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LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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NDA BEATS EXIT POLLS, RETAINS BIHAR

In neck & neck fight between NDA and Grand Alliance, Owaisi's party plays spoilsport for Mahagathbandhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar has stayed saffron. The NDA staved off a strong challenge from RJD-led Grand Alliance to emerge ahead in the battle of Bihar on Tuesday, but the nature of the outcome has considerably weakened the position of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The RJD emerged as the singles largest party winning 75 seats, BJP won 74, the JD(U) 43, Congress 19, and the CPI(M-L) 12. Results of three other seats were awaited.

The NDA barely crossed the halfway mark, winning 124 seats and leading on 1. The Grand Alliance could bag 110 seats. The Election Commission had officially announced 215 confirm results by 12.30 am on Wednesday.

The Congress below-par performance and AIMIM stunning show in the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region sealed the Mahagathbandhan fate. Owaisi won five seats and spoiled the Grand Alliances chances on at least 10 more seats. The NDA's better than expected performance in the Muslim-Yadav dominated Seemanchal clearly hints at polarisation of voters on religious line.

On the other hand, the Congress won just 19 out of the 70 seats it contested. The Congress strike rate was worst among all the major parties in the fray.

With result trickling in

with very slow speed, the RJD came out with a tweet late Tuesday evening claiming that election officials were delaying handing certificates to winning candidates from at least 10 seats. The party blamed Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi of conspiring to put pressure on district and polling officials to favour the NDA candidates in closely-

contested seats. However, the Election Commission rejected these allegations.

Since the BJP with 74 seats was miles ahead of the JD(U) in the seat tally, it will be seen doing a favour to Kumar by not claiming the top post for a saffron leader.

Home Minister Amit Shah dialled Kumar and reportedly discussed the poll results and trends. Shah and BJP president

JP Nadda have already announced that Kumar will be the Chief Minister irrespective of the seats won by the two allies.

BJP Bihar chief Sanjay Jaiswal once again repeated that Kumar will be the Chief Minister. "The issue has been cleared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief JP Nadda much before the elections," he said, while

responding to a query whether Kumar will lead the NDA Government if it secures a majority in the Assembly.

LJP leader Chirag Paswan may have inflicted substantial damage on Kumar, but the CM's success in retaining his core vote back — women and extremely backward castes — saved the day for him even though his party slipped to number

third position behind the BJP and the RJD.

The LJP, whose walking out of the polls had sparked speculation that Chirag was set on to downsize Kumar, was down in the dumps.

Kumar has reason to be relieved. He was pitted against 15-year of anti-incumbency that only got further hyped by the plight of nearly 25 lakh migrants workers returning home after undergoing heart-rending suffering. The accompanying economic distress caused by the Covid-lockdown compounded his woes, and Chirag was already out to sabotage his prospects, come what may.

The optics could not have been worse. The crowd jeered and heckled him at places and also threw slippers and onions at him. His critics wrote his political obituary and Chirag threatened to send him to jail

PARTY/ALLIANCE POSITION (SOURCE: ECI)			
PARTY (ALLIANCE)	WON	LEADING	TOTAL
NDA (125)			
BJP	64	10	74
Janata Dal (United)	38	5	43
Hindustani Awam Morcha (S)	4	0	4
Vikassheel Insaan Party	4	0	4
MAHAGATHBANDHAN (110)			
Rashtriya Janata Dal	66	9	75
Congress	17	2	19
CPI	2	0	2
CPI (Marxist)	2	0	2
CPI (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)	10	2	12
OTHERS			
All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen	5	0	5
Bahujan Samaj Party	1	0	1
Independent	1	0	1
Lok Janshakti Party	1	0	1
TOTAL	214	28	243

in corruption charges. When Kumar repeatedly lost his cool, then it was cited yet another example of the ground slipping under his feet.

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BJP workers celebrate after NDA's victory in the Bihar Assembly elections results, in Patna, on Tuesday

PTI

BJP romps home in UP bypolls, wins 6 out of 7

SP retains 1 seat; BJP's strength in 403-seated UP House goes up to 310

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

Diwali seems to have arrived a few days early for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh and other States where the votes for the bypolls and State Assembly elections were counted on Tuesday with the saffron party sailing through.

The BJP drubbed the divided Opposition in Uttar Pradesh by winning 6 seats of the total 7, while Samajwadi Party managed to retain one seat.

BJP candidates won the Bulandshahr, Tundla, Ghatampur, Deoria, Naugawan Sadat and Bangarmau seats with a bigger margin compared to the 2017 Assembly elections while the SP won the Malhoni seat in Jaunpur district.

Four cornered contest in the bypolls benefited the ruling BJP as all the three Opposition parties — SP, BSP and Congress candidates polled sizeable number of votes thus paving the victory of the ruling saffron party. With this win, the total strength of the BJP in the 403-seated UP Assembly has gone to 310. Now, the SP's strength is 49.

The Congress and the BSP had



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma and UP BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh celebrate party's win, at the party office in Lucknow on Tuesday

PTI

fielded candidates in all seven seats and they drew blank. However, the minor consolation for the Congress was in Bangarmau where its candidate finished second.

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BJP sweeps MP bypolls, bags 20 seats, Cong 8

Shivraj Govt's strength rises to 127 in 230 members Assembly

PNS ■ BHOPAL

The BJP won 20 of the 28 seats in the by-elections in Madhya Pradesh, giving it enough numbers to achieve majority in the Assembly and provide stability to the Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government in the State.

The Congress got some consolation by bagging 8 seats. The BSP could not win any seat. It fought on 2 seats.

In the 230-member Assembly, the BJP tally has increased to 127 (well above simple majority mark of 116) with the addition of these 20 seats. Prominent BJP Minister Prabhuram Choudhary won the bypolls from Sanchi with a margin of 63,809 votes.



BJP workers celebrate party's victory in Madhya Pradesh Assembly by-elections, at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal, on Tuesday

PTI

Reacting to the results, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the outcome proves voters supported the decision taken by Congress MLAs to pull down the previous Kamal Nath dispensation.

"It has been proved today that public has supported the decision taken by our MLA colleagues under the leadership of Scindia (BJPs Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia) to pull down the (Nath) Government," Chouhan told party workers in his address as bypoll results poured in.

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Modi's veiled warning to China, Pak at SCO meet

Member States must respect each other's territorial integrity, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With situation remaining tense at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that all member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This message was obviously directed towards



China and Pakistan, who are members of the SCO.

This was the first time Modi came face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a virtual meeting of the SCO since the face-off started in early May. Modi's remarks also came against the backdrop of Islamabad's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue and its continued support to

cross-border terrorism in India.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was also present among the heads of Governments attending the summit, chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Modi and Xi Jinping had taken part in a virtual session of the UN General Assembly in September. They addressed the UN on different dates.

Referring to India's participation in strengthening connectivity among nations, Modi said, "India believes that to enhance connectivity it is important that we move forward while respecting one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

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Mumbai Indians grab IPL title for 5th time

PTI ■ DUBAI

A ruthless Mumbai Indians won an unprecedented fifth Indian Premier League title as Delhi Capitals, for all their efforts and ambitions, were left to contend with a runner-up finish following a five-wicket defeat here on Tuesday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front with a 51-ball 68 as MI chased down a target of 157 18.4 overs, after Trent Boult (3/30) had reduced the Capitals to 22 for three with an excellent display of fast bowling.

Earlier, Shreyas Iyer's unbeaten fifty lifted Delhi Capitals to 156 for seven after the defending champions had them in all sorts of trouble in the summit showdown of the 13th edition of the lucrative event.

Detailed report on P14



Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma and team celebrate their win over Delhi Capitals during the IPL 13 final held at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai, on Tuesday

IPL

CAPSULE

DELHI-NCR'S AIR QUALITY HITS 'EMERGENCY' LEVELS

New Delhi: A grey apocalyptic smog enveloped Delhi on Tuesday, blotting out the sun from the sky and smudging landmarks from view as air quality hit "emergency" levels. Delhi recorded a 24-hour average AQI of 476, which falls in the "severe" category. The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (448), Ghaziabad (444), Noida (455), Greater Noida (436), and Gurgaon (427), which fall in the NCR, also recorded "severe" air quality.

DELHI RECORDS 7,830 NEW COVID CASES

New Delhi: Delhi recorded 7,830 fresh Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, the highest single-day spike here till date, taking the infection tally in the national capital to over 4.5 lakh even as 83 new fatalities pushed the toll to 7,143, authorities said.

Modi hai to mumkin hai: CM Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Giving credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Bharatiya Janata Party's unprecedented performance in the elections, including bypolls, the results of which were announced on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that "Modi hai to mumkin hai" (When Modi is there, it is possible).

"Under the prime minister's guidance, the saffron party has performed exceptionally well in the Bihar elections and the bypolls across India," Yogi said while addressing reporters here.

He said that election trends in Bihar and other states where bypolls were held had negated all speculations about BJP's performance.

"The results have once again proved that Modi hai to mumkin hai," he said.

"The prime minister has taken India to a new height on global platforms. What the Modi government did for the poor during the (coronavirus) crisis has been approved by the people in this election. People's love for BJP by voting in its favour is an indirect approval for the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that aim at uplifting the poor and the deprived section of society," Yogi Adityanath said, and added that these results had further strengthened the people's faith in the prime minister.

Yogi Adityanath also thanked party workers for BJP's victory, saying it was possible only because of the team work shown by the government and the party organisation.

"A lakh of party workers worked relentlessly at the booth level with a sense of service towards the organisation and it is creditworthy," he said.

"Millions of party men spared no efforts to disseminate the message of development among the masses without caring for their lives during the coronavirus period," Yogi said, adding

Yogi's strike rate over 73% in polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

If polls could be equated with 'fatafat' Cricket like the Indian Premier League, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has a very good strike rate vis-à-vis election rallies he addressed and the success the party achieved there. The strike rate of the chief minister in UP bypolls is around 85 percent, while it is over 73 percent in Bihar elections.

In UP, Yogi Adityanath addressed seven election meetings and the BJP won six seats while in Bihar, out of 19 election rallies that he addressed, the National Democratic Alliance won 14 seats. In the first phase of Bihar polls, Yogi addressed three meetings but in his meetings in tribal and border areas where he raised infiltration issues, the people lapped it up.

Addressing an election rally in Katihar, Yogi Adityanath had threatened to throw illegal migrants out. Addressing the rally Yogi said: "Modi has found a solution to the infiltration problem in the form of the Citizenship Amendment Act. He has ensured that all those who fled Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh following religious persecution feel safe here.

On the other hand, those infiltrators who try to undermine the sovereignty and integrity of the country will be thrown out."

Though the Janata Dal (United) leaders opposed it said and Bihar Chief Minister called it a "faltu baat", but Yogi's words were lapped up and people who voted for the NDA for national security.

"Yogi Adityanath talked about issues like Kashmir, Article 370,

that where the party had reached today was possible only because of party workers.



Pakistan and China which people wanted to listen to and this did magic for him," said Nomita P Kumar from the Giri Institute of Development Studies in Lucknow.

But in UP, he talked about development. Yogi led the campaign in the state by addressing public meetings in all the Assembly constituencies where bypolls were held on November 3.

The result of the bypolls in UP has put a stamp on the development-oriented approach of the Yogi government in the state.

The narrative for the bypoll was very simple and Yogi only concentrated on the works his government had done during the past three-and-half years. The results have given a befitting reply to the opposition which was

trying to build a narrative that the performance of the Yogi government would be the criterion of voting.

The BJP cruised smoothly in six out of seven constituencies, registering victory in Tundla, Naugawan Sadat, Ghatampur, Bangarmau, Bulandshahr and Deoria, dishing out a crushing defeat to the entire opposition.

Significantly, the opposition has failed to register any significant presence since 2017 and, as often said by the BJP leaders, indulged in the politics of conspiracy. The bypolls, though only on seven seats, were being considered as a semifinal before the battle of 2022, and they proved that the BJP continues to be blessed by the people of the state.

He also thanked his two Deputy Chief Ministers Dinesh Sharma and Keshav Prasad Maurya, BJP general

secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal and BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh for the party's victory.

Don't lower the guard, says CM as recovery rate reaches 94%

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing satisfaction with the COVID-19 recovery rate in the state reaching 94 percent, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked officials to increase it further, saying that despite the protection and treatment facilities available across the state, the guard should not be lowered at any level.

The chief minister, while presiding over the high-level Unlock review meeting at his official residence here on Tuesday, said that Covid testing should be done to full capacity with at least one-third tests being done by RT-PCR method and two-thirds by rapid antigen method.

Stressing the need for special vigil in Meerut district, the chief minister asked officials to strengthen the Covid treatment facility in Lucknow district to further improve the recovery rate. He said that COVID-19 patients with acute illness like kidney or heart disease should be taken care of at the Covid hospitals. The chief minister directed all district magistrates and chief medical officers to hold their morning meetings in the Covid hospitals.

"It is mandatory for the incharge medical officer of Covid hospital to be present in these meetings," he added.

The chief minister said that

evening meetings should be held at Integrated Command and Control Centres.

"This will help in increasing the efficacy of surveillance systems, functioning of Covid hospitals as well as the treatment pattern to control the infection," he said. The chief minister said that farmers should regularly be made aware of the ill effects of burning stubble and directed the Agriculture, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Urban Development departments to make coordinated efforts to bring a positive change in this regard.

He also directed the officials to make stubble available at cow shelter homes to be used as fodder. The chief minister also asked officials to ensure that the farmers got the minimum support price (MSP) at paddy purchase centres and mandis. He said that several works may be taken up under MGNREGA, including digging of ponds and construction of check dams.

Yogi Adityanath also directed the officials to expedite construction of panchayat bhawans and community toilets.

Those present in the meeting included Medical Education Minister Suresh Khanna, Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh, Minister of State for Health Atul Garg, Chief Secretary RK Tiwari, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner

Alok Tandon, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, Director General of Police Hitesh C Awasthi, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Renuka Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Medical Education) Rajneesh Dube, Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (MSME and Information) Navneet Sehgal, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Devesh Chaturvedi, Additional Chief Secretary to CM SP Goel, Principal Secretary to CM and Information, Sanjay Prasad, Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar, Director of Information Shishir and other officials.

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This is for notification of general public on behalf of my client AADHAR HOUSING FINANCE LTD CHUNNI GANJ KANPUR. One of customer of my client (Applicant) Mr. Rajeev Mishra S/o Daya Shankar Mishra and Co. Applicant Anita Mishra W/o Rajeev Mishra both of R/o H. No. 54/08 Carwell nagar, Kanpur, is availing a house purchase loan the purchase property situated in Premises no. 127/263 Juhi Kalan Kanpur owned by Asha Rani which boundaries are NORTH-30° Ft road, SOUTH-127/265 (Jivanram & Tulsiram), EAST- 127/264 (Babu Lal), WEST-127/262 (Mahadev). The original registered agreement to sale dated 06/07/1997 Registration No.4264 in favor of Kanhaiya Lal and smt bitan devi is lost and can not be retrieved. In this regards in any Individual, Bank, Finance Institution have any objection on this mortgage or having any sort of claim can inform as below given address in writing within 7 Days of this publication. Any claim or complaint after the specified time will not be entertained.

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Demand for Lallu's ouster



Lucknow (PNS): With the Congress once again failing to open its account in the bypolls to seven seats in Uttar Pradesh, a large section of partymen have started raising their voice for ouster of UPCC president Ajay Kumar Lallu, blaming him for the poor show.

As per the reports, the party candidates lost deposits in Deoria, Bulandshahr, Mahani, and Naugawan Sadat but in Bangarmau (Unnao) and Ghatampur (Kanpur), the party put up some impressive show by remaining runners-up though losing both the seats by a huge margin to Bharatiya Janata Party. In Deoria, Congress candidate Mukund Bhaskar got just 2.17 percent votes which was less than even the votes polled by independent candidate Ajay Pratap Singh (11.35 percent). In Mahani, Congress candidate Rakesh Mishra received 1.39 percent votes while in Nawgawan Sadat, Kamlesh Singh polled 2.18 percent votes. In Bulandshahr, Susheel Chowdhary got 5.1 percent votes.

"This is a semi-final to next Assembly elections in UP in 2022 and losing deposit in five constituencies and remaining behind even independent candidates in two speaks volumes that Ajay Kumar Lallu has failed to strengthen the party," said a former UPCC president while reacting on results.

He said that Lallu had spent enough time and also got a free hand from party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to form a team of his choice but now the result was before everyone.

Interestingly, a close lieutenant of Lallu tried to defend him, saying that though they did not win any seat but the total percentage of votes had increased.

Akhilesh sees 'conspiracy' in BJP victory

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president and former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav described the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party candidates in bypolls as a 'conspiracy'.

He said the BJP, by trying to monopolise the politics of the country, was weakening democracy and kept winning elections by conspiracy.

On Monday Akhilesh Yadav had accused the BJP of rigging the elections. He, however, did not elaborate on the accusation and said he would provide detailed information after the results are out.

SP chief said the elections had lost credibility due to the deceptions and the dirty tricks used by the BJP for winning the polls.

He said his party with the support of the people would launch a campaign for protecting and strengthening democracy.

UP to comply with NGT curbs on firecrackers 'Celebrate Diwali using digital technology'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to comply with the order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposing curbs on bursting of firecrackers on Diwali. The government has asked the people to promote celebration of this festival through digital and laser technology.

This resolution has been adopted by the administration in the wake of the continuously deteriorating air quality across the state.

While the government communiqué mentions 13 cities for complete ban on crackers in view of poor air quality, in other districts, green crackers will be allowed to celebrate the festival. Interestingly, till Monday, there was ban on only certain categories of firecrackers in Lucknow but now the government has put the state capital also in the complete ban category.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said, "The NGT's order is a detailed one and we will comply with it. The air quality is deteriorating and steps have to be taken to address the issue."

He said that cities including Lucknow,

Varanasi, Muzaffarnagar, Agra, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Noida, Greater Noida, Baghpat, Kanpur Nagar, Bulandshahr and Moradabad, which were placed in the poor air quality category by the NGT may go for a complete ban on the use of crackers during Diwali.

Awasthi said that directions in this regard had already been issued to all senior officers, including IGs, DIGs, district magistrates, commissioners and district police chiefs and they had been asked to strictly comply with the NGT guidelines regarding fire-crackers.

The additional chief secretary said that the people should celebrate this Diwali with digital and laser technology.

A senior official said that the district magistrates of other cities would take decisions on this issue, keeping in mind the pollution level in their respective districts but only green crackers would be allowed.

Though the restrictions and ban on bursting firecracker may dull the festivities and celebrations this Diwali, it was an effective step to reduce the towering levels of air pollution in the state, the officer added.

Over two dozen bus passengers injured in mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As many as 28 passengers were injured when a double-decker bus they were travelling in overturned at the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in the Khekda area of Baghpat on Tuesday.

Official sources said that the driver of the double-decker bus, which was going towards Bareilly from Baddi town

in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh, lost control over the wheel and the bus overturned on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in Khekda area at around 2 am on Tuesday and 28 passengers sustained serious injuries.

Upon receiving information, the local police and District Magistrate Shakuntala Gautam reached the spot. The district administration launched a

rescue operation and admitted all the injured passengers to the district hospital.

Five critically injured passengers were referred to the Meerut medical college hospital while four passengers were discharged after first aid.

Following the accident, there was a long jam at the expressway. Later, the officials restored the traffic.

