कवर की आपूर्ति का कार्य धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2000.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 08–निविदा स0 108/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अंतर्गत विद्युत वितरण खंड प्रथम लखीमपुर के कार्यालय उपखंड कार्यालय एवं ई–सुविधा काउंटरो पर बिल/ डुप्लीकेट बिल/ बिल भुगतान रसीद के उपयोगार्थ ए–4 साइज कागज आपूर्ति का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2000.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 09–निविदा सं0 109/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत् वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अंतर्गत विद्युत् वितरण खंड प्रथम लखीमपुर के क्षेत्राधीन 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र गढ़ी से निकलने वाली 11 के0वी0 7 नंबर फीडर पर टेढ़े पोल को सीधा करने क्रॉस आर्म को सीधा करने जर्जर लाइन की मरम्मत पोलो की आवश्यकतानुसार ग्राउटिंग करने ढीले तारो को सीधा करने का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2000.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 10–निविदा सं0 110/वि0वि0मं0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मण्डल लखीमपुर के अंतर्गत विद्युत वितरण खण्ड प्रथम लखीमपुर के क्षेत्राधीन 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र खीरी टाउन से निकलने वाली 11 के0वी0 क्रमशः सैय्यदबाड़ा एवं खीरी टाउन पर टेढे पोल को सीधा करने क्रॉस आर्म को सीधा करने जर्जर लाइन की मरम्मत पोलो की आवश्यकतानुसार ग्राउटिंग करने, ढीले तारो को सीधा करने का कार्य धरोहर धनराशि रू0 5000.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। 11–निविदा सं0 111/वि0वि0म0ल0/2020–21 विद्युत वितरण मंडल लखीमपुर के अंतर्गत वि0वि0 खंड निंघासन के अंतर्गत विभिन्न उपखंड के क्षेत्रान्तगत 33/11 के0वी0 उपकेंद्रों के कार्यक्षेत्र में लगे 250 व 400 के०वी०ए० की आयल पेकिंग एवं बुशिंग का कार्य। धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2000.00 मात्र। निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रू0 1180.00 मात्र। उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है, जिसे http://etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 07.11.2020 को प्रकाशित किया गया है। निविदा कार्य की कुल मात्रा, निविदा विशिष्टीकरण व अन्य नियम एवं शर्ते ई–निविदा पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बताये निविदा निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा। निर्धारित तिथि के विस्तार तथा शुद्धि पत्र से सम्बन्धित सूचना यदि कोई होगी तो केवल वेबवसाइट पर डाली जाएगी। अतः स्वयं को अपडेट रखने के लिए उपरोक्त वेबसाइट को नियमित देखें।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, वितरण मण्डल लखीमपुर खीरी। पत्रांक–1810, दिनांक–09.11.2020, **"राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"**

Army Major found dead in J&K's Rajouri

Jammu: An Army Major was found dead on Monday under mysterious circumstances inside his camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Police sources said Major Vineet Gullia, Company Commander of 38 Rashtriya Rifles was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside the camp in Dhera Ki Gali in Rajouri district.

"Inquest proceedings under 174 CrPc have been started. A police team rushed to the spot to start investigations into the death", sources said. ***IANS***

NCB raids Arjun Rampal's home

Summons him for questioning on Nov 11

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Continuing their investigations in the much-discussed Bollwyood-drug mafia nexus case, the Narotics Control Bureau (NCB) sleuths on Monday raided Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal's Bandra residence, seized several of his electronic gadgets and summoned him to the NCB headquarters at 11 am November 11.

A day after they raided noted film producer Firoz A. Nadiadwala's residence, seized some drugs and cash of Rs.3.59 lakh and arrested his wife Shabana Saeed and four others, the NCB officials carried out searches at Rampal's residence for seven hours and seized 11 electronic gadgets including a laptop, mobile phones and tablets from there. They also seized some documents from Rampal's residence.

The NCB officials also raided two other places at Khar and Andheri. They also detained a driver working for Rampal and took him to their office for questioning. The driver was let off later in the evening.

"we have asked the actor to appear before us for questioning at 11 am on November 11," a senior NCB official said.

The raid on Rampal's residence should be seen in the context of the arrest of a South African national Agisilaos Demetriades – the brother of Rampal's live-in partner Gabriella Demetriades -- made by the NCB from Lonavala near Pune last month. Agisilaos is alleged to be a part of a larger drug syndicate operating in Bollywood, which is being investigated after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Informed NCB sources said that Agisialos was in touch with Omega Godwin, a Nigerian national who had earlier been arrested for supply of cocaine in Mumbai. During his custodial interrogation, Godwin had named Agisialos. Earlier, ex-Dharma Productions employee Kshitij Prasad had earlier been arrested by the NCB in the in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput's death-related drug case and expanded Bollywood-drug nexus case. Sushant, it may be recalled, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14.

The raid on Rampal's residence came a day after the NCB officials carried out searches at film producer Firoz A. Nadiadwala's residence along Gulmohar Cross Road at Juhu Vile Parle Development (JVPD) Scheme in north-west Mumbai. During the searches, the NCB sleuths seized a total of 717.1 gm of Ganja, 74.1 gm charas and 95.1 gm MD (Commercial Quantity) along with Rs 3,58,610. They also seized 10 gm of Ganja from another accused Wahid Abdul kadir Sheikh @ Sultan.

Man arrested for setting afire minor girl in Ballia

Ballia (UP): A 21-year-old man was arrested for allegedly setting a minor girl on fire in the Dubhar area here, police said on Monday.

He set the girl (15) afire Friday night after she rejected his sexual advances, Station House Officer of Dubhar police station Anil Chandra Tiwari said.

The victim was taken to a hospital in Ballia. However, when her situation turned critical, she was referred to a hospital in Varanasi, he said, adding her condition is now stable.

The girl is a Class 10 student and the accused, who is her neighbour, used to harass her when she went out for coaching, the SHO said, adding the girl's family said she did not inform them about it as the man threatened her that he will set her family members on fire.

The girl's uncle told police that the economic condition of the family was not good and her father worked as labourer, Tiwari said.

He has also requested for monetary help from the administration for the treatment of the victim, the police officer added.

On the complaint of the girl's father, police registered a case against the accused under various sections including 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on Sunday, he said.

After further investigation, sections 354-D (stalking) and 326 (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons and means) of the IPC have been added to the FIR, the SHO said. ***PTI***

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/Con., North Eastern Railway. Gorakhpur invites the following E-works Tenders:
S. No.: 1, **E-Tender No.:** DYCE-Con-G-GKP-03-2020 Dated 01.12.2020, **Name of work:** Construction of Signal building at Kusmhi. Domingarh and Nakha Jungle station in connection with Kusmhi - Gorakhpur Cantt.-Gorakhpur - Domingarh third line and Gorakhpur Nakha Jungle doubling project. **Approximate Value:** ₹ 3,81,45,397.49 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,40,700/- **Cost of Tender Form:**-- **Completion Period:** 06 (Six) Months.
• Bid starting date- on **17.11.2020**
• Last date of submission of above E-Tender up to 15.00 hrs. on **01.12.2020**
• Date of opening of above E-Tender 15.30 hrs on **01.12.2020**
• Detailed tender notice, eligibility, criteria, terms & conditions is available on web site **https://ireps.gov.in**
• In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.

XEN/CON/Survey, Gorakhpur
CPRO/W-132
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
Never travel on roof and foot boards

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०
CIN:U31200UP2003SGC027460

ई–निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरीकर्ता द्वारा विद्युत वितरण मण्डल कन्नौज के अन्तर्गत अनुभवी एवं सक्षम निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा सम्बन्धी पूर्ण सूचना http:etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
1. **08/EDC(KNJ)/2020-21 कार्य का विवरण:** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड कन्नौज में पूर्ण जमा योजना के अन्तर्गत सचिव कृषि उत्पादन मंडी किसान बाजार तिर्वा कन्नौज को 111 केवीए, अधिशाषी अभियन्ता लोक निर्माण विभाग, नसरापुर कन्नौज को 10 कि०वा० एवं मेसर्स पं० सिद्ध गोपाल कृष्ण पूजा प्रोजक्ट इण्डस्ट्रियल ऐरिया मकरन्द नगर कन्नौज को 340 केवीए का संयोजन निर्गत करने हेतु लाइन निर्माण का कार्य। **निविदा शुल्क (धनराशि रु०) जी०एस०टी० अतिरिक्त:** 1000.00 **धरोहर राशि (धनराशि रु०):** 5000.00 **निविदा खुलने की तिथि:** 03.12.20
2. **09/EDC(KNJ)/2020-21 कार्य का विवरण:** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड कन्नौज के अन्तर्गत सोशल मीडिया प्रकोष्ठ के लिये मण्डल कार्यालय में 02 नग कम्प्यूटर मय स्कैनर प्रिन्टर एवं यू०पी०एस० क्रय कराये जाने का कार्य। **निविदा शुल्क (धनराशि रु०) जी०एस०टी० अतिरिक्त:** 1000.00 **धरोहर राशि (धनराशि रु०):** 2000.00 **निविदा खुलने कि तिथि:** 03.12.20। भविष्य में उपरोक्त निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित सूचनायें सिर्फ http:etender.up.nic.in पर ही प्रेषित कि जायेगी अन्य किसी माध्यम से कोई भी सूचना प्रेषित नही की जायेगी। अतः निविदादाताओं से अनुरोध है कि वे उपरोक्त निविदाओं से सम्बन्धित नवीनतम जानकारी के लिये समय–समय पर http:etender.up.nic.in देखना सुनिश्चित करें।

अधी० अभि०, वि०वि०मं०, कन्नौज
1497/वि०वि०मं०(क) दिनांक 07–11–2020
राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें

15th Finance Commission submits FY22-26 report to President

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The 15th Finance Commission led by its Chairman NK Singh here on Monday submitted its report for fiscal years 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind.Commission members Ajay Narayan Jha, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lahiri, and Ramesh Chand, along with panel Secretary Arvind Mehta accompanied the Chairman in the meeting with the President.

Last year, the Commission had submitted its report consisting of recommendations for 2020-21 fiscal, which was accepted by the Union government and tabled in Parliament on January 30, 2020.

As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for the five-year period by October 30.The Commission was asked to give its recommendations on many unique and wide-ranging issues. Apart from the vertical and horizontal tax devolution, local government grants, disaster management grants, the Commission was also asked to examine and recommend performance incentives for states in many areas like power sector, adoption of DBT, solid waste management etc. The panel was also asked to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up and, if so, how such a mechanism could be operationalised. The Commission has sought to address all its ToRs in the latest report, organised in four volumes.

Builder from Panchkula arrested for cheating buyers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has nabbed a 52-year-old builder cum director of a company from Panchkula in Haryana for allegedly cheating buyers by diverting funds for own purpose.

The builder has been identified as Brij Bhushan Gupta, a resident of Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh and director of Primrose Infratech Private Limited.

J&K L-G releases Mata Vaishno Devi Gold, Silver coins

PNS ■ JAMMU

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday released Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gold & Silver coins ahead of Diwali for millions of devotees worldwide.

The innovative step is expected to boost collections in the absence of traditional offerings due to curtailed pilgrim traffic to the cave shrine in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic since March 18, 2020.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said said he is fortunate to have got the opportunity to release Maa Vaishno Devi coins. Maa is worshipped lovingly and showers immense light, blessings and ultimate benediction upon the devotees.

Referring to the coins, the Lt Governor said, few seekers are not able to travel to Vaishno Devi's sunlit peak of mountain at Katra due to Corona Pandemic, so the Shrine Board has decided to make the coins available in Jammu and Delhi as well.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has developed 2g, 5g & 10g Gold and Silver coins of guaranteed purity carrying an impression of the Holy Pindies. The rates of the coins depend on the denomination chosen and the prevailing gold/silver rates. Currently, Silver coin 10gm is available at ₹770.00, Silver coin 5gm for ₹410.00, Gold coin 2gm for ₹11,490.00, Gold coin 5gm for ₹28,150.00 and Gold coin 10 gm for ₹55,880.00.

India likely to experience behavioural change in urban mobility, says Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said that India is likely to experience a behavioural change in urban mobility in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing the 13th Urban Mobility India Conference on the theme 'Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility', he said the future of mobility is about striving towards environment-friendly, integrated, automated and personalised travel on demand.

New advancements, like intelligent transportation systems and traffiic management applications, are in the pipeline for enhanced mobility in major cities, the minister said.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय विभाग खण्ड सिंगरौली (म.प्र.)

नि.आ.सू.क्रं 35 से 45/व.ले.लि./का.यं./लो.स्वा.या./खण्ड/सिंगरौली/2020 दिनांक 03.11.2020

पता– विजय बंधु पेट्रोल पम्प के पास, ई–मेल **eephedsin@gmail.com**

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्न कार्यो हेतु निविदा का आनलाईन वेबसाईट **https://www.mptenders.gov.in** पर आमंत्रित की गई है। आनलाईन निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 13.11.2020 सांय 05:30 बजे तथा निविदा खुलने की तिथि 16.11.2020 समय 15:30 बजे दोपहर है। निविदा में संषोधन की स्थिति में वेबसाईट पर ही संषोधन देखा जा सकेगा। विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना व अन्य जानकारी उक्त वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है।

Name of Work:- Construction of Execution of Retrofitted 09 Nos Piped Water Supply Scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission at Distt. Singrauli based on Tube Well including of electric submersible Motor Pump, cost of all material & labour with successful testing and Commissioning and thereafter Successful trial run 90 days.

S. No	NIT No.	Tender ID	Block	Village	PAC (Rs. In Lakhs)	E-EMD in Rs.	Cost of Tender in Rs.	No. of Calls
1	35	PHED-113051_1	Deosar	Dudhmaniya, Sajapani, And Sarai,	164.72	164720.00	12500.00	1st
2	36	PHED-113052_1	Deosar	Mahuagawn, Nigri And Saraundha,	160.90	160900.00	12500.00	1st
3	37	PHED-113053_1	Deosar	Dhonga, Ujjaini, And Purail	147.41	147410.00	12500.00	1st
4	38	PHED-113173_1	Deosar	Talwa, Puraini, Deoser, Majhauli, Badokhar Jobgarh, Bargawan,	187.80	187800.00	12500.00	1st
5	39	PHED-113174_1	Deosar	Dauadol, Bhaisahud, Shivgarh, Charki, Naya Tola	128.20	128200.00	12500.00	1st
6	40	PHED-113175_1	Deosar	Pipari, Kakarsiha, Itma, Kuchwahi, Katheri, Tingudi	151.55	151550.00	12500.00	1st
7	41	PHED-113176_1	Deosar	Samda, Dhanha, Majauna, Harravirti, Deogawan	137.65	137650.00	12500.00	1st
8	42	PHED-113183_1	Deosar	Sarvo, Judwar, Gadwani, Bamhni, Bodi, Majhgawan	172.79	172790.00	12500.00	1st
9	43	PHED-113184_1	Chitrangi	Korsar, Padri Kala, Odagi, Odani, Vijaypur	127.65	127650.00	12500.00	1st
10	44	PHED-113185_1	Chitrangi	Kharkata, Lotan, Pateri, Semuar, Sakariya	156.73	156730.00	12500.00	1st
11	45	PHED-113186_1	Chitrangi	Naugai, Ratanpurva, Sailwar, Naikahwa, Kulakwar	136.44	136440.00	12500.00	1st

कार्यपालन यंत्री
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
सिंगरौली (म.प्र.)

G-15390/20 **जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नही, तब तक ढिलाई नहीं।**

Assam Rifles may fall within MHA ambit

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Assam Rifles, a Central paramilitary under dual control of the Defence and Home Ministries, may finally be under the exclusive control of the latter as is the case with other paramilitary forces.

The move is likely against the backdrop of a petition before the Delhi High Court that granted 12 weeks' time to the Centre to take the decision to the effect by holding meetings between the stakeholders.

The writ petition was filed by the Assam Rifles Ex Servicemen Welfare Association (All India) before the High Court underscoring the grievance that Assam Rifles, being a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) or paramilitary of the Centre, being under the dual control of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), unlike other CAPFs which are under the control of MHA only and of the prejudices which such dual control results in, to the personnel of Assam Rifles.

"Considering the nature of the controversy, instead of directing counter affidavit to be filed, the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) (Sanjay Jain) appearing for the respondents in the matter was requested to have the matter resolved and from time to time orders have been passed and on a look thereat, it appears that in-principle decision has already been taken that Assam Rifles, like other CAPFs, to fall under the exclusive control of MHA," the Court noted in its recent order.

The final decision, however, has not been taken. The petitioner had sought directions for implementation of the decision, including through judicial order.

On ASG's contention further six months' time is required for taking the decision due to the prevalent Covid-19 situation, the Court noted, "We find the matter to be pending for the last nearly three years. The matter involves servicemen/ex-servicemen and whose interest is not only to be paramount, but is proclaimed from various platforms of the Government, to be paramount. When a decision of such paramountcy is required to be taken, there should be no such delay therein."

However, after hearing the ASG and deferring to his request, the court granted further 12 weeks' time by way of last opportunity, for the decision to be taken.

The court also directed SK Shahi, Joint Secretary (P-II) (CAPFs) in the MHA who is the Nodal Officer for making arrangements and for scheduling meetings for the decision to happen to ensure that the meetings between whosoever are required for the purposes of taking the decision, are held from time to time so as to culminate in a decision, one way or the other, before the next date of hearing.

"We are informed that several persons mentioned below will be required to participate in the said decision making. We accordingly request the Hon'ble Ministers of Home and Defence, the Secretaries, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs, the Chief of Army Staff and the Director General of Assam Rifles, and all other persons involved in the decision making, to cooperate in the decision making within the aforesaid time and in compliance of this order," the Bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Asha Menon noted.

If no decision is taken by the next date, the court directed Shahi to remain present in person on the next date of hearing on December 14.

Plea in SC against Centre's notification demarcating Western Ghats ESA

New Delhi: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the October 2018 draft notification by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change relating to the demarcation of 56,825 sq km as the Western Ghats ecologically sensitive area (ESA). The petition, filed by NGO Karshaka Shabdam, said that through October 2018 draft notification — the area of over 50,000 sq km spread across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu has been demarcated as the Western Ghats ESA.

Challenging the constitutional validity of the draft notification, the plea also sought directions to the Kerala government to not implement the recommendations of the Western Ghats ecologically expert panel, also known as the Gadgil Committee.

The Gadgil Committee had suggested that the entire hill range be declared as an ESA and further classified 142 taluks as Ecologically Sensitive Zones 1, 2, and 3, the plea, which was filed last week, said. The NGO, in its plea, submitted that instead of allowing people to pursue their livelihood as they have over centuries in consonance with nature, the intent of the draft notification seems to disrupt lives and discourage agriculture. *Agencies*

AAP leader seeks suspension of Gurdwara Committee's president

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Jarnail Singh on Monday demanded immediate suspension of Manjinder Singh Sirsa from the post of the president of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) after the Delhi court ordered the Delhi Police to file an FIR against him for duping money from the committee on the pretext of fake bills on the names of some Delhi-based firms.

Singh said "The previous head of the committee was also charged with corruption. I would like to say to Sukhbir Singh Badal, they should suspend Sirsa from the position of the head of DSGMC and from the party if they have some faith left in the Guru. We do not expect much from Badal , as he has been named in many cases of fraud in the past. However, by removing Sirsa, he can give a message to the people that he still has faith in the Guru."

Addressing the media, Singh said, "In the last few years, we have seen that the results of the DSGMC are decided only through a few votes. I would like to request the community to vote sensibly in the committee elections so the management of the DSGMC can be handed over to responsible people, schools that are on the verge of closing down can start functioning again, hospitals that are deteriorating, all these issues can be resolved.

Singh further said that the firm which has been named in the court order, 'Rising Ball Wedding and Event Planner', is the same firm that hosts parties in the official residence of Sukhbir Singh Badal. He said, "Before this firm came into the picture, any work that was previously done in Rs 25 to 26 lakhs, is now done for Rs 70 lakhs. This is the firm for which fake bills have been approved by Sirsa. Sukhbir Badal should either accept that he was involved in the fraud or prove that he waa sorry and suspending Manjinder from all his duties."

Covid-19: 10 States continue to contribute 79%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Covid-19 cases remained below the 50,000 mark for the second day on Monday, but the fact that 10 States continue to contribute 79 per cent of the new infection remains a cause of concern.

National Capital Delhi topped the list, also its highest tally so far, with 7,745 new cases overtaking Maharashtra (5,585) and Kerala (5,440) in the process.