Man chops off woman's nose over dispute

PTI ■ JALAU

A jilted lover allegedly chopped the nose off a 40-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday morning over a dispute, Orai police station incharge Sudhakar Mishra said. The woman was rushed to a hospital, where her condition is stated to be stable. The woman was married, but living alone for the past five years due to a dispute and the man was forcing her to marry him, police said. A search is on for the suspect, the officer said.

MISSING WOMAN FOUND DEAD

MUZAFFARNAGAR: A 30-year-old woman who was missing for the past three days was found dead in a field in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Tuesday. The woman was allegedly strangled to death. Her body was found in the fields under Titawi police station area on Monday evening and sent for post-mortem. A person named Sunil Kumar was arrested and a mur-

der case has been registered, an officer said.

Kumar and the woman allegedly had an illicit affair, and he has been pressurising her to marry. He took her to the nearby fields on the pretext of marriage, strangled her to death and dumped the body, according to a complaint by her husband.

In another incident, six people attacked a family who protested against the alleged sexual harassment of a 27-year-old woman.

The incident occurred at a village under Kotwali police station on Tuesday evening. The woman's husband was shifted to a hospital. A case has been registered and a search is on to arrested the suspects, including prime accused Amir, police said.

THREE SHELL FIRMS DETECTED IN UP

BAREILLY: The Uttar Pradesh Commercial Taxes Department has unearthed three shell firms involved in bogus sale of mentha oil, an official said on Tuesday.

Of these three bogus firms, two were from Bareilly and one from Shahjahanpur, the official said. Additional Commissioner of

enforcement team RK Pandey said 18 firms in Shahjahanpur and Bareilly were probed by the department. "Two bogus firms in Bareilly — MS Enetprises and Shyam Traders — and Hindustan Traders of Shahjahanpur, existed only on papers. All the documents of the these firms relating to sale and purchase are being probed," Pandey said.

HAUL OF FIREWORKS SEIZED, 1 HELD

MUZAFFARNAGAR: Over 200 kg of fire-crackers worth Rs 2.5 lakh were seized as police raided a furniture store here on Tuesday and arrested one person, officials said. The raid was conducted in Newmandi area as part of anti-pollution measures in the district, police said. A trader, Ankil Kumar, has been arrested and booked under the Explosives Act. The state government has banned use and sale of firecrackers in 12 districts, including Muzaffarnagar. Meanwhile, firecracker traders staged a dharna in front of the residence of Uttar Pradesh minister Kapil Dev Agrawal to press their demand for allowing sale of crackers.

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Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of Baroda** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to the following borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the dates as mentioned below. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Baroda**, for an amount add interest thereon. **The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

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Date: 11.11.2020, Place: Lucknow		Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda	

54.2 pc of deceased senior citizens

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior citizens have accounted for 54.2 per cent Covid deaths in Lucknow so far. According to a senior official at the CMO office, this figure is almost the same as that in September when 53.6 per cent of the deceased included those aged above 60 years.

Doctors have stressed time and again that low immunity levels and co-morbidities make senior citizens more vulnerable to Covid-19 complications. Now with the approaching festive season, doctors say that most of the elderly people are likely to contract infection from youngsters who are venturing out caring two hoots for precautions.

According to Dr Tanmay Ghatak from SGPGL, the carelessness with which people stepping are moving around with no Covid-19 protocols, they would ultimately end up infect people in their respective families. "Youngsters are largely asymptomatic but pose a great risk to their parents and grandparents," he said.

He further pointed out that senior citizens with co-morbidities in some cases also

reach hospitals late and it results in complications. Dr Ghatak said diabetes has made matters worse for Covid-19 patients and caused maximum number of deaths among senior citizens.

"Diabetes has emerged as a co-morbidity which has led to maximum number of deaths. This is because most of the medicines — steroids and drugs — given for Covid-19 are immuno-suppressants. These medicines are administered to avoid cytokine storm and it gives a chance for the secondary infections to flourish. COPD is another co-morbidity which is not too far behind," he said.

Meanwhile, the district administration received support from the Lucknow Division of HAL in the battle against coronavirus with CMD R Madhavan handing over two ambulances, 10 ventilators and 10 high-flow nasal cannulas to Principal Secretary (Health) Alok Kumar at a programme organised at Utsav Mandap in Lucknow. Also present on the occasion were District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash, CMO Sanjay Bhatnagar and senior officials of HAL.

Number of new Covid patients down to 177

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow recorded less than 200 positive cases on Tuesday with 171 persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19 on Tuesday while 201 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures in the city to 61,681. There have been a total of 922 deaths in the state capital till now.

The new patients included 18 from Gomtinagar, 17 from Indiranagar, 14 each from Madaon & Chowk, 11 from Rae Bareilly road, and 10 each from Ashiyana, Hazratganj & Talkatora. There were five deaths in the city but only one of the deceased belonged to Lucknow while the rest to Prayagraj, Kanpur, Rae Bareilly and Basti.

Meanwhile, BSIP will start coronavirus sequencing in a bid to understand how it impacts the host cells. Technical incharge of BSIP's Covid-19 lab Dr Nagarjuna said their broad

Across in the state, 2,155 persons tested positive for coronavirus, including 108 in Ghaziabad, 119 in Gautam Buddha Nagar, 197 in Meerut and 82 in Kanpur, taking the UP tally to 5,01,311. There were 30 deaths across the state, including three in Meerut, two each in Agra, Varanasi, Ayodhya, Jaunpur, Siddharthnagar & Mainpuri, and one each in Prayagraj, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Gonda, Basti, Rae Bareilly, Farrukhabad, Sonbhadra, Banda, Auraiya & Kasganj, taking the toll to 7,261. Besides, 2,201 patients recovered, taking the state's recovery figures to 4,71,204. There are still 22,846 active cases in the state.

idea is to understand the host genome response to the virus. "We are trying to find out how the different populations react at the genome level. We are trying to estimate as to how these

genetic patterns are getting infected," he said. He added that they are also trying to find out why people are symptomatic or asymptomatic and why some people recover in just a week while others take a month.

"Even people living in the same area are affected in a different way and this is on account of the genetic make-up which needs to be studied," he said.

Dr Nagarjuna said they would also be studying the changes in the virus which are happening over a period of time from different regions of India and from different parts of the world. "We will also be analysing all the sequencing which has been submitted on the database from across the world. We will be using this data and comparing it to our data and then try to understand the pattern of changes which have happened in the virus itself. We will also load our data of sequencing because this is something which has to be done as team work since there are different strains of the virus in different regions," he said. He added that they have tested close to one lakh samples so far.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Medanta hospital on Tuesday to inquire about the health of Mahant Nriya Gopal Das who is admitted there. Mahant Nriya Gopal Das, president of Ram Mandir Trust, was admitted to Medanta on Monday due to low blood pressure, rapid heart rate, weakness and shortness of breath. Director of Medanta Dr Rakesh Kapoor said blood clots were found in his lungs and efforts were made to remove them. "His condition has improved although his kidneys are not working. His condition is critical but under control," Dr Kapoor said.

Man killed by nephew during drinking session

Lucknow (PNS): A youth allegedly killed his uncle during a drinking session in PGI police station area on Monday night. The victim was identified as Shiv Kumar of Barauli in the area. Reports said Shiv Kumar and his nephew Abhishek

Rawat had a drink session on Monday night and they picked up a fight over some personal issue. In a fit of rage, Abhishek attacked Shiv Kumar. He then reached Shiv Kumar's house to inform latter's brother Raj Kumar Rawat that he was lying

dead at his house.

Raj Kumar rushed to the scene and found Shiv Kumar lying in a pool of blood. The victim was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. Raj Kumar also named a woman Guddi in the case.

10-yr-old girl killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a tragic incident, a 10-year-old girl was killed while her sister suffered grievous injuries in Kakori on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Shalu Sharma of Madhoganj in Hardoi.

Reports said Shalu and her sister Kamini Sharma were crossing Sitapur bypass road in Kakori when a speeding truck knocked them. The truck driver fled the scene abandoning the vehicle while the sister duo were rushed to a hospital where Shalu was pronounced brought dead. Police impounded the truck and registered a case in this connection.

Adequate security for Diwali

Ban on crackers welcomed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow police commissionerate claims to have made ample security arrangements at crowded places, bus stations, shopping malls, railway & metro stations and sensitive places across the city.

As per an official communiqué, the places have been earmarked and local intelligence units and fire services put on alert. Additional force has been allotted to different police stations and the officials have been asked to deploy the force as per requirement. The officials have been directed to keep a watch on incidents which could escalate into communal clashes. Police personnel have been asked to convene meetings with traders and resolve their issues on priority.

Senior police officials are holding meetings with fire officials to chalk out a plan to prevent fire incidents in markets and other places during Diwali celebrations.

The commissioner of police has issued clear-cut instructions that no one should be harassed but stern action be taken against those indulging in brawls or those trying to disturb peace and harmony.

The police will be conducting checking in markets during Diwali and will also be keeping a watch on religious places while policewomen in civvies will be deployed in markets. LIU officials will also be present there. The cyber cell is also keeping a close watch on those making inflammatory posts on social media or those spreading rumours.

Meanwhile, activists welcomed the ban on sale and use of firecrackers from November 10 to December 1 by the state government under the direc-



tions of National Green Tribunal on Tuesday. However, traders resented saying the ban was being imposed just a few days before Diwali.

President of Adarsh Vyapar Mandal Sanjay Gupta said it would impact the traders who earn their living in this trade. "If the state government had to ban the sale of crackers, it should have been done at least one month prior to Diwali," he said. Director of Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) Alok Dhawan welcomed the

ban wholeheartedly, saying Diwali is the festival of lights and not of firecrackers. "Firecrackers have nothing to do with the traditional rituals of Diwali, and it is just a commercial aspect of the festival," he said. He added that the ban would make a huge difference to city's air quality.

On whether people would accept the ban, he said it would depend on implementation. "If the crackers are not sold, people won't be able to purchase them," he added.

It may be noted that while the air quality deteriorates every year in the month of October because of weather conditions, festive occasions at this time of the year only add to pollution levels and the air quality starts worsening since Karva Chauth and the trend continues till after Diwali and Chhat Puja. On Tuesday, Lucknow recorded an AQI of 344, which was in the 'very poor' category.



Preparations being made at a shop ahead of Dhanteras, in Nazirabad market on Tuesday

Pioneer

Lucknow Declaration follows CJs' conference

Lucknow (PNS): Presidents, prime ministers and legal luminaries of 63 nations reaffirmed their commitment through 'Lucknow Declaration' to carry on with their efforts to establish a new world order for

world unity, world peace and a safe and secure future of the young generation. Eminent figures from across the globe put their heads together while discussing ways and means to establish a new world order at

the four-day virtual conference and released 'Lucknow Declaration'. The custodians and protectors of law and justice also vowed to take this mission ahead with the help of their respective governments.

Commissioner takes stock of issues related to children's health, nutrition

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Divisional Commissioner Ranjan Kumar had a meeting with UNICEF officials and consultants on Tuesday. The meeting focused on different issues related to children's health, nutrition and protection besides water sanitation and hygiene.

Programme manager Dr Amit Mehrotra led the UNICEF divisional team working in different sectors. Discussions were held to find out major reasons for less children being referred to sick newborn care units (SNCUs). UNICEF team will also analyse reasons for low admission of girl children to SNCUs. The divisional commissioner asked the UNICEF team to prepare a budgetary plan for providing critical and life-saving measures in all labour rooms of the division.

E-AUCTION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) /Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-
Date & Time of Auction: 17.12.2020 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM **Status of Possession- Constructive**

Sr/ No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of the Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount.	Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD
BRANCH : FATEHGANJ, FAIZABAD				
1.	Borrower:- Mr. Virendra Kumar s/o Mr. Bisheshwar Prasad. Present Address:- Vill- Ganga Ram ka Purwa, Mauja - Sarethi, Post Darshan Nagar, Pargana Haweli Awadh, Sadar, Distt- Faizabad , UP- 224135. Permanent Address:- Vill- Ganga Ram ka Purwa, Mauja - Sarethi, Post Darshan Nagar, Pargana Haweli Awadh, Sadar, Distt- Faizabad, UP- 224135. Guarantor:- Mr. Rajesh Kumar S/o Mr. Visheshwar Prasad. Address:- 10, Sarethi Ramduttpur Atarawa, Police Station- Ayodhya, Kotwali, Distt- Ayodhya, Pin- 224135. Date of Demand Notice: 10.06.2020 Date of Possession Notice: 27.08.2020 Outstanding Amount: Rs.4,01,061.14+Unapplied Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f.10.11.2020 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable mortgage of Residential Plot in the name of Mr. Virendra Kumar s/o Mr. Bisheshwar Prasad admeasuring area 2722 sqft. of plot abadi gata no 75, ward / Pargana Haweli Awadh, Mauja - sarethi (B.N.P), Distt- faizabad(Ayodhya) . Sale deed no-6758, dated 11/10/2013 registered on 11/10/2013 in Bani no.1,2lid no.-5204, Page no.- 347, in Sr. No-6758 and bounded as below. Bounded as under: East: khet of Dinesh kumar, West: khet Lakhpata, North: Plot of other Person, South: Chak Marg 83" there after khet of Shyam Bahadur Singh.	Reserve Price Rs. 3,23,238.00 (EM) Rs. 32,323.8/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-	11.11.2020 to 16.12.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 11.11.2020 to 16.12.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in/ e-auction.htm & <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No.9554968231

Date: 11.11.2020, Place: Faizabad Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

UCO BANK

Possession Notice

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and under 13 (2) & 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is given to the under noted borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the power conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 on the dates mentioned hereunder. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount and interest thereon mentioned against each account herein below:

Sl. No.	Name, Address of Borrower(s) & Branch Name	Amount Outstanding (Rs.)	Description of Property & Name of Owner	Dt. of Demand Notice /Possession taken
1.	Mr. Harshit Srivastava S/o Shashidhar Srivastava & Mr. Anjit Srivastava S/o Shashidhar Srivastava R/o 529 Kha/88, Indraprastha Nagar (Khurram Nagar), Mahanagar, Lucknow -226006. Branch: I.T. College.	36,47,617.00 + Interest + Other Expenses	All the part and parcel of the property situated at Plot Khasra No. 204SA, Kalyanpur, Ward - Shanker Purwa, District - Lucknow, Owner: Harshit Srivastava S/o Shashidhar Srivastava, Boundary: North- House of Mr. Hasmat Ali, South- Plot of other, East- 20 ft wide Road, West- House of other, Area: 139.405 sq. Meter.	11.07.2016 07.11.2020
2.	Mrs. Pushpa Srivastava W/o Shashidhar Srivastava & Mr. Harshit Srivastava S/o Shashidhar Srivastava R/o 529 Kha/88, Indraprastha Nagar (Khurram Nagar), Mahanagar, Lucknow -226006. Branch: I.T. College.	20,90,330.00 + Interest + Other Expenses	All the part and parcel of the property situated at Plot No 186, Khasra No. 114 (Mijumla), Balakganj, Ward - Balakganj, District - Lucknow, Owner: Harshit Srivastava S/o Shashidhar Srivastava, Boundary: North- Plot No. 187, South- Plot No. 186A, East- 15 ft wide Road, West- Plot of others, Area: 71.561 sq. Meter.	11.07.2016 07.11.2020

Date: 11.11.2020 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Veteran politician reminisces of good times

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Those were times between the 40's and 60's when students union elections were all about scented cards and oratory skills at Lucknow University. Prof Ramesh Dixit, a veteran politician who is also a former student of LU, reminisced of those times at the university when students needed to be good at academics and debates to be in politics.

He said that in 1965-66, he had contested elections to the LU students' council as a representative of the Arts faculty. Ashok Nigam was then elected to the post of general secretary while Virendra Bhatia won as a representative of Commerce faculty.

"The candidates were supposed to woo the voters with their skills and capabilities. The students who contested the

LU STUDENTS UNION ELECTIONS

elections were gold medalists. Student leaders used to be good swimmers or a part of the rowing team. The student leaders would seek some time from teachers in the classes to make their poll addresses," he said. He added that it was reflective of the society which was much more civilised.

Scented cards with beautiful designs were presented to girl students at the time of elections, he recalled. "The candidates used to be extra polite and show extra modesty in front of girl voters. They would also woo the voters with their intellect and behaviour," he reminisced.

"There were some of us who were politically inclined

and take up matters like the problems faced by Uttar Pradesh, the issue of unemployment and how it could be tackled. Issues like these were taken up because we are a part of the society and the thrust was on how we should work to

solve the problems," he said. He said it was a myth that studying and being a part of political activities are two different things. "Some of the political leaders who have emerged out of the best of universities in the country at that time could have easily become professors at leading universities abroad since they were good at academics. This was the scenario at Lucknow University till before the early

70's. If any goonda or anti-social element was brought at the time of elections, he would be ignored. It was after the 70's when the so called 'contractors' jumped into the fray," he recalled.

Dixit said after winning elections, attempts were made to get some good literary and political figures to address the students. "We invited political leader Morarji Desai, editor of Dharanyug Dharamvir Bharti, to speak at the university. We also invited top litterateurs such as Amritlal Nagar and Bhagwati Charan Verma to speak on 'Today's generation is not responsible' and what ensued was a lively debate. We even invited Dr Ram Manohar Lohia who spoke at the AP Sen Hall," he recalled.

Dixit said that secularism was also a highlight of Lucknow University.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

BJP, SP candidates file papers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Sitting MLC and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Kedar Nath Singh and Samajwadi Party candidate Ashutosh Sinha filed his nomination papers for their election from Varanasi Graduate constituency for Legislative Council here on Tuesday. Along with 10 proposals, BJP candidate filed three sets of nomination papers. During the day, as many as six candidates filed papers for Varanasi Graduate seat, while four from Varanasi Teacher constituency. The candidates who filed papers for Graduate seat are Rahul Kumar Singh (Independent), Lokesh Kumar (Bharatiya Jan Jan Party), Kedar Nath Singh (BJP), Gopal Singh



Sitting MLC and BJP candidate Kedar Nath Singh going to file nomination from Graduate constituency in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

(Ind), Ashutosh Sinha (Samajwadi Party) and Shashi Kala Maurya (Ind). Four candidates filed papers for Teacher constituency and they are Rajani Dwivedi, Dharmendra

Kumar, Brijesh and Farid Ansari (all Independent candidates).

The main attraction of the day was the nomination of sitting MLC and BJP candidate

Kedar Nath Singh. In the morning, he first reached BHU Gate and garlanded the statue of Pt Madan Mohan Malviya and then reached Maldahia crossing and Nadesar to garland the status of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Swami Vivekananda respectively. Later, his procession began from Ramashrey Vatika in which all the three local ministers including Anil Rajbhar, Neelkanth Tiwari, Ravindra Jaiswal, regional president of BJP Mahesh Srivastava, MLC Laxman Acharya, MLAs Awadesh Singh, Surendra Singh, Saurabh Srivastava, Sushil Singh, party candidate from Varanasi Teacher seat and sitting MLC Chet Narayan Singh and many others were present.

BJP workers celebrate Bihar win

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A section of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers celebrated the victory of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar assembly elections here on Tuesday. They also expressed their happiness over the thumping performance of BJP in all the assembly bypolls in UP, MP and Gujarat. The party workers led by convenor of local unit of BJP (Cleanliness Cell) Anup Jaiswal, along with others reached Girjaghar crossing and offered Abir to each others. They were carrying portraits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar and offered them sweets. They also distributed sweets among the people.



BJP supporters celebrating NDA's victory in Bihar assembly polls in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

Meanwhile, jubilation was also seen in many supporters of NDA in different parts of the city as they felt that despite all

the contrary predictions against the NDA in most of the exit poll surveys, the voters of Bihar have extended their support to

the NDA government as despite all the corona pandemic crisis, the government had helped the adjoining state marched towards development in the recent years.

Jaiswal said that the NDA win is the result of people's support and acceptance that they had given their verdict to the policies of Nitish government.

They also held a meeting which was conducted by Dharendra Sharma, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Jitendra Yadav Babu. Among them who were also present were Sanjay Singh Monu, Vijay Gupta, Somnath Yadav, Gaurav Keshri, Chedilal Verma, Babu Lal Maurya, Master Sahab. Pradeep Chaurasia and Saket Chaurasia.

71 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 71 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Tuesday, increasing the total number of cases to 17,576. The day gave a relief as there was no casualty and death toll remained at 282. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 64 and all of

them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 13,721. As no patient was discharged from any of the hospitals, the total number remained at 2,833. The total number of patients who have been recovered so far is 16,554, leaving 740 active cases.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has

informed that in the first report of the day, 58 positive patients were found out of 2,518 reports received.

Till then, the total test reports received were 3,57,118 and the results of 4,238 are awaited. Out of them, 3,39,555 were negative, while 17,593 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,75,776. Earlier, two males aged 58 and

72 from Neelkanthpuram Colony (Chitapur) and Narotampur respectively succumbed to Covid-19 at Sir Sunderlal Hospital, Banaras Hindu University (SSH BHU). With the addition of five new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,373 including 192 red zones. There are 2,181 green zones with four new ones.

Light & Sound Show begins at Sarnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Long-awaited Light & Sound Show began at Dhammek Stupa, Sarnath just a few hours after its inauguration by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conferencing when its first show was displayed here on Monday evening and it was watched by several dignitaries. This 30-minute show is based on the life of Lord Buddha in which background voice was given by eminent Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan. On the occasion, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism Minister Dr Neelkanth Tiwari informed that this show would be screened daily at this famous Buddhist site of Sarnath.



Light & Sound Show being presented at Sarnath in Varanasi on Monday evening.

According to him, the projects worth ₹ 140 crore have already been sanctioned by the government for the overall development of Sarnath area in this parliamentary constituency of PM. 'Varanasi is a lead-

ing tourist destination which sees a continuous increase in the number of domestic tourists and it is expected to be increased further in the coming years,' he said, adding that this promotion in tourism

would provide more employment opportunities to the tourism sector. 'Kashi is also the first choice of foreign tourists coming to UP and most of these tourists visiting this holy city like to stay for two to three days because of the better facilities available here,' he said.

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal said that light and sound would definitely become the centre of attraction in Sarnath area and help the township see more increase in the number of visitors. Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma, Tourism Officer Kirtiman Srivastava and many others were present on the occasion.

SMS celebrates Foundation Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

School of Management Sciences (SMS), completing its 26 years of its establishment, celebrated its Foundation Day 'Adharshila' here on Tuesday. The programme began with the welcome address by the Director Prof PN Jha, who said that established in 1995, SMS has gained new heights, highlighting the key achievements of the institute. Chief guest was Prof Awadhesh Pradhan, Hindi department, Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

In his address, Prof Pradhan said that SMS has not only enriched the academia in the field of management studies but also has added a golden chapter in the history of making of modern Kashi. Delivering his keynote address under the auspices of Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture, he focussed on the theme 'Swami Vivekananda and the Upcoming India'.



SMS celebrating its Foundation Day in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

Discussing the discourse delivered by SwamiVivekananda in Chicago, Prof Pradhan said that Swamiji viewed that every religion exists on this earth takes us to truth and only truth.

Guest of honour Prof Sacchidanand Mishra, Philosophy and Religious department, BHU delivered his lecture on

'SwamiVivekananda-Definition of Modern India'. Explaining the meaning of 'Sannyasi', he said that Sannyasi is one who leaves everything pertaining to worldly affairs and aspire to get liberation. The path to liberation is a very personal one, but Swami Vivekananda is a Sannyasi who for the sake of building of society and nation as a whole, took the help of

practical Vedanta. On the occasion, as per its tradition, SMS honoured 18 employees. They included Sanjay Kumar Gupta (Registrar), Shantanu Mukherjee (Accounts Officer), Pratima Bhargava (Librarian), HarikantYadav, Shakuntala Devi, Anand Prakash Dube (Associate Professor), Krishna Kant Bajpai (Director-Systems), Prem Bhushan Singh (Project Manager), Girijesh Singh Gautam (Assistant Librarian), Mahendra Pratap Singh (Office Executive), Ajay Kumar Singh (Senior Supervisor), Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Prof PN Jha (Director), Ramesh Kumar, Shailendra Kumar Pandey (Assistant Programmer), Mithilesh Prasad, Sujit Kumar Singh and Awadhesh Kumar Rai. They were felicitated by Executive Secretary Dr MP Singh. The programme was conducted by convenor Dr Pallavi Pathak, while vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Sandeep Singh (Dean, Students' Welfare).

55 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Not only the common people, but the Health department officials also have heaved a sigh of relief after the spread of corona infection reached the level of four months ago on Monday. Covid infection was confirmed in a total of 55 people including two advocates, two teachers in 24 hours.

At the same time, in a single day, the corona testing of the maximum 6,415 people was conducted. One infected person died during treatment. More than 89 people defeated the infection.

According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, the order of reduction of corona infection is in progress. Monday was the first week of July when the number of infected ranged from 50 to 55, which went beyond 500. Now it is a matter of relief, the lack of viral load in the testing of people is also visible in the report. He said strict vigil will



A Nagar Nigam tanker sanitises road in Prayagraj

Pioneer

be put on the situation after the movement of people on the festival and the markets will be increased. Chances are that if people are negligent then the infection may increase once again. The department has made preparations in this regard.

The CMO said that on Monday 15 people were discharged from Covid hospitals after becoming infection free. At the same time, 74 people completed home isolation. Now there are only 816 active cases in the city that are a matter of relief. He informed that

75 patients are admitted in L3 SRN Hospital, 39 in L2 Beli Hospital and 20 in the private sector United Medical College. After the death of one patient, 322 people have died due to Covid infection so far.

According to Nodal Officer Corona Dr. Rishi Sahai, we have to be cautious even after the Covid infection subsides. Adhering to the mask and proper distance will protect us from infection, he added. According to Dr. Sahai, if you are suffering from cold, fever in the changing season, then do not hesitate to check Covid test.

First such cases have been reported in which people did not get a Covid test as a viral infection, and then the infection was confirmed in the testing that worsened the situation. This condition can also be serious. He said that two advocates, two teachers, AGM of NTPC Meja and Medical Officer Corona of CHC Jasra have been infected on Monday.

Lawyer finally climbs down from water tank

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Hardoi based lawyer, who had climbed atop a water tank at Beli area of the city along with his family and two relatives on Saturday morning, finally climbed down on Monday night. Thus, the high voltage drama, which made the entire administrative and police machinery of the district on toes for the past around 60 hours, ended.

On Saturday morning, a lawyer, Vijay Pratap along with his wife, son, daughter and two relatives, had climbed atop a water tank in Prayagraj's Beli area and refused to come down until the authorities acceded to his demand for a CBI inquiry into a number of cases in which he alleged that he had been falsely implicated. He had also threatened that if his demands were not met with, he would pour petrol on himself and his family members and set everyone ablaze.

The lawyer alleged, 'I was chased away from my village by the District Magistrate of Hardoi. A muscleman has



occupied my property and has framed me in fake cases while my brother has gone missing. Despite making several complaints, no action has been taken against the muscleman as his brother is a cop posted at the DIG office. I demand a CBI inquiry

into the case lodged against me.'

After being alerted, senior police officials, firefighters and National Disaster Response Force teams reached the spot and tried to pacify the lawyer for two days. Several of the senior officials of the

police and district administration had tried to persuade him to climb down. On Sunday night, the District Magistrate, ADG Prayagraj zone, ADM city, SP City and other senior officials spent hours at the site, trying their luck to pacify the agitated lawyer.

Dengue on the rise in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

If one feels symptoms of dengue, they must immediately contact their physician and then go to the Motilal Nehru Medical College and get an ELISA test done. These days a large number of private hospitals are doing card tests to confirm dengue in the patient and are also charging huge amount from patients in the name of treatment.

The city has not yet stopped the outbreak of coronavirus infection that now dengue has knocked. The dengue mosquito has started showing its effects from the city to the villages in the changing

season. In the ELISA test conducted at the Microbiology Lab of Motilal Nehru Medical College, 21 patients have been confirmed to have been affected with this disease, the good thing is that no dengue infected patient has died.

This time the number of dengue patients is less than last year, due to corona, dengue was not being tested. The testing is still under way. After the onset of dengue outbreak, a separate 40-bed isolation unit has been reserved for Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital and Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital. Both have more than a dozen dengue patients admitted in which patients are being administered the platelets in

their disease. District Malaria Officer Dr. KP Dwivedi said that our team is spraying Anti Larva in all parts of the city.

Dengue mosquitoes usually bite during the day, so it is important to avoid mosquito bites during the day. Do not let water freeze around the house or inside the house. Do not allow water to accumulate in coolers, pots and tires etc. Use mosquito nets and stay away from mosquito places. Try to wear clothes that cover the entire arm, legs properly. Even if there is dengue, be careful so that the infection does not occur to others. Symptoms of dengue— the patient has high fever for two to seven days.

Some of the major symptoms include sudden high fever, severe pain in the head, pain behind the eyes, loss of taste and loss of appetite, measles on the chest and upper limbs like rashes, dizziness, rash like blood in the body, etc.

On seeing such symptoms, one can contact the physician. Dr OP Bhaskar, the nodal officer for dengue, said that private hospitals examine dengue through a card test, but the government does not consider it 100 per cent accurate. To confirm this, it is mandatory to get the ELISA test done in the Microbiology Lab of Motilal Nehru Medical College. In villages, medicines are being sprayed by sanitary staff.

NCR GM reviews safety steps

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry reviewed position of safety specially fog preparedness, speed raising work, earnings and other important works over North Central Railway through video conferencing with PHODs of North Central Railway and Divisional Railway Managers Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra.

At the start of meeting General Manager, congratulated the newly appointed ADRMs in Prayagraj Division Amit Misra and Atul Gupta. He said this is a relay race and good works done present incumbent is to be continued by the incoming officers who takes over the baton. He wished them the best of luck.

While discussing about the safety issues General Manager emphasised on completing the preparations in advance for the ensuing foggy weather. He said, fog safety devices are an important instrument for ensuring safe operations and all such devices should be updated according to latest signal and gate locations. He also suggested that a

multiple choice question bank about the precautions to be taken during foggy be provided at the crew lobbies for refreshing the knowledge and some questions be asked to every signing in pilot.

The issues of timely provision of Sigma Boards on OHE posts as per latest Stop Signal locations, Retro-reflective painting of booms and provision of stop board of LC gates, Provision and painting of speed breakers of LC gates, Night patrolling of track and OHE by suitable staff. Proper working of batteries including spare batteries of the walkie-talkies sets, especially of running staff, working of heaters of the cabs and proper sealing of doors and closing of windows of the cabs in all the locomotives, working of Vane Relay and Thermostat in all AC coaches, working of tail lamps in all SLRs of the coaching trains are part ongoing preparedness related to fog and winter safety.

Rajiv Chaudhry praised the efforts of team NCR for improved freight performance. He said we need to continue these efforts and new traffic

streams be explored. During the meeting the avenues for earning from land were also discussed and GM instructed for active persuasion to achieve the set targets.

The progress of infrastructural works including the works for 160 kmph speed raising in New Delhi-Howrah including Kanpur-Lucknow section and New Delhi-Mumbai section were also reviewed in the meeting.

DOOR-TO-DOOR GARBAGE COLLECTION COMES TO A STANDSTILL: The situation of door to door garbage collection in Prayagraj city is pathetic. For this, the officials of the Municipal Corporation may not appear to be serious, that is why they have not been able to select the agencies so far. Due to this, regular garbage is not getting up from the houses. People have to collect garbage in the house for two-three days.

Door-to-door garbage collection has come to a standstill in most of the wards of the city after the end of the contract for lifting garbage from Haribhari to Municipal hous-

es in December last year. For this work, the tender had been invited twice in the past. However, due to non-fulfillment of tender conditions, agencies were not selected. The third time the tender was floated was about one-and-a-half months ago. Nine agencies participated in the tenders withdrawn in two packages. Of these, three agencies have almost finalised the technical and financial bids. However, the officials are not able to announce the names of the agencies.

The reason for this is that the Municipal Commissioner is believed to be on leave due to COVID-19 for the last one month.

However, now that the Municipal Commissioner has taken over, the names of the agencies for both the packages are expected to be announced soon. Both agencies will be given the responsibility of door-to-door garbage collection in 40-40 wards. To recall, that door to door garbage collection is being done by hotels, restaurants, hospitals, malls etc, on behalf of the corporation.

Value-added products from waste of sugar factories, distilleries discussed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

National Sugar Institute, Kanpur organised a webinar on topics relating to production of bio-gas or bio-CNG from filter cake and production of potash-rich fertiliser from the ash of incineration boilers in molasses distilleries on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the webinar, Secretary (Food & Public Distribution), Government of India, Sudhanshu Pandey, said that both the topics were important for obtaining value-added products from the waste of sugar factories and distilleries.

He said as on date, the potential of producing products which had assured market and could open a new stream of revenue for the sugar industry had not been adequately harnessed.

Pandey congratulated the NSI for taking the initiative for developing technologies which may go a long way in improving the financial condition of the sugar industry.

Speaking at the webinar, Joint Secretary (Sugar), Government of India, Subodh Singh, said the by-products of the sugar industry were very



Speakers at the webinar organised by NSI on Tuesday

Pioneer.

important and their commercial exploitation through production of innovative products was the need of hour.

He said the industry, institutes and related organisations had to work in cohesion for converting the so-called waste to wealth or resources.

Indian Sugar Mills Association president Vivek Pittie, while lauding the efforts being made by the National Sugar Institute, said the Government of India should provide policy support for taking forward these initiatives.

National Sugar Institute-Kanpur Director Prof. Narendra Mohan, while presenting an overview of the

technology of production of bio-gas or bio-CNG from filter cake, said that the institute had already conducted successful trials at the experimental sugar factory.

“We produce about 9-10 million tonnes of filter cake every year which may yield about 0.35-0.40 million tonnes of bio-CNG,” he added. Likewise, the ash of the incineration boilers in molasses distillery can be converted into potash-rich fertiliser which is in great demand and is imported to a larger extent, he added.

Prof Mohan said that for about 46 billion litres of spent wash produced in molasses

based distilleries per year, utilisation of spent wash may provide 12,88,000 tons of potassium annually and tentatively one year's effluents could meet the potassium requirement of 1.55 million hectare land.

“Now a few distilleries have taken up installation of such plants but it is to be taken forward and should be made an integral part of the waste management system,” he added.

During the webinar, presentations were made by M/s J&F Biogas, M/s Spectrum Renewable Energy Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Praj Industries on production of biogas/bio-CNG from filter cake and utilisation of residual slurry as bio-fertiliser.

“We have perfected the technology and only certain challenges with respect to quality of filter cake and supply chain management have to be addressed, said M/s J&F Biogas director Joseph.

For converting the boiler ash to potash-rich fertiliser, presentations were made by M/s New Frontier Engineers and M/s Gayatri Fertiplants International Pvt. Ltd., elaborating the process of addition to other nutrients and granulation.

72 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar reported 72 more coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday evening.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 72 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Monday evening and Tuesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,584 cases. He said that 8 cases were discharged from hospital and cured figure stood at 7702.

He said five COVID-19 deaths in the city was reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 745.

The CMO said at present 788 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4012 samples were sent for testing in the city.

Kanpur student develops cost-effective air purifier

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Mayank Saxena, a class X student from Onkareshwar Saraswati Vidya Niketan Inter College, Kanpur, has developed a cost-effective air purifier to fight air pollution in the city. According to Mayank, the cost of developing this air purifier was just Rs 2,000.

The air purifier is also being vouched as a better deal than any other purifier available in the market in the range of Rs 10,000-12,000. This utility machine is easy to carry around and this makes it a perfect fit for homes, offices and workstations.

The air purifier works on four batteries (9V-12V), which are connected to the solar panel. It uses HC-05 for Bluetooth connectivity.

The sudden rise in pollution clubbed with the deadly spread of coronavirus has led to an increase in the number of respiratory diseases in Kanpur Nagar. The lockdown may have been lifted long ago but the number of COVID-19 cases is still on the rise.

With the constantly deteriorating AQI (air quality index) due to the winter smog, pollution, etc., it is only advisable for people to stay indoors as much as possible. The air quality of Kanpur Nagar is very unhealthy and not everyone can afford expensive air purifiers which is why this invention is a game-changer.

This is a convenient and affordable alternative to fight air pollution in the city and given the age of the inventor, it surely deserves praise and all the attention.

Gyan Dairy launches its products in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Gyan Dairy launched its milk and milk products in Kanpur Nagar at a webinar on Tuesday. Addressing media persons, the Gyan Dairy vice president (sales & marketing) said the products were from the best of the procured milk, following all safety measures and processed and packed in the most hygienic manner ensuring they were hygienically sealed in safe packets and then delivered fresh.

He said the full range of milk was available in company's fresh stores located in different parts of the city.

Besides, the products are also available through a network of Gyan Select Stores, Gyan e-carts and other retail stores via an extensive distribution network.

Managing Director Jai Agarwal and Director Anuj Agarwal said the brand resonated with freshness and purity and had been winning hearts in Uttar Pradesh for the past 13 years.

They said Gyan aimed to enter the market of Kanpur and establish itself as a leader of fresh milk and dairy products in the entire state of Uttar Pradesh.

Rlys to run more puja spl trains

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers during the forthcoming festivals has decided to run the 04462/04461 Anand Vihar Terminus (ANVT)-Darbhanga-ANVT puja special and 04464/04463 ANVT-Saharsa-ANVT puja special train for one trip and 04156 Kanpur Central-Darbhanga puja special train for a single journey. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

ANVT-DARBHANGA PUJA SPL: The 04462 ANVT-Darbhangha puja special on November 12 will leave Anand Vihar Terminus at 20:20 hours, Moradabad at 23:38 hours, the second day Bareilly at 01:10 hours, Lucknow at 05:15 hours, Gorakhpur at 10:10 hours, Chhapra at 13:10 hours, Muzaffarpur at 15:35 hours, Samastipur at 17:05 hours and reach Darbhanga at 18:00 hours. During the return journey 04461 Darbhanga-ANVT puja special will on November 13 leave Darbhanga at 21:00 hours, Samastipur at 22:15 hours, Muzaffarpur at 23:15 hours, Chhapra at 01:45 hours, Gorakhpur at 04:45 hours, Lucknow at 09:40 hours, Bareilly at 19:30 hours, Moradabad at 16:20 hours and reach ANVT at 19:30 hours. A total of 20 coaches including two luggage-cum-generator vans, 12 of general second class and six of sleeper class coaches will be attached in this train.