Worried at the rise in cases, particularly in some districts, the Centre on Monday asked the States to increase testing and improve medical facilities to curb deaths and cases.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, held a meeting to review Covid-19 situation in States, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana and Kerala. He asked the officials to focus on test, detect and treatment strategy to combat the disease.

According to the Union Health Ministry, India reported 45,903 new cases of the novel coronavirus infection in the last 24 hours. The caseload in the country now stands at 85,53,657. With 490 new deaths, the death toll in the country mounted to 1,26,611. There are a total of 5,09,673 active cases after a decrease of 2,992 cases in the last 24 hours. A total of 79,17,373 have cured from the disease, while 48,405 people have been discharged in the last 24 hours, said the Ministry.

It said, the trend of recoveries outnumbering new cases has continued for the 37th Day with 48,405 cases recovering in the last 24 hours.

This trend has continued to shrink the active caseload of India which is presently 5.09 lakh. With a manageable contribution of 5.95 per cent of India's total positive cases, India's active caseload stands at 5,09,673.

The Ministry pointed out that 79 per cent of the new recovered cases were observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs. Maharashtra has reported the maximum number of single day recoveries with 8,232 newly recovered cases. 6,853 people recovered in Kerala followed by 6,069 in Delhi.

490 case fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours. Fatalities have continued to decrease with less than 500 fatalities reported in the last 24 hours.

Of these 490 new deaths, ten States/UTs account for nearly 81 per cent. More than a quarter (25.51 per cent) of mortalities reported in the last 24 hours is from Maharashtra with 125 fatalities. Delhi and West Bengal follows with 77 and 59 new deaths, respectively.

Active cases drop in Central paramilitary forces

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central paramilitary forces have recorded a drastic drop in the number of Covid-19 active cases in their ranks with just 2,351 patients under treatment for the pandemic out of a total of 45,598 who contracted the viral infection. A significant 43,072 patients have recovered from the clutches of novel coronavirus. The Central Industrial Security Force tops the list with the most number of active cases which is presently 869. The paramilitary has recorded a total of 8,835 cases of which 7,930 patients have recovered.

The CRPF with 472 cases follows the CISF in terms of number of active cases. The CRPF has recorded 13,502 Covid-19 cases out of which 12,961 patients have recovered.

Likewise, there are 357 active cases in the BSF out a total of 13,067 personnel who were hit by the disease. 12,667 personnel have recovered from the infection in the BSF ranks.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police has 341 active cases of a total of 4,377 personnel who contracted the disease and 4,024 staffers recuperated from the infection. The Sasahstra Seema Bal has 269 active cases out of a total case count of 4,906 cases and the remaining have recovered from the illness.

Chhattisgarh transforms cow dung sellers' lives

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Godhan Nyay Yojana has generated a sense of enthusiasm among the villagers and online payment of Rs 8.97 crore has been initiated to the cow dung sellers in Chhattisgarh. Rs 47.38 crore payment has been made to the dung vendors till now, transforming cow dung into gold.

The inspiring story of a landless cow herder, Tirath, who used the golden opportunity of Godhan Nyay Yojna efficiently to sell cow dung, and with the collected sum, he chose to gift gold for wife's mangalsutra and bought new clothes for his kids, to shine bright amid the festive season.

Whoever thought that cow dung would become a major source of income for families or a tool for providing employment? Who could imagine, that something as simply available and negligible as cow dung, could transform itself into the ferocious wheels of rural livelihood? Godhan Nyaya Yojana, launched on 20th July 2020, on the auspicious occasion of Hareli, aims at the promotion of organic farming and creation of new employment opportunities at rural and urban levels. Cow Dung is being purchased from the villagers and cow dung collectors, presently from 5454 Gauthans at the cost of 2 rupees per kg.

To refuel the engine of rural development in the state, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel made an online payment of Rs 8.97 crore Rs, for the cow dung purchased from 77 thousand 592 villagers and cow herders in Gauthans, from October 20th to November 5. Payment of 47.38 crore Rs has been made to the dung vendors of the state, so far within the scheme.3677 Gauthans of the state are engaged in the selling of cow dung.

So far, 23,68, 900 quintals of cow dung have been purchased. Vermicompost is being prepared by the self-help groups and sold at the rate of Rs 8 per kg, under the scheme. It is launched as the 'Gaudhan Vermi Compost'. To promote the production of vermicompost, ditches are being rapidly constructed in Gauthans, with more than 44 thousand ditches being fully built, while 16 thousand ditches are under construction. More than 8 thousand quintal vermicompost manure has been produced in the Gauthans.

Since the initiation of the Godhan Nyaya Yojana, many beneficiaries have registered themselves in the district with 1,84,899 registered and 88,810 benefited cattlemen in the state. They are receiving payment in their account directly by selling cow dung. With Diwali around the corner, villagers have received their gifts in the form of payment.

The festive enthusiasm and faces lit with joy among the villages create an immediate sense of euphoria.

10 ways to detoxify Delhi-NCR

Newly-formed Commission for Air Quality Management calls for enforcing existing laws, issues SOPs as blanket of smog over the region thickens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the blanket of smog over Delhi-NCR thickened on Monday, reducing visibility at many places to just 600 metres, the newly-formed Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) enlisted ten measures, including the need for enforcing existing laws, directions and standard operating procedures to minimise air pollution on an emergency basis.

Recently formed to monitor and manage air quality of the National Capital Region and adjoining areas, the CAQM held a review meeting on Monday and asked the public to minimise use of personal transport, to work from home and restrict travel unless absolutely necessary.

Air quality in the national Capital and the adjoining NCR cities was recorded in the "severe" category with calm wind speed exacerbating the effect of stubble burning.

The panel also called for encouraging "coal-using industries in NCR to minimise the use of coal in the coming months". It called for strict implementation of extant rules, court and tribunal orders regarding stubble burning and use of firecrackers and encouraging industries in NCR to minimise the use of coal in the coming months.

"Future action will necessitate consultation with various stakeholders. However, at this stage, the commission stresses on the need to strictly enforce existing laws, rules, guidelines, directions and standard operating procedures to minimise air pollution on an emergency basis," the CAQM said.

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO ANTI-POLLUTION DEBATE

- Minimise use of personalised transport to the extent possible
- Restrict travel unless absolutely essential
- Encourage work from home
- Strict enforcement of laws and rules regarding dust control measures including at construction sites
- Strict enforcement to prevent burning of municipal solid waste and biomass
- Intensify water sprinkling particularly in dust prone areas
- Use of anti-smog guns at pollution hotspots especially at construction sites
- Strict implementation of extant rules, courts and tribunal orders regarding stubble burning and firecrackers
- Seek co-operation from civil society and public-spirited citizens to report air pollution incidents on the Sameer App
- Encourage coal using industries in NCR to minimise the use of coal in the coming months

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

The panel was of the view that active public involvement was "critical in the abatement of air pollution" and sought co-operation from civil society to report air pollution incidents on the Sameer App of the Central Pollution Control Board.

Major immediate measures suggested by the CAQM include strict enforcement of laws and rules regarding dust control measures, including at construction sites, and burning of municipal solid waste and biomass.

It suggested the implementing agencies to intensify water sprinkling, particularly in dust-prone areas, and use anti-smog guns at pollution hotspots, especially at construction sites.

Ajay Mathur, head of TERI, one of the non-Government members on the commission, said, "One of the key expectations of the commission is the ability of different States to come to an agreement to accept and implement the actions decided."

A man rides a cyle amid low visibility due to smog in New Delhi on Monday

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

Delhi's air quality index (AQI) stood at 477 on Monday, the highest since November 3 last year when it was 494, according to Central Pollution Control Board data. Its 24-hour average AQI was 416 on Sunday, 427 on Saturday, 406 on Friday and 450 on Thursday.

Faridabad (456), Ghaziabad (482), Noida (477), Greater Noida (478) and Gurgaon (482) too recorded "severe" air quality.

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

Gurugram police cracks 50 gangs, recovers ₹1.27 crore goods so far

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram police in the first 10 months of the year have dismantled around 50 gangs involved in several organised crimes.

According to the police these gangs were specialized in murder, vehicle lifting, robbery, snatching and theft cops have also made a recoveries of around Rs 1.27 crores from their possessions.

Police have arrested 125 members of various gangs and detected around 212 cases. Out of the 50 gangs, 18 gangs were involved in vehicle lifting and police have recovered around Rs 46 lakh from their possessions.

From the starting of the year multiple crime branch units of the Gurugram police started to keep an eye on these gangs and with joint efforts of the police station teams and crime branch units these gangs were nabbed.

"The cracking of so many gangs will surely help in curbing crime volume in Gurugram. This is a routine process and teams of crime branch will keep on tracking the bursting of such gangs," said ACP (crime) Preet Pal Sangwan.

According to senior police officials they had prepared a list of 40 wanted criminals of the Gurugram district and majority of them have been behind the bars.

Notably, The Gurugram police had arrested one of the most wanted gangsters Kaushal in the previous year and since then multiple members of Kaushal's gang were arrested. According to police many criminals from adjoining states are also active in the region.

"As the Indian Premier League (IPL) is going, the city police have also busted several punters and gang members who were actively involved in IPL betting," said officer, adding that till now they have managed to nab 40 people engaged in betting.

Apart from these the crime branch units have also managed to arrest more than ten members of the Sube gang after an encounter.

Recently the police had nabbed two members of the Sube gang in which two police personnel had also received bullet injuries. In this incident police had recovered huge firearms from their possession.

Furthermore, the police have managed to bust 18 gangs of vehicles lifted in this year and arrested 39 of its members. Similarly around 10 gangs involved in theft were busted and 23 of its members were nabbed. Nine gangs engaged in snatching were also busted and 22 of its members were arrested.

'Worries can block will to follow Covid norms'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As if financial uncertainties and fears of job losses being faced by workers due to the pandemic were not enough, US researchers now claim that such worries can also lead to less inclination to follow Covid-19 guidelines, upping the risk factors for them. A study published in the Journal of Applied Psychology suggests that measures such as physical distancing, limiting trips from home and washing hands, are less likely to be followed by workers experiencing job and financial insecurity.

A scarcity mindset can play a role in how well people are able to focus on responding to the pandemic, it maintained.

Cong high command sends 2 observers to Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA

In order to save the party from any possible split as also to take quick decisions in case of a hung Assembly scenario, the Congress high command has sent two observers to Patna ahead of the counting of votes for the Bihar elections 2020 as per schedule on Tuesday. AICC said the observers sent by the Congress to Bihar are Randeep Surjewala and Avinash Pandey. They will be in Patna during the counting process. "They will also decide the Congress' stand in the state after consulting the central leadership following the declaration of the results on Tuesday," said an AICC functionary.

The Congress has become active in the wake of exit polls predicting a close fight between the ruling NDA led by the JDU-BJP combine and the RJD-led Grand Alliance. The Grand Alliance had announced before the elections that if RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav comes to power, he will be the Chief Minister.

However, according to some exit polls, if the predictions of a hung state assembly prove to be correct, then the central leadership and voting observers will have an important role in deciding the party's stance. Furthermore, if the results are in favour of the Grand Alliance as a whole, the election observers will play a key role in deciding the role of the Congress in a future Bihar government led by Tejashwi Yadav.

"The Congress has learned from its past mistakes, where the delay in sending election observers in some states gave the BJP a chance to form the government. For example, the role of Election Supervisor Digvijay Singh was criticised at the time of the declaration of the Goa state assembly elections in 2017, as he allegedly took a lot of time to talk to Congress colleagues and other independents," said the AICC functionary.

This had handed BJP the opportunity to form a government despite winning fewer seats than the Congress.

"Be it MP, Goa, Manipur, Karnataka or any other state, BJP runs series of horse-trading to come to power. Confident there'll be no such situation in Bihar. Situation on ground will be clear tomorrow and Mahagathbandhan will form the government with a thumping majority," Pandey said.

"They (NDA) may try as much as they want but won't be able to poach any Congress or Mahagathbandhan MLA. All our elected representatives know their responsibilities and want to give something good to people of Bihar. I don't think any MLA of Mahagathbandhan will get lured. In their last tenure, Nitish ji & BJP made several attempts (of horse-trading)," he added.

The third and final phase of the Bihar state assembly elections concluded on Saturday, with several pollsters and media channels releasing their exit polls. According to most exit polls, the Grand Alliance led by RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav is expected to outperform the ruling JDU-BJP combine with a clear majority.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Battle for Bengal

With Shah's whirlwind tour and the State chief's aggressive rhetoric, the BJP is desperate to win a State that is worrying it still

The BJP is desperate about Bengal for more than one reason. First, it sees it as a liberal and intellectual outpost that has been its ideological polarity, and having made significant inroads in the last Lok Sabha election, it now wants the glory of a conquest. Second, along with Odisha, Bengal has been a vanguard of the East that has so far resisted the "One India" swamp. Third, the BJP wants to prove that when it comes to poll arithmetic, it has a winnable formula, one that can even override the cultural opposition to it. Finally, it wants to decimate the only leader who has stood up to its power duo of Modi-Shah on equal terms and has the fire power to take on the BJP juggernaut — Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. While the BJP's hunger to chase Mission Bengal and the concomitant rhetoric and war cry are understandable, does it have to plummet to the depths of threatening violence? That's what State BJP chief Dilip Ghosh seems to suggest with his crass remark that those opposing a fair verdict or intimidating voters would find themselves either with broken bones or at the crematorium. Yes, each political party has institutionalised muscle power since the Left rule, with the State BJP not immune to it either, and mischief-making recruits have been changing camps according to the trade winds. But this is not just an obnoxious scare tactic aimed at TMC cadres, thick-skinned as they have been in the face of Left intimidation over the years, or an attempt to bolster the party's agenda of fighting lawlessness in the State. It is a bone-chilling warning to every voter, decided or undecided, that there would be consequences and that it would be safe to side with the Central party. Ghosh's statements almost confirm the certainty of a bloodbath and only prove the restlessness of the BJP which still cannot discount the popular appeal of Mamata and her carpet-bombing of Bengal's emotions. Ghosh may have been allowed his rabble-rousing ways because the BJP is having to work the ground despite a favourable tide in the Lok Sabha polls. And by claiming victimhood in a "reign of terror" early on in the campaign, it is justifying the need for violence as defence as part of its propaganda. For its house is not quite in order. That's why Home Minister Amit Shah made Bengal his first stop after his COVID recovery. There is internal dissension between the original BJP cadres and TMC rebel imports over the quantum of importance that each should get. While the original party workers are gung-ho about a Centrist push to the campaign, the turncoats are wary of Bengal's anti-Right ethos and are not being able to commit to the party's hegemonic planks. This is one of the reasons why Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to inaugurate a Durga Puja and prize Bengal's religious tradition despite carrying the aura of having concretised the Ram temple at Ayodhya. Shah's visit was intended to bridge these differences and fight unitedly because, unlike the Congress and other Opposition parties, the TMC is a closely knit, cadre-based party. The BJP is pitching its campaign on the TMC's "politicisation of institutions", particularly the police, but that is yet to cut ice given the record of its own autocratic methods in States it already governs. Its minority appeasement plank against Mamata and critique on COVID management have been blunted by the Bengal leader's new-found maturity in matters religious, her smooth conduct of the Durga Puja and arresting the pandemic spiral better than projected scenarios. Besides, after years of nurturing and solidifying its votebase in North Bengal, and investing its lot with the Gorkhaland movement, the BJP lost its key man and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader Bimal Gurung as he jumped ship and declared support to Mamata. Though the party may try to play down his exit, the fact is the Gorkha voter will listen to Gurung in the end.

With such hurdles cropping up just six months before the elections, Shah, therefore, has come down to mathematical certainty and is working on consolidating the tribal and Dalit vote in the State. This is necessary to hold voters from 2019, who had given the BJP commanding position in 143 of the 294 Assembly seats. With his lunch diplomacy at a tribal home, Shah laid the ground rule for BJP's roadmap to transfer votes in its favour. Bengal's Dalit population stands at 1.85 crore, of which 80 lakh are Matuas, who are settlers and have a sizeable influence in Assembly seats in border districts. And although they threw in their lot with the BJP last year, they feel short-changed by it on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register for Citizens (NRC), none of which helps their refugee status. The CAA has no provision for citizenship to those who didn't apply to Foreigners Regional Registration Offices upon their arrival in India. Even the NRC demands pre-1948 legacy documents to prove their domicile status. In contrast, Mamata has moved in fast, granting land rights unconditionally to refugee families. She further allotted ₹10 crore and ₹5 crore grant for the Matua Development Board and Namashudra Development Board respectively. She even fast forwarded the process of issuing caste certificates to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backwards to two weeks. The trouble is Mamata is getting increasingly caught up in a reactive game with the BJP when she could do well to highlight some of her own big ticket achievements rather than holding off her rival with tit-for-tat. For she has to answer for her development story and battle anti-incumbency. That response has to be louder than the noise the BJP wants to deafen her with.

Breaking the glass barrier

Kamala Harris has the next four years to prove herself worthy of the top job in the United States

Comedian Julia Louis-Dreyfus, the star of the extremely popular television comedy *Seinfeld* as well as the show *Veep,* where she portrays a sidelined US Vice-President, tweeted that the "Madame Vice-President" was not a fictional one anymore as the Joseph Biden Jr-Kamal Harris ticket has, according to the US media, won the presidential elections, even though incumbent Donald Trump is not conceding defeat just yet. So, on January 20, 2021, Kamala Harris will take the oath as the 49th Vice-President of the US, breaking not just a barrier for women but also for Americans of colour, being the child of a Jamaican father and a Tamilian mother. We do not know what sort of Vice-President she will be. In years past, we have seen some like George Bush Senior and Karl Rove effectively run the show for their leaders, but over the years, many have been completely sidelined by their Presidents. Famously, when Harry Truman ascended to the top job in 1944 after the death of Franklin Roosevelt, he had no clue of most of America's strategic initiatives in World War II, including the Manhattan Project that was developing the atomic bomb. Truman was the man who unleashed the power of the weapon on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. One can assume that Harris might have a greater role than the "typical" Vice-President but as the Democratic establishment chooses the next Cabinet, what that role will be remains to be seen. However, given early indications of Biden's declining mental acuity evident in some of his speeches and certain to be a favourite of America's acerbic late-night television hosts, the next four years could be an audition for the top job for Harris herself.

Make no mistake, the 2020 US presidential election was mighty close and when the last votes are counted and certified, Biden would have won the overall popular vote substantially. But Trump also increased the number of votes he got. In addition, he just about lost Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania. So unless Biden can get the virus under control, revive the economy and keep China in check, there is no certainty that Biden or Harris will win the next election. In India, we are celebrating that one of our own, sort of, is in a position of power, but Harris' first job is repairing a deeply divided US. That won't be easy, but if she can add a healing touch, she might make a run for the top job sooner rather than later.

Sore losers in democracy

Eschew dangerous passions, inflammatory expressions and erosion of the constitutional spirit as these unleash an authoritarian streak of 'muscular politics'

BHOPINDER **SINGH**

1801 is a landmark year in the proud traditions of American democracy. It was the first time a political party handed over power to its rival and marked the first peaceful transfer — an important precedent in the global experiment with democracy. The second US President John Adams made way for Thomas Jefferson and slipped out of the then still-under-construction White House in the wee hours of the morning. The run-up to the elections had witnessed a bitterly polarised campaign that played out in the partisan Press, and Adams had controversially made key judicial appointments before the elections, just as Donald Trump had done. While Adams did not show grace in attending his successor's inauguration, the subsequent traditions that evolved institutionalised the civility and formality of procedures pertaining to the transfer of power.

In the 2016 US presidential elections, the shocking defeat of Hillary Clinton, despite having three million more popular votes than her rival Donald Trump, upheld those democratic tenets when she graciously accepted in her concessional speech that "Donald Trump is going to be our President. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead. Our constitutional democracy enshrines the peaceful transfer of power. We don't just respect that. We cherish it. It also enshrines the rule of law; the principle we are all equal in rights and dignity; freedom of worship and expression." Despite Trump's extremely personal, vile and often false accusations against his predecessor, Barack Obama, and his previous presidential rival, Hillary Clinton, both dignified the American dream and the institution of democracy by attending and abiding by all the transfer procedural formalities.

The founding father of the American democracy, who adopted and ratified its hallowed Constitution, George Washington, had sensed the inherent dangers of a roguish individual or party, who could potentially diminish the cherished democratic values. He had warned, "However, (political parties) may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of Government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion." One such looming danger today is the unprecedented digging in the heels by Trump, who seemingly has thrown caution to the winds and refused to accept the electoral verdict, with the expected behaviour of a defeated candidate in a participative democracy. Anarchical portents loom and Trump, who has the dubious distinction of making at least 20,000 recorded lies in his presidential tenure, has inelegantly put his personal vanity and incorrigibility over the desideratum of democracy.