ANVT-SAHARSA SPL: The 04464 ANVT-Saharsa puja special will leave ANVT on November 12 at 17:10 hrs, Moradabad at 20:22 hrs, Bareilly at 21:52 hrs, Sitapur at 01.10 hrs, Gorakhpur at 06.35 hrs, Chhapra at 09.35 hrs,

Muzaffarpur at 11:30 hrs, Samastipur at 12.25 hrs, Barauni at 14.20 hrs, Khagaria at 15.25 hrs, Semri Bakhtiyarpur at 16.37 hrs and reach Saharsa at 18.15 hrs. During the return journey 04463 Saharsa-AVNT puja special will leave Saharsa on November 13 at 21.15 hrs, Semri Bakhtiyarpur at 22.47 hrs, Barauni at 01.05 hrs, Samastipur at 03.00 hrs, Muzaffarpur 03.55 hrs, Chhapra at 05.55 hrs, Gorakhpur at 08.55 hrs, Sitapur at 14.20 hrs, Bareilly at 17.47 hrs and Moradabad at 19.35 hrs reach ANVT at 22.30 hrs. A total of 20 coaches will be attached in it, including two of luggage-cum-generator vans, 12 of general second class and six of sleeper class.

KANPUR CENTRAL-DARBHANGA SPECIAL: The 04156 Kanpur Central-Darbhangha puja special on November 11 will for a single journey leave from Kanpur Central at 05.00 hrs, Lucknow at 06.35 hrs, Gonda at 07.50 hrs, Gorakhpur at 00.05 hrs, Siwan at 12.35 hrs, Chhapra at 14.15 hrs, Hajipur at 15:20 hrs, Muzaffarpur at 16:25 hrs, Samastipur at 18.30 hrs and reach Darbhanga at 19:45 hours. A total of 23 coaches, including two of AC train will be attached.

Meanwhile keeping the convenience of passengers in mind during the festivals the railway administration will run 01079/01080 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT)- Gorakhpur - LTT weekly puja special train in three trips and the 02167/02168 Manduadih-LTT-Manduadih bi-weekly puja special daily. CPRO said that all coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines.

LTT-GKP SPL: The 01079 LTT- Gorakhpur weekly puja special will from November 12 to 26 every Thursday leave LTT

at 15:50 hours, Kalyan at 16:33 hrs, Nashik Road at 19:25 hrs, Bhusawal at 23:25 hrs, the second day Khandwa at 02:05 hrs, Harda at 03:20 hrs, Itarsi at 05:00 hrs, Habibganj at 06:32 hrs, Bhopal at 06:55 hrs, Vidisha at 07:35 hrs, Jhansi at 11:15 hrs, Orai at 12:30 hrs, Kanpur Central at 15:45 hrs, Lucknow at 17:28 hrs, Barabanki at 18:36 hrs, Jarwal Road at 19:45 hrs, Colonelganj at 20:03 hrs, Gonda at 20:45 hrs, Balrampur at 21:33 hrs, Jharkhandi at 21:42 hrs, Tulsipur at 22:12 hrs, Barhani at 22:55 hrs, Naugarh at 23:30 hrs, the third day Anandnagar at 00:10 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 01:30 hrs. On the other hand, the 01080 Gorakhpur-LTT weekly puja special from November 14 to 28 will leave Gorakhpur every Saturday at 05:30 hrs, Anandnagar at 06:25 hrs, Naugarh at 07:02 hrs, Barhani at 08:05 hrs, Tulsipur at 08:35 hrs, Jharkhandi at 09:04 hrs, Balrampur at 09:18 hrs, Gonda at 10:40 hrs, Colonelganj at 11:05 hrs, Jarwal Road at 11:30 hrs, Barabanki at 13:05 hrs, Lucknow at 14:20 hrs, Kanpur Central at 16:05 hrs, Orai at 18:07 hrs, Jhansi at 20:20 hrs, the second day Vidisha at 01:15 hrs, Bhopal at 02.00 hrs, Habibganj at 02:14 hrs, Itarsi at 04:20 hrs, Harda at 05:13 hrs, Khandwa at 06:48 hrs, Bhusawal at 08:35 hrs, Nasik Road at 11:35 hrs, Kalyan at 15:05 hrs and reach LTT at 16.00 hrs. A total of 22 coaches, including four of air-conditioned third class, will be attached in it. Besides the 02167/02168 Manduadih-LTT-Manduadih bi-weekly puja special train will be run daily. As a result the 02167 LTT-Manduadih bi-weekly from November 10 from LTT and the 02168 Manduadih-LTT bi-weekly puja special from November 11 from Manduadih will be run daily.

Trains to be cancelled due to farmers' agitation

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to the ongoing farmers' agitation in Punjab the cancellation of special trains their short-termination/short-origination and diversion will be as follows, CPRO PK Singh said. The 04624 Amritsar-Saharsa special to run from Amritsar on November 11 will remain cancelled. Likewise the 04623 Saharsa-Amritsar special train to run from Saharsa on November 12 will remain cancelled. The 05211 Darbhanga-Amritsar puja special to run from Darbhanga on November 10 will remain cancelled. Besides the 05212 Amritsar-Darbhangha Puja special to run from Amritsar on November 12 will remain cancelled. The 05098 Jammu-Bhagalpur special train running from Jammu Tavi on November 10 will remain cancelled. The 04654

Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri special to run from Amritsar on November 11 will be run from Saharanpur. This train will remain cancelled between Amritsar-Saharanpur. The 04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar special to run from Jaynagar on November 10 will be short terminated in Delhi. This train will remain cancelled between Delhi-Amritsar. The 04674 Amritsar-Jayanagar special train to run from Amritsar on November 10 will be run from Ambala. This train will remain partially cancelled between Amritsar-Ambala. The 05910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh special train to run from Lalgarh on November 10 will be diverted via Hanumanagarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak.

NON-INTERLOCKING WORK

Due to non-interlocking work between Taraon-

Nandganj stations of the Varanasi division of NER the following trains will be diverted and short-terminated/short originated. The 02561 Jaynagar-New Delhi special to run from Jaynagar on November 10 will be diverted via Ballia-Phephna-Mau-Aunrihar. The 04426 Anand Vihar Terminus (ANVT)-Raxaul special to run from ANVT on November 10 and 11 will be diverted via Aunrihar-Mau-Phephna-Ballia. The 04425 Raxaul-ANVT special to run from Raxaul on November 11 will be diverted via Ballia-Phephna-Mau-Aunrihar. The 02220 Delhi-Ghaziपुर City special running from Delhi on November 9 and 10 in place of Ghaziपुर will be short terminated at Aunrihar station. The 02219 Ghaziपुर City-Delhi special to run from Ghaziपुर City on November 10 and 11 in place of Ghaziपुर will be run from Aunrihar station.

11 accused apprehended

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIUN

Police apprehended 11 accused involved in illegal mining from the Rath Road on Monday. SP Yashveer Singh said that accused were identified as Jitendra Kumar, Ram Milan, Amit Kumar, Tausif, Sher Singh



, Narendra Singh, Mohd Gulzar, Munna Bind, Satyendra Bind, Manoj Sharma and Ifthkar Ahmed. Police confiscated one illegal pistol with two cartridges, 17 illegal truck engines and one lifter machine. SP said that they were getting information of illegal mining from different areas and had formed teams under the guidance of CO Santosh Kumar one led by SOG incharge and another by incharge Kotwali Orai police station. He said

FIR under Section 3/25 of Arms Act was lodged against Jitendra Kumar. The team which made the arrest comprised incharge Kotwali Orai, Sudhakar Mishra, S-Is Ajay Kumar, Chandan Pandey, Ramveer Singh and Ashok Kumar Verma besides Bhupendra Singh, Vinay Pratap, Niranjan Singh, Puneet Kumar, Jagdish Chandra, Gaurav Bajpai, Karmveer Singh, Rohit Singh, Pradeep Kumar, Akhil, Ashutosh Gautam, Priyanshi and Mukesh.

Paddy purchase centres inspected

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR



DM SK Patel directed the personnel deployed at paddy purchase centres to keep weighing machines at such place that farmers could see them. Such direction was issued by him during inspection of paddy purchase centres in Madihan block. During the inspection of purchase centre at Kisan Seva Sahkari Samiti Ltd Kotwan Pandey located at Phuliyari he was apprised by the staff that on the day 57.60 quintal of paddy had been purchased through six farmers and total of 366.80 quintals had been purchased so far. During the inspection of Kalwari purchase centre the DM interacted with farmers, checked the moisture measuring and mini rice machines which were found in working order. He directed the staff to fix weighing machines at a such place that the farmers could see the weight. The DM was informed that through 15 farmers 1,055 quin-

tal of paddy had been purchased. During the inspection the DM was accompanied by ADM and Dy RMO.

AWARENESS DRIVE: In the series of awareness drive under 'Mission Shakti' a programme was organised at Chandrakala Girls Inter College, Mavaiya, under the aegis of Chilh police station on Monday. Addressing the girls SHO Chhotak Yadav said that under the drive the government was keen to make women aware about their rights and the facilities made available to them. He said that the aim the drive was to make them self-reliant, confident and develop a strong will power. He said we

should be careful about the friends on social media. The SHO made the girls aware about numbers like 112, 1090, 1098, 108, 102 and 181. During the programme the SHO was accompanied by sub-inspector Kamla Yadav and constable Asha Kumari. The SHO thanked the college administration. Besides, an awareness programme was organised by Vindhyachal police at Vindhyachalpeeth Inter College, Vindhyachal, and by Jigna police in Kasdhana village to make the rural women aware about their rights. SHO Jigna Pranay Praseon Srivastava told women how they were secure with laws.

BOY DIES: Akash (12), son of Babloo, a resident of Bhaissod Balay Pahad village under Halia police station died near his residence on Mirzapur-Rewa road when he was hit by a truck on Monday. The police reached the spot, took his body into custody and completed the legal formalities.

Indian Bank holds loan camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Bank organised a loan distribution camp at R-City campus in Hamirpur on Monday. It was chaired by regional general manager (Lucknow) Ravindra Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh said presently the entire world was fighting coronavirus pandemic. He said during the pandemic period, various loan schemes launched by the prime minister and the Union finance minister were being implemented by the Indian Bank.

He said similar loan dis-



Regional General Manager, Indian Bank, Ravindra Singh handsover loan sanction letter to beneficiary.

Pioneer.

tribution camps would also be organised by the Hamirpur division of the bank to ensure all-round development of the area. On this occasion, he distributed the loan sanction letters, keys of vehicles and placards of houses to the beneficiaries.

In the camp, loans amounting to Rs.27.05 crore were sanctioned and given to 751 customers. The divisional chief and assistant general manager said the Indian Bank was committed to all-round development and economic uplift of the area.

Covid: Scientist recommends mask even in enclosed places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The second day of the international webinar on 'pandemic and its aftermath' had a special session featuring a very insightful talk by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Director General and Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, Dr Shekhar C Mande.

He threw light on the novel coronavirus pandemic, what was happening in the research space to fight the disease and the way forward for India and the world.

He said the scientists were still learning about the virus. “The pandemic has been upon us for more than six months and the current understanding of it explains that the virus also spreads through smaller aerosols,” he said, adding that the recommended practice would be wearing masks even in enclosed places.

The webinar is being organised by Christ Church College's chemistry department in collaboration with the

Indian Academy of Biological Sciences, Lucknow, under the convenorship of head of the department, Dr Anindita Bhattacharya.

The day began with Technical Session-III on 'Mental Health and Meditation' in which clinical psychiatrist Dr Alok Bajpai discussed the topic in detail.

His talk was followed by Dr Nibedita Mukhopadhyay (scientist at Kanpur) and Dr. Hemant Bhargav from NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

They all opined that the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a global health crisis, resulting in an increased level of psychological burden in humans, leading to stress and decline of critical decision-making abilities.

“With increasingly incoherent thoughts, people are faced with cognitive dissonance,” they said.

The first speaker of Technical Session-IV on 'Human Health' was University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, Director Dr Arun Sharma.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a great loss of human life world-wide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health. Coronavirus damages not only the lungs, but also kidneys, liver, heart, brain, nervous system, skin and gastrointestinal tract,” he said.

This was followed by discussions by Dr Arti Gupta, a paediatrician from Pune, and Dr Suchita Gupta, a pathologist from Chandigarh. They said that even infants and children were affected by the coronavirus and those already suffering from existing morbidities were more at risk.

They also emphasised that there would be a significant increase in patients with lingering 'long Covid' illness — both physical and emotional — and necessary resources and support were required to care for patients and help them come to terms with and adjust to the aftermath.

The last session, Technical Session-V, of the day was dedicated to 'Environment and Biodiversity'.

The first speaker was Dr Arshi Naqvi from College of Science, Taibah University, Madina, Saudi Arabia, followed by Dr Siddika

Sultana, executive director, Environment & Social Development Organisation (ESDO), Dhaka, and Dr Wilka Ranasinge, assistant director, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka.

They all said that the air was much cleaner due to less traffic and economic activity during the lockdown phase.

The said several species of flora and fauna that were in danger of extinction not too long ago had also got a fresh lease of life.

The section chairpersons were Dr Shweta Chand, Dr Sunita Verma, Dr Anindita Bhattacharya and Dr Navin Ambasht.

The section rapporteurs were Dr Meet Kamal, Dr AK Nathaniel, Dr Anindita Bhattacharya, Dr Archana Dixit and Dr Manish Kapoor.

More than 400 delegates attended the conference from all over the world.

IIT-K signs MoU with Dynamatics to develop UAVs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, in a bid to make the Indian Army more powerful, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Dynamatics Technologies Limited of Bengaluru on Monday for joint indigenous development of innovative unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of various types for wide range of applications for Indian defence forces.

This would not only strengthen the surveillance system of defence forces but also facilitate their rescue operations.

Both the organisations have identified strong mutual interest to leverage respective capabilities and undertake

design, development, manufacturing of wide range of UAVs and other related technologies.

The jointly developed products would substitute the currently imported UAVs with superior indigenous technology that would enable self-reliance at a reduced cost.

IIT-K Director Prof Abhay Karandikar, Dean (Research & Development) Prof AR Harish, Prof Abhishek of Aerospace Engineering Department, MD & CEO of Dynamatics Technologies Dr Udyant Malhoutra and ED & Global COO of Dynamatic Hydraulics, Arvind Mishra, were present at the MoU signing ceremony.

It may be recalled that the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, has been conducting cutting edge research in various

domains related to defence and homeland security industries and has developed several technologies and filed multiple patents in areas related to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) development.

To commercialise these technologies and put them to the service of the nation, to truly realise the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the IIT-Kanpur has decided to partner with Dynamatic Technologies Limited, which is global Tier 1 supplier to domestic OEMs like HAL, BEL and international OEMs Airbus Boeing, Bell, and is a global leader in manufacturing technologies. The company is involved in R&D of latest technologies in the fields of aerospace, agriculture, hydraulics and homeland security.

IIT-K Director Prof Abhay

Karandikar called this collaboration with Dynamatic Technologies Limited an important development that would support the ongoing R&D activities at IIT-Kanpur in the domain of unmanned systems and robotics aimed at enabling rapid commercialisation of existing solutions for greater good of various users ranging from police, para-military and defence forces.

“This partnership between Dynamatic and IIT-Kanpur is unique, as it brings academia and industry together to develop new products specific to customer requirement. This collaboration will fast track concept to development using the state-of-the-art facilities and resources available across IIT-K and Dynamatic,” said the MD & CEO of Dynamatics Dr Udayant Malhoutra.

Army Chief hopeful of acceptable LAC resolution



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Having held eight rounds of military level talks to end the stalemate at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh with little progress, Army Chief General M M Naravane said here on Tuesday “we are hopeful that we will be able to reach an agreement which is mutually acceptable and mutually beneficial.”

His observations came days after the Corps Commanders of India and China held the eighth round of parleys at Chushul, Ladakh on November 6. Both the sides reaffirmed their resolve to continue the dialogue to ensure peace and tranquility at the LAC.

Naravane said the senior military commanders of India and China are “ironing out the modalities” of how to proceed ahead and we are very hopeful that we will be able to reach an agreement which is mutually acceptable and mutually beneficial. He also said there was no shortage of extreme weather

er clothing or equipment for troops deployed on the front-line.

“We had the 8th round of talks on November 6 between the highest military level commanders on both sides. They are ironing out the modalities of how to proceed ahead with the overarching guidelines which had been communication post the interactions and the meetings between the respective Ministers (defence and foreign),” the Army chief said at the Defence Attaches conclave organised by news portal Bharat Shakti.

“It was discussed by the defence ministers that it has to be an overall solution to the entire issue which brought this situation to the fore. Within those guidelines we are discussing how to actually achieve it on the ground,” he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with his Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe on September 4 in Moscow on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers meeting.

On September 10, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow where they agreed on a five point plan for disengagement and de-escalation along the disputed boundary in Ladakh where the stand-

Be prepared for any exigencies, says CDS Rawat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the Army chief remains hopeful of an end to the LAC stalemate even as Pakistan continues ceasefire violations at the Line of Control (LOC) and engages in fanning terrorism in Kashmir, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said here on Tuesday the armed forces have to be prepared as its adversaries may take advantage if its military power is not strong.

These observations came days after Rawat warned that the ongoing tension at the LAC may flare up into a larger conflict. Addressing the inaugural session of the Bharat Shakti.In, a portal on defence military issues on Tuesday, he said the Indian

armed forces are operating in a very complex, and uncertain environment.

Given this scenario, he said the armed forces must continue to enhance capabilities for peace in the region as India's adversaries may take advantage if its military power is not strong. He also said India wants to share its military capabilities with friendly countries in the neighbourhood and the extended neighbourhood as well as to those who need its support.

“We are today operating in a very complex, uncertain and a very volatile environment. There are small and big battles raging nearly in every region of the world. Therefore, we all need strong armed forces if we have to defend ourselves,



defend our nation, defend the integrity of our nation and the safety and security of our people,” Rawat said.

“But, then are we saying that armed forces must prepare for war?”

No. The armed forces must develop capabilities to bring about peace in the region. If we do not have strong armed forces, the adversary will take advantage of us,” he said.

In a message, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi cited various reform initiatives rolled out by the government in the defence sector to produce modern equipment and harness new technology as well as to infuse better synergy among the armed forces.

“We are marching ahead with the nation's collective resolve to build a modern and self-reliant India. Our resoluteness gets reflected in an unprecedented spirit of self-confidence in the defence sector today,” Modi said.

The prime minister said a self-reliant India is a “win-win resolve” for all the stakeholders, as this vision is for world peace and a resilient global economy. “From private and public sectors to foreign partners, all would get strength

from India's vibrant strategic ecosystem,” he said. The message was read out at the conclave. In his address, Rawat also spoke about challenges being faced by the armed forces operating in difficult challenging environments including in jungles, deserts and terrains ranging from 6,000 to 6,500 metres in altitude.

“Our navy operates in Indo-Pacific, an area which witnesses the largest concentration of white shipping. They have to develop technologies not only to operate on the surface but below the surface of the ocean as well in an environment which is becoming increasingly complex,” the CDS said.

He said the Indian armed

forces need capabilities that no other armed forces in the world will perhaps require due to varied challenges and environment. Therefore, Rawat said the kind of technology India is developing and the weapons systems that can find their way into the Indian inventory will be second to none.

“We are not hesitant in inviting foreign collaborators who can support our industry, hand-hold them and move on... We also want to share the capabilities with the other armed forces around the globe, particularly in the neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood,” Rawat said. IAF chief RKS Bhaduria said the threat by India's adversaries is ‘deep and long term’.

CBI books ex-secy of Cochin Port Trust Kerala in DA case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked a former secretary of Cochin Port Trust (Kerala) in a disproportionate assets case.

The accused Cyril C George is presently Deputy Chairman and had allegedly amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the tune of about Rs 90,73,582 during the check period from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2013 in his name and in the name of his family members. The alleged corruption occurred during his tenure as Secretary in the Trust.

Following the registration of the case, searches were conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused which led to recovery of incriminating documents including sale deeds, various bank account details, share certificates, statement of immovable property and mutual fund receipts among others, the CBI said in a state-

ment, adding further investigation in the case is continuing.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested former IAS officer Babulal Agrawal under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a case related to corruption, cheating, forgery and disproportionate assets.

“He has been arrested for laundering the proceeds generated out of criminal offences, through shell companies and integrating the same in the business of his family members. He was arrested from his residence in Raipur on 09.11.2020. He was produced before the Special Court (PMLA), Raipur, Chhattisgarh which granted his custody to the ED till 12.11.2020,” the ED said in a statement.

The ED initiated investigation under PMLA on the basis of FIR registered by ACB, Chhattisgarh provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which discloses the disproportionate assets allegedly

amassed by Agrawal and his family members, pursuant to search action conducted by the Income Tax Department in February 2010 at his premises, his Chartered Accountant Sunil Agrawal and the members of his family.

Subsequently, a slew of FIRs or chargesheets registered/filed by CBI against Agrawal were also taken up for investigation by ED under PMLA.

Investigation under PMLA revealed that Babulal Agrawal played an active role in splitting the tender contracts related to the World Bank aided Malaria Control Program and awarding them to certain non-existing entities and thereby causing loss to the exchequer and pecuniary benefit to himself. Further, it has been revealed that in connivance with his CA Sunil Agrawal and his brother Ashok Agrawal and Pawan Agrawal, opened more than 400 bank accounts in the name of gullible villagers of Kharora and its nearby villages, where-in cash to the tune of approximately ₹ 46 crores was deposited and the same was laundered through shell companies opened by his CA Sunil Agrawal and other entities, which was ultimately parked in Prime Ispat Ltd, Raipur as investment in shares, the agency said.

India's Covid-19 tests second-highest in world, says Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday said that India's Covid-19 tests are the second-highest in the world while recoveries have crossed 79 lakh, which is highest across the globe.

It also expressed satisfaction that new cases have sustained declining trend in the past three days, reporting below 50,000 to touch to 38,000 cases in the past 24 hours taking the total case-load to 85,91,730, while the death count climbed to 1,27,059 with 448 new fatalities in the past 24 hours.

Responding to a query at a press briefing, Bhushan said that more than 11.96 crore tests have been conducted till now with more than 11 lakh tests conducted daily during last week. “Daily positivity rate during last week recorded at 4.2 per cent,” he said.

“For the third day in a row, daily new coronavirus infections in the country settled below the 50,000-mark,” the official said adding that the figures assume significance in the context of some countries reporting as high as one lakh cases per day since the last 3-4 days.

There has been a sustained decrease in the number of active cases in the country over the past few weeks, which has

shrunk to 5,05,265 and presently comprise 5.88 per cent of the total caseload.

However, seventy-two per cent of new infections reported in a span of 24 hours are from 10 states and UTs with Delhi continuing to report the highest daily new cases at 5,983, which is less than its previous day tally of 7,745 new cases.

ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava attributed factors such as air pollution, cold weather, crowding due to festivals and marriages, no social distancing in markets and movement from Delhi-NCR for sharp surge in the Covid cases in the national capital which is reporting third wave.

Delhi has reported the maximum number of single-day recoveries with 7,014 newly recovered cases. A total of 5,983 people recovered in Kerala followed by 4,396 in West Bengal.

Seventy-two per cent of the new cases are from 10 States and UTs—Delhi, West Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

On question whether during the Bihar poll campaign Covid-norms were violated, he said that a Central Government team found that norms like wearing masks and hand hygiene “less than satisfactory” outside the urban centres.

Sleep-wake cycle hormone ‘Melatonin’ may be useful in Covid treatment: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Melatonin, a hormone which regulates the sleep-wake cycle, and is commonly used as an over-the-counter sleep aid, may be a viable treatment option for Covid-19, according to a study. The research, published in the journal PLOS Biology, used a novel artificial intelligence (AI) platform to identify possible drugs for Covid-19 repurposing.

Analysis of patient data from US-based Cleveland Clinic's Covid-19 registry also revealed that melatonin usage was associated with a nearly 30 per cent reduced likelihood of testing positive for SARS-CoV-2.

The researchers adjusted their results for age, race, smoking history and various disease comorbidities.

However, the reduced likelihood of testing positive for the virus increased from 30 to 52 per cent for African Americans when adjusted for the same variables, they said.

“It is very important to note these findings do not suggest people should start to take melatonin without consulting their physician,” said



Feixiong Cheng, an assistant staff at Cleveland, and lead author of the study.

“Large-scale observational studies and randomised controlled trials are critical to validate the clinical benefit of melatonin for patients with Covid-19, but we are excited about the associations put forth in this study and the opportunity to further explore them,” Cheng said.

The researchers harnessed network medicine methodologies and large-scale electronic health records from Cleveland Clinic patients to identify clinical manifestations and pathologies common between Covid-19 and other diseases.

They, specifically, measured the proximity between host genes/proteins and those well-associated with 64 other diseases across several disease categories.

In these disease categories,

including malignant cancer and pulmonary diseases, closer proximity indicates a higher likelihood of pathological associations between the diseases, the researchers said.

They found, for example, that proteins associated with respiratory distress syndrome and sepsis, two main causes of death in patients with severe Covid-19, were highly connected with multiple SARS-CoV-2 proteins.

“This signals to us, then that a drug already approved to treat these respiratory conditions may have some utility in also treating Covid-19 by acting on those shared biological targets,” explained Cheng.

They determined that autoimmune, pulmonary and neurological diseases showed significant network proximity to SARS-CoV-2 genes/proteins and identified 34 drugs as repurposing candidates, melatonin chief among them.

“Our study provides a powerful, integrative network medicine strategy to predict disease manifestations associated with COVID-19 and facilitate the search for an effective treatment,” said.

Indian astronomers worked closely with Nobel laureate Andrea on Thirty Meter Telescope project: DST

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian astronomers had worked closely with Nobel Laureate Andrea Ghez on the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project being installed at Mauna Kea in Hawaii, the DST said on Tuesday. Ghez has won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics.

“Besides, Prof. Ghez's remarkable contribution in the discovery of a super massive compact object at the centre of our galaxy along with Prof. Roger Penrose and Prof. Reinhard Genzel for which they shared the Nobel Prize in Physics, she was deeply involved in the development of the related instrumentation and possible science prospects for the TMT, the next-generation observatory,” the Department of Science and Technology (DST) said in a statement here.

She was part of the team working towards evaluating possible front-line science cases and instrumentation for TMT utilising associated front-line cutting edge technologies like adaptive optics, it added.

The TMT project is an

international partnership between CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India; through the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Some of the Indian astronomers like Annapurni Subramaniam, Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and Shashi Bhushan Pandey, a scientist at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), along with many others collaborated with Ghez in the ongoing research and developmental activities of the TMT project.

It had resulted in two significant papers, among many others, it said.

“The Thirty Meter Telescope, which seeks to advance scientific knowledge while fostering connection among the partner countries and their citizens, and in which Indian astronomers worked closely with Prof Ghez, is expected to provide facilities with even greater capabilities to gather the observations needed to answer new and emerging questions in astronomy and physics in general,” the statement said.

Desi digital stethoscope can hear heart beats from distance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several Indian medical devices manufacturers and indigenous automation companies are coming up with innovative designs of medical devices to combat the Covid19-induced crisis.

For instance, Ayu Devices incubated at Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay has developed the digital stethoscope that can help doctors listen to heart and lungs sounds while keeping at a safe distance from the patients.

The device identifies abnormal sounds and helps diagnose patients. It is designed as a wireless module to enhance the bluetooth range and help it to be controlled from a distance. While existing digital stethoscope uses smartphone bluetooth, their device works with an additional bluetooth module to increase the range and consistency in the data.

They are further scaling up the manufacturing to cater to the increasing need and have successfully commercialised the stethoscope for the telemedicine segment, said an official from the Department of Science and Technology.

The DST through its Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) initiative scouted, evaluated and supported promising ventilator, respiratory aids and other vital medical equipment from five startups who have now taken their products to deployment stage.

“The aim is to change with the time and reach out to the patients in these tough times. Such medical equipments can keep doctors safe and cater to unique emergency requirements of the Covid 19 crisis,” said Prof. Ashutosh Sharma Secretary with the DST.

Take the case of the



portable Oxygen Concentrator by Ambala-based Walnut Medical which helps hospitals generate oxygen in-house. This is the first oxygen concentrator made in India and is fitted with automated oxygen flow technology which will prevent patient suffering from hyperoxia. It is an intelligent closed loop system which monitors oxygen level and gives enough oxygen to the patient as per the patient need. IIT Delhi incubation team worked with them to help the technology see the light of the day, said the official.

Walnut Medical will be donating 50 Oxygen Concentrators to Govt hospitals by November end and then launch the product in the market.

On the other hand, Pune-based Nocca Robotics has developed a ventilator which operates in both invasive and noninvasive, pressure-controlled mode and solar powered with low wattage requirement. It works with medical airline and oxygen as well as ambient air and oxygen and has App based control and IoT enabled system.

Hyderabad based Aerobiosys Technologies has developed a ventilator that is portable, cost-effective, IoT-enabled and powered by lithium ion batteries. “It operates uninterrupted for 5 hours and is both invasive and non-inva-

sive, with a smartphone app to control the device. The system displays a real-time information of the breath pattern and other critical lung parameters. It can attach to an oxygen cylinder and can operate on its own in ambient air,” said the official.

Catering to heat diseases, Pune-based Jeevnetronics has developed a device called defibrillator that restores normal heartbeat by sending an electric pulse or shock to the heart. It is used to prevent or correct an arrhythmia, a heartbeat that is uneven or that is too slow or too fast. They have developed dual powered defibrillator (grid + hand cranked), as well as battery less defibrillator for sudden cardiac arrest.

CAWACH Program has been steered by National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NST-EDB) of DST. Dr. Anita Gupta, Head of NSTEDB said, “Bringing in special flexibility and speed in providing support was critical to the timely success of startups.”

Prof. Ashutosh Sharma added, “The present and clear challenges of Covid-19 brought an unprecedented synergy of efforts among academia, labs, startups, industry and government which allowed rapid extraordinary developments with a shared purpose.”

TN Govt mulls opening schools

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu can breathe easy now and the AIADMK Government is seriously considering the re-opening of high schools and colleges at the earliest. The reason? The Covid-19 in the State has come under control and the number of new patients diagnosed with the pandemic per day too has come down.

As on Monday evening, the State had just 18,825 Covid-19 patients and the number of newly diagnosed persons stood at 2,257. The release issued by the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine late Monday evening stated that the State tests more than 75,000 samples per day.

The fatalities too have come down in Tamil Nadu. On Monday, the State saw just 18 persons succumbing to the pandemic.

Dr C V Krishnaswami, octogenarian physician and medical researcher in Chennai who has been tracking the course of the spread of Covid-19 expressed relief, “for the first time since the breaking out of the pandemic in February 2020.” “I'll not say all is well in Tamil Nadu. But the State administration through its sustained efforts have brought down the number of Covid-19 cases. The data released by the Government on a daily basis substantiates the ground reality,” said Dr Krishnaswamy.

C Vijayabaskar, health

minister, attributed the sharp decline in the number of Covid-19 cases to the expertise of the medical fraternity. “The strengthening of the medical infrastructure by establishing more Covid-19 care centres across the State and sustained awareness campaigns contributed a lot in bringing down the number of cases,” said Vijayabaskar who was all praise for Tamil Nadu's health care force that include doctors, nurses and para medical staff.

The Government is likely to take a decision in reopening of schools and colleges in the coming days. As part of the move to reopen the educational institutions, the Education Department held a meeting with representatives of schools and parents on Monday.

Bihar tug of war

Tejashwi chases BJP and Nitish to the finish line and proves he is here to stay. BJP scores with Modi magic



Call him an upstart, a late bloomer and a maverick but he has indeed been, to borrow an often used punchline, “sabse Tej.” And as the cliffhanger called the Bihar election plays out, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav has single-handedly and valiantly taken on the heft of the BJP and effected a change in Bihar’s political landscape. One that has made RJD the prime challenger of the BJP, sweating it out to the wire, squeezing victory margins to less than a thousand in some seats. But in the end, there will be the wistfulness of an “if only.” What would the result have been if only Tejashwi had gone it alone than allocate 70 seats to the Congress, which has been nothing short of a drag on their alliance? Could Tejashwi, as the face of anger against the establishment, indeed

have led a raging revolution if the negative vote against the BJP-Janata Dal (United) combine had not been fragmented by smaller, like-minded parties working at cross-purposes with each other? But as things stand now, he has more than a pop-up value; he has created his space on his terms. Though he is blessed with the mantle of legacy and the ear-to-the-ground wisdom of his father and social justice patriarch Lalu Prasad Yadav, he has also been aware of the costly burden of the latter’s incarceration over corruption. Which is why he smartly played down the social justice card, acutely aware that those it empowered, namely the Muslims and Yadavs, would not turn back on Lalu. And he tried to dissociate himself from the inherited legacy of “jungle raj” by promising economic justice to the jobless youth, pledging 10 lakh jobs. In fact, he described his “economic justice” plank as a version 2.0 of “social justice,” at once disconnecting himself from his father’s legacy while staying connected to the movement he espoused. He swung the youth along, tried a rainbow umbrella by bringing in upper caste candidates, brought in the Left parties to the forefront and made the elections about the right of all Biharis to aspire for their El Dorado. But he just needed to punch a bit more above his weight to cruise past the finish line. Or may be voters wanted someone with a clean slate, not weighed down by questions of credibility.

The BJP, which has had a good day at the office, considering it is likely to form the Government in Bihar and has mopped up most of the byelection seats to its satisfaction, had a decelerator thanks to its ally and chief ministerial candidate Nitish Kumar. The anti-incumbency was so strong against him that the BJP was worried at one time. But the biggest takeaway for the party is that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi emerging to be some sort of faith icon for voters in the heartland at least, managing to cast a spell similar to 2019 despite the challenges thrown up by the pandemic. For all the fury over the reverse migration, the tyranny of the lockdown, the insufficient economic relief and a tanking GDP, issues which hurt the voters the most, he still was trusted to steer the State out of its morass with Central inventions and packages. It means that the common voter has by and large endorsed his larger economic relief packages and bought into his populism. Modi further seems to have supplanted the need for a federal leader, shrinking the JD(U) and making its leader Nitish Kumar more dependent on him. Bihar seems to be okay with the idea of becoming an extension counter of the Central Government and being ruled by anybody it chooses, even if it is Nitish, as long as he is a BJP tag-along. The other big story of the election concerns the spoilers, the smaller parties that got about 18 per cent of the vote and ended fragmenting the negative vote significantly to the BJP’s advantage, notable among them being the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), which hurt both the JD(U) and the RJD. If the BJP indeed used LJP and its young Dalit leader Chirag Paswan to undercut JD(U) and make the latter beholden to it, as is being speculated, then the strategy has worked. The AIMIM, led by Asaaddin Owaisi, has similarly chipped away the Muslim vote to the RJD’s disadvantage. The biggest loser has got to be the Congress, which has had the worst strike rate in converting seats contested to wins, with the Left stealing a march over it while contesting in far lesser seats. One cannot discount the X-factor, the women, who turned out more than men, by five per cent, and along with Nitish’s prohibition may have been swayed by Central schemes to swing the arc for the BJP-led combine.

Does the verdict mean the end of the social justice era in Bihar where the BJP typifies changed aspirations across classes and a stability that have taken the voters out of silos? Caste is still important but, as Tejashwi understood rather late in the day, it needed to graduate to the next level of economic empowerment. Hence he made the unconditional offer of 10 lakh jobs. The BJP, while letting the public discourse be determined by what Nitish did or did not do, had worked armada-like on arithmetic and last mile conversion. Significantly, it worked silently on increasing its own presence, letting the social justice forces battle it among themselves. It improved its prospects in areas like West Champaran and Seemanchal, while in Kosi, Mithila and Tirhut regions, it counter-polarised the votes. True, it did need Nitish at one time to widen its span across social and caste groups and win acceptability through them but now seems to have achieved some unanimity of appeal. But though it may harbour ambitions of assuming chief ministership, it won’t hasten its run, being careful not to appear as an opportunist. Unless Nitish wants to step down on his own. For Tejashwi, who has attempted to cross the comfort of RJD bastions and venture into the rural belt, the job is cut out. He started rather late in the day but now needs to take his appeal deep into the soil and invest time and effort to convert the magnetism of optics to a bonafide verdict next time round. As for Nitish, this could be his last tenure of chief ministership given his age and perhaps that’s one of the reasons that the BJP may indulge him awhile. Besides, Nitish’s soft image can act as a buffer for its ambitions.

Vaccine politics

Trump is challenging the timing of Pfizer’s COVID vaccine as politically motivated, says he is being robbed of credit due to him



The vaccine that was supposed to hand a beleaguered US President Donald Trump his second term in office is finally here but it is a tad too late to be of any help to him. Pfizer and German biotechnology company BioNTech have announced that their Coronavirus vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective in phase three large-scale clinical trials. It has been developed outside the White House’s Operation Warp Speed programme, although the Trump administration placed an initial order for 100 million of the firm’s vaccine doses for \$1.95 billion in July. Operation Warp Speed pumped billions of dollars into six other pharmaceutical companies intended to accelerate vaccine development. Even as there was a political storm over the timing of the announcement, President-elect

Joe Biden, who made his criticism of Trump’s handling of the pandemic a centrepiece of his election campaign, congratulated the “brilliant women and men” involved in the research. But he didn’t go overboard and urged the nation to continue wearing masks and maintaining protocols as it would be “many more months before there is widespread vaccination.” Biden’s appeal assumes significance because Trump had repeatedly mocked the former for wearing the face cover during election campaigns. Many Conservatives even contended that masks infringed on their individual freedom. This stubbornness to ignore the advice of experts on Corona protocols has been widely blamed for the fact that the US remains the worst-hit country in the world.

Coming close on the heels of the mandate, the US President, who will be legally challenging the vote count on the grounds of it being a fraud, will also be using the vaccine claim as part of a conspiracy theory. In a renewed push to justify his victimhood, he felt that the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) was politically motivated and should have announced it earlier to save lives. Of course, he disregarded the fact that the scientific community across the world had sworn that they would not be compromised by political arm-twisting and would declare results after they were absolutely sure of trials. The findings may have come in the natural and ethical course of protocols but Trump is not going to let go of the opportunity to claim he fast-tracked them and now was being cheated out of the credit due to him. Vice-President Mike Pence, too, was quick to point out that the vaccine was a result of the Trump administration’s “public-private partnership” initiative. Be that as it may, the fact remains that Trump and Co are responsible for the Corona soup the US is in today and the verdict of the people was against that and the divisive policies based on ethno-nationalism. As far as Biden is concerned, the vaccine will be the cherry on the cake. But will he get rid of “Trumpism” that will dog every move he makes?