Trump's toxic rhetoric preceding his electoral defeat had a definite pattern that clearly suggested that he was not going to bow out very easily. Murmurs about Trump rejecting the electoral results over one manufactured reason or the other were building up. What makes the ground situation frightening is the extremely divided, polarised and militant electorate and groups who harbour supremacism, racism and extremism that just need a nudge and wink to explode. The nation is awash with private firearms and "armies" amid societal faultlines that have further opened up with protest rallies and expressions of violence.

> ANARCHICAL PORTENTS LOOM AND TRUMP, WHO HAS THE DUBIOUS DISTINCTION OF MAKING AT LEAST 20,000 RECORDED LIES IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL TENURE, HAS INELEGANTLY PUT HIS PERSONAL VANITY AND INCORRIGIBILITY OVER THE DESIDERATUM OF DEMOCRACY. HIS TOXIC RHETORIC HAD SUGGESTED HE WAS NOT GOING TO BOW OUT EASILY

The International Crisis Group (ICG), whose purpose is to sound alarm against any foreseen conflict, war or societal unrest, had for the first time looped in the US presidential elections 2020, by noting, "Trump himself has refused to commit to leaving the office peacefully, and suggested that he could lose only if the election was rigged." The second warning issued by the ICG was to avoid projecting a winner until the outcome was certain. Almost on cue, Trump did exactly what was feared — the sore loser claimed that rivals were "stealing" his mandate and he himself had announced his victory prematurely, when he tweeted, "We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election" and later added, "I will be making a statement tonight. A big win."

Veteran Senator Bernie Sanders had prophesied the exact script that Trump was likely to follow knowing that the counting of mail-in ballots would tilt the scales in favour of Joe Biden. Hence Bernie suggested that Trump could say, "Thank you, Americans, for re-electing me. It's all over. Have a good day." However, Trump did say so and much more.

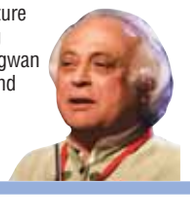
The fact that Trump still managed to retain a substantial, loyal and angry voter base, despite his gross mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic, societal disharmony and after alienating almost all global allies, should concern all democracies about the sticky power of hatred, illiberality and undemocratic propulsions, even in those countries which overtly pride on being called, "democracies." A timely lesson for democratic nations is to eschew dangerous passions, inflammatory expressions and erosion of the constitutional spirit, as these unleash an authoritarian streak of "muscular politics" which might appeal to the basic instincts in the short term but eventually play havoc with the nation, in the long term.

When the national discourse becomes dangerously aggressive, divisive and political parties no longer seek to defeat the "ideas" of opposition but to "destroy" them, the stakes for reciprocal animus and vengeance set in. This attitude ultimately breeds the sort of politics that wants to win at any cost, by hook or by crook. As the Trump saga suggests, the foreboding signals are unmistakable when the supposedly apolitical institutions start getting compromised, political language becomes intolerant and intimidating, or when falsehood becomes normalised and preferred over the more sobering reality. Only time will tell if Trump can ever match his fellow Republican John McCain's brilliant concession speech in 2008, "Tonight, more than any night, I hold in my heart nothing but love for this country and for all its citizens, whether they supported me or Senator Obama, and I wish Godspeed to the man who was my former opponent and will be my President."

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

SOUNDBITE

Prime Minister Modi has waxed eloquent over his love for nature while at the same time taking measures to destroy the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and Mollem National Park.



Congress leader
—Jairam Ramesh

Sunil Chhetri is an icon and a legend in India. He has scored so many international goals, so we always had our eyes on him.

Footballer
—Jamal Bhuyan

I've emphasised, and I emphasise here, the deep respect that we have for Islam. This is the message I carry and will convey when I meet with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar.

French Foreign Minister
—Jean-Yves Le Drian

My alerts to politically motivated public servants have been partially impactful as some are still in defiance, unmindful that such misconduct has serious consequences.

West Bengal Governor
—Jagdeep Dhankhar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bihar exit polls

Sir — Exit polls by major television networks, after the final phase of voting for the Assembly elections in Bihar, which recorded a provisional voter turnout of 56.41 per cent over three phases, predicted that the ruling Janata Dal (United)-BJP alliance, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is losing the battle. On the other hand, the Rashtriya Janata Dal-led Opposition could get a two-third majority. If the exit polls turn out to be accurate, it would be a major setback for the BJP that has already lost Delhi and Jharkhand this year. This would also mean that the BJP's Hindutva-driven campaign and the goodwill that Prime Minister Narendra Modi enjoys among the electorate failed to generate the anticipated response. However, we will know the results today but whichever way they go, what was a colourless poll is now rife with possibilities.

Nihal Raj
Noida

Women power

Sir — Former California Senator Kamala Harris made history on November 7 when she was pronounced the US Vice-President-elect. She is the first woman, the first African-American woman, the first Indian-American and the first Asian-American to be elected to the position. In her first speech after being elected, Harris said: "What I want young women and girls to know is that you are powerful and your voice matters." While this message holds true for women across the globe, it is even more important in the Indian scenario. For Indian women to be powerful and have a voice of their own, their adequate representation in various fields is a must. India has always been underrated in terms of women's representation and this is even more visible in the political framework. The main takeaway from Harris' victory should be the equal representation of women so that we won't just be celebrating the first woman V-P of the US but the end of gender discrimination across the globe.

Ramala Kinnera
Hyderabad

What Joe Biden's victory means for India

After days of uncertainty, Joe Biden finally won the US presidential elections. This will have considerable implications for India as his administration is likely to strengthen India-US ties. Being a Democrat leader, Biden may not be as aggressive as Donald Trump on the China front. However, he has been more critical of Beijing's policies in Xinjiang province and the atrocities against the Uyghurs, its treatment of Taiwan and the way it dealt with Hong Kong protests, which could prove to be more decisive. Also, reversing the stand on Beijing and changing the policy will not be in Washington's favour. Hence, the US will continue to be tough on China. As for trade, negotiations that were under way will have to be reworked. Given that the economy needs to be revived in the wake of COVID-19, the two countries will look at a comprehensive trade deal.

With regard to the strategic front, there will be some relief for India when the Biden Government reviews the Iran nuclear deal. His Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action policy will allow India to continue with the development of the strategic Chabahar port and secure strategic routes to Afghanistan. Also, Biden's decision to join the Paris Agreement will play a great role in the fight against climate change. It remains to be seen how hard he pushes India's candidacy for becoming permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Venu GS
Kollam

Protect children

Sir — In the global compilation of reports of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), India is on top of the list with 11.7 per cent of the total cases. Additionally, during the lockdown period, child abuse has increased by 50 per cent. The findings are a matter of serious concern. Many culprits first befriend the children and then use the relationship to exploit them. Therefore, parents and teachers have a vital role in protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse. Also, merely enacting legislation is not enough, the Government should look into strict enforcement of the law with accountability defined.

MN Musaeed
Mumbai

Restart local trains

Sir — The COVID crisis is real but so is the fact that transport is expensive in Mumbai. In a pandemic-hit economy, people are finding it hard to commute to work. It is time that the State Government restarts local trains in phases with proper health protocols in place.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Trump's legacy a mixed bag

Many analysts point out that though the business magnate-turned-US President is gone, 'Trumpism' will remain at least for some time

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Every world leader leaves behind a legacy. What kind of legacy has US President Donald Trump left? His successor Joe Biden has now inherited some bad and good policies, which he has to tackle. A *Reuter's* report sums up his legacy thus, "Saying that he knew best what ailed America and often governing by executive order, President Donald Trump dismantled or disrupted multilateral pacts, overhauled tax and immigration systems and, with the help of Senate Republicans, reshaped the judiciary. Trump's actions may be undone in many areas over time, but win or lose, his legacy will endure in the federal courts where his conservative lifetime appointees will influence every aspect of American life for decades." The recent poll results have revealed how divisive the US has become. It is currently divided vertically on class, racial, economic, political, urban-rural and gender basis. Trump himself is alleged to be a divisive figure. President-elect Joe Biden has stressed his priority of uniting the country but he will have a huge challenge ahead.

The second is the COVID legacy. No doubt Trump did not create the pandemic but he could have handled it much better. Biden's main issue during the campaign against him was how he ignored the outbreak, as a result of which the US has recorded the maximum number of cases in the world. Linked to the contagion is the shattered US economy. Former President Barack Obama left behind a thriving economy four years ago and even Trump was doing well in the first three years. COVID indeed shattered his dream of retaining his presidency. Had the elections been held last year or a year later, he might have returned to the White House. But today people are suffering from a sagging economy. Then there is the foreign policy, where he has left behind a mess. Though he did not start a war with any country, the US confronted North Korea, Iran and Venezuela. Israel's relations with Arab States demonstrate unprecedented progress but Palestine has been ignored. His hard line on Iran led to an avoidable confrontation. Afghanistan, too, needed a better strategy.

The relationship with China deteriorated the most, raising fears of a new Cold War, especially after Trump called COVID a Chinese virus. He adopted two main strategies for tackling Beijing. The first was cultivating an alliance with India and the second was selling weapons to Taiwan to check the rise of China. India revitalised the Quad, invited Australia to a naval exercise with Japan and the US. Two other important foreign policy legacies were questioning the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and alienating European allies. Despite being a votary of democracy, he also indulged some authoritarian rulers.

Trump has left behind a diminished role for the US in multilateral institutions. He threatened the World Health Organisation by withdrawing the US' contribution. He even threatened the United Nations that the US' contribution would not come if the world body did not reform itself. He terminated important arms control agreements and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Thankfully Biden has already announced that the US would be rejoining the Paris climate accord and restore its primacy in these world bodies.

On trade-related issues, he played the hard-nosed businessman that he was and negotiated hard. He promised to shrink the trade deficit with other countries, particularly China, by introducing new taxes and other hurdles on imports. He challenged the multilateral alliances and the World Trade Organisation's rules. In fact, within the first week of his taking over, Trump quit the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade deal negotiated by Obama. Then, the Trump Administration tightened immigration and reduced refugee admissions and access to asylum. He also made it much more difficult for immigrants from Muslim and African countries to enter the US. Now, Biden has announced a more relaxed immigration regime. Whether this is good for the US in the long run or not, only time will tell. Last but not the least, many analysts point out that though he is gone, "Trumpism" will remain at least for some time. After becoming the President in 2016, he dominated the Grand Old Party (GOP). He finished his rivals in the party and led it without challenge. The Republican establishment is gone but his base will still be there. After all, he managed to get half the country to vote for his party. Though he never delivered his key promises, the GOP base stayed with him. *The New York Times* points out, "Until a new generation of Republicans steps forward, Mr Trump could position himself as the de facto leader of the party, wielding an extraordinary database of information about his supporters that future candidates would love to rent or otherwise access." What would Trump do now that he is defeated? He could return to his family business, set up a foundation, launch a new television network, go on a speaking tour, and write a memoir, which is what most of his predecessors have done. He could also run in the 2024 presidential elections but he is keeping his cards close to his chest.

(*The writer is a senior journalist*)

POINT**COUNTER**POINT

TMC CADRES SHOULD MEND THEIR WAYS IN SIX MONTHS. ELSE, THEIR BONES WILL BE BROKEN AND THEY WILL GO TO HOSPITAL OR CREMATORUIM.
—WEST BENGAL BJP CHIEF
DILIP GHOSH

SUCH STATEMENTS SHOW THAT THE BJP IS TRYING TO UNLEASH A REIGN OF TERROR AND VITIATE THE ATMOSPHERE BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY POLLS.
—TMC MP
SOUGATO ROY

The tragedy of our times

Institutions that were once considered sentinels of individual liberty, fundamental rights and the values that our Constitution has stood for are slowly crumbling

ANURAG **TIWARY**

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, YS Jaganmohan Reddy, recently wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of India, accusing a sitting Supreme Court judge of protecting the interests of the erstwhile Government in the State. He also alleged that the judge had been influencing the roster of a few judges in the High Court (HC) in matters that have political ramifications for his Government. The Governor of Maharashtra, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, in an official letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, accused and mocked him for being "secular." A Minister in the Puducherry Government wrote a letter to Kiran Bedi, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Union Territory, and accused her of having a "vengeful attitude." A month earlier, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Puducherry Chief Minister had issued a contempt of court notice against her. The West Bengal Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, continues to have frequent run-ins with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Mehbooba Mufti, was put under a 14-month-long political detention for "being a threat to the security" of her people before being released recently.

We live in times when 25 elected MLAs, who were part of the Government, defected to the Opposition party in Madhya Pradesh. The Government was overthrown, which led to a by-election, costing the exchequer crores and an obvious political manoeuvring of the mandate given by the people. It is in these times that MLAs from the Opposition party in Punjab launched an overnight protest because the Government did not disclose to them the contents of a Bill that was to be tabled on the floor of the House. A local goon in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, shot dead his political opponent in the presence of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and police officials while a District Magistrate was seen on camera threatening the family of a deceased rape victim in Hathras.

The media, the fourth pillar of democracy, has turned into a cheerleader and has of late been acting as the mouthpiece of the Government. Allegations and counter-allegations among journalists have become the new face of the broadcast media today. Speaking truth to power isn't a badge of honour for most TV media houses anymore and this has led to a loss of credibility. It is also in these times that we were witness to how the TV news industry manufactured myths and spun stories to frame the live-in partner of a dead actor as his murderer. Not just that, it also framed her as an active member of the drug syndicate, a money launderer and as someone who administered poison to him. All this, when the investigation was and is still under way. Each one of us was a party to this in so far as we allowed this to happen right under our noses and hailed this as a great example of journalistic freedom.

The challenge of our times is in the fact that institutions, which were once considered sentinels of individual liberty, fundamental rights and the values that our Constitution has stood for, are slowly crumbling. Whether it is the police, the judiciary, the media, constitutional functionaries such as governors or lieutenant-governors, the Cabinet, bureaucrats and our legislators, on whom the Constitution places an extremely huge amount of trust, lack of credibility is at an all-time high. Such a problem has to be looked at from two different perspectives. One is political and the second is constitutional. The political problem lies in the fact that the scenario today has become highly centralised. All that we care for as voters are personalities and not the issues or the institutions that concern us. We, therefore, don't raise the right questions. Politics has become a personality contest. We continuously hear: This person vs Who? That person vs Who? And the answer to this question, most of the times, decides which way our votes will go. This ensures that our institutions remain weak and unaccountable while power remains increasingly centralised.

> MAINTAINING INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY IS ALL ABOUT EXERCISING CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRAINT, RESPECTING THE RULE OF LAW, NOT ACTING ARBITRARILY OR IN AN UNJUST, UNFAIR AND UNREASONABLE MANNER. IT IS ABOUT NOT ALLOWING POLITICAL OR SOCIAL MORALITY TO BE A FACTOR IN DECISION-MAKING

This has led to the rise of Machiavellian politicians who are master manipulators and rabble-rousers. They focus on the game more than its outcomes, are cool and calculating and for whom winning is everything. Such leaders create an inflated image of themselves, are attention-seekers and are highly charismatic. They are the best leaders who make the worst decisions.

The "presidentialisation" of politics within a democracy started from the US, where one person was shown to embody an abstract idea and then votes were garnered under his name. The Indian Constitution, on the other hand, lays down a different form of Government. Here, we elect our representatives, who in turn, are vested with the responsibility of electing the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister as the case may be. But, for political parties, personality contests make complete sense. This is because, by keeping the entire focus on one larger-than-life individual and spending all resources on him/her, it reduces political mobilisation, citizen participation and political discourse at the local constituency level. We, therefore, end up voting for corrupt leaders with grave criminal records in our respective constituencies. Such is the situation in India today that more than 4,500 cases are pending since decades against our sitting as well as former MPs and MLAs in crimes ranging from serious to heinous offences.

The other justification behind the sad state of our institutions today lies in the Constitution and the way we interpret it. Constitutional interpretation must always flow from constitutional morality, which is essentially a set of duties or norms of behaviour that is expected on the part of individuals who have been given the responsibility of holding constitutional positions. Such individuals need to take this as their obligation to protect democratic institutions from rotting. Such functionaries must act with constitutional objectivity and must uphold the spirit of the Constitution. The Supreme Court, in the National Capital Territory of Delhi vs. the Union of India case, held that constitutional governance must be encouraged wherein "rule of law" is the source of all State actions. This would enhance the trust that our polity lacks today and would give rise to a culture of constitutional idealism.

All that this seemingly complex theory of constitutional morality talks about is the "ability and commitment of constitutional functionaries to arrive at decisions on important issues consensually. That despite all differences, we are a part of a common deliberative enterprise." Partnership and coordination between various institutions would allow for preserving the trust of the people in institutions of democracy.

The instances in Punjab, Puducherry, West Bengal and Maharashtra show that our constitutional functionaries lack constitutional morality.

The father of the Indian Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar, gave a reason for it during the Constituent Assembly debates. He said that, "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realise that our people are yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top dressing on an Indian soil, which is essentially undemocratic." The sad news is that Ambedkar made this statement on November 4, 1948, which remains true even for the India of today.

Maintaining institutional integrity is all about exercising constitutional restraint, respecting the rule of law, not acting arbitrarily or in an unjust, unfair and unreasonable manner and not allowing political or social morality to be a factor in decision-making.

Ambedkar had reiterated that, "However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad if those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. And, however bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot. The working of the Constitution depends on the political parties and the citizens. It is, therefore, futile to pass a judgment on how good the Constitution is without reference to the role which the people and their parties are likely to play in the future." Truly, it is after all, as the first President of India, Rajendra Prasad, stated, "Constitutions are lifeless things. They acquire life because of the men who control and operate them."

(*The writer is from the National Law University, Visakhapatnam*)

Solutions tailored for resilient rural women

Financial services are analogous to safe water, healthcare and education. They are vital to enable people to participate in the benefits of a modern economy

MOIN **QAZI**

Finance is one field where we have witnessed significant innovations in recent decades, and this has transformed our society in many ways. Earlier, we could hardly visualise social change in rural India as it was mired in caste conflicts and was impervious to the winds of change. Before the 1980s, outsiders rarely visited villages. Those who did were the occasional anthropologist, extension staff, social workers and missionaries of various religions. The gradual change in the profile of visitors was the first sign of the embryonic revolution in development finance, which later bloomed into an era of social banking.

It was during this time that bankers started courting villages in large numbers. Their mission was to find trustworthy villagers for providing soft credit to rescue them from moneylenders. This, it was thought, would help villagers start small businesses, promote local economic activities and empower people to climb out of poverty.

The bankers and missionaries, who shared much of the same client pool, were curiously alike in some ways. Usually outsiders to the local community, they tended to discover their own preconceptions in the villages, rather than being able to grasp the local realities and dynamics. Although the missionaries succeeded, the financial revolution was inevitably aborted by populist politicians and local interests. However, soon it became clear that financial inclusion was not just a powerful economic tool but a critical piece in the development ecosystem, and it could no longer be deferred. The Government, too, was keen to lend its full weight.

Committed development organisations, too, saw an opportunity and space and plunged into the field. Among the early bands of development activists who climbed on board was Chetna Sinha, a trained economist. She set up the Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank in 1997 at Mhaswad village in Satara district of western Maharashtra. As many as 1,335 women pooled their savings (₹7.8 lakh) and set up the first bank for and by rural women in India.

An intrepid lady got an opportunity to join this fledgling institution as an assistant and, with sheer commitment, rose to helm it. She is Rekha Kulkarni who is now the bank's most visible face. The bank opened at a time when an institution of this type could not have been thought of even by established bankers. Today it has eight branches, 2,00,000 account holders, 30,000 shareholders and has given out loans to the tune of ₹500 crore. The balance sheet is modest but the model has been applauded by organisations like the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Harvard Business School.

Rekha is the first woman graduate from her village of Shirgaon in Belgaum district in Karnataka. In September 2000, her husband, a retired radar fitter from the Indian Air Force, was struggling to find a stable job. Rekha applied to the Mann Deshi Bank for a job and was hired by Chetna. She turned out to be a great bet. Within six months, she rose to become a branch manager and six years later she became the CEO of the bank. She is part of the faculty at the RBI's College of Agricultural Banking in Pune. She has travelled to Europe and the US to explain the bank's model and spoken at Harvard and Yale.

Both Chetna and Rekha knew that without a safe place to save money, it was hard for the poor to take the calculated risks they needed to take to better their lives. While Chetna went about formulating the larger vision, Rekha and the remaining cohort worked on laying the long-term groundwork for the bank.