Social justice & more

An add-on to the identity politics in economic terms and a credible political face to deliver it are important takeaways from the Bihar elections



SATISH K JHA

The sight of a rattled Nitish Kumar in his public appearances during the recently held Assembly election campaigns in Bihar intrigued many observers because of his image of a cool, suave and well-mannered politician, who hardly ever breached the decorum of public life. But in his speeches, he not only lost his poise but also became personal in his comments against his adversaries. This made people wonder as to what went wrong with him, given his reputation as a seasoned and confident leader. These days though, the parties and leaders actually get to know the real mood of the people only during electioneering due to defunct organisational networks and, therefore, the sight of leaders losing balance during the election should not surprise us.

So, when post-COVID travails of the people started unravelling themselves in the midst of an election in Bihar, Nitish would have definitely sensed the slide of his popularity, the erosion and limitation of his brand of social justice politics. Political analysts believed that it was Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan, who was seen by many as the BJP’s proxy to keep him in check and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav’s populist job promise that unsettled him. But things appear much deeper and to understand the whole gamut of it, one needs to take a snapshot of Bihar politics, particularly the period in which the game of social justice got played out.

Ironically, Nitish seems to be both a beneficiary and victim of social justice politics. He and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav have been its architects for the last three decades. Together, they have even shared the ruling years, setting the political narrative and even forcing the national parties like the Congress and the BJP to bend backwards and play second fiddle to them in



order to survive in the State. They rode on the high tide of Mandal politics with finesse and dismantled the cultural-political hegemony of the upper castes in Bihar’s social fabric.

Since Bihar had not witnessed a social reform movement like some other regions of India during the colonial period, their politics struck a responsive chord with the backward castes. The social justice politics, which they spearheaded, resulted in the much-awaited course correction in the State and they became the recipient of its political dividends. But one day this politics had to hit its dead end and if the people’s ire against Nitish, and this not going out rightly in favour of Tejashwi in the current Assembly election, is any indication, then it seems to have already reached that moment. The COVID crisis only precipitated this process by exposing the underbelly of the State, with the sight of lakhs of beleaguered migrant workers parading and dying on the highways and their images going viral through social and electronic media.

But does this mean that the politics of social justice, which promised both dignity and livelihood to the under-privileged, has outlived its utility and has come of age in Bihar? And to what extent is Nitish culpable in the derailment of this project of social justice?

“NITISH SEEMS TO BE BOTH A BENEFICIARY AND VICTIM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE POLITICS. HE AND LALU PRASAD YADAV HAVE BEEN ITS ARCHITECTS. TOGETHER, THEY HAVE EVENLY SHARED THE RULING YEARS, SETTING THE POLITICAL NARRATIVE AND EVEN FORCING THE NATIONAL PARTIES TO PLAY SECOND FIDDLE TO THEM”

Why did this discourse falter in adding economic content to the rhetoric of reservation and representation?

It would be unfair to say that the second generation social justice politics based on economic agenda did not take off at all in Bihar. Lalu, no doubt, will be faulted for squandering the opportunity. But this may not apply to Nitish. He started his innings with a promise to take the politics of social justice to a higher pedestal and add the missing economic content to it, without abandoning the process of political empowerment of the backward castes, which had been set in motion. Rather, he tried to make political empowerment more institutionalised and broad-based, compared to the Lalu era.

He not only made the local bodies as new sites of empowerment by reserving political posts for extremely backward castes, women, Mahadalits but also deftly dovetailed the agenda of development and good governance with caste arithmetic.

Therefore, his first five-year tenure definitely held out hope for all and sundry with the law and order improving in the State and the GDP hovering above the national average. He even lowered the anti-upper caste tirade of Lalu’s regime. And this was not an ordinary achievement, given his constraints, which included the

loss of mineral-rich Jharkhand, empty coffers and the tattered administration bequeathed by his predecessor.

The much hyped economic growth of his era was not going to last long, with construction activities contributing substantially to this growth story without adding much in the manufacturing, agriculture and other key sectors of the economy. The result was that Nitish’s good governance agenda floundered on generating employment, arresting migration of workers and turning around agriculture and allied activities, which could have acted as the engine for employment and economic growth. The infrastructure definitely improved, particularly the roads and electricity. But this was not enough for the new aspirational class, which was in the making among the backward castes, in particular, due to several factors, including the affirmative action programme.

Problems for Nitish further got compounded when he started vacillating politically in the aftermath of Narendra Modi’s rise to the national scene. This took a heavy toll on his political credibility and severely constrained his manoeuvrability. The astute politician in him must have sensed that somewhere along the way he had lost the plot, with people restive about unemployment in a resource-starved State, the populist and majoritarian politics stacked against him and his advancing age not on his side.

Does this mean that Bihar is heading for a post-social justice era in politics? Though, looking at the current election result, it is too early to write an obituary of social justice politics in the State. But in search of a new meaning, the old style politics based on pure caste arithmetic of the Mandal era will not work. Tejashwi’s failure to cash in on Nitish’s sliding popularity, largely due to his father’s legacy and RJD’s poor track record on development and economic justice, is indicative of that fact. Therefore, one can say that an add-on to the identity politics in economic terms and a credible political face to deliver it are important takeaways from this election in Bihar.

(The writer is Associate Professor in Political Science, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi)

SOUNDBITE

The BJP is a disciplined party, functioning on the support of its workers. The Congress is a party run by leaders. In the coming days, the Congress is going to disintegrate more and more.

BJP parliamentarian
—Narhari Amin



I will leave the presidential palace and go to my home. History and the Peruvian people will judge the decisions that each one of us makes.

Peruvian President
—Martin Vizcarra



We have to respect the fact he (Virat Kohli) wants to be there for the birth of his first child. We’re looking forward to seeing him here (in Australia) for seven out of the 10 matches.

Cricket Australia CEO
—Nick Hockley



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRO launches EOS-01

Sir — The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched an earth observation satellite, EOS-01, along with nine customer satellites onboard its polar rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. This is India’s first space mission in almost a year.

With this, ISRO has successfully overcome many constraints to meet the deadline during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

EOS-01 is a Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) that will work together with RISAT-2B and RISAT-2BRI launched last year and is intended for applications in agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. It will aid in providing all-weather surveillance using Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR).

Also, there are indications that ISRO could be launching ten such satellites in this series in quick succession.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Battleground Bengal

The Assembly election in West Bengal, scheduled to be held in 2021, is going to be a fierce battle between the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the BJP. The current political situation indicates that the Left parties, which have ruled the State for about three decades before the TMC dislodged them, have lost the political ground. And the Indian National Congress party’s condition is no better. This has fuelled BJP’s ambitions to occupy the political space against the ruling TMC.

Buoyed by its impressive performance in 2019 general elections, winning 18 Lok Sabha seats and securing 40.64 per cent votes, which were just three per cent less than TMC, BJP is high on hopes to conquer the politically significant State in eastern India. On the other hand, Banerjee’s rule hasn’t lived up to the expectations of the people. The catchy TMC slogan “Parivartan” (change) in 2011 Assembly elections, promising a turnaround in the State, has proved hollow. Bengal hasn’t witnessed substantial changes



in terms of rate of development, law and order, corruption, political murders and other key parameters. The legacy left behind by the Left parties has been continued by the Banerjee Government. In this context, West Bengal, which has a huge potential to grow, needs a change of Government.

N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Diwali gloom

Sir — The decision to ban fire-crackers during Diwali by several State Governments is a welcome step. However, this should have been done much earlier as across the country, thousands of families depend on this seasonal business for their livelihood and in places like Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu, it

is the mainstay of the economy. Prior to the ban, products had already been shipped to different States but payments were yet to be made. Now, with the ban being implemented, they would not receive the due credit amount and the workers will be left in a lurch. Keeping in view the rising number of COVID-19 cases and the high level of air

pollution across India, the State Governments should have taken the decision before the stocks even arrived in the market.

M Raghuraman
Mumbai

Farmer-friendly projects

Sir — The Union Government is working towards boosting the food

processing industries by approving 21 projects, leveraging investment worth ₹443 crore supported with a grant of ₹189 crore under the scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition. Also, eight projects, leveraging investment worth ₹62 crore with a grant of ₹15 crore under the scheme for Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, were approved. These are likely to generate employment for nearly 12,600 people and benefit around 2,00,592 farmers. The projects are spread across 10 States — Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Kerala, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Nagaland.

These will provide effective and seamless backward and forward integration for the processed food industry by plugging the gaps in the supply chain in terms of availability of raw material and linkages with the market.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A fine mess in Ethiopia again

In only a week, it has worked its way up from local clashes to air strikes. This is so reckless that it makes US politics look demure by comparison



GWYNNE DYER

Americans should congratulate themselves. Their election system is definitely better than Ethiopia's. In fact, it works so well that there's unlikely to be another American civil war. The US, a federal country with a complex and decrepit voting system, has nevertheless just held a national election despite about a quarter-million of COVID-19 deaths. President Donald Trump is finding it hard to process his defeat, but the system itself worked fine despite the pandemic.

Ethiopia, another federal country with one-third of America's population but less than one-hundredth of the US' COVID death rate, should have held its scheduled election this autumn too, but Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed postponed it "because of the Coronavirus pandemic." That was a very serious mistake.

The Government of the Tigray region of Ethiopia accused Abiy of needless delay, and when he refused to change his mind, it went ahead and held the election in Tigray anyway. Abiy said the newly-elected Government of Tigray (same as the old Government) was illegal because he had postponed the elections. On its part, Tigray said the Federal Government was illegal because it had unilaterally extended its mandate instead of holding the elections, and both sides went to war.

In only a week, they've worked their way up from local clashes to air strikes. This is so stupid and reckless that it makes US politics look positively demure by comparison. To be fair, though, Ethiopia has only recently emerged from 45 years of revolution, White and Red terror, renewed tyranny, more revolution, and practically non-stop civil and international war. Ethiopia is a really hard place to govern. When Abiy Ahmed was appointed Prime Minister two years ago by the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), he was the first Oromo ever to govern the country, even though the Oromo are the largest of Ethiopia's many ethnic groups (a third of the population). They have been unhappy for a long time, so that was a plus.

So was the fact that he was the son of a Christian-Muslim marriage, useful in a country that is two-thirds Christian, one-third Muslim. And Abiy's intentions were good: He immediately set about to dismantle the stranglehold on power of the various ethnic militias that had fought and won the long war against the Derg, the previous Communist dictatorship. The most powerful of those militias is the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

Tigray, the country's northernmost province, has only six million people, a mere five per cent of Ethiopia's population, but Tigrayan soldiers and politicians have dominated the EPRDF coalition and Government for most of the last 30 years because of their historic role in the war against the Derg.

The Tigrayan political elite's privilege was widely resented, and it was time for it to end. Last year Abiy tried to do that by merging all the ethnic militia-based parties into a single Prosperity Party, but the TPLF leadership wouldn't play ball. They had always lived in the castle, and nobody was going to make them go and live with the commoners. It is, alas, as simple as that, and perhaps a more accomplished civilian politician could have finessed it: Cabinet posts, ambassadorships and/or fat lifetime pensions for the more flexible Tigrayan leaders, discreet but massive bribes for the greedier ones, and a couple of fatal "accidents" for the hardest nuts to crack.

Abiy Ahmed, despite a background in Intelligence work that should have given him good political skills, is inflexible and confrontational. The cascade of threats, counter-threats and ultimatums between him and the TPLF leadership is now culminating in what amounts to a Tigrayan war of secession. It could be a long fight because Tigrayans are over-represented in the armed forces and much of the army's heavy weapons and equipment, which were based in Tigray because of the border war with Eritrea, has fallen into the TPLF's hands. The TPLF has no air force, but it can match the federal army in everything, up to and including mechanised divisions.

Ethiopia is Africa's second-biggest country, very poor but with a fast-growing economy. The very last thing it needs is yet another civil war, which in current circumstances could also lead to other regions trying to secede. Even if the TPLF was trying to provoke a war (which looks quite likely), Abiy Ahmed's first duty was to avoid it at all costs. They gave Abiy Ahmed the Nobel Peace Prize last year for bringing Ethiopia's 22-year border war with Eritrea to a formal end but that award has been going downhill ever since Henry Kissinger got one. They even gave one to Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who now goes around condoning genocide. Maybe we also need a Nobel Booby Prize.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work')

IF THE DIRECTION OF SATELLITES TO MARS AND MOON CAN BE CONTROLLED FROM THE EARTH, THEN WHY CAN'T EVM BE HACKED?

—CONGRESS LEADER

UDIT RAJ



TIME TO STOP BLAMING EVMs. THERE HAVE BEEN DOUBTERS IN ALL PARTIES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE RESULTS DON'T GO IN THEIR FAVOUR.

—CONGRESS LEADER

KARTI CHIDAMBARAM

Biden's Bharat policy

The President-elect has always espoused India's cause in the US and lobbied for Indian interests as an admirer of the world's largest democracy



ANIL GUPTA

If all goes well and President Donald Trump does not have his way in the courts, then on January 20, 2021 the White House would have a new occupant. President Trump will vacate the same to welcome President-elect Democrat Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States of America (POTUS). The US elections this time were followed worldwide because of the impact incumbent President Trump had over global geopolitics with his peculiar style of functioning.

Though Biden defeated him with a convincing majority, Trump is unhappy and making wild accusations of electoral fraud has approached the courts. In all fairness, Biden will succeed and Trump will have to concede. In the process Trump will be remembered as the first sitting POTUS who failed to secure a second term apart from his numerous controversial decisions. Biden will inherit an extremely divided US, a fallout of the "America First" policy of Trump. Soon, the process of transition will begin when the outgoing administration will hand over power to the transition team of Biden, who, too, will commence the process of announcing his trusted colleagues. The choice of members of his team will be the first indication of the mindset of the new POTUS with relation to burning domestic and global issues. Biden, more than experienced at 77, will not only decide the future of US citizens but would also have the capacity, capability, authority and responsibility to shape global destiny. It is no wonder then that in India as well the election was followed very closely as it has traditionally enjoyed a bipartisan relationship with the US.

Though change of presidency in the US has not made much of a difference in the past irrespective of the party in power, this time the situation is different because of the ongoing stand-off with an expansionist and aggressive China as well as certain controversies at home leading to polarisation.

The nomination of Senator Kamala Harris as a running mate by Biden created a concern in the power corridors in India due to her perceived anti-India stance and critical statements relating to abrogation of Article 370 and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Incidentally, both Biden and Harris have a connection with India but it is highly unlikely that it would have any effect on their policy-making or relations with us. However, one thing is certain, Biden is a friend of India and his track record from his early days as a Senator till his Vice-Presidency under Barack Obama bears testimony to this fact.

Trump has left many problems for the new Government and naturally, Biden will prioritise the sequence and manner in which he decides to resolve them. Going by the Democratic Party Platform (a document akin to manifesto) India is not in the priority list of the party. It refers to China, North Korea, Iran, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific but does not mention India specifically. However, the Democrats realised soon that ignoring India may cause them loss of critical Indian-American votes and the Biden campaign released a separate policy paper on Indo-US relations. Considering India's strategic location dominating the Indian Ocean, its size and economy, no Government can afford to ignore it.

Significantly, Biden has always espoused India's cause in the US and lobbied for its interests as an admirer of the world's largest democracy. He has also been an advocate of deepening strategic engagement

“ DESPITE TEMPTATIONS AND PROVOCATIONS, INDIA HAS SO FAR RESISTED JOINING ANY CAMP BUT INSTEAD HAS CONTINUED WITH ITS STRATEGY OF NEED-BASED BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN KEEPING WITH ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS. WE MUST CONTINUE ON THE SAME PATH ”



with India, cooperating with New Delhi on meeting global challenges as well as enhancing trade relations. He has remained a strong believer of the fact that India and the US are natural partners and had a stellar role to play in approving the US-India civil nuclear deal in 2008. It was during the Obama-Biden administration that the US, for the first time, declared its support for the permanent membership of India in an expanded and reformed United Nations Security Council. During the same administration, India was named as a "major defence partner," making it eligible to be treated at par with closest US allies as regards advanced and sensitive technologies needed to strengthen our armed forces. There are fears that since more than 80 per cent American-Muslims voted in his favour, Biden's policies may be pro-Muslim. However, any apprehension of the US interfering in Kashmir is highly unfounded as Biden and Harris have both spoken out against human rights violations and the Democrats have always been supportive of India on Kashmir. Though in his Agenda for Muslim-American Communities, Biden had condemned the Narendra Modi Government's new citizenship Act and a separate attempt to build a population register that could provide future justification to expel or target foreigners, at the same time he had also committed to strengthening Indo-US ties.

"The US and India will stand together against terrorism in all its forms and work together to promote a region of peace and stability, where neither China nor any other country threatens its neighbours," he wrote in an op-ed in an Indian-American newspaper in October. He is unlikely to change the American stance on Al Qaeda, the ISIS and other

radical jihadi organisations. Significantly, the Modi Government's action against many foreign-funded NGOs and banning of Amnesty International has not gone down well with many Democrats. There are bound to be differences of opinion on many issues just like during the Trump Administration, but mutual discussions would ensure that these do not affect the cooperation between the two nations on many critical issues of mutual importance. China's expansionist policies, trade and certain global problems like terrorism and climate change are the issues of concern for India. There is no doubt that on these issues the Biden administration and India will have convergence. It is unlikely that Biden will release the pressure built on China by the Trump Administration. But he favours a consensus-based approach in dealing with Beijing as compared to the confrontationalist stance adopted by Trump.

Biden is in favour of strengthening the QUAD, the Indo-Pacific policy as well as providing support to Taiwan and Hong Kong. He wants to strengthen ties with US allies, too, meaning the NATO and countries like Australia, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea, proposing a grand Indo-Pacific Alliance. He has also committed to strengthening military cooperation between the US and India. It is important to note that both nations had signed three agreements for closer military cooperation in the backdrop of the growing tension with China under Trump. Biden has a very different approach to climate change which is likely to benefit India in terms of green funding.

As far as trade is concerned, Biden is going to be less obtrusive than Trump. India already enjoys a trade surplus with the US. It accounts for nearly five per cent

of US' services imports from the world, too. The US is the fifth-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India and the Indian stock market is already showing a positive impact like the Wall Street.

There may not be much change in the H1-B visa regime but the information technology industry is likely to benefit. Despite good personal relations between Trump and Modi, the much-awaited trade deal between the two countries could not be finalised. Keeping in view the promised focus of Biden on rebuilding the COVID-hit economy of the US, chances of expecting any concessions appear dim.

Biden, however, had been an advocate of strengthening trade relations and India would expect restoration of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) benefits from his Government. However, it remains to be seen if the new administration uses the same as a leverage for its differences on certain issues with the Modi Government. Even Modi expressed the same hope in his congratulatory message to the President-elect. He tweeted, "As the (Vice President), your contribution to strengthening Indo-US relations was critical and invaluable. I look forward to working closely together once again to take India-US relations to greater heights."