Both were assailed by several challenges and the bank was expected to address them. However, the benefits of financial inclusion were becoming clear: Affordable credit could help low income populations to build assets and get a business idea off the ground. Appropriately-designed insurance could equip them to buffer their lives against economic shocks such as unemployment, illnesses and disasters.

Financial services are analogous to safe water, basic healthcare and primary education. They are essential to enable people to participate in the benefits of a modern, market-based economy. Ideal financial societies are those which provide safe and convenient ways for people to navigate their daily financial lives. It was such a society that Mann Deshi bank envisioned for its clients — one that was equitable, adaptable, sustainable and more resilient. The bank had a clear credo: It was not to be a clone of a stereotyped conventional bank, but a bank for poor women to be run by them; and its entire structure was conceptualised accordingly. Mann Deshi considers women as a distinct segment with unique challenges, concerns and goals. So, instead of disguising male-focussed products as gender neutral, the bank created specific products tailored to their specific needs. "We need to study the myriad social and behavioural impediments impacting women, and use this knowledge to design customised financial product offerings. In failing to develop client experiences rooted in men and women's fundamentally-different perspectives on finance, banks are missing a very significant business opportunity," believes Rekha. Women don't have a straight financial journey and have more interruptions and life-stages in their financial lives. Low- income women usually need timely and hassle-free credit to increase their financial prospects. "The greatest fracture facing India is women's inequality", reiterates Rekha. "A majority of women are doing business on roads in cities and villages, selling products in markets but they do not have access to affordable credit. Regular banks aren't typically an option. They have several formalities and fees that can be intimidating. Plus it requires an arduous trek to the nearest town, which can compromise a day's wages. Banks also find this segment unviable because the costs of underwriting and originating these small loans are substantial," she says. Behaviourally, women customers take more time to develop trust in a new product or service. The same holds good for finance and building confidence and trust in them requires more interaction. Rekha felt that her team needed to address the barriers to financial inclusion of women through behavioural and reformist approaches instead of the usual hardware-based one, so that both demand and supply-side were eliminated.

It's not that the barriers are necessarily different for rural and urban women, but the same challenges are greater for rural ones. "We need last-mile banking agents to help mitigate barriers that prevent universal inclusion of women in the formal banking system, such as dependency on male family members for travel," emphasises Rekha. The bank has developed another novel idea that is known as the wealth card, which lists out the client's assets and can also include cattle or machinery, depending on the business. The wealth card is a barometer of the customer's net worth.

Chetna, as the bank's founder, has all along emphasised two very important mantras. The first: Never provide poor solutions to poor people. Second: invest in women. The Mann Deshi Bank was an early embracer of modern financial tools and came up with a slew of sophisticated products and services so that poor women could enjoy the same fruits of financial inclusion as the clients of mainline banks.

As the Mann Deshi team seeks to comprehend the new normal following COVID-19, it faces many unknowns.Will the clients regain their businesses? What will recovery look like? Much is still a question mark. But the greatest hope is the tenacity and resilience of the women. Fragilities and vulnerabilities may be woven into their daily lives, yet they have consistently shown they can cope. Both the bank and the clients hope to bounce back from the pandemic's economic fallout.

(*The writer is a well-known development professional*)

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Sensex, Nifty scale lifetime highs

BIDEN WIN SPARKS GLOBAL RALLY

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian benchmark indices surged to record highs on Monday, mirroring a rally in global markets as investors wagered on improved trade relations and more fiscal stimulus under a Joe Biden presidency in the US.

Rising for the sixth straight session, the BSE Sensex vaulted 704.37 points or 1.68 per cent to close at its lifetime peak of 42,597.43. Intra-day, it touched its all-time high level of 42,645.33.

The previous closing record for the Sensex was 41,952.63, hit on January 14, 2020.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 197.50 points or 1.61 per cent to finish at its all-time high of 12,461.05. It hit its record level of 12,474.05 during the day.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurting 4.95 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, Tata Steel, Titan and HDFC Bank.

Only three index constituents closed in the red -- ITC, Maruti and Bajaj Finserv, slipping up to 0.66 per cent.

World markets marched higher after Biden was declared the winner in the tightly-contested US election, though President Donald Trump has yet to concede the race.

Toning down of trade war rhetoric and a likely sharper focus on combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the US augur well for equities, analysts said.

"Firm global cues and a clear majority to favourite Democratic Party in the US election took main benchmark indices to all time high. The rally in the domestic market was also led by banking and finance stocks on improved business outlook post Q2 results, end to moratorium and bounce back of economic activities.

"Broader market has shown under-performance compared to headline peers as investors feel safer chasing heavyweights during high market levels. We expect more stimulus measures are required to boost the economy and announcements regarding the same from the government is expected in the near future that can further accelerate our domestic market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Rupee slips 7 paise to close at 74.15 against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gave up intra-day gains to settle 7 paise lower at 74.15 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking weaker Asian peers against the greenback.Higher crude oil prices also put pressure on the Indian currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic currency opened higher at 73.95 a dollar and gained further strength to touch a high of 73.83 during the day.

It, however, could not hold on to the gains and finally settled at 74.15 against the greenback, 7 paise lower over its previous close.

Global economy to remain in tenuous position in 2021: Moody's

IANS ■ NEW YORK

Global credit conditions are likely to improve overall in 2021, aided by unprecedented fiscal and monetary policy support in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday. However, the initial, rapid economic rebound is giving way to a patchier, more tenuous recovery, as the pandemic proves hard to contain.

In a new report, Moody's examined six key themes that will shape the credit environment in the year ahead: uneven recovery, policy challenges, rising debt levels, digital transformation, environmental impact and social trends. "The vast policy support from the governments since the start of the crisis will propel a stronger economic recovery in advanced markets than in many emerging markets, and business and operating conditions will continue to be steadier for sectors that have more easily adapted to the pandemic-related disruption," said Moody's Associate Managing Director Elena Duggar. "However, even in countries that have managed to minimize the public health crisis, below-normal external demand and a slow rebound in services sectors will dampen the pace of the recovery."

Debt in the coronavirus downturn and recovery will likely rise faster and further compared to previous recession cycles, Moody's said.

Unlike typical recession periods when the growth of private-sector debt slows, debt growth will accelerate for many sectors through 2021, the research report added.

Festive season gives sequential push to Oct auto retail sales

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's automobile retail sales rose 5.11 per cent in October on a sequential basis, industry data showed on Monday.

However, sales remained in the red on a year-on-year basis.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations data showed that vehicle registration in October rose to 14,13,549 units from 13,44,866 units sold in September. Nevertheless, on a YoY basis, October retail sales declined by 23.99 per cent to 18,59,709 units from 13,44,866 units off-take during the like month of last year.

CCI orders probe against Google for alleged unfair biz ways with respect to Google Pay

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India on Monday ordered a detailed probe against internet giant Google for alleged unfair business practices with respect to Google Pay.

Google Pay is a popular digital wallet platform.

"... The Commission is of the prima facie view that the Opposite Parties have contravened various provisions of Section 4 of the Act... These aspects warrant a detailed investigation," it said in a 39-page order.

The watchdog has ordered a detailed probe by its Director General (DG), which is the investigation arm, for alleged anti-competitive practices with respect to Google Pay.

Section 4 of the Competition Act pertains to abuse of dominant market position.

The Commission is of the prima facie view that the market for apps facilitating payment through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) appears to be a distinct relevant market for the assessment of allegations in the present matter, the order said.

According to the regulator, it is of "the prima facie view that said conduct of Google amounts to imposition of unfair and discriminatory condition, denial of market access for competing apps of Google Pay and leveraging on the part of Google, in terms of different provisions of Section 4(2) of the Act." The probe has been ordered against five entities -- Alphabet Inc, Google LLC, Google Ireland Ltd, Google India Pvt Ltd and Google India Digital Services Pvt Ltd.

'Cane crushing gains omentum; mills produce 4.25 lakh tonne sugar so far'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sugarcane crushing has gained momentum in the 2020-21 marketing season as mills have produced 4.25 lakh tonne of sugar so far, three-times higher than the year-ago period, according to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF). NFCSF Managing Director Prakash Naiknavare also said there is a need to export surplus sugar of 50-60 lakh tonne this season.

NIFTY 50

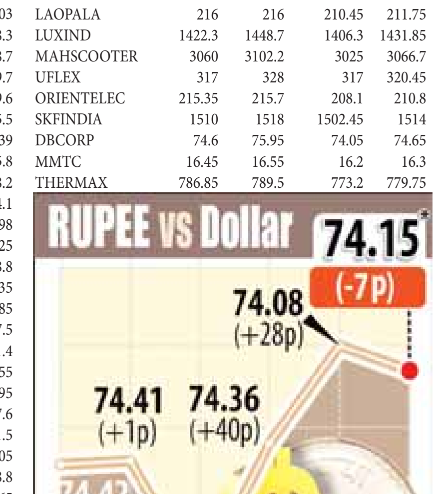
SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	12,399.40	12,474.05	12,367.35	12,461.05	197.5
DIVISLAB	3,415.05	3,463.40	3,345.65	3,412.05	174.8
BHARTIARTL	456.3	474.75	452.55	473	23.1
INDUSINDBK	746.05	780.5	735.05	775.05	36.4
ICICIBANK	450	464.6	449	464.3	21.5
AXISBANK	550	568	548.25	568	26.25
HINDALCO	189.85	195.75	189.3	194.65	6.5
BPCL	368.25	380	365.5	374.85	12.4
SHREECEM	22,280.00	22,737.45	22,059.80	22,737.45	684.4
TECHM	859	877	855.25	877	25.85
HDFCBANK	1,315.20	1,345.95	1,315.20	1,343.00	35.35
NTPC	88.65	89.85	87.7	89.65	2.35
POWERGRID	179.9	184.7	179.1	183.2	4.75
EICHERMOT	2,153.00	2,201.95	2,142.00	2,194.00	54.95
TITAN	1,265.40	1,287.70	1,252.45	1,284.45	30.95
BAJFINANCE	3,810.00	3,878.70	3,786.05	3,874.10	93.35
TATASTEEL	433	439.9	427.4	436.4	9.9
INFY	1,129.30	1,146.00	1,121.15	1,135.10	22.35
NESTLEIND	17,148.00	17,370.00	17,002.00	17,335.00	328.35
HINDUNILVR	2,120.00	2,137.65	2,108.05	2,130.00	35.85
WIPRO	350	352.8	347	351.6	5.85
JSWSTEEL	330	334.2	326.25	331.4	4.95
TATAMOTORS	140.6	141.5	138.7	141.05	2.05
ULTRACEMCO	4,595.00	4,649.90	4,580.00	4,618.80	62.8
RELIANCE	2,062.10	2,069.00	2,036.00	2,051.00	21.85
IOC	80.45	81.45	80.1	81.1	0.85
HCLTECH	866.8	872.8	847.1	858.95	8.85
BRITANNIA	3,548.00	3,570.00	3,513.55	3,549.30	35.75
UPL	426.6	431	424.15	426.6	4.2
GAIL	86.2	86.75	85.65	86.6	0.8
HDFC	2,150.00	2,169.95	2,138.20	2,156.00	17.55
SBILIFE	808	817.85	801.7	807	5.75
TCS	2,731.10	2,744.00	2,695.10	2,726.00	18.55
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,990.00	3,022.00	2,980.00	2,998.00	20.6
ONGC	68.65	68.65	67.8	68.4	0.4
KOTAKBANK	1,730.00	1,751.80	1,700.30	1,727.50	9.45
HDFCLIFE	596	599	587.75	593.8	3.2
ASIANPAINT	2,249.00	2,249.00	2,214.15	2,219.95	10.9
LT	971	974.6	962.4	965.3	4.55
M&M	621	622	610.2	615.8	2.2
HEROMOTOCO	2,970.00	2,989.00	2,930.00	2,955.00	9.55
SUNPHARMA	512.5	518	504.45	510.8	1.65
SBIN	222.5	222.65	217.05	219.6	0.4
COALINDIA	122.9	122.9	120.65	121.85	0.05
BAJAJFINSV	6,350.00	6,439.00	6,257.50	6,280.60	-5.85
GRASIM	797	808.3	789.2	793.25	-1.1
DRREDDY	4,925.00	4,954.00	4,870.00	4,888.90	-14.05
ITC	173.95	177.3	171.85	173	-0.95
MARUTI	6,989.95	7,032.60	6,815.00	6,862.85	-44.75
ADANIPORTS	375	376	366	366.95	-4.15
CIPLA	795.1	804	752.3	767	-22.95

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIgh	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	28,596.15	28,763.90	28,484.45	28,746.00	411.15
ADANITRANS	298.5	313.8	289.5	309.5	17.65
MOTHERSUMI	118	123.65	117.6	123.5	6.45
HDFCAMC	2,400.00	2,518.00	2,398.00	2,505.00	127.75
ADANIGREEN	879	903	866.1	903	43
INDIGO	1,432.00	1,497.50	1,432.00	1,492.00	68.85
LTI	3,204.00	3,290.00	3,200.00	3,286.20	117.95
PNB	27.95	28.9	27.85	28.7	0.95
PETRONET	232.5	240.9	229.6	237.95	7.5
NMDC	91.2	93.55	90.1	93.25	2.85
PFC	97.05	99.1	95.65	98.6	2.9
UBL	950.6	979.75	936	978	27.4
BANDHANBNK	333.65	346.8	333.65	339.75	8.85
DLF	169.9	174.65	169.1	172.3	4.4
GODREJCP	680	692	676.65	686.55	17
PEL	1,358.00	1,388.00	1,334.55	1,377.00	30.75
MCDOWELL-N	549	563.35	544.85	555.95	11.75
BANKBARODA	46.35	47.4	46	46.75	0.95
SIEMENS	1,328.00	1,354.30	1,326.95	1,352.75	22.95
ICICIGI	1,267.00	1,288.80	1,255.25	1,280.00	19.55
MUTHOOTFIN	1,268.10	1,298.00	1,257.00	1,273.80	17.45
CADILAHC	436.1	438.9	429	437.65	5.35
NAUKRI	3,625.00	3,652.00	3,550.00	3,640.00	44.25
HINDPETRO	205.95	209.9	204.1	207.55	2.2
AUROPHARMA	787.95	790	774.5	788.5	8.35
ICICIPRULI	420.25	427	413.65	422	4.3
DMART	2,306.05	2,335.00	2,283.05	2,315.00	20.4
ACC	1,668.10	1,683.00	1,647.00	1,668.90	14.7
OFSS	3,075.00	3,141.75	3,075.00	3,102.45	26.7
TATACONSUM	511	517.85	505.5	508.6	4.4
HINDZINC	225.8	227.75	224.65	226.6	1.95
HAVELLS	828	828.6	808	825.45	6.8
CONCOR	381	383.45	375.25	380.5	2.45
IGL	425	429.4	421.45	424.25	2.6
ALKEM	2,786.05	2,796.60	2,707.00	2,766.00	13.25
AMBUJACEM	249.45	252	247.1	249	1
BAJAJHLDNG	2,445.00	2,463.95	2,411.45	2,436.55	9.65
GICRE	122	122.75	121.4	121.8	0.45
BERGEPAINT	649	655.2	643.5	650.7	1.1
LUPIN	924.8	926.95	905.7	918.4	1.5
COLPAL	1,522.00	1,534.60	1,503.80	1,508.00	0.8
BIOCON	430	430	413.3	414.85	0.05
PGHH	10,260.80	10,364.00	10,223.30	10,250.00	-11.6
PIDILITIND	1,604.00	1,606.00	1,586.65	1,594.80	-1.9
TORNTPHARM	2,570.80	2,581.50	2,533.05	2,551.00	-5.5
DABUR	530	535.95	524.15	525.7	-1.5
INFRATEL	181.75	182	177.5	178.85	-0.65
MARICO	383.9	389.75	377.3	379	-1.5
SBICARD	853	863.95	834.05	837.8	-9.7
BOSCHLTD	11,938.95	11,938.95	11,618.45	11,701.00	-161.75
ABBOTINDIA	16,000.00	16,050.00	15,450.00	15,530.00	-367.8

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
HCLTECH	863	872.7	847.45	855.65
RELIANCE	2058.7	2070	2038.9	2050.3
INDUSINDBK	746.5	780.85	735.3	775.25
ICICIBANK	449.2	464.65	449.15	462.7
HDFCBANK	1311.7	1345.7	1311.7	1340.9
INFY	1125	1145.9	1121.85	1136.2
DIVISLAB	3399.8	3461.8	3348.05	3423.35
ASTRAL	1196.1	1232	1152.5	1200
SBIN	221.15	222.75	217.05	219.5
AXISBANK	544.6	568	544.6	565.1
ITC	173.95	177.2	171.75	172.8
BAJFINANCE	3809	3876	3789.7	3866.6
POWERGRID	180	184.7	179.35	184.05
CIPLA	797	805	752.4	762.6
HINDUNILVR	2105	2136.95	2105	2132.9
VOLTAS	757.1	803	756.5	791.45
TCS	2738.25	2743.8	2695.05	2725.9
IDEA	8.7	8.79	8.55	8.68
TATASTEEL	428	439.8	427.5	437.6
MRF	69888	70222	68597.65	69934.1
MARUTI	7000	7025	6816.05	6869.8
VEDL	94.7	99.1	94.6	98.6
TATAMOTORS	140.35	141.5	138.75	141
HDFCAMC	2395	2517.7	2395	2507.7
LAURUSLABS	279	283.6	260.3	264.3
BANDHANBNK	333.7	346.9	333.35	340.1
BHARTIARTL	459.4	474.75	453	471.9
KOTAKBANK	1722	1751.5	1700.5	1727.45
RBLBANK	195	200.2	193.5	196.9
PVR	1195	1262	1195	1239.1
NTPC	88.55	89.8	87.7	89.5
HINDALCO	189	195.5	189	194.6
ESCORTS	1288	1364.8	1287.9	1355.8
M&MFIN	132	136.45	131.35	135.5
BAJAJFINSV	6320	6440.85	6261.15	6282.45
HDFC	2146	2169.9	2139	2150.95
ADANIGREEN	875	902.9	865.9	897.55
TATACONSUM	510.1	517.5	505.6	509.95
HDFCLIFE	597.8	598.85	587.75	592.9
SRTRANSFIN	848	858.55	826.05	835.7
IBULHSGFIN	154	155.85	150.8	153.3
BANKBARODA	46.05	47.35	46	46.75
GLENMARK	500	500	474.55	481.35
FEDERALBNK	55.75	56.55	54.75	55.7
WIPRO	349.35	352.5	347.25	351.85
LT	970	974.35	962.6	965.5
BPCL	369	379.9	365.4	375.3
LUPIN	925	926.95	906	917.4
ASIANPAINT	2249.6	2249.6	2214	2224.95
DLF	169.75	174.6	169.15	172.75
ASHOKLEY	84	85	82.4	84.35
IDFCFIRSTB	32	33.05	31.7	32.95
VENKYS	1600	1730.75	1600	1659.6
NESTLEIND	17270	17370	16868.45	17315.2
SUNPHARMA	512.2	517.9	504.5	509.95
INDIGO	1423	1496.15	1423	1491.65
COLPAL	1518	1535.05	1505	1508
PNB	27.9	28.9	27.85	28.6
BALKRISIND	1479.25	1501.9	1389	1491.5
DRREDDY	4950	4952	4869.85	4878.15
MFSL	630.25	630.25	615.3	619.4
MUTHOOTFIN	1265	1297.8	1257.35	1276.85
SAIL	38.55	39.1	37.2	37.9
COALINDIA	122.5	122.7	120.65	121.75
REDINGTON	120	126.6	120	123.6
BHEL	27.55	28.4	27.45	28.2
APOLLOTYRE	154.2	158.2	152.75	157.5
HEROMOTOCO	2981	2989.35	2930.05	2953.95
MOTHERSUMI	118	123.7	117.65	123
TECHM	856	877	855.15	872.2
ADANIENT	354	364.6	352	357.55
IPCALAB	2310	2367.9	2196	2264.8
SBICARD	850.1	863.7	834.1	839.25
GODREJPROP	949	968.8	942.65	960.6
SUZLON	2.94	3.1	2.91	3.08
GODREJCP	680	691.8	676.75	687.95
M&M	620	622.55	610.2	616.35
BRITANNIA	3525	3567.95	3521.5	3547.8
CONCOR	381.1	384.1	375.45	380.35
HINDPETRO	205.5	209.9	204.25	207.85
AMBUJACEM	250	251.9	247.15	249.35
BHARATFORG	477.2	500	477.2	495.25
JSWSTEEL	327.2	334.15	326.3	333.25
CADILAHC	437.95	439.1	429	437
COFORGE	2249.8	2337.6	2230	2329.05
SHREECEM	22151	22957.95	22115.35	22790.85
SIEMENS	1330	1353.2	1330	1349.25
MARICO	383.55	389.7	377.35	380.45
TITAN	1265	1287.25	1252.8	1285.05
ZEEL	193.5	196.5	190.2	191.7
PETRONET	231.2	240.8	229.75	238.05
CANBK	92.25	93.7	91.5	92.65
JUSTDIAL	591	621.8	587.7	609.95
DABUR	531	535.85	523.95	527
BIOCON	431.9	431.9	413.55	415.15
ULTRACEMCO	4572	4647.7	4572	4623.55
TATAPOWER	55.5	55.55	54	54.95
PAGEIND	21501.1	22200	21443.6	21987.6
LTI	3175	3290	3175	3280
SRF	4966.9	5100	4934.6	5070.7
DIXON	10100	10250	9699.95	9750.2
BLISSGVS	168.95	169.95	164.15	167.5
APOLLOHOSP	2089	2105	2030	2081.4
BAJAJ-AUTO	2985	3020.5	2980	2999.05
ONGC	68.8	68.8	67.8	68.4
DMART	2299	2335	2285	2324.2
PFC	96.5	99	95.6	98.45
UPL	426	430.9	424.35	426.65
JAMNAAUTO	45.65	46.2	45.5	45.9
L&TFH	68.8	68.9	66.9	67.45
PEL	1345.2	1387	1335	1382.45
ACC	1672	1681.95	1648	1668.75
JINDALSTEL	211.2	214.2	208.8	209.85
SBILIFE	808	817.8	802	808.05
UBL	952	979.5	936.45	974.55
EICHERMOT	2142	2202.7	2141.8	2194.15
JUBLFOOD	2465	2465	2263.6	2334.3
HAVELLS	821	827	808	823.75
MINDTREE	1374.9	1399.15	1355.9	1370.5
MANAPPURAM	164.5	164.5	158.3	159.75
IOC	80.85	81.45	80.1	81.2
AUROPHARMA	790	790	774.05	787.1
ADANIPORTS	373.75	375.4	365.7	366.85
NAUKRI	3618	3649	3551.1	3633.85
TATAELXSI	1560	1573.4	1511.3	1522.35
LICHSGFIN	304	306.6	299.5	304.2
FRETAIL	68.25	69.4	66.6	67.85
RECLTD	109.7	111.6	107.6	109.3
GRASIM	790.2	807.95	789.05	791.8
PIDILITIND	1608.8	1608.8	1586.75	1595.55
AVANTI	495	504.75	495	503.4
DCBBANK	85	89.75	84.2	88.7
AUBANK	785	827.85	779.7	809.15
AMBER	2274.95	2274.95	2155	2183.65
DEEPAKNI	768	782	750.5	777.65
ADANIGAS	244.65	247.4	237	238.6
GMM	3463	3522.25	3316	3472.95
NMDC	90.05	93.5	90.05	93.3
BEL	94.4	94.8	91.8	92.9
CHOLAFIN	309	310	303	305
SUNTV	445.5	445.5	435.35	441.3
PHOENIXLTD	557.6	562.4	554.95	560.8
INFRATEL	180	182.05	177.6	178.6
ADANIPOWER	38.3	38.3	36.85	37.05
DELTACORP	116.15	118	114	115.6
AFFLE	2950	2955.1	2843.95	2939.85
ABFRL	151.5	155.15	150.05	150.8
GRANULES	373.9	387.8	366.05	385.7
ALKYLAMINE	3322	3328.8	3210.25	3266.15
ABCAPITAL	72.1	72.1	69.65	70.3
CYIENT	405.05	425	405.05	419.6
ICICIPRULI	419	426.9	413.7	421.7
JUBILANT	714	714	684	689.7
NAM-INDIA	288.3	293.4	283.5	289.35
RAMCOCEM	850	850	828	838.25
EXIDEIND	166.8	168.25	164.2	166.25
MGL	840	854	838.6	846.3
POLYCAB	926	941.8	920.2	926.45
INDIAMART	5038	5079	4958.1	5017.75
BSOFT	184.95	185.2	178	184
MCX	1735	1746.85	1695	1702.9
ADANITRANS	296	313.4	289.4	308.35
TORNTPHARM	2550	2579.9	2533.45	2548.95
ICICIGI	1270	1288.8	1256	1271.25
TATAMTRDVR	56.8	57.8	56.5	57.45
JBCHEPHARM	1010.8	1053	990	1005.2
STAR	672.5	672.5	635	638.5
JSLHISAR	106	110	104.1	107.15
BATAINDIA	1359	1361	1336	1356.35
CGCL	248	251	241.2	247.7
BERGEPAINT	659	659	643.5	653.2
TATACOMM	1010.05	1030	993.05	1013.2
CAPPL	487	493.5	470	472.2
FINEORG	2474	2495	2418.1	2455.95
CUB	166.75	188.5	166.75	183.8
RAYMOND	285.05	289	282.6	283.95
NAVINFLUOR	2545.05	2545.05	2441.85	2458.8
IGL	422.55	429.1	421.55	422.95
IRCTC	1320	1321.95	1311.1	1312.9
AJANTPHARM	1610	1614.7	1563	1573.4
GAIL	87	87	85.7	86.5
BOSCHLTD	11945	11945	11619.55	11702.2
BANKINDIA	41.7	41.9	40.85	41
CARERATING	409	424.9	382.4	393.85
IDBI	36.3	37.1	36.3	36.8
TORNTPOWER	322.15	323.2	314	315.3
UNIONBANK	25	25.4	24.7	24.9
CSBBANK	259.1	267.35	252	264.25
HAL	707	723.95	699	718.35
TVSMOTOR	484	484	474.75	479.1
AARTIIND	1121	1128.15	1093.7	1116.75
PTC	49	51.4	49	51
SYNGENE	548.5	549.2	531.6	537.05
CHAMBLFERT	164	171.8	163.5	170.6
PARAGMILK	113.95	118.5	110.5	111.85
CUMMINSIND	452	460.45	449.25	457.35
GNFC	208.8	211.3	199.55	200.1
INDIACEM	122.85	123	119.05	119.6
NOCIL	138.05	144.5	137.9	143.35
BAJAJHLDNG	2474	2474	2396	2442.5
NHPC	22	22	21	21.15
INDHOTEL	99.3	100	97.95	99.3
SWANENERGY	140	146	133	133.9
VINATIORGA	1140	1162.9	1122.1	1125.9
RADICO	444.8	448.85	437.65	446.4
INOXLEISUR	265.1	270.5	265	266.9
PERSISTENT	1152.1	1178	1146.7	1160.6
TRENT	675	692	672.3	680.65
STLTECH	147	149.15	145	148.9
HAWKINCOOK	5298.95	5298.95	5180	5257.95
AMARAJABAT	815	815.5	799.55	814.35
SOBHA	290.1	293.55	282.35	287.7
ADVENZYMES	305	319	305	312.55
HIMATSEIDE	121.95	124	120.35	121.2
SUPRAJIT	188	197.05	188	195.8
DALBHARAT	897	923.3	868.5	894.6
MEGH	74.05	77	74.05	75.55
WHIRLPOOL	2096	2115	2070	2091.05
CENTURYTEX	313.7	318.15	312.8	314.25
FCONSUMER	7.1	7.15	6.85	7.06
ASTRAZEN	4303.9	4399	4152	4249.6
DISHTV	11.52	11.7	11.2	11.31
CROMPTON	308.95	314.25	304.45	305.3
J&KBANK	14.84	15.91	14.54	15.6
PCJEWELLER	16.25	16.65	15.85	16.25
FSL	74.9	74.9	73.2	74.1
BOMDYEING	66.5	66.6	64.55	65.1
NATIONALUM	32.7	33.35	32.3	33.2
PGHL	5250	5358	5250	5281.5
LINDEINDIA	891	918.35	879.55	897.3
WOCKPHARMA	295	297	290	290.7
NATCOPHARM	927	945.95	917.3	923.25
WELSPUNIND	65.05	66.55	62.25	62.75
PHILIPCARB	151.1	152.1	148.6	149.5
OBEROIRLTY	437.95	443.95	430.05	436.35
SPICEJET	51.5	51.8	49.25	50
NCC	35.2	35.65	35	35.45
CENTRALBK	11.57	11.79	11.51	11.55
SOUTHBANK	6.55	6.64	6.49	6.59
JKCEMENT	1855	1920	1855	1906.2
TATACHEM	320	320.35	314	317.5
MPHASIS	1354.4	1361.55	1331.8	1336.6
ISEC	455	460	453.85	456.35
HINDZINC	224.1	227.85	224.1	226.45
CREDITACC	678	733.2	665.45	724.8
EMAMILTD	379	380	367	377.9
ALKEM	2799.8	2799.8	2707.1	2770.3
CASTROLIND	112.5	113.55	112	113.1
LALPATHLAB	2301.4	2311	2253.05	2273.4
IDFC	30.05	30.75	29.85	30.2
NBCC	22.9	23.3	22.9	23.05
THYROCARE	1134	1144.85	1114	1133.05
KAJARIACER	572.5	594.75	572.5	593.6
IEX	196	201.5	194.8	196
BAYERCROP	5666.5	5703.9	5546.5	5632.45
ABBOTINDIA	16064.75	16064.75	15452	15535.35
DEEPAKFERT	141.15	142.75	138.8	139.05
APLLTD	995	995	971.5	973.95
SCI	52.55	53.45	50.7	50.9
KTKBANK	43.75	44.4	42.9	44.2
BALRAMCHIN	152	152.5	149	149.8
KANSAINER	522.95	529.2	511.75	526
ABB	939.35	955	938	947.45
BDL	306.6	310	298.5	304.55
IFBIND	720	789.7	708.05	768.6
GARFIBRES	2088	2088	1975	1989.35
CARBORUNIV	294	298.1	288.3	290.5
RAIN	104.05	105	100.6	101.75
WELCORP	100.85	104.2	100.85	103.15
BIRLACORPN	670	682.2	670	675.6
BAJAJCON	185	188.35	182.7	184.9
EQUITAS	44.95	45.7	44.4	45.15
BASF	1500	1519	1481.35	1495.3
HERITGFOOD	281	285.8	257	268.5
VTL	825	875	824.95	870.35
GSFC	66.55	67.05	64.1	64.55
JKLAKSHMI	294	294	288	289.8
VIPIND	290	294.3	288.05	290.5
RVNL	18.3	18.6	18.3	18.45
GRAPHITE	180.5	184.85	179.5	179.7
GUJGAS	316.8	317.1	311.1	313.9
CANFINHOME	472	481.95	465.45	476.3
TATACOFFEE	102.65	103.2	102.1	102.7
FORCEMOT	1075	1085	1045	1070.1
SUMICHEM	280	283.3	275	276.95
REPCOHOME	201	208.9	194	205.75
PFIZER	4944	4944	4890	4917.85
COROMANDEL	778.95	778.95	759.1	762.6
SUNTECK	268	270.1	264	265.25
FDC	339.25	341.05	333	334.75
LTTS	1716.25	1727	1682	1719.3
OFSS	3107	3127.85	3080.15	3096.45
SOMANYCERA	224.2	238.85	224.2	234.55
SUDARSCHEM	442.35	448.5	442.35	447.2
AKZOINDIA	1980	2030	1946.2	2000.7
IOB	9.99	9.99	9.25	9.45
NESCO	502	518.8	502	516.65
HSCL	45.75	47.65	45.45	46.65
UJJIVANSFB	33.7	34	33.05	33.3
VBL	695.5	704	687.3	692.8
OIL	88	88	86.25	86.9
GMRINFRA	24.05	24.3	23.7	24.15
GLAXO	1402.05	1421.75	1402.05	1409.65
COCHINSHIP	338	340	334.35	335.15
JKTYRE	71.9	73	71.65	71.85
EDELWEISS	54.8	55.1	52.9	53.1
DBL	355	358.05	347.85	348.95
CEATLTD	1111.1	1128.35	1111.1	1121.7
KSB	515	515.55	502.45	504.5
UJJIVAN	223.35	231	223.35	229.85
SUPREMEIND	1455.05	1459.25	1430	1434.2
SPARC	172	173.25	171.1	171.95
JYOTHYLAB	136.5	136.5	134.1	135
ITI	127	127	122.6	123.3
JKPAPER	91.85	92	90	90.25
NLCINDIA	49.25	50.2	49.25	49.45
EIHOTEL	77	77.75	76.2	76.95
CHENNPETRO	75	76.2	74.95	75.65
BAJAJELEC	508	509.85	492.55	495.8
CRISIL	2070	2070	1949.65	1973.15
HEG	710	716	700	701.05
JINDALSAW	62.75	63.5	61.3	61.55
ECLERX	712.25	735.5	712.25	729.9
JMFINANCIL	76.4	76.6	74.35	76
RCF	44.1	44.45	43.8	43.9
JAICORPLTD	86.1	86.1	84.1	84.4
JSL	58.7	60.45	58.4	60.05
RITES	242.5	244.35	242	242.95
TIINDIA	714	714	690.35	692.7
KEC	342.95	342.95	335.5	336.25
IBREALEST	48.85	49.55	48.35	48.8
WABAG	184.8	186.45	178	182.85
MINDACORP	68.25	69.6	67.1	68.55
INDIANB	60.05	61.3	60.05	61.05
ENGINERSIN	67.6	67.75	66.65	67.1
LEMONTREE	27.2	28.6	27.2	28.15
HFCL	17	17.2	16.85	16.95
PIIND	2344	2358.9	2311.6	2323.75
INFIBEAM	85.45	85.45	82.05	82.55
BLUESTARCO	660.5	677	660.5	668.45
RELAXO	680.05	708	680.05	700.6
WABCOINDIA	4910.85	4910.85	4800	4816
IRCON	78	79	76.5	78.05
FINOLEXIND	568.45	584.45	568.45	577.65
KRBL	269.95	270.95	251	258.15
KPRMILL	790.95	790.95	775.85	783.5
GODFRYPHLP	882.5	887.2	865.8	883.25
CESC	604.95	605.5	588.8	596.4
ASHOKA	63.35	63.85	62.95	63.6
SHK	89	94.4	88.85	93.9
TATAMETALI	553	553	530.1	536.15
ORIENTCEM	66	66.35	64.45	64.6
VAIBHAVGBL	2018	2050	1946.95	1996.65
KALPATPOWR*	259.85	261.1	255.2	257.7
GODREJAGRO	512	512	495.55	498.5
AEGISLOG	205.05	208.45	202	203
MOTILALOFS	568	575.4	564.2	568.3
RALLIS	245	250	242.95	248.7
PRESTIGE	254	260.1	254	259.7
HONAUT	30649.95	30800	30094.75	30559.6
ATUL	6150	6220	6144.8	6205.5
INTELLECT	239.85	241.75	237.2	239
IIFL	85.85	86.6	85.15	85.8
HATHWAY	27.85	28.35	27.1	28.2
SONATSOFTW	331.9	338.5	330	334.1
IFCI	5.88	6.18	5.7	5.98
GMDCLTD	42.75	43.45	42.5	43.25
FORTIS	130.1	130.1	128.5	128.8
BLUEDART	3780	3784	3720	3750.35
ORIENTREF	199	205	196.6	202.85
APLAPOLLO	3280	3290.9	3254.25	3277.5
DCMSHRIRAM	320.55	327	319.2	321.4
TRIDENT	7.69	7.7	7.5	7.55
PNCINFRA	165.05	166.9	163.05	163.95
TV18BRDCST	28.35	28.35	27.55	27.6
PNBHOUSING	370.1	373	370	371.5
ENDURANCE	1027	1067.8	1027	1056.05
GSPL	194	194	187.5	188.8
GILLETTE	5475	5475	5400	5430.65
HUDCO	31.75	31.95	31.35	31.65
HINDCOPPER	34.7	35.3	34.35	34.9
SIS	379.2	386.1	377.85	383.2
BEML	628	628.55	617.4	620.9
UCOBANK	11.95	11.99	11.67	11.76
TIMKEN	1091.75	1113	1091.75	1100.3
CENTURYPLY	184	187	181.75	185.2
LAXMIMACH	4100	4144.95	4004.2	4038.3
3MINDIA	20300	20451	20162.25	20430.55
DCAL	145.9	146	140.3	142.9
TASTYBIT	10616.65	10650.7	10500	10507.4
ZENSARTECH	187.1	187.45	181.4	184.7
IRB	110	112.65	110	111.45
MAHLOG	382	395	379.45	384.4
GREAVESCOT	68.85	69.4	67.25	69.2
SUNDRMFAST	470	472.8	465.35	467.3
STARCEMENT	87.05	87.45	85.2	86.6
MRPL	27.25	27.7	27.25	27.6
WESTLIFE	375.05	377.15	366.5	367.8
MIDHANI	185.5	187.9	184.95	186
INDOCO	262	262.8	254	255.5
VSTIND	3500	3500	3430	3473.5
TIMETECHNO	39.15	40	38.9	39.7
MOIL	122.8	123.7	121	122.4
VGUARD	174.35	174.35	167.2	167.4
MASFIN	839.9	863.4	815	824.95
QUESS	409.95	412.2	405.2	407.8
ITDC	223.1	228	220	224.3
BBTC	1250	1250	1231	1240.65
GODREJIND	386.6	389.4	378.65	381.3
HEIDELBERG	193.5	194.4	188.5	189.3
VRLLOG	155	159.25	153.65	157.05
GUJALKALI	322.5	322.5	316.75	318.1
ARVINDFASN	125.7	125.7	124.5	124.9
KEI	338.8	338.8	333	334.7
METROPOLIS	1998.65	2008.4	1952.05	1961.3
EIDPARRY	287.25	289	283.7	285.85
SHOPERSTOP	177.05	178	175	175.4
GEPIL	222.5	224.6	220.9	224.6
FINCABLES	285.15	285.15	279.1	279.45
CCL	251	252.45	245.9	249.2
VARROC	284	294	284	290.8
PGHH	10285.05	10348	10217	10228.55
GPPL	91.75	91.8	90.65	91.45
TAKE	41	41.6	40.25	40.65
SANOFI	8315	8354.8	8181	8209.2
NBVENTURES	51.5	51.65	50.65	50.8
SYMPHONY	847.3	853.6	842.5	844.55
PRSMJOHNSN	76	76.35	75.7	75.95
BRIGADE	197.95	200.75	193.95	195.2
DHANUKA	735	736.75	715.05	719.55
SCHNEIDER	68.45	72.65	68.45	69
MAHABANK	11.16	11.3	11.11	11.13
JSWENERGY	60.3	60.65	58.85	59
ZYDUSWELL	1798	1798	1762	1766.85
KPITTECH	97.25	97.85	96.5	96.95
SJVN	22.75	22.75	22.3	22.5
SWSOLAR	221.1	221.85	216.7	218
GALAXYSURF	1767	1785	1757	1771.65
NIACL	103	104	102.3	103
SFL	1349	1349	1280	1290.65
SHANKARA	347	347	317.8	318.8
TVSSRICHAK	1498	1498	1424.2	1435.65
GULFOILLUB	691.6	691.6	670	675.7
GICRE	120.15	122.35	120.15	121.65
JCHAC	2204.7	2245.5	2141.05	2145.45
RAJESHEXPO	460	460	451.05	454.4
VMART	2049.95	2049.95	1948.9	1965.3
MHRIL	184	184	174.25	176.1
EPL	250.15	255.35	250.15	251.85
BALMLAWRIE	101	101.95	100.45	100.5
MAHSEAMLES	241.35	247.85	235	235.95
NH	346.95	346.95	337.85	341.9
GRINDWELL	559.95	559.95	539.35	551.35
GHCL	151.45	152.05	149.15	149.85
POWERINDIA	935.55	946	933.2	944.45
SPANDANA	611.8	611.8	593.2	602.8
GRSE	190.15	194.2	190.15	191.8
GDL	95	98	92.7	95.85
GESHIP	225.8	226.1	221	223.45
MAHINDCIE	142.05	142.15	135.2	138.7
RATNAMANI	1260.1	1286.5	1227	1264.75
ALLCARGO	118.6	120.4	118.1	119.8
CHOLAHLDNG	413.65	415	401.4	412.05
TNPL	103.4	103.4	102	102.3
LAOPALA	216	216	210.45	211.75
LUXIND	1422.3	1448.7	1406.3	1431.85
MAHSCOOTER	3060	3102.2	3025	3066.7
UFLEX	317	328	317	320.45
ORIENTELEC	215.35	215.7	208.1	210.8
SKFINDIA	1510	1518	1502.45	1514
DBCORP	74.6	75.95	74.05	74.65
MMTC	16.45	16.55	16.2	16.3
THERMAX	786.85	789.5	773.2	779.75
MINDAIND	329.25	329.65	322.85	326.95
MAHLIFE	270.05	277.45	270.05	275.25
TTKPRESTIG	5995	6012	5636	5948.25
TATAINVEST	858.8	859.5	850	852.65
ERIS	515.35	520.35	515.35	517.3
TCNSBRANDS	387.3	394.1	387.3	388.8
ASTERDM	137	137	134.3	135.6
FLUOROCHEM	498.7	500.2	479.55	491.25
NILKAMAL	1354.6	1354.6	1344.6	1349.5
KNRCON	252.6	259	249.3	254.65
CERA	2600.05	2834.4	2600.05	2802.15
AAVAS	1444	1475.75	1444	1471.65
SHRIRAMCIT	920	925.8	907.45	914.75
TEAMLEASE	2358.05	2358.05	2305.4	2337.75
IIFLWAM	911.55	922.95	899	915
OMAXE	69.3	69.35	67.2	68.35
AIAENG	1735.35	1740.7	1705	1719.1
GET&D	84.15	86	84.1	84.75
TVTODAY	213	214.5	205.25	206.5
JTEKTINDIA	75.8	77.55	75.8	76.75
SCHAEFFLER	3840	3844.5	3775	3785.1
NAVNETEDUL	76.75	79.55	76.75	77.85
ESABINDIA	1383.15	1385.4	1364.1	1367.85
SOLARINDS	1035	1035	1017	1024.8
TCIEXP	798.5	798.5	786.95	793.65
JAGRAN	37	37.9	36.7	37
INDOSTAR	301.1	301.1	293.8	297



TOP PRIORITIES FOR BIDEN, HARRIS

Covid, racial equality and climate change

Washington: Tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crisis, systemic racism and climate change are the top priorities for the Biden administration, according to his transition team, as President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris gear up for building back everything "better than ever".