India has embarked on the path of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* to meet the challenges of a post-COVID era. Despite temptations and provocations, our nation has so far resisted joining any camp but instead has continued with its strategy of need-based bilateral or multilateral agreements in keeping with its national interests. We must continue on the same path.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran, political commentator, columnist, security and strategic analyst)

Accurate weather forecast a must

There is information on how farmers gain because of data availability but there is no data on how much they have lost due to a wrong forecast



KOTA SRIRAJ

For those of us living in metropolises and other urban areas, weather forecasts are mostly a dreary flow of information on temperature, humidity levels and possibilities of rainfall. Urban dwellers are more worried about pollution levels, the ambient Air Quality Index (AQI) and whether the next few days will see the city enveloped in choking smog. Keeping abreast of the smog quotient is vital for urban dwellers as it not only impacts their health and outdoor activities but would also mean kicking in of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which includes measures such as prohibition on entry of trucks, ban on construction activities, introduction of odd and even scheme for private vehicles, shutting of schools, closure of brick kilns, hot mix plants and stone crush-

ers, shutting down of power plants, ban on diesel generator sets, bonfires and garbage burning in landfills and so on. But apart from concerns about smog and the AQI in the winter months, weather forecasts are not so vital for city dwellers. In fact, during the monsoon season they are a butt of jokes owing to the inaccuracy of predictions.

But in other parts of India, away from the towering skyscrapers and pollution, where the highest landmarks are either trees or mountains, weather forecasts are a vital source of information. The farming community of India relies heavily on weather inputs and growers plan their crop cycles, rotation patterns, pesticide use and so on, based on them. Thankfully, over the decades, the dissemination of weather-related information has made major progress. And owing to vast cellular networks and affordable smartphone technologies, farmers in many remote parts of India have weather data literally on their fingertips.

However, these conditions, as heartening as they may seem, do not exist uniformly throughout the realm of Indian agriculture and some serious anomalies exist in the form of stark economic disparities within the agricultur-



al community. Even as farmers with sizeable land holdings, access to funds, quality seeds, livestock and farm equipment struggle to make a profit, the condition of small and marginal farmers remains abominable and seems to get worse with each passing year. Even decades of economic progress of the nation do not seem to have improved the lot of these underprivileged farmers whose fragmented landholdings are unable to produce bumper crops.

This ensures that the farmer keeps getting deeply entangled in the complex web of debt and falling produce. Knee-jerk policies, such as the recent farm Acts, that raise doubts about the welfare of the growers, make

matters worse. Given these trying conditions, information on what the weather will bring in coming days is truly a God-sent facility for all farmers. Particularly given the fact that climate change-related disasters are wreaking havoc on the farm sector. In 2019-20, extreme weather events adversely impacted 14 million hectares of farmland in India. A recent survey by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) underscored the importance of timely delivery of weather-related information to growers and concluded that it had a significantly positive impact on their income.

The survey, based on interviews with nearly 4,000 agriculturalists,

helped gauge the economic impact of India's investments in the National Monsoon Mission (NMM) and High-Performance Computing (HPC) facilities. The findings showed that mitigation, risk-avoidance and precautionary activities undertaken on the basis of weather information paid off for the farmers.

Similarly, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in association with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) sent Agrometeorological Advisories to 22 million farmers, through a network of 130 agro-met field units. It was found that 80 per cent of the farmers who had utilised these advisories could avoid severe crop-related losses. However, the flow of information through these advisories is also not without problems.

In February 2018, the IMD issued storm and thundershower warnings for Maharashtra's Nashik belt, which is traditionally a grape-growing region with nearly 1,00,000 tonnes of grape export to its credit each year. The advisory compelled the grape farmers to advance their harvest process to escape the weather event. But soon, the IMD withdrew its forecast, resulting in premature grape harvest in the region and heavy

expenses were incurred by the farmers on labour for the same. These instances spoil the credibility of the IMD and alienate farmers. In order to avoid these conditions, the department must work on firming up its forecast ability and ensure that retractions are not commonplace as they play havoc with the farming community's fortunes.

Additionally, weather advisories are sometimes generic and lack district-level specifications, leaving the growers confused whether or not to take action to protect their crop. The IMD must overcome this flaw so that agriculturalists are able to derive full benefit of a properly-issued forecast that is high on both minutiae details and accuracy. There is information available on how farmers are gaining because of weather data availability but there is no comprehensive data on how much they have lost due to a hastily-issued and retracted weather forecast or other forecast-related negligence. No information does not mean that it has not happened. The Government must compile authentic data in this regard so that the extent of the problem is realised and counter-measures are taken.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



TV VIEWING IS CHANGING

TV viewing has remained popular due to its ability to create a community experience when we are isolated at home. "Escapism" is a word often used pejoratively, but small doses are necessary; they make the larger bleakness easier to face. It is worth noting that a fifth of the UK barely uses the internet. For them, the BBC and Channel 4 are essential companions. What we are seeing may be a redefinition of public service broadcasting. (The Guardian editorial)

Markets maintain record run on vaccine boost

Sensex touches 43,000-mark

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks rallied to fresh lifetime highs on Tuesday, propelled by banking and finance stocks, after positive results from Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine trials turbocharged global market sentiment.

Climbing for the seventh session on the trot, the BSE Sensex soared 680.22 points or 1.60 per cent to close above the 43,000-mark for the first time at 43,277.65.

Intra-day, the 30-share benchmark touched its lifetime peak of 43,316.44.

The broader NSE Nifty too ended at its all-time high of 12,631.10, up 170.05 points or 1.36 per cent. It hit an intra-day record of 12,643.90 during the session.

Both the benchmarks scaled record highs for the second straight session. Bajaj Finance was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurting 8.84 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC, SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, ONGC and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Nestle India, Infosys, Sun Pharma and TCS were among the main laggards, tumbling up to 5.73 per cent. Global equities witnessed a relief-rally after Pfizer and BioNTech on Monday said their vaccine candidate was found to be more than 90 per cent effective in preventing COVID-19.

“Announcements by BioNTech and Pfizer about successful phase 3 trial of COVID-19 vaccine instilled confidence among investors and possibility of sustained economic recovery led sharp

buying in beaten down stocks,” said Arjun Yash Mahajan, Head Institutional Business at Reliance Securities.

Favourable global markets and NDA's surprising lead in Bihar assembly elections also supported the rally, he added.

However, champions that emerged during pandemic like IT and pharma stocks witnessed sharp profit booking, he noted. The ruling NDA in Bihar was ahead of its rivals in more than half of the state's 243 assembly seats, with the BJP appearing set to outperform its senior alliance partner JD(U) headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, according to trends available till late afternoon.

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

Stock exchanges in Europe were mostly trading on a positive note.

Rupee slips 3 paise to 74.18 per USD

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated by 3 paise to close at 74.18 against the US dollar on Tuesday as higher crude oil prices and a stronger green-back overseas weighed on sentiment.

The rise in crude oil prices had a negative impact on the domestic unit, but robust domestic equities supported the rupee and restricted the fall, experts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic currency opened higher at 74.04 a dollar, but could not hold the momentum and finally settled 3 paise lower at 74.18.

As market climbs new highs, net FII inflow crosses ₹14,786 cr in just 3 days

■ MUMBAI

The Indian equity market has been on a fresh record run of late backed by a surge in foreign institutional investments (FII). In the past three days alone, net FII inflow in the Indian capital markets stood at Rs 14,786.57 crore.

On Tuesday, the Sensex crossed the psychological mark of 43,000 points for the first time ever. The surge in the Indian market comes in line with the global markets, after pharmaceutical major Pfizer said its experimental Covid-19 vaccine is more than 90 per cent effective based on initial trial results.

Further, the bull-run started globally along with the domestic markets after it became clear that Joe Biden, the Democratic candidate would be the next US President. This positive trend comes despite the anticipation that Donald Trump's exit from the White House may trigger a collapse in the stocks markets. Markets rallied on hopes of fewer regulations, easing of protectionist measures brought in by Trump and a bigger stimulus package for the US economy under a Biden administration. Further, hopes of ease in H-1B visa norms also led to a spike in the IT stocks.

FM asks banks to ensure all accounts are linked with Aadhaar by March 2021

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday asked banks to ensure that all accounts are linked with Aadhaar numbers of respective customers by March 31, 2021. She said the financial inclusion story is not over and banks still have inclusion to carry forward. There are many accounts which are

not linked with Aadhaar. “... by March 31, 2021, every account should have a PAN where needed and where applicable, and Aadhaar in every one of your accounts,” Sitharaman said while addressing the 73rd annual general meeting of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). She said banks should discourage non-digital payments and bank should promote digital payments techniques.

GAIL records 13% rise in turnover to ₹13,611

New Delhi: GAIL (India) Limited recorded 13% increase in turnover to ₹13,611 crore vis-a-vis ₹12,060 crore in Q1 FY21 while Profit before Tax (PBT) increased to ₹1,551 crore as against ₹356 crore in Q1 FY21. The Profit after Tax (PAT) increased to ₹1,239 crore in Q2 vis-a-vis ₹256 crore in Q1 FY21.

Both physical as well as financial performance of the company improved across all major segments in Q2.

After relaxations in the lockdown imposed due to pandemic Covid-19 in Q1 and with the resumption of economic activities, the volumes picked up in all segments of the company to normal levels in

Q2 FY21 resulting in increase in the profit as compared to Q1 FY21.

The Physical Performance improved by 18% in Natural Gas Transmission, 9% in Gas Marketing, 10% in LPG Transmission, 22% in Petrochemical Sales and 12% in Liquid Hydrocarbon Sales.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY 50	12556.40	12643.90	12475.25	12631.10	170.05	
BAFINANCE	3898.95	4243.95	3882.80	4210.00	345.00	
INDUSINDBK	784.00	870.00	783.00	832.00	56.55	
IT	975.00	1036.90	971.60	1032.00	66.15	
BAJAJFINSV	645.00	673.75	631.05	658.00	374.65	
SRIN	223.10	235.00	223.00	232.00	12.50	
HDFC	2185.00	2288.80	2175.55	2268.95	116.85	
GAIL	87.00	90.85	86.80	90.80	4.30	
ICICIBANK	485.80	487.05	473.00	484.80	22.10	
HDFCBANK	1357.00	1395.00	1351.55	1393.20	52.65	
HDFCLIFE	395.00	615.10	390.40	615.00	221.5	
TATAMOTORS	144.05	146.70	142.75	145.90	4.90	
IOC	81.10	84.45	81.10	84.80	2.80	
ONGC	69.05	71.00	68.50	70.80	2.35	
ITC	175.00	179.55	171.85	178.50	5.70	
AXISBANK	572.00	588.00	568.25	582.40	17.35	
SBILIFE	816.20	832.90	811.35	831.00	22.85	
COALINDIA	122.25	125.40	121.00	124.90	3.15	
NTPC	89.80	91.75	89.55	91.60	2.15	
ULTRACEMCO	4642.00	4785.00	4630.50	4720.00	94.75	
EICHERMOT	2212.00	2257.45	2192.20	2226.00	43.15	
BPCL	376.00	384.95	372.15	382.70	7.15	
RELIANCE	2077.00	2090.00	2041.20	2089.00	38.30	
KOTAKBANK	173.00	179.45	172.45	175.60	27.85	
TITAN	1286.00	1312.00	1274.35	1305.15	20.10	
UPL	48.10	49.50	48.55	49.30	6.55	
POWERGRID	130.30	136.85	135.15	136.00	1.95	
SHREECEM	22630.00	23230.00	22630.00	22812.20	207.50	
M&M	622.00	627.70	611.00	622.00	5.65	
TATASTEEL	440.00	453.25	435.55	442.00	3.70	
JSWSTEEL	333.00	337.65	330.35	335.85	2.75	
HINDUNILVR	214.00	214.20	209.25	213.90	2.35	
HEROMOTOCO	2887.00	2987.00	2922.95	2955.65	1.40	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3015.00	3022.50	2996.00	2997.25	-4.70	
ADANIPORTS	370.70	374.50	364.15	364.40	-0.65	
GRASIM	799.00	816.00	781.05	788.45	-3.70	
BRITANNIA	3572.00	3572.00	3445.85	3516.00	-32.30	
ASIANPAINT	2225.20	2238.55	2189.00	2204.55	-20.65	
BHARTIARTL	474.00	474.15	465.40	467.00	-4.80	
MARUTI	6973.10	6974.00	675.45	6796.00	-76.15	
HINDALCO	198.05	200.65	190.10	192.00	-2.70	
WIPRO	350.75	350.75	341.15	343.10	-8.85	
TCS	2697.20	2711.15	2638.35	2653.95	-72.65	
SUNPHARMA	51.00	51.425	489.00	493.00	-17.15	
DREDDY	4834.00	4868.00	4679.40	4715.00	-164.65	
INFY	111.85	111.85	107.80	109.90	-42.65	
NESTLEIND	17332.00	17332.00	16582.85	16699.00	-663.00	
DIVISLAB	3423.60	3423.60	3239.15	3270.00	-153.75	
HCLTECH	848.50	848.50	805.75	812.15	-42.85	
CIPLA	769.80	769.80	706.50	722.25	-40.95	
TECHM	872.00	872.00	819.10	822.70	-50.05	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	28930.60	28936.45	28342.55	28547.45	-198.55	
PGHH	10229.00	11716.00	9981.00	11267.00	1026.55	
INDIGO	1600.00	1639.70	1550.00	1623.00	131.95	
UBFL	985.00	1066.55	982.00	1055.00	79.50	
DLF	174.55	181.95	172.00	180.20	7.40	
MOTHERSUMI	124.15	129.00	120.45	127.90	4.85	
PNB	28.90	29.80	28.60	29.60	1.00	
BAJAJHLING	2447.45	2538.00	2447.45	2530.00	84.10	
BANKBARODA	47.00	48.80	46.50	48.15	1.40	
BOSCHLTD	11810.00	12049.95	11725.00	12030.10	331.05	
ADANITRANS	312.00	318.65	308.45	312.05	6.55	
HINDPETRO	208.00	213.80	207.50	215.25	4.20	
CONCOR	382.00	389.40	378.60	387.00	6.60	
BANDHANBNK	345.00	354.75	335.20	347.70	5.60	
HAVELLS	831.00	844.30	810.05	837.10	13.10	
MCDOWELL-N	561.35	575.75	558.00	564.40	8.60	
DMART	2340.00	2368.90	2315.50	2360.00	34.15	
SIEMENS	1358.80	1375.15	1350.70	1367.00	17.70	
GICRE	122.50	123.15	121.30	122.95	1.25	
NMDC	94.00	95.40	92.50	94.20	0.90	
AMBUJACEM	251.00	256.40	248.40	250.60	1.30	
ABBOTINDIA	15688.00	15688.00	15400.00	15579.00	48.75	
PETRONET	236.00	240.50	235.65	238.80	0.65	
IGL	424.20	429.00	415.55	423.20	0.00	
SBICARD	848.80	860.00	836.55	840.00	-0.45	
PEL	1383.90	1436.75	1370.00	1379.80	-2.65	
ICICIPRULI	424.00	440.00	414.70	421.00	-1.05	
ICICI	1275.00	1293.95	1262.75	1266.90	-4.40	
ACC	1679.00	1696.95	1648.00	1663.80	-5.90	
OFSS	3124.80	3124.80	3050.00	3085.00	-12.70	
PEC	98.70	99.70	96.50	97.90	-0.60	
INFRATEL	180.00	180.00	175.25	177.15	-1.55	
PIDILITIND	1600.00	1604.65	1570.00	1574.15	-21.10	
GODREJCP	694.95	694.95	672.20	678.00	-10.35	
BERGEPAINT	653.00	653.00	638.10	643.40	-10.10	
ALKEM	2730.00	2760.00	2680.00	2710.00	-59.80	
DABUR	527.70	529.90	511.80	515.90	-11.65	
BIOCON	417.55	417.80	398.05	406.50	-9.50	
TATACONSUM	511.20	513.40	495.00	497.00	-12.85	
COLPAL	1519.00	1519.25	1463.75	1469.70	-38.45	
HDFCAMC	2525.00	2525.00	2407.05	2442.30	-66.40	
MARICO	384.30	385.45	367.50	369.95	-10.50	
NAUKRI	3655.00	3669.00	3402.00	3528.50	-103.80	
AUROPHARMA	789.00	790.40	750.00	762.15	-24.45	
HINDZINC	229.45	229.85	215.20	216.90	-9.60	
TORNTPHARM	2564.55	2569.75	2418.75	2438.60	-113.50	
ADANIGREEN	914.95	919.00	854.30	854.40	-44.95	
LUPIN	920.00	920.00	855.35	862.45	-55.50	
CADILAC	440.00	440.00	406.25	410.95	-26.65	
MUTHOOTFIN	1270.00	1270.00	1162.20	1188.00	-90.05	
LTI	3274.55	3277.00	3000.00	3036.55	-243.00	