Following a tense week of vote tallying, Democratic presidential candidate Biden, 77, on Saturday won the state of Pennsylvania and vaulted ahead in the race to become the next president of the United States.

Biden's win in the key battleground state put him over the threshold of 270 electoral votes, cutting off all avenues for his opponent, incumbent Republican President Donald Trump.

As Biden's vice president, Harris, 56, will make history in myriad ways, becoming the first woman - and the first woman of colour - to occupy the office.

The Biden team updated its website to showcase four policy areas the incoming administration will prioritise: COVID-19, economic recovery, racial equity and climate change.

"We aren't just going to rebuild what has worked in the past. This is our opportunity to build back better than ever," said the Biden-Harris transition team on Sunday, giving details of the priorities for the next administration which will be inaugurated on January 20, 2021.

"President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris are confronting a pandemic, an economic crisis, calls for racial justice, and climate change. The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One," the campaign said.

Once sworn into office, Biden and Harris will provide the much-needed national leadership to tackle the pandemic and begin our nation's recovery, it said. *PTI*

China declines to congratulate Biden

Beijing: China on Monday declined to congratulate Joe Biden as the winner of the US presidential election, saying the outcome of the American polls should be determined by the country's laws and procedures.

China has not yet come out with an official reaction to Biden and Kamala Harris' victory in the November 3 presidential election even though official media here are carrying out commentaries on their election.

When pointed out that China is one of the few countries which has not yet made a statement on the US presidential election results, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said: "We have noticed that Biden declared he is the winner of the election".

"Our understanding is that the outcome of the election will be determined in accordance with US laws and procedures," he said.

Asked when will China make its statement or will it wait until President Donald Trump makes his stand clear, Wang said: "We will follow international customary practices".

China is among a handful of major countries including Russia and Mexico that have not congratulated the President-elect. *PTI*

Pak court sends Christian teenage girl to shelter home after conversion, marriage to Muslim man

Islamabad: A Pakistani high court on Monday sent a minor Christian girl to a shelter home after she was allegedly converted to Islam and married to a Muslim man.

Arzoo, 13 who is a resident of Karachi's Railway Colony, went missing on October 13 and later it was found that she married Syed Ali Azhar, a 45-year-old Muslim man, after converting to Islam, according to the First Information Report registered by the girl's father.

A division bench headed by Justice KK Agha in the Sindh High Court, where the case was being heard, ordered the provincial health secretary to constitute a special medical board to determine Arzoo's age.

The board informed the SHC on Monday that the girl is between 14 to 15 years of age.

Though, according to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) record, she is 13 years old.

After the report the court ordered police to proceed against her alleged husband for violating the Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act 2013.

However, Arzoo reiterated during the hearing that she was not kidnapped and had willingly married Azhar after converting to Islam.

The bench observed that as per record and medical board, she was underage and could not contract a marriage on her own.

The court asked Arzoo if she wanted to go with her parents or to the shelter home, she insisted on going with Azhar.

But the court directed to send her to a shelter home of the government, and adjourned the hearing for two weeks.

Activist and her lawyer Jibran Nasir tweeted that Arzoo was underage.

"Court recognises NADRA documents stating Arzoo's age to be 13 as true and declares prima facie she contracted child marriage," said Nasir.

He further said: "The court has not disposed of this petition and the next hearing is after two weeks.

The court is yet to determine whether Arzoo is having her right to convert to the religion of free will given her age of 13.

At this stage only the question of child marriage has been addressed and resolved.

The alleged abduction, forced conversion and subsequent marriage had sparked an outcry from human rights groups in the country. *PTI*

Suu Kyi's party claims to have won majority in Myanmar polls

AP ■ YANGON

Myanmar's ruling National League for Democracy party claimed Monday that it has won enough seats in Parliament to constitute an absolute majority and retain power.

It made the claim even though the state Union Election Commission has not yet completed releasing results from Sunday's election.

"I can now confirm that we're now securing more than 322 seats," said Monywa Aung Shin, a spokesperson for the NLD information committee. There are 642 seats in Parliament.

"We were aiming to secure 377 seats in total. But it would be likely more than that," said Monywa Aung Shin.

There were no reliable official figures available on voter turnout, and the Union Election Commission had earlier said that it might take as long as a week to release full results.

A victory by the NLD had been widely expected, though it had been speculated that its deterioration of relations with ethnic minority-based parties, with whom it had cooperated in the last election in 2015, might cut its totals.

Much of the NLD's appeal is based on the popularity of its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who became the head of government with the title of State Counsellor after the 2015 polls.

Austrian authorities raid suspected Islamic radicals

Vienna: Investigators in several Austrian regions carried out raids early Monday on people and organisations suspected of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas groups, prosecutors said.

Authorities said there was no link between Monday's action against suspected Islamic radicals and the attack in Vienna a week ago in which an assailant described as a supporter of the Islamic State group fatally shot four people before being shot and killed by police.

Prosecutors in Graz said over 70 people are under investigation in the new case and 60 properties, including apartments and offices, were searched, the Austria Press Agency reported. *AP*

Hong Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers threaten to resign

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers said Monday that they would resign en masse from the city's legislative council if the central Chinese government in Beijing disqualifies any of them.

The announcement from the 19 opposition lawmakers came amid unconfirmed reports that China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, which will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, was preparing to disqualify four legislators.

Media reports in Hong Kong, including from the South China Morning Post, said that the four lawmakers would be accused of filibustering meetings and violating their oaths of office.

The convener of the pro-democracy camp, Wu Chi-wai, said that any move by Beijing to disqualify the legislators and prevent them from doing their duties would be "ridiculous."

"It reflects they are ruthless, and they disrespect the Basic Law," he said, referring to the mini-constitution that governs the semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong after the former British colony was handed back to China in 1997.

Lawmaker Dennis Kwok said that disqualifications would be a "serious departure" from the original spirit of the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong enjoys freedoms not found in mainland China. *AP*

Switzerland conveys concerns to China over rights violations of Uighurs, Tibetans

New Delhi/Bern: Switzerland on Monday conveyed its concerns to China over Beijing's lack of respect for human rights, particularly with regard to the treatment of Uighurs, Tibetans and other ethnic and religious minorities.

Swiss State Secretary Krystyna Marty held talks with China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Qin Gang via video conference, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an official release by the Swiss government.

In addition to the current epidemiological situation, the talks focused on economic relations between the two countries and the human rights situation in China, the statement said.

The discussions illustrate the continuity of the good relations between Switzerland and China, it said.

Switzerland expressed its concern about the lack of respect for human rights in China, particularly with regard to the treatment of Uighurs, Tibetans and other ethnic and religious minorities," the Swiss government statement on the meeting said.

"Respect for and promotion of human rights formed a substantial part of the political dialogue. Switzerland expressed its concern about the lack of respect for human rights in China, particularly with regard to the treatment of Uighurs, Tibetans and other ethnic and religious minorities," the Swiss government statement on the meeting said.

The introduction of the national security law in Hong Kong and the associated restrictions on freedom of expression were also discussed, the statement said.

This comes in the backdrop of several countries expressing concern over the human rights violations in China.

Marty and Qin expressed their hopes for an early normalisation of the epidemiological situation, and both sides emphasised their willingness to promote regular exchanges between Switzerland and China and increase travel between the two countries. *PTI*

FROM PAGE 1

PROMOTE LOCAL FOR DIWALI: PM

works, infrastructure facilities for protection and conservation of cows, a housing complex for players in Sampurnanand Stadium, multi-purpose seed storehouse and Sarnath light and sound show.

During the event, the prime minister also laid the foundation stones for projects including redevelopment of Dashashwamedh Ghat and Khidkiya Ghat, barracks for PAC police force, upgradation of the multi-purpose hall in Girija Devi Sanskritik Sankul, repair work of roads in the city and development of tourist places.

VARANASI FIRM FINED FOR POLLUTING GANGA

The first action was taken in Varanasi where Ramana STP was found not to be operating at the fixed parameters. It was also found that the quality of sewage disposal was not up to the mark and after completion of the probe the Namami Ganga department has slapped a fine of Rs 3 crore on the company.

"This is the biggest action so far against callousness in disposal of sewage," the official said.

This drive is underway at many other places in the state. Uttar Pradesh has 104 operational STPs of which 44 STPs are under the purview of Namami Ganga.

It is important to note here that the state government has rolled out an extensive awareness campaign towards cleanliness of Ganga. To ensure that the Ganga ghats are clean and to ensure that drains do not flow directly into the river, STPs are being made on a large scale and these are being made operational.

Principal Secretary Namami Gange, Anurag Srivastava said the government has made its intention clear and action will continue to be initiated wherever required to ensure that sewage and pollutants donot find way into the river.

"Till the pollution level is brought to zero action against the defaulters will continue," the official said.

D-DAY FOR BIHAR! COUNT DOWN BEGINS

In Madhya Pradesh, the counting will be held in 19 districts. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, a total of 70.27 per cent voter turnout was recorded during the bypolls which were contested by 355 candidates, including 12 Ministers. The stakes are high for both the BJP and the Congress in the bypolls, considered a litmus test for the parties. While the ruling BJP needs at least eight more MLAs for a simple majority in the MP Assembly, the Congress will be hoping to regain its turf as it had sitting MLAs in 27 seats out of 28 in the State where bypolls were held.

It will be also a test of the Jyotiraditya Scindia factor as the scion of the erstwhile royal family of Gwalior had quit the Congress with his loyalist MLAs, who are now fighting on BJP tickets. The result is also crucial for former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, who lost power in the State seven months ago after the revolt by Scindia.

In Uttar Pradesh, as many as 88 candidates are contesting in Naugaon Sadat, Tundla, Bangarmau, Bulandshahr, Deoria, Ghatampur and Malhani seats. It will a test of popularity for the Yogi Adityanath Government as the BJP, which has a comfortable majority in the Assembly, is contesting on seven seats - six of which it had won in the last election while one was with the Samajwadi Party.

In Gujarat, the counting will be held at eight centres set up in these constituencies. A total of 60.75 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the bypolls held in Abdasa (Kutch), Limbdi (Surendranagar), Morbi (Morbi district), Dhari (Amreli), Gadhada (Botad), Karjan (Vadodara), Dang (Dang district) and Kaprada (Valsad).

BURSTING FIRECRACKER TO INVITE 6-YR JAIL

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, and Gurugram also recorded "severe" air quality.

PM10 levels in Delhi-NCR stood at 591 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m3) at 10 am, the highest since November 15 last year, when it was 637 µg/m3, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are considered safe in India.PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and is inhalable into the lungs. These particles include dust, pollen and mold spores. The levels of PM2.5 - finer particles that can even enter the bloodstream - were 381 µg/m3 at 11 am. PM2.5 levels up to 60 µg/m3 are considered safe.

According to the IMD, the wind speed was 3 to 4 kilometres per hour in the morning and the minimum temperature of 10 degrees Celsius. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

There was shallow to moderate fog in the morning which led to smog. It reduced visibility to 600 meters at the Safdarjung Observatory, Kuldeep Srivastava, said the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre.

MODI, XI FACE TO FACE TODAY AT SCO MEET

Moreover, Modi and Xi will also be meeting virtually on November 13-15 for the ASEAN Summit where India has been invited especially by Vietnam, which is the group's chair for this year.

The leaders are also expected to come face-to-face at two other summits - BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit, chaired by Russia, on November 17 and G-20, chaired by Saudi Arabia, on November 21-22.

DPCC orders blanket ban on firecrackers till Nov 30

SAPAN SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

As Delhi is reeling under the third peak of Covid -19 outbreak. Bursting of crackers will deteriorate air quality further and impact public health. Taking cognizance of health emergency like situation in the national capital, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has ordered blanket ban on sale and use of fire crackers following green court order on Monday.

Invoking section 31 (A) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Act, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC)has ordered, "There will be a 'Complete Ban' on bursting and sale of all fire crackers from November 7, 2020 to November 30,2020 in the territory of NCT of Concerned District Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners of Police were made responsible to implement the aforesaid directions."

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on also said that if anyone violates the ban on the firecrackers then the violator will be penalized under the Air act.

"Delhi Police and DMs will work together to enforce the ban on firecrackers, if a violation happens then the Delhi police will register FIR against violators under the Air Act."

Besides ban on cracker firing, around 150 tankers are sprinkling water at the roads of Delhi to combat dust pollution and the numbers will be increased soon, Rai said.

Rai said, "The pollution in Delhi is increasing every day and looking into the situation, I have directed the PWD officials to sprinkle water at every important road. I have directed the PWD to deploy water tankers at the key roads of Delhi from which the sprinkling can be done and by this, the immediate relief from the dust pollution can be achieved. Till now nearly 150 water tankers are working across Delhi."

"In Delhi, the air is getting toxic because of the stubble burning in the neighbouring state. The winter is also here and I think that till Diwali the situation will be like this and might deteriorate. The Delhi government is taking every possible step to combat air pollution by curbing the sources of pollution inside Delhi."

Rai met the DPCC official and issued guidelines regarding the ban on sale and use on the firecrackers.

The Delhi police will file FIR against the violators under the Air Act. "I want to request every citizen of Delhi to follow the ban on the firecrackers. Though I have directed the district administration, this is a matter of our own concern. Today the NGT has also directed that no firecrackers will be allowed in Delhi and the adjacent area. Earlier the Delhi Government allowed green crackers but looking into the situation of the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and the pollution the Delhi government has decided to ban any kind of firecrackers," Rai added, "To combat the vehicular pollution we are running the red light campaign to put a check on the toxic emissions from the vehicles."

City to adopt Dungarpur's model of rainwater harvesting: Jain

Dungarpur (Rajasthan): The Delhi Government will adopt the cost-effective model of rainwater harvesting currently being implemented in the tribal-dominated Dungarpur district of Rajasthan, city Water Minister Satyendar Jain has said.

A seven-member delegation, led by Jain, was on an official visit here to witness the rainwater-harvesting system that costs just Rs 16,000 as compared to the conventional one, which costs between Rs 50,000 and Rs one lakh per household.

Jain said the Dungarpur model was an innovative idea that was centred on routing the rainwater to a bore well, instead of a regular rainwater-harvesting pit.

"It is a closed-loop system. The rainwater collected on the rooftop is being routed to the casing of already existing bore wells in households.

They have created sand filters in the conduit pipe itself and included a way of backwash too," he told PTI here.

Jain said he wanted to witness the system himself as he was sceptical of the model when K K Gupta, the chairman of the Dungar Municipal Council, first told him about it.

"I am satisfied now. It is an excellent system. We are going to implement it in Delhi, others should follow it too," the minister said.

"Normally, the construction of a rainwater harvesting system costs between Rs 50,000 and Rs one lakh, but the one being implemented in Dungarpur costs just Rs 16,000," he added.

Gupta claimed that there will be no shortage of water in Delhi if the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government implements the Dungarpur model of water harvesting in the national capital.

"The minister could not believe it when I first told him that we have developed a water harvesting system that costs only Rs 16,000.

In Delhi, the administration spent lakhs on creating large rainwater-harvesting pits.

"Delhi reels under a shortage of water. The issue will be resolved 100 per cent if the city implements this model," he said.

Gupta said the Dungarpur administration gives a 50-per cent subsidy per household for installing a rainwater harvesting system.

"Effectively, it costs Rs 8,000 per household. We have covered around 400 households and government buildings in the last three years," he said. A government official in Dungarpur said the construction of large water-harvesting pits is not an economically sustainable idea.

"Our concept focusses on making the rainwater harvesting system affordable so that more and more people can use it.

"Not everyone has the means to pay for an expensive rainwater harvesting system, so most people avoid creating one. The one we have developed cuts the cost drastically and does its job effectively," he said.

The official said the system can collect and route 3,000 litres of water per hour if the rainfall is light to moderate.

"The conventional system has more storage capacity and the speed of groundwater recharge is slightly better, but most people do not take it up as it is expensive. "If we wanted to create a conventional rainwater harvesting system in Dungarpur, hardly 10 people would have agreed to it," he said.

JointSay

Indian researchers have revealed that after three months of treatment with oral methotrexate, adults with primary knee osteoarthritis (OA) with inflammation had significant improvements in physical function and inflammation. OA is a common joint disease that most often affects middle-age to older people

DOCYARD

DR APOORV GROVER

Medical Director and Vitreoretina Consultant

VISION EYE CENTRE, NEW DELHI

Keep an eye on your vision

Even as India and indeed the world, is grappling with Covid-19, non-communicable diseases have somehow been relegated to a low priority status. And of the NCDs, Diabetes, a chronic diseasewhich has afflicted around 77 million adult Indians has proved to be one of the major components of comorbidities for Covid-19 patients.Yet, most people do not know that regardless of Covid-19, Diabetes also casts a severe impact on their eyes and larger ocular health. Therefore, it is important that a diabetic patient must also be aware of the risks to his eyes andas such takes adequate precautions in that regard.

How does Diabetes impact your eyes?

First it is important to understand that Diabetes is often characterised by an excessive glucose in your bloodstream, a specific condition called hyperglycemia, because of absence of insulin or under-performing insulin. However, this excessive sugar can not only impair tissues of your eyes, generally manifested in swellings and blurring of vision; more specifically, it can also cause serious damage to the blood vessels in your eyes. This can lead to serious eye health issues.

Types of eye conditions created/aggravated by Diabetes

Diabetic Retinopathy: This is one of the most frequent instances of the impact of Diabetes on the eyes. Those with longstanding high blood sugar levels often suffer with this condition. In this, the damage to the blood vessels extends to the retina in the back of the eye involving leakage of blood and fluid into the eye which makes the vision blurry. Significantly, in the early stages, since the eye doesn't make new blood vessels, it is called non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy. However, as the disease progresses and the condition worsens, it can lead to what is called proliferative diabetic retinopathy. In this, new blood vessels begin to grow abnormally within the retinawhich either bleed a lot or form a scar tissue leading to partial or complete blockage of vision.

Those with longstanding high blood sugar levels often suffer with Diabteic retinopathy. In this, the damage to the blood vessels extends to the retina in the back of the eye involving leakage of blood and fluid into the eye which makes the vision blurry

Diabetic macular edema/ischemia:

Macula is not only the most sensitive part of the retina, it is the functional centre of the latterthat allows us to read, recognise faces and to drive. But because ofthe extraordinarily high blood sugar, there is swelling in the macula leading to what is called macular edema and the subsequent weakening or distorting of vision. At the same time, when blood vessels prevent blood from reaching macula, it leads to a condition called macular ischemia, which again can impinge on the sharpness of your vision.

What should be done?

First and foremost, knowing and recognising that Diabetes can have serious implications for your eyes is important.

Second, identifying symptoms early is the key. Some of the symptoms include getting blurred and wavy vision, fluctuating vision, impaired colour or faded colour vision, sensitivity to light, glared vision, spots or dark strings in vision. One must consult a doctor on finding of any of these symptoms.

Third, on experiencing sudden flashes of light and an increase in spots, alarm bells should ring and one must visit the doctor immediately. Fourth, a full-dilated eye exam must be undergone at least once a year. Fifth, remember that along with keeping track of your blood sugar levels, you must also monitor your blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

EAT TO BEAT CANCER

Despite extensive research, most cancers are not curable and where treatment is available the cost is high. Hence, prevention of cancer is important. DR VINEET TALWAR tells you how a balanced diet can help

Cancer has emerged as the biggest threat to human health, ahead of heart disease and diabetes. Cancer affects not only a person but also their entire family in terms of finances, time, psychological and social stress and disturbing quality of life of entire family. Research in field of cancer has led to promising results for prevention and cure of some cancers like breast, cervix etc. when detected in early stage. Despite extensive research, most cancers are not curable and where treatment is available the cost is very high so prevention of cancer is an important and desirable strategy.

Some cancer risk factors, such as genetics and environment, are not in our control, but change in lifestyle and including healthy diet can reduces life time risk of by 70 per cent. Avoiding smoking and tobacco, limiting alcohol, maintaining a healthy weight, and getting regular exercise are important for preventing cancer.

It is said that we are what we eat. Food plays a very important role both in health and disease. Contamination of food by various chemicals has been postulated and proven to be an important cause of rising incidence of cancers throughout the world Excessive or non-judicious use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers are playing major role in making food unsafe by entering in our food chain. Faulty Harvesting, processing and storage techniques further change the quality of food and make them unsafe. Freezing for storage, irradiation for infection control destroys nutritive value of food. Some food items have natural propensity to cause cancer.

It is observed, Aspartame (APM), artificial sweetener an adjunct food items commonly used in diet soda, significantly increases risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma in men. Canned food, hydrogenated oils, microwavable popcorns, Alcohol, soda, farmed fish, red meat, refined sugar, refined flour are some commonly used food items which are proven to cause various health hazards like cancer, Diabetes, hypertension and cardiac diseaes. Avoiding refined carbohydrates help in reaching healthy weight thus could lower the risk for cancers colorectal and prostate cancer

The importance of right foods for the prevention of cancer is an exciting area of research and study throughout the world. It is now globally accepted that risk of variety of chronic diseases, including cancer is reduced with use of plant-based diets. The food systems approach to disease prevention is favoured at community level. In food systems approach, whole foods are preferred since they are complex mixtures of many bioactive compounds and other constituents; they often have complementary mechanisms to one another which in synergy express "polypharmacologic" effects. Whole foods like fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes are considered to contain a plethora of functional carbohydrates, healthy fats, vitamins, minerals, with correct energy balance and bioactive compounds such as polyphenols, glucosinolates and carotenoids. All act in concert to prevent and treat cancer from multiple dimensions and molecular pathways by suppressing a variety of biological capabilities required for tumor growth. Increased consumption of bioactive compounds can be effective for cancer prevention particularly in vulnerable populations. Dietary bioactive compounds differ in composition in variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

Varying amounts and combinations of the approximate 5000 bioactive compounds have been isolated and identified in fruits and vegetables. Bioactive compounds can be classified as anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, detoxifying, protease inhibiting, anticancer, or antiangiogenic properties. Phenolic compounds are one of the major classes of bioactive compounds and include phenolic acids, flavonoids, stilbenoids, lignans, etc. Researchers have seen, Curcumin, an active ingredient in turmeric, effective in eliminating colon cancer stem cells, when used either alone or together with Chemotherapy. Sweet sorghum *(jowar)*, rich in 3-eoxyanthocyanidins, apigeninidin, and luteolinidin and anthocyanins from purple-fleshed potato can suppress colon cancer stem cells proliferation. Cruciferous vegetables, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli, contain sulforaphane which is found to be effective to decrease the CSC fraction in human breast cancer cells.

These vegetables also contain resveratrol, isothiocyanates, glucosinolates (GLS) possing cancer preventive/protective activity. The antiproliferative effects of sulforaphane have been observed on pancreatic CSCs. Anti-cancer properties are prominent in strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, chokeberries, bilberries, Indian blackberries and most importantly in blueberries. Among all berries, blueberries are known to be one of the most nutritious foods in the world, They have demonstrated powerful antioxidant properties. They contain five major anthocyanidins: cyandin, delphinidin, malvidin, peonidin, and petunidin. They exhibit inherent abilities to prevent carcinogenesis, inhibit the proliferation of neoplastic cells, and reduce the risks of recurrence in patients in remission. They are been found to be efeective in Breast cancer, lung, liver, colon cancer, oral cancer and prostate cancer.

> HEALTHY COOKING AND STORAGE OF FOOD IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS CHOOSING HEALTHY FOOD. STEAMED FOOD IS PREFERRED OVER FRIED AND RAW OVER COOKED FOOD. REHEATING SHOULD BE AVOIDED BUT IF DONE IN MICROWAVE, GLASS DISHES SHOULD BE PREFERRED

Black and long peppers contain piperine, soy isoflavones such as genistein, , quercetin, epigallocatechin-3- gallate (EGCG), resveratrol, have shown to directly or indirectly target CSC growth. Grapes, onions, apples and berries are rich in flavonoids; tea and coffee are rich sources of phenolic acids. Carotenoids, another major class of bioactive compounds, are found in many fruits and vegetables including carrots, sweet potatoes, mangoes and papaya.

The National Cancer Institute (US) suggests encouraging people to consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day as a measure to prevent cancer. Eating a high fiber diet helps in prevention of colorectal cancer and other common digestive system cancers, including stomach, mouth, and pharynx.

Healthy cooking and storage of food is equally important as choosing healthy food. Steamed food is preferred over fried food and raw food over cooked food. Reheating should be avoided but if done in microwave, glass dishes should be preferred than plastic containers.

These facts put together strongly indicate inclusion of natural whole foods in the diet should be encouraged in order to lower the risk of development and/or recurrence of cancer.

The writer is Director — Medical Oncology Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi

FOR A TONED & LIFTED FACE

Just like the rest of your body, your face needs exercising too. DR BLOSSOM KOCHHAR shares easy facial exercises that one can do to get that perfectly toned skin at home

We all are very particular about our fitness, we all hit the gym, do yoga or any other form of exercise to keep our bodies in shape but most of the time we forget a very major part that also needs regular exercising and toning — our face. There are 42 individual muscles on our face which are responsible for our facial expressions, the way we smile and look. So, it is even more important to keep all these muscles toned so that you always look young and slow the ageing process.

Facial yoga is the latest fad that a lot of people are teaching and talking about. Many say, practicing facial yoga is as good as getting Botox done, if done regularly and correctly. The best thing about facial yoga, you can do it anywhere and at any time.

Here are a few facial exercises that one can do to tone the facial muscles:

Start with reciting the vowels — A, E, I, O, U. Say the vowels in an exaggerated manner so that you stretch all your face & neck muscles. To begin with say the 5 vowels each 10 times in a day, then slowly build it to 20-30 times in a day. This is a complete exercise for your face.

Second exercise that you can do is, close your fist and place is under your chin. Now try opening your mouth while pressing your fist up to close the mouth. This is a great exercise to get rid of double chin. Once you'll start doing it, you will yourself feel the stress on your jawline and who doesn't want the perfect jawline.

A perfect exercise to avoid getting wrinkles under your eyes and on your forehead is to place both your hands on your forehead so that no muscles move. Now blink your eyes in an exaggerated manner for about 10 times. Blinking will strengthen your eye muscles.

Another exercise that you can try for strengthening your eye muscles is by placing, put your index finger and your middle finger on either side of eyes, one at the inner corner and the other at the outer corner and blink. Do this 10 times in a day. Chubby cheeks look super cute when we are kids but becomes a major concern when we grow up. To pull up saggy and chubby cheeks, pull everything to your side. Its like doing a sideway kiss, this stretches your cheek muscles and helps in making it firm.

We all worry about our laughing lines and as we grow up, they tend to become more visible. The perfect solution to reducing laughing lines are placing your fingers firmly over your laugh lines, now smile as widely as possible, remember to keep your lips apart. Hold this for five-10 seconds and repeat the exercise 20-25 times. This will help to remove creases around the cheek and lift your cheeks.

A major thing to remember while applying your daily moisturiser is to always apply in upward motion, especially around the cheeks and on neck. If you do it otherwise you are pulling your skin down making it saggy. Remember all these exercises if done regularly can relax your facial muscles and give a natural lift to your face, but we cannot rule out ageing all together.

The writer is Chairperson, Blossom Kochhar Group of Companies

WARMFOODS

CAYENNE PEPPER: Cayenne peppers are moderately hot chili pepper used to flavour dishes. They are a popular spice used in many different regional styles of cooking, and they have been used medicinally for thousands of years.

The capsaicin in cayenne peppers has metabolism-boosting properties. It helps increase the amount of heat your body produces, making you burn more calories per day. It also helps in relieving pain, managing weight, easing itching, reducing inflammation, treating colds and congestion and protecting the nervous system.

It is full of beta carotene and anti-oxidants that support your immune system. It aids in breaking up and moving congested mucus and once this nasty mucus will leave the body, the symptoms of the flu or cold will diminish.

Cayenne pepper may help boost the stomach's defense against infections, increase digestive fluid production and help deliver enzymes to the stomach, aiding digestion.

DadiKaKehna

Heartbun is common among people of all ages, especially if one prefers eating spicy and oily foods. ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help ease the pain and get your digestive system back on track

If your heart is burning with anything but love, it may make you feel very uncomfortable and uneasy. While drinking lots of water is the most common remedy, it might not help in all cases. Here are a few tips that can help.

One, drink coconut water twice a day. It may soothe your stomach and improve digestion.

Two, watermelon juice will work just as fine. It is known to counter acidity.

Three, a glass of buttermilk after a spicy meal helps reduce the uneasiness as buttermilk contains lactic acid that normalises acidity in the stomach.

Four, ginger is here to your rescue. Use ginger in your cooking or boil it in a glass of water, reduce to half glass and consume the water.

Five, include yogurt in your diet. Eat a bowl of yogurt twice a day, it may help reduce the burning sensation.

And last but not the least, try drinking apple cider vinegar. Take a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar with a glass of water every morning on an empty stomach. It helps in neutralising the acid in the stomach.

New species of arachnida discovered

A teacher at IP University has traced down a new specie of spider near Nayagram village of West Bengal during a field survey

A new trapdoor spider species has been discovered from India by a team of researchers led by Dr Sanjay Keshari Das, an Assistant Professor — University School of Environment Management of the university.

The spider was traced on a road side cut in an open woody plantation area close to a forest area near Nayagram village of West Bengal by Dr Suman Pratihar Assistant Professor and his Graduate student Chandan Dandpath, Keshpur College, West Bengal during field survey in lockdown period this year.

Dr Das said the area being part of Gangetic plain where wildlife faces large scale anthropogenic pressure, this new discovery is highly significant for science as many species going to be extinct before they come into our knowledge.

The new species comes under family Idiopidae representing front-eyed trapdoors. Females live in tubular burrows with their walls lined by silk and having a cork-shape silk-lined lid at the entrance used as a door. Males are smaller in size, wandering and occasionally live in burrow.

The species was named as Idiopsmedina, taken from the type locality belonging to undivided Paschim Medinipur. The new species is published by journal *Serket* and got the place in the World Spider Catalog maintained by Natural History Museum Bern. At present, total 3111 species of mygalomorph spiders are described in the world under 358 genera in 30 families.

However, in India these spiders remain poorly documented with reporting of only 112 species under 32 genera in 9 families.With this discovery the species under the genus Idiops goes to 99 in the world and 17 in India. Dr Pratihar added West Bengal has a perfect habitat for ancient mygalomorph spiders, which needs to be explored meticulously.

INBRIEF

Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty (ESG) is the latest type of weight loss surgery and it results in significant loss of weight as the surgery limit the food intake, said Prof GalvaoNeto, a Brazilian expert, who is a pioneer in ESG procedure in the world. Conducting live Operative Workshop on the latest procedure of Bariatric Surgery — Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty (ESG) for Manipal Hospitals' doctors Dr Randeep Wadhawan, HOD and Consultant — Department of Minimal Access Surgery, Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery & Gastrointestinal Surgery had invited eminent experts of the field Prof GalvaoNeto.

Addressing the participants during the Workshop, Dr Wadhawan said that ESG surgeries are less invasive and not very complex. "Patient can leave hospital on the same day after the completion of the ESG procedure," he added. The live workshop was conducted by HCMCT Manipal hospitals, one of the largest hospital chains in the country. The workshop gave an overview of several important dimensions of Endoscopic Sleeves Gastroplasty.

"ESG surgeries are proving very effective for those who wish to lose weight. It is a hormonal surgery which includes a variety of procedures to perform on people who are suffering from obesity," said Dr Wadhawan.

Trend Blazer

Sonam recalls debut *Saawariya*

Actor **SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA** on Monday completed 13 years in Bollywood. Her debut film, *Saawariya,* alongside Ranbir Kapoor, released on the same day in 2007.

Taking to social media, Sonam reminisced about stepping into Bollywood with the Sanjay Leela Bhansali film.

"13 years ago, I made a debut with *Saawariya.* Each and every moment in this industry has been a blessing. The good bad and ugly has all been intensely cinematic. Thank you India and thank you for each and every filmmaker who believed in me. I've been blessed to have worked with the best who've pushed me to give my best," she wrote.

'My job gives me ample of opportunities to travel and explore places as much as I want. Apart from the tourist spots, the one place I make it a point to visit is any holy shrine! I believe in spirituality and apart from faith, there is something mystical about the strength and energy certain shrines hold. Thanks to my amazing team.'
—Yami Gautam

Actor **ANUPAM KHER** has narrated Saadat Hasan Manto's short story *Toba Tek Singh,* a satire set in the time of Partition, written in 1954.

"While narrating *Toba Tek Singh,* I could feel the sadness of Partition and it's only a genius like Manto who can write from a mad person's point of view. That is exactly how I have tried to narrate it, in a way that will make your heart go out to the character," said the actor.

Anupam added, "The best form of storytelling has been done by our grandparents. Mine used to tell me the same story by just changing the characters."

'It's hard to be Deepika Padukone'

Actor **VIKRANT MASSEY**, who shared screen space with **Deepika Padukone** in *Chhapaak* earlier this year, says it is tough to be a female superstar like her in this country.

"It's hard to be a Deepika Padukone in our country. It is difficult to be a woman with a voice. She is the biggest star and an icon in our country. If she can be subjugated to this, then anyone could. Unfortunately, there is no public discourse today. I stand by what I said," said Vikrant.

Deepika was in the midst of controversy after she visited Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi in January to show solidarity with the protest against CAA.

A brighter future

Shiv Nadar School organised a first-of-its-kind energy boot camp, virtually, in association with the Indian Youth Nuclear Society, where students interacted with scientists on pollution, sustainability, climate change and nuclear energy. SAKSHI SHARMA speaks to experts

Do you know about the immense energy that is released from a collapsing star? Have you ever explored what is an atom? Do you know about the foundation of nuclear energy? What can be an alternative source of energy for mankind? These are a few of the many questions that can keep the students hooked to the multi-faceted world of nuclear energy and discover a myriad of possibilities. Well, spark a reaction in your classroom with nuclear science and start small by exploring its basics. Then, go big and learn about the nuances of energy, its processes and application in various areas.

Shiv Nadar School, Noida, organised a first-of-its-kind Energy Boot Camp as a part of its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) programme. It was organised virtually in association with Indian Youth Nuclear Society (IYNS), from November 6 to 8. During the session, students from grade 6 to 12 got a chance to make an e-visit to a nuclear irradiation facility at Nuvia India, ITER, France and ITER India. They interacted with the scientists on contemporary concerns of pollution, sustainability, climate change and energy.

Nuclear scientists and physicists from International Youth Nuclear Society, French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, France (CEA) and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, helped the students understand the dynamics of nuclear energy in the world. Some of the participating scientists were: Dr Nitendra Singh, Founder and President of Indian Youth Nuclear Society (IYNS), Dr Arvind Kumar, CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, Nikhilesh Iyer, Hydrometallurgy Section, Materials Processing Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Dr Mohit Sharma, Jozef Stefan Institute, Slovenia, Sunaina Kundra, Indian Youth Nuclear Society, Samyak Munot, IT Manager, Indian Youth Nuclear Society, Vaishnavi Tiwari, Editor-in-Chief, Indian Youth Nuclear Society, Dr Joyeeta Sinha, Plasma Physicist, ITER Organisation, France and Ganesh V, Scientific Officer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

Excerpts of our conversation with Dr Nitendra, Vinita Sharat, STEAM Coordinator, Shiv Nadar School, and Ayan Gupta, class 10 student:

❒How was your experience of helping students understand the dynamics of nuclear energy in the world?

Dr Nitendra: Nuclear energy as a whole is a very long term affair in terms of design, construction, operation of the plant and then its de-commissioning. It's a matter of accountability and responsibility unlike other power sources. This is mainly to address the associated perceived risks involved and to take care of the radioactive waste. Safety is one of the most important thing in nuclear industry and is practised at each level. This level of responsible and logical sense needs to be understood by each one of us. That is why 'the students' or 'Generation Z' or 'the future decision makers' should be taught well about this beneficial technology and its applications. A logical thinking needs to be inculcated in all those young minds. While interacting with kids during various events like experimental demonstration by the scientists, one-to-one discussions with scientist and students, inter-school competition and many other chances of seeing them in the Energy Boot Camp 2020, I found that they are amazing and inquisitive enough to question us, question the current issues and keen to seek the logical solution. It is important for all of us to nurture this

sort of thinking and imagination in their young minds. It was an exceptional experience for all Indian Youth Nuclear Society (IYNS) team members and scientists across the globe. We all would continue to answer their questions through various means and several IYNS platforms so as to keep that logical thinking alive and sustained.

❒Do you think a deep understanding of such topics among the students can lead towards a better future?

Dr Nitendra: Deep understanding of the problem or any concern is very much required before we begin to address or answer that. This gives us the long term, stable and sustainable solution of any practical problem. I don't think there's anything better than helping students logically understand the concerns of the present world and choose the possible solutions wisely. I would like to give an example here. All the young students are taught moral and civic education in schools. If we question why, the reason is simple — Kids are rational and look for logical answers for everything. They retain it for their lifetime. All this is basically required to create a civilised society. Similarly, we want to instill the scientific temperament in the young minds to take logical decisions in all aspects of their lives. This will directly help them create a better and bright future. This is a much needed change at this stage and I am proud to be a part of such an innovative perspective.

❒Could you give us an insight into your teachings?

Vinita: Energy and sustainability is an interdisciplinary topic and is a part of the school curriculum from grade five to 12. A month-long Energy Boot Camp has given a teaching pedagogy where teachers gave students the freedom to learn by using their critical reasoning ability. This gave students a learning experience beyond books and allowed them to witness science in the real laboratory. The National Education Policy (NEP) has given some guidelines under 'Optimal Learning Environments and Support for Students', 'Towards a More Holistic and Multi-disciplinary Education' 'Curriculum and Pedagogy in Schools' 'Learning Should be Holistic, 11 Integrated, Enjoyable and Engaging', 'Online and Digital Education: Ensuring Equitable Use of Technology' and most importantly, 'Project-based Learning.'

We were able to meet this criterion set by the NEP. This will certainly bring a change of mindset as students would be given the freedom to explore independently. The idea of "why?" was stressed upon. In the classroom, students were given more liberty to question and not just memorise things written in a book or taught by teachers without really understanding. The scientists, educators and teachers collaborated from different parts of the world and the outcome was an amalgamation of ideas and thoughts to think critically and solve environment-related problems. The event will add value in my teaching as I will allow my class to collaborate with local and global students through all digital means to solve problems with deeper understanding of concepts though discussions and constructive criticisms.

The most important takeaway from this camp was certainly the e-visit to the nuclear facilities — Nuvia India (Mathura road), Tarapore (Mumbai) and ITER (France), where students could delve deeper to understand what we teach in class about nuclear fission and fusion.

❒How was your experience of getting an insight into the area of nuclear energy and environment from researched scientists?

Ayan: This session gave me the opportunity to interact with reputed scientists. It gave me a deeper insight into the world of nuclear energy and changed my perception about our environment. It also encouraged me to pursue my dream of becoming a nuclear physicist.