BSE 500

Security Name	Open	High	Low	LTP
RELIANCE	2075.00	2090.00	2041.80	2084.50
BAFINANCE	3900.00	4243.00	3883.25	4208.60
INDUSINDBK	784.20	861.50	783.65	835.05
SRIN	222.35	234.95	222.35	231.70
ICICIBANK	1351.00	1395.00	1351.00	1393.60
HDFCBANK	484.25	486.50	472.80	483.90
HDFC	2180.10	2288.80	2180.00	2271.85
TATAMOTORS	143.25	146.55	142.70	146.00
ITC	174.95	179.50	171.90	178.35
INFY	1129.95	1129.95	1078.35	1090.95
CROMPTON	298.35	302.80	291.35	297.35
AXISBANK	570.60	588.00	568.10	583.50
ASHOKLEY	87.00	91.90	84.70	91.05
CIPLA	770.00	770.00	706.45	717.70
PFIZER	5875.00	5875.00	5000.00	5048.45
TCS	2725.00	2725.00	2640.00	2649.95
BAJAJFINSV	642.00	671.15	631.60	668.95
PVR	1270.00	1332.00	1270.00	1305.85
HCLTECH	847.20	850.00	805.95	809.80
TATASTEEL	440.00	453.00	435.65	441.85
BANDHANBNK	344.05	353.80	335.05	344.90
INFRADEL	179.00	180.55	175.45	177.10
IRCTC	1329.80	1417.70	1315.00	1374.25
HINDUNILVR	2142.00	2142.00	2093.45	2138.45
BOSCHLTD	1161.00	1204.00	1173.47	12005.25
FEDERALBNK	56.10	59.00	55.70	58.55
KOTAKBANK	1727.45	1794.00	1726.00	1752.80
RBLBANK	198.55	213.80	198.55	209.45
TECHM	875.00	875.00	819.15	821.20
KAJARIACER	593.60	599.05	582.05	591.95
INDIGO	1590.10	1638.00	1550.55	1627.90
MOTHERSUMI	124.10	128.90	120.50	127.40
BHARTIARTL	474.90	474.90	465.00	466.40
MARUTI	6952.00	6960.00	6765.00	6791.00
M&M	620.00	627.40	619.60	619.65
DREDDY	4854.00	4865.80	4680.70	4700.45
LAURUSLABS	263.80	275.00	254.00	259.50
BHARTIFORG	495.25	539.45	495.25	519.20
IDFCFIRSTB	33.00	34.45	32.40	34.30
TATAPOWER	55.00	57.00	55.20	56.65
IDEA	8.69	8.70	8.50	8.53
NTPC	191.70	195.95	188.40	192.80
MRF	90.00	91.70	89.50	91.50
DRDLCLIFE	70202.00	70678.10	68308.55	69379.70
DLE	594.05	614.70	591.50	609.50
M&MFIN	174.25	181.90	172.00	180.60
HEROMOTOCO	136.10	147.20	136.10	146.55
HINDALCO	2981.00	2994.85	2924.00	2951.90
MUTHOOTFIN	198.00	200.45	190.20	192.35
DIVISLAB	1276.90	1277.00	1162.85	1185.40
COALINDIA	3423.50	3424.95	3241.10	3264.05
EICHERMOT	121.75	125.35	121.00	124.75
SANKARBODA	2198.00	2254.90	2192.00	2235.40
SRTRANSFIN	930.00	930.00	856.00	858.85
IRCTC	47.00	48.75	46.55	48.45
GOAC	840.00	872.40	831.10	855.20
HAIL	86.75	90.80	86.75	90.10
IOCL	81.45	84.45	81.10	84.25
NESTLEIND	1717.00	1733.05	16589.90	16607.90
SUNPHARMA	510.50	514.00	489.05	491.30
L&TFFH	67.80	70.00	67.60	69.95
ULTRACEMCO	4645.20	4783.75	4645.20	4717.05
VEDL	106.65	101.95	97.10	99.65
AUROPHARMA	78.17	79.05	75.15	76.15
IPCALAB	2264.80	2280.00	1963.00	2064.10
HAVELLS	825.05	844.00	824.60	841.00
ASIANPAINT	2227.00	2238.55	2189.00	2199.65
BPCL	375.30	388.50	372.85	382.90
BAJAJELEC	496.05	500.05	489.35	491.60
SHREECEM	22684.95	23215.35	22671.90	22735.65
WIPRO	351.50	351.50	341.25	342.20
LICHSGFIN	301.30	323.95	303.50	321.95
PEL	1382.00	1435.40	1370.15	1382.05
TATACONSUM	515.00	515.00	495.00	498.40
TTN	28.90	29.80	28.60	29.55
APOLLOTYRE	1285.05	1311.65	1274.00	1305.05
INDHOTEL	157.50	165.30	157.50	164.70
AMBUJACEM	157.50	166.20	148.00	249.80
IBULHSGFIN	250.90	250.20	252.80	257.80
JSWSTEEL	333.10	337.50	330.30	334.75
AKZOINDIA	2055.00	2055.00	1965.00	1999.80
CADILAHC	443.70	443.70	406.40	409.75
SANOFI	8324.95	8324.95	7931.95	8046.35
BALKRISIND	1497.00	1502.00	1441.10	1474.20
DMART	2325.10	2370.00	2316.00	2362.60
LIFFFOOD	2340.00	2340.00	2183.35	2240.25
ONGC	69.10	71.00	68.55	70.20
ADANIGREEN	919.90	923.00	852.70	853.70
BIOCON	42.00	42.00	39.15	40.20
LTI	3299.00	3300.00	3002.95	3023.80
NAUKRI	3659.90	3670.00	3405.00	3535.50
JINDALSTEL	211.50	214.55	208.20	213.80
GLENMARK	481.00	481.00	467.75	474.00
VIPIND	298.00	318.00	295.05	307.75
APOLLOHOSP	2085.00	2085.30	1987.25	2032.05
BRITANNIA	3575.00	3575.00	3448.90	3509.70
MINDTREE	1370.00	1370.00	1283.00	1311.85
HINDPETRO	208.00	216.65	207.75	212.45
UBL	977.20	1036.35	977.20	1053.85
POWERGRID	183.00	186.75	181.55	185.95
ESCORTS	1365.00	1366.10	1324.20	1335.80
ABFRL	152.00	160.85	150.50	157.45
GRASIM	80.00	815.95	781.00	789.69
CHOLAFIN	311.00	322.10	304.00	312.30
UPL	428.20	438.25	426.55	432.75

Trump campaign says Prez poll far from over

Biden moves forward with his transition plans

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

As President-elect Joe Biden is gearing up for administering the country, the defiant Trump campaign has asserted that the 2020 US presidential election is far from over and indicated that it will explore all possible options to obtain “an accurate and honest vote count.”

Outgoing President Donald Trump has declined to concede the closely-fought November 3 presidential race to Democrat Biden and is mounting legal fights in several key battleground states, but there has been no evidence of voter irregularities or widespread fraud in the election - - billed as one of the most divisive and bitter in recent American history.

The president’s refusal to accept the results means the

election disputes could drag for weeks as states certify their tallies or push to mid-December, when the 538-member Electoral College is set to vote.

President Trump has made repeated and baseless claims that the Democratic Party has tried to steal the election.

According to several US media projections, Biden has won at least 290 electoral votes, 20 more than the required 270 out of the 538 Electoral College votes. Trump has received 214 electoral votes.

Since media projected on Saturday that Biden had won the critical state of Pennsylvania, accumulating enough votes to claim the White House, the president-elect has forged ahead with his plans to take reins of the power.

On Monday, Biden formed a task force that will guide him

on dealing with the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed over 236,000 lives in the country.

Biden cannot technically move to form a government using current government employees until his January inauguration, unless permission from Trump is granted to do so. Trump has not conceded to Biden or publicly accepted his loss.

On Monday, White House Press Secretary made unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

“This election is not over, far from it. We have only begun the process of obtaining an accurate, honest vote count. We are fighting for the rights of all Americans who want to have faith and confidence

not only in this election but in the many elections to come,” McEnany told reporters at a news conference with the Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel.

Speaking in her capacity as

a Trump campaign Advisor, McEnany attacked the Democratic Party, saying there is only one party in America that opposes voter ID, verifying signatures, citizenship, residency and eligibility.

“There is only one party in America trying to keep observers out of the count room and that party my friends is the Democratic Party. You don’t take these positions because you want an honest election,” she said.

“You don’t oppose an audit of the vote because you want an accurate count, you don’t oppose our efforts at sunlight and transparency because you have nothing to hide. You take these positions because you are welcoming fraud and you are welcoming illegal voting,” she claimed.

McEnany said that the position of the Trump Campaign is clear. “We want to protect the franchise of the American people. We want an honest, accurate, lawful count. We want maximum sunlight;

we want maximum transparency. “We want every legal vote to be counted and we want every illegal vote to be discarded,” she said.

In Pennsylvania, she alleged, poll watchers who were legally permitted to be there and observe the vote count were blocked from observing the count.

McDaniel told reporters that in Michigan the party has filed two new lawsuits against alleged electoral irregularities. “Even one instance of voter fraud should be too many for all of us,” she said.

“We will not give up on this process until every last issue has been uncovered,” McDaniel said. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also backed Trump on Monday, saying the president is “100 per cent within his rights” to question the election outcome.

The top Republican leader’s remarks were his first public comments since Biden was declared the winner of the presidential election.

Biden eyes Washington veterans for key admin posts

WILMINGTON: President-elect Joe Biden is looking to build out his nascent White House staff with more traditional Washington insiders, a notable departure from four years in which President Donald Trump filled his team with outsiders and government antagonists.

Ron Klain is an early favourite to become Biden’s chief of staff, according to multiple people familiar with planning who spoke on condition of anonymity to speak freely about private discussions.

He has decades of Washington experience that includes being Biden’s chief of staff when he was vice president in addition to serving as the Ebola response coordinator in 2014 and having a central role in the Obama administration’s financial crisis response.

Delaware Sen. Chris Coons, a longtime Biden ally and friend, is seen as a poten-

tial choice for secretary of state. Rep. Karen Bass of California, whom Biden considered for vice president, is seen as a potential housing and urban development secretary. Both served in Congress for the past decade.

Biden is expected to move quickly to name a chief of staff, but other top Cabinet positions will likely take longer.

The names under consideration represent Biden’s effort to move Washington past the tumult of President Donald Trump’s administration and fill out his government with more seasoned professionals.

The task is taking on even greater urgency than in past transitions because Biden will take office in January amid a raging pandemic that will likely consume the early days of his presidency and require a full government response.

Biden made clear on Monday that he would focus on

the pandemic by forming a coronavirus advisory board. Former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who was named a co-chair of that panel, is seen as a contender for the top job at the Department of Health and Human Services. New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, who ran her state’s health department, is also being eyed for the position.

Even for roles where Biden has the opportunity to make history and appoint the first woman or African American Cabinet secretary, like at defense and treasury, Biden is said to be considering options with decades of experience in their chosen fields.

Roger Ferguson, who served as vice chair of the Federal Reserve under Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, is a potential treasury secretary, while Michele Flournoy, a former under secretary of defense, is seen as a top pick to lead the Pentagon. **Agencies**

Trump says media should be called out for election interference

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday said the mainstream media were so inaccurate in their polls that it amounted to “much more than voter and campaign finance suppression” and that they should be called out for election interference.

In a series of tweets, Trump said that Fox News, Quinnipiac Poll, ABC/Washington Post, NBC/Wall Street Journal were so inaccurate with their polls on him that it really is tampering with an election.

“They were so far off in their polling, and in their attempt to suppress - that they should be called out for Election Interference, Trump

said. “ABC/WaPo had me down 17 points in Wisconsin, the day before the election, and I WON! In Iowa, the polls had us four points down, and I won by 8.2 percent!” he said. Fox News and Quinnipiac were wrong on everything, he asserted.

“The worst polling ever, and then they’ll be back in four years to do it again. This is much more than voter and campaign finance suppression! (sic) Trump said. In another tweet, Trump said Pennsylvania prevented his campaign from watching much of the Ballot count. Unthinkable and illegal in this country, he said. **PTI**

Trump fires Defence Secretary Esper after election defeat

Washington: US President Donald Trump said on Monday he had “terminated” Defence Secretary Mark Esper, signalling he may use his final months in office after defeat at the polls to settle scores within his administration.

Trump had split with Esper over a range of issues and was particularly angered by his public opposition to Trump’s threats to use active-duty military forces this summer to suppress street protests over racial injustice after police killed George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Democrats reacted with alarm, saying Trump’s move

sent a dangerous message to America’s adversaries and dimmed hopes for an orderly transition as President-elect Joe Biden prepares to take office

“The abrupt firing of Secretary Esper is disturbing evidence that President Trump is intent on using his final days in office to sow chaos in our American Democracy and around the world,” said House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Representative Adam Smith, the Democrat who leads the House Armed Services Committee, condemned Trump’s decision as “childish” and “reckless.” **Agencies**

Trump accuses FDA and Pfizer of withholding Covid-19 vaccine announcement before elections

Washington: US President Donald Trump accused the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Pfizer of withholding the announcement on coronavirus vaccine before the November 3 US presidential elections to prevent him from getting a “vaccine win”.

“The US Food and Drug Administration “and the Democrats didn’t want to have me get a Vaccine WIN, prior to the election, so instead it came out five days later – As I’ve said all along!” Trump said in a tweet.

The @US_FDA and the

Democrats didn’t want to have me get a Vaccine WIN, prior to the election, so instead it came out five days later – As I’ve said all along!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) November 10, 2020

“As I have long said, @Pfizer and the others would only announce a Vaccine after the Election, because they didn’t have the courage to do it before. Likewise, the @US_FDA should have announced it earlier, not for political purposes, but for saving lives!,” he added in another tweet. **Agencies**

Putin warns against politicising Covid vaccine issue

Moscow: Two Russian vaccines against COVID-19 are “effective” and “safe” and a third one is in the pipeline, President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday, as he warned against politicising the coronavirus jab issue.

Addressing the virtual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, Putin said Russia supports the idea of giving countries in need access to drugs and necessary goods.

“We have two registered vaccines in Russia, and the trials have already confirmed that the vaccines are safe, there are no side effects, and they are efficient. A third vaccine is in

the pipeline,” he said in his address to the Council of the Heads of State of the SCO.

“They are effective, the people who have been vaccinated and who have then had contact with people who contracted the coronavirus have not contracted the coronavirus themselves, or they only have mild symptoms,” Sputnik News quoted Putin as saying.

In August, Russia became the first country in the world to register a vaccine against the coronavirus, dubbed Sputnik V, and it was developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute. The vaccine is now nearing the end of phase three clinical trials. **PTI**

Armenia, Azerbaijan agree to end fight in Nagorno-Karabakh

Yerevan (Armenia): Armenia and Azerbaijan announced an agreement early Tuesday to halt fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan under a pact signed with Russia that calls for deployment of nearly 2,000 Russian peacekeepers and territorial concessions. Nagorno-Karabakh has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a 1994 truce ended a separatist war

in which an estimated 30,000 people died. Sporadic clashes occurred since then, and full-scale fighting began on Sept. 27. Several cease-fires had been called but were almost immediately violated. However, the agreement announced early Tuesday appeared more likely to take hold because Azerbaijan has made significant advances, including taking control of the strategically key city of Shushi on Sunday. **AP**

Biden defends health care law as high court mulls its fate

Wilmington: President-elect Joe Biden is championing the Obama administration’s signature health law as it goes before the Supreme Court in a case that could overturn it.

He will deliver a speech on the Affordable Care Act on Tuesday, the same day the high court will hear arguments on its merits. It ruled eight years ago to leave the essential components of the law known as Obamacare intact, but is now

controlled 6-3 by a conservative majority after President Donald Trump’s appointment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

The speech reflects the importance Biden is putting on health care as he prepares to take office in January amid the worst pandemic in more than a century. He’s launching his transition process this week as the virus surges across the country. The US surpassed 10 million cases Monday. **AP**

Ready to write next chapter in US history: Kamala Harris

Wilmington: Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has said that she and President-elect Joe Biden are ready to write the “next chapter” in American history and from day one they would start building an economy that benefits the working families. Tackling COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery, racial equality and climate change are the four top priorities the Biden team listed on its website on Sunday, a day after the Democrat leaders won the bitter and closely-fought November 3 presidential election - billed as one of the most divisive in recent American history.

“Biden and I are ready to write the next chapter in our nation’s history,” Harris said in a tweet on Monday. “On day one, we’re going to get to work building an economy that works for working families,” she said, listing out the priorities of the Biden-Harris administration. **Agencies**

UK PM cautiously welcomes ‘loud toot’ of vaccine bugle

London: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cautiously welcomed the promising results from the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and warned people not to rely on this news as a solution as it is still “very, very early days”.

Addressing a briefing from 10 Downing Street here on Monday, Johnson urged the British public not to “slacken” their resolve as it is still “very, very early days”, even as he confirmed that the UK had pre-ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine - enough for about a third of the UK population, taking into account that two doses each are required.

“The Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine has been tested on over 40,000 volunteers and interim results suggest it is proving 90 per cent effective at protecting people against the virus. But we haven’t yet seen the full safety data, and these findings also need to be peer-reviewed,” said Johnson. **PTI**

FROM PAGE 1

MODI’S VEILED WARNING TO CHINA, PAK AT SCO MEET

His statement is important as China is backing a 3,000-km-long infrastructure project, the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or CPEC, which connects Kashgar in western China with Gwadar port in Pakistan and passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK). India has all along protested against China’s CPEC push as the corridor passes through PoK.

In his address, Modi also hit out at those making repeated attempts to “unnecessarily” bring bilateral issues to the SCO in violation of the grouping’s foundational principles. It was in obvious reference to Pakistan.

India has always been resolute in working in sync with principles laid out in the SCO charter. But it is unfortunate that there have been repeated efforts to unnecessarily bring bilateral issues in the SCO agenda which is in violation of the SCO spirit,” Modi said.

Referring to the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, Modi said India will use its capacity in production and distribution of vaccines to help the entire humanity in fighting the pandemic. In this difficult time of unprecedented epidemic, India’s pharma industry sent essential medicines to over 150 countries, he said.

The Prime Minister made these observations while virtually addressing the 20th summit of SCO Council of Heads of State. Ever since India became a full member of the SCO/Council of Heads and State in 2017, Modi has been leading the Indian delegation to the annual summit. However, this is the first time that the annual meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic.

During the ten -minute speech, the Prime Minister further highlighted India’s strong opposition against terrorism and drug smuggling. “India strongly believes in peace, security and prosperity, and we have always voiced opposition to terrorism, illegal arms smuggling, drugs and money laundering. India has remained firm in its commitment to work under the SCO as per the principles laid down in the SCO Charter,” he said.

Calling for a “reformed multilateralism” that reflects today’s global realities, the Prime Minister suggested that countries also discuss topics such as “expectations of all stakeholders, contemporary challenges, and human welfare. We expect full support from SCO member nations in this endeavour.”

The SCO Summit sets the agenda and main directions for the next year. The virtual meeting on Tuesday was attended by the eight SCO members, including Russia, China, India, Pakistan,

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Russian President Vladimir Putin chaired the virtual meeting on Tuesday and each country was allotted 10 minutes to speak.

With the logjam persisting at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh for the last six months despite repeated military and diplomatic level talks, India and China have repeatedly reaffirmed that dialogue is the way out to disengagement and de-escalation. 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.

BJP ROMPS...

The narrative of outrage over the Hathras incident and the anti-incumbency factor crafted by the Opposition in Uttar Pradesh failed to make any impact on the electoral fortunes of the BJP.

As per the Election Commission figure, the BJP polled a vote share of 36.7 per cent in the bypolls in 7 seats followed by 23.6 per cent by the SP, 19 per cent by the BSP, 7.5 per cent by the Congress and 11.4 per cent by others. The bypolls witnessed keen contest in Mahlani and Naugawan Sadat seats where the leads changed frequently.

Javed Abbas of SP, who was leading in the initial rounds of counting in Naugawan Sadat seat in Amroha.

Sangeeta, who is widow of former UP Minister and cricketer Chetan Chauhan, who recently succumbed to corona, won the election by a margin of 15,077 votes.

In Bulandshahr, BJP’s Usha Sirohi defeated her nearest BSP rival Haji Yunus by a margin of 21,701 votes while in Tundla seat; the BJP’s Prempral Singh Dhangar defeated SP’s Maharaj Singh Dhangar by 17,683 votes.

In Bangarmau seat, BJP candidate Shrikant Katiyar defeated Arti Bajpai of the Congress by a margin of 31,398 votes and in Ghatampur seat BJP candidate Upendra Nath Paswan defeated Dr Kripa Shanker of Congress by over 23,820 votes.

In Deoria seat, BJP candidate Dr Satya Prakash Mani Tripathi trounced his nearest SP candidate Brahmashankar Tripathi by 20,089 votes while SP candidate Lucky Yadav defeated his nearest Independent candidate and former MP Dhananjay Singh by 4,623 votes.

The bypolls were necessitated on seven seats in Uttar Pradesh after the deaths of sitting MLAs in Bulandshahr, Deoria, Malhoni, Naugaon Sadat, and Ghatampur. The Tundla seat fell vacant after its MLA, S P Singh Baghel, was elected to the Lok Sabha, while the Bangarmau seat in Unnao fell vacant after the conviction of BJP MLA Kuldeep

Singh Sengar in a rape case. Barring Malhoni, the other six seats were ruled by BJP MLAs

BJP leaders claimed that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s dominance is the reason why the party is maintaining its 2017 form. Its spokesperson Dr Chandra Mohan said, “There was no anti-incumbency against us. Yogi has proved that we are working for the welfare of the poor and for the development of the state. His Government’s performance has been vindicated.”

NDA BEATS...

The exit polls seemed to cement the notion that the game was over for Kumar. Majority of the exit polls gave edge to the Maha Gathbandhan and some went to the extent of giving two-third majority of the RJD-led alliance.

When the counting began on Tuesday, the notion gained ground that JD(U) was headed for a rout. But soon the situation began to change. It became obvious that Kumar’s faith in women voters--- five per cent more women voted in Bihar than the male- and his EBC support base was ready to avenge their leader’s humiliation.

The JD(U) recovered quite a bit of ground, thought the party slipped to the third place in terms of number of seats.

The post-poll analysis shows that had Chirag not cut into the JD(U) votes, the Kumar-led outfit would have emerged the largest single party in Bihar. Chirag