❒How do you think this can help you shape your knowledge in a nuanced way?

Ayan: These sessions gave me a broader perspective about nuclear energy and its benefits. I had no idea that nuclear medicine is a separate branch altogether, which is a specialised area of radiology. Its application ranges from medicine to power generation, industrial use and forensic sciences to space exploration. It also helped me understand the limitations of this form of energy, the working, the benefits and the risks of nuclear power plants. These sessions also talked about possible ways of mitigating climate change by using an energy mix between different renewable sources (for instance: solar, wind, nuclear and sea wave) to generate power in future when the fossil fuel has completely phased out.

❒What were your major takeaways from the session?

Ayan: We had 15 teams of three members each with a scientist and a teacher-mentor for their guidance. Each team conducted a video survey, in which people were questioned about nuclear energy and a small video was put together where most of the people had a negative impression about it.

For instance, nuclear disasters like Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima Daiichi (2011) were the two events, which people recalled the most while talking about nuclear developments. There was very little awareness about the benefits of nuclear energy and the safety protocols of nuclear reactors. There were also many who consider it to be a possible solution for a complex problem like Global Warming.

During our projects, I learnt a lot about radiations and Gamma Ray Surgery and its benefits over conventional, invasive brain surgeries. My experience during this boot camp was very enriching. I learnt that conducting deep research is more insightful than conventional mode of rote learning. It has been an exciting journey and I look forward to more of these events.

Arjun misses home

As the actor reveals that he will not be able to celebrate Diwali with family, he wishes for the world's miseries to be over soon

Actor Arjun Kapoor reveals that he will not be able to spend Diwali with his family and close friends this year. He will be in Dharamshala, where he is currently shooting his next, a horror-comedy, *Bhoot Police,* alongside Jacqueline Fernandez, Saif Ali Khan, and Yami Gautam.

Arjun confirms, "I am not going to meet my friends and family this Diwali and I will be working but I feel blessed and lucky that I am getting to work this year after all that we have seen. I think my friends and family would understand that the lesser we socialise and the more we maintain distance, it will only allow us to maybe prevail against the Virus. It's actually beneficial for all. Even our festivities should teach us that we don't need to be with one another to celebrate. It's the more of the emotions and the feeling which need celebration."

He adds, "I am feeling grateful to be working, lucky to start a film in a time where it seemed impossible a couple of months ago. I guess this is a Diwali gift for me. God has

been kind. I plan to spend it in Dharamshala with our cast and crew. I think we will be able to have a basic get-together because we are in a bubble while we are shooting. It will be a day off, allowing everybody to connect with their families back home and take it easy and just be happy and pray for an amazing start to the new year."

Ask him what his wish is for this Diwali and he says, "My wish for Diwali would be that the world gets back up on its feet and I think we are slowly attempting it. It's a long way to go but I do believe that the last six months have taught us that we need to be patient and that patience will pay off in the future. Here's hoping that by next Diwali, we would be back on our feet as a society as well as as an industry. I wish that we are able to entertain more people. They come out to watch our films, theatres are back properly and of course, with OTT, we can continue to make great content to entertain people."

He adds that he is going to miss Anshula, his sister, this Diwali. He says, "I usually spend Diwali with my friends or family and mostly with Anshula. To begin with, we do a puja at home on the festival. This year, I guess, she will have to do it on her own. I will join her over a Zoom call. I guess at this point, the sibling love has to prevail digitally rather than physically."

Bhumi wishes Bollywood with saplings

Actor Bhumi Pednekar has taken up climate conservation as a cause to raise awareness among fellow Indians. Bhumi has launched an online and offline initiative — *Climate Warrior,* through which she is mobilising citizens to contribute towards protecting the environment. This Diwali, she has come up with an idea to spark a conversation on the need for conservation of nature. She is gifting saplings to her industry friends and colleagues this festive season.

The actor says, "The reason behind gifting saplings to my family, friends and colleagues comes from a very simple thought of spreading green joy on Diwali. I am a climate warrior and while I absolutely love the spirit of Diwali, the festivities and gifting our near and dear ones, I thought this year I should start by changing the way I give gifts to people."

Bhumi adds, "I am gifting saplings which are in earthen pots with the packaging made from jute and 100 per cent biodegradable materials. I hope we see more people gifting eco-friendly gifts and plants during festivals."

As her advocacy campaign Climate Warrior completes its first year, Bhumi is also launching a new logo that will signify the objective of the campaign going forward. Revealing what her new logo signifies, Bhumi says, "We need to understand that earth is for all living organisms and we can't be selfish to think that it's just for humans and our needs. There are billions of other creatures and organisms thriving who have an equal right to live here. With each passing year, we hear about species getting extinct, wildfires raging across the globe, ice caps melting, weather changes — all of this is leading to large scale ecological imbalances in nature.

Humans are a superior race but that means we should be responsible and use our skills to protect and preserve all other species."

She adds, "The power is with us. We need to preserve our depleting natural resources and forests to make our planet green again. Sustainable solutions/steps need to be taken."

TODAY

MUMBAI INDIANS VS DELHI CAPITALS

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1

IPL 2020

KL Rahul | 670 runs

Kagiso Rabada | 29 wickets

As a team we were looking for that rhythm to our play, it took a bit of time. It was nice to find it at the crunch time, we would have loved to gone through

MI are a great team and they have been consistent all season, beaten us thrice. We will just bring out our best game of cricket and play our best. I reckon that will be good enough

The main thing is attitude on the field. You can't win tournaments if you don't take catches, so that, we'll have to do much better next time — that's what's let us down in this tournament

FINAL SHOWDOWN

Mumbai look for High 5, Capitals want 'Special One'

PTI ■ DUBAI

The unmatched legacy and hegemony created by the *galacticos* of Mumbai Indians will be thoroughly challenged by a young *Mumbaikar* Shreyas Iyer, who will lead a passionate-but-unpredictable Delhi Capitals in a cracker of an Indian Premier League final here on Tuesday.

After 52 days of the most closely-contested and widely-watched edition played on alien land in the backdrop of the raging Covid-19 pandemic, the BCCI can pat itself for pulling off a near flawless tournament that gave people a chance to withdraw from prime time negativity that dominated the air space.

And now, it's the coronation time with IPL's most successful skipper Rohit Sharma itching to win his fifth title amid a stormy couple of weeks.

On the other hand, the Capitals, a team that had flattered to deceive for a dozen editions, will finally realise its potential on the grand stage of T20 cricket.

There hasn't been too many editions where the two most deserving teams squared off in a summit clash unlike this edition where Mumbai reached the finals winning 10 out of their 15 games while Capitals, despite a slump, managed to triumph in nine out of their 16 games.

There haven't been too many teams that have shown the flair and balance of Mumbai Indians, an envy for any opposition.

Sample this scary piece of statistic and one can gauge the might of Mumbai Indians. In all, their players have hit 130 sixes compared to Capitals' 84.

Quinton de Kock's panache has a foil in Rohit Sharma's style although proving a point to all and sundry about his hamstring injury would also be on the Indian's mind.

Suryakumar Yadav's (60 boundaries and 10 sixes) epic *"I am there"* gesture after a league game against RCB is now a part of the MI folklore and the elegant way of handling fast bowlers has only exponentially increased his fan-base.

Ishan Kishan, in his five and half feet frame, has managed to hit an astounding 29 sixes while Kieron Pollard is a bonafide legend with 190 plus strike-rate.

If Kagiso Rabada (29 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (20 wickets) get rid of this lot, DC will have to deal with the Pandya brothers — the cool Krunal and the flamboyant Hardik — both of whom are imposing and capable of striking muscular hits.

Shikhar Dhawan (603 runs), who has enjoyed his best IPL, will have to do something out of the ordinary to tackle the yorkers from Jasprit Bumrah and those vicious incoming deliveries from Trent Boult, which will tail in at the last moment.

In the three contests this season, Mumbai Indians have blown away Capitals in one-sided affairs but all will come to a naught if Iyer, a quintessential *Mumbaikar*, can ensure that his team are fourth time lucky.

The second qualifier showed that they have somewhat found their ideal combination with Marcus Stoinis' all-round game (352 runs and 12 wickets) and ability to open the innings bringing in the required balance.

Shimron Hetmyer's six-hitting prowess will also be required considering that Iyer and Rishabh Pant haven't exactly fired for the better part of the tournament.

Another big factor for the Capitals could be Ravichandran Ashwin's quality as a Powerplay operator.

A crafty Ashwin can always alter the length and check how much of an impact his bowling would have on Rohit's hamstring if he tries to dance down the track.

The sub-plots and little battles within are going to be enticing.

These include a young captain Iyer trying to show his wares, Ricky Ponting stamping his credentials as an astute tactician, and Suryakumar ensuring that chairman of selectors Sunil Joshi eats a humble pie.

IPL final will grab all eyeballs but possibly miss that man from Jharkhand who has been a regular feature in the finals since 2017.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be missed in an IPL final but then cricket just like life will go on at its own pace.

'Boult looking fine, is great asset to team'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma on Monday expressed optimism about having the services of Trent Boult, who had sustained a groin injury, in the IPL final against Delhi Capitals.

When the two sides had met in the first qualifier, Boult had walked off the field after bowling two overs.

Asked about his fitness status, Rohit said, "Trent looks pretty good, he is going to have a session today (Monday) with all of us and we will see how he goes, he pulled up pretty well in the last few days, so fingers crossed and hopefully he plays."

Rohit also said that Boult is the best in the business with the new ball and that the swing bowler hasn't disappointed anyone in the Mumbai team.

"Yeah, we always wanted somebody who can bowl with the new ball and get those wickets for us in the powerplay.

"And we looked across the world and obviously Trent, it's a no brainer that he is the best bowler with the new ball, when it comes to swinging the ball back into the batsman and to a left-hander, taking the ball away from them, he is the best in the business."

Overall, Boult has been the third highest wicket-taker this season with 22 scalps to his name and only behind Jasprit Bumrah (27 wickets) and Delhi Capitals pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada (29).

"We always wanted him (Boult) in the squad and luckily for us we got him traded from Delhi.

"He has not disappointed anyone of us, he has just come and done the job for us with the new ball and also in the middle, he has bowled pretty well in the middle and also at the back end few times, he has bowled pretty well.

"So he is a great asset to have in the squad and I just hope he can do it one more time for us," Rohit said.

We can't think about past results: Rohit

Dubai: On the cusp of his fifth IPL title, Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma didn't deny that his team have a "slight psychological advantage" going into Tuesday's final against Delhi Capitals but refused to dwell on emphatic wins of past.

Mumbai Indians have steamrolled Capitals in their previous three meetings during the season, winning the first leg by five wickets, return leg by nine wickets and the first qualifier by 57 runs.

"There will be a psychological advantage a little bit, yes, but again what we have seen with IPL is every day is a fresh day, every day is a new pressure and every game is a new game.

"So you can't think too much about what has happened in the past," Rohit said on Monday.

On the eve of the final, the skipper, though, didn't deny that any win gives a team extra confidence.

"To be honest, we can't think about that we have played these guys before and we have beaten them. We just need to think that they are a new opponent and what will we do as a team against that opponent," said one of IPL's greatest performers.

"It is that simple for us and we keep doing right things on the field, I am sure we will have the fifth one in the bag." **PTI**

DC's best still to come: Punter warns MI

Dubai: Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting has warned Mumbai Indians not to take his side lightly in Tuesday's final, saying its best is still to come.

Going into the summit clash, four-time champions MI have the psychological advantage over DC, who will appear in their maiden final.

Besides, MI steamrolled DC in their previous three meetings during the season.

"Looking back now we are happy, it's been a good season but we are here to win the IPL and we will give it our best shot," Ponting said on Monday.

"We got off to a good start but were a bit shaky towards the end but the boys have managed to really play two very good games out of three, and hopefully, we can play our best game in the final.

"Didn't matter that we lost games. Each team won a couple, lost a couple but all of our losses came in a group and it was hard to change the momentum, but the boys did it and we find ourselves in the final and I think our best cricket is yet to come."

Ponting said DC have the firepower to dash MI's hopes of a fifth IPL title.

"Things will be pretty much the same. We have got enough firepower. If Mumbai would be sitting back and thinking if there is a team they wouldn't like to play, it is us. It's about us, how we turn up and play," he said.

"We have been long away from the best we have played against Mumbai so far. We will try and address some of the areas that we haven't played against Mumbai in the past — power play batting, death bowling are some.

"So if we rectify those things and play somewhere near our best, then we can..." **PTI**

Aus greats want Pucovski as opener

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former skippers, including Ian Chappell and Michael Clarke, have called for the inclusion of young opener Will Pucovski in Australia's team for the upcoming four-Test series against India.

Victoria's Pucovski has produced successive double hundreds, scoring 202 against Western Australia in a Sheffield Shield clash after an unbeaten 255 last week against South Australia.

The 22-year-old has scored 457 runs so far this season and Clarke believes he must be handed a chance to face India during the Test series beginning in Adelaide on December 17.

"Got to pick him ... This is a great way to work him into that Australian team," Clarke said on *Sky Sports* radio.

"Yeah, it's against a good team, India, but this kid's ready ... With (David) Warner as his opening partner, (Marnus) Labuschagne as his No 3, (Steve) Smith as his No 4, that's the leadership and experience you need around you as a young batsman."

Chappell, who captained Australia between 1971- 1975, said Pucovski could be a better long-term option than Test opener Joe Burns, who averaged 32 for Australia last summer and had scores of 7, 29, 0, and 10 for Queensland this season.

"Burns has made not many runs at all in this summer and there comes a time where you think to yourself, 'well, where is Burns going?'," Chappell told the *ABC*. "He's probably not going anywhere, really, and it's time to have a look at Pucovski.

"What's that now? Six or seven first-class centuries? That includes a couple of doubles. He's ready."

Pucovski has scored six hundreds in 22 first-class matches at an average of 57.93.

Former Australian opener Mark Waugh also backed the youngster for the opening slot in the first Test against India.

"I would definitely be picking him for the first Test against India. He should be picked as an opening batsman," Waugh told *foxsports.com.au*.

Kohli to return home after Adelaide Test

Indian skipper will go on paternity leave after 1st Oz Test; Rohit added to red-ball team, injured Chakravarthy out of T20Is

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's three squads for the upcoming tour of Australia have undergone several changes after the selection committee met on Sunday to pick certain replacements after receiving injury reports and updates from the BCCI mtedical team.

Virat Kohli, who was named captain of all three squads, will be available for both limited-overs series but will return to India after the first Test to attend the birth of his first child.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India put out a statement on Monday saying it has granted paternity leave to Kohli.

The other big update is Rohit Sharma's inclusion in the Test squad. The 33-year-old was initially not included in any of the squads after suffering a left hamstring injury during the ongoing Indian Premier League. The BCCI has stated that he will be rested for the limited-overs leg of the Australia tour in order to get fit for the Tests.

Indian skipper Virat Kohli arrives at crease to bat in Sydney Test 2019 ICC/Twitter

Here are the other big announcements by BCCI:

1. Virat Kohli — At the selection committee meeting held on October 26th, 2020, Virat Kohli had informed the BCCI about his plans to return to India after the first Test in Adelaide. The BCCI has granted paternity leave to the Indian captain. He will return after the first Test against Australia in Adelaide.

2. Rohit Sharma — The BCCI Medical Team has been monitoring Rohit Sharma's fitness and has briefed All-India Senior Selection Committee on the same. In consultation with Sharma, it has been decided to rest him for the ODIs and T20Is in Australia to regain full fitness and he has been included in India's Test squad for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

3. Sanju Samson — The Selection Committee has added Sanju Samson as an additional wicket-keeper to India's ODI squad.

4. Ishant Sharma — The senior Indian fast bowler has been undergoing his rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. Once he fully recovers and gains sufficient match fitness, he will be added to India's Test squad.

5. Varun Chakravarthy — The spinner has been ruled out of the T20I series owing to a shoulder injury. The selectors have named T Natarajan as a replacement.

6. Wriddhiman Saha — The senior Indian wicket-keeper sustained injuries to both his hamstrings during his side's IPL game on 3rd November. A call on his availability will be taken later.

7. Kamlesh Nagarkoti — The young fast bowler will not be able to travel to Australia as he is still working with the medical team on his bowling workload management.

Ibra earns late point for Milan

AFP ■ MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic missed a penalty before scoring a late equaliser as Serie A leaders AC Milan salvaged a point in a 2-2 Serie A draw against Hellas Verona on Sunday.

"I'll let Franck Kessie take the next one, that would be better," said Ibrahimovic, who has now missed four of the last six penalties he has taken for AC Milan.

Stefano Pioli's side are top of Serie A with a two-point advantage on second-placed Sassuolo, who were held to a goalless draw against Udinese on Friday.

Milan had the chance to pull four points clear at the top of the table in the final match before the international break.

But the leaders were two goals down in the San Siro after Antonin Barak opened the scoring in the sixth minute and Milan defender Davide Calabria bundled into his own goal quarter of an hour later.

Ibrahimovic had a chance for the equaliser after 66 minutes, after Verona defender Giangiacomo Magnani's own goal had reduced the deficit for the hosts.

But the 39-year-old embarrassingly fired over the crossbar before redeeming himself deep into injury time by heading in his eighth league goal this season.

"With so many matches you are not always 100 percent," said the veteran Swedish striker. "It was important not to lose. Thank goodness there is a break now, so I rest a little."

Milan avoided a first league defeat after their 24-match unbeaten run was ended with a Europa League loss to Lille during the week.

Soler repeatedly makes Real pay the penalty

AFP ■ VALENCIA

Real Madrid were thrashed 4-1 at struggling Valencia on Sunday as Carlos Soler scored a hat-trick of penalties to raise further doubts over La Liga's reigning champions.

Madrid took the lead through Karim Benzema but presented Valencia with four gifts at Mestalla, including three spot-kicks and an own-goal scored by Raphael Varane, to fall to another surprise defeat.

"There is no justification, no excuses," said Zinedine Zidane. "It's a bad game and a bad day."

This is the first time Madrid have conceded four goals since letting in five against Barcelona in October 2018 and puts the brakes on their recovery that had followed a rocky start to the season.

After back-to-back losses to Cadiz and Shakhtar Donestsk last month, Zinedine Zidane's side appeared to have turned a corner with wins over Barca, Huesca and Inter Milan.

Yet this result puts the pressure back on ahead of the international break, with Madrid now fourth in the table, four points behind early leaders Real Sociedad.

Valencia's Carlos Soler, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring AP

Valencia, meanwhile, started the day in 17th after enduring a nightmare start to the campaign, on the back of a transfer window which saw them sell five key players and fail to replace any of them.

A stirring victory though pushes Javi Gracia's team up to ninth and may prove a turning point in their season.

There was certainly an element of fortune in Valencia's goals, all of them unusual and some of them bizarre.

But Soler did brilliantly to beat Thibaut Courtois three times, particularly having missed his first attempt, which was retaken after the Belgian came off his line.

Three and easy

Watkins nets brace as Aston Villa thrash Arsenal at Emirates

AFP ■ LONDON

Mikel Arteta admitted Arsenal were unrecognisable from the side that has made plenty of progress in his first year in charge as Aston Villa stormed to a comprehensive 3-0 win at the Emirates on Sunday.

Bukayo Saka's own goal and a double from Ollie Watkins took Villa up to sixth, just three points off the top of the table with a game in hand.

Arsenal had beaten Manchester United at Old Trafford for the first time in 14 years last weekend in what appeared to be the latest sign the Gunners are heading in the right direction under Arteta.

But the Spaniard suffered the joint heaviest defeat of his managerial career in a chastening evening for the hosts, who were second best from start to finish.

A second consecutive home defeat for Arsenal sees them slip to 11th, four points off their major target for the season of a top-four finish.

"We performed below our standards and I have to say it's the first time I've seen us play and we weren't a team," said Arteta.

Injured TAA out of Eng matches

Manchester: Defender Trent Alexander-Arnold will miss England's upcoming Nations League games after picking up an injury during Liverpool's 1-1 draw against Man City in the Premier League, manager Jurgen Klopp has confirmed.

The defender was forced from the field after 63 minutes at Etihad Stadium on Sunday after pulling up with an issue.

Klopp stated Alexander-Arnold will be ruled out of England's fixtures with Republic of Ireland, Belgium and Iceland during the international break, with the Reds awaiting further diagnosis following a scan on Monday.

"Trent will be out for England, that is clear," said Klopp as per the club's official website.

"What he has, we don't know, but he cannot play for England. He will not be the last and not the only one who Gareth (Southgate) will miss for this international break. **AFP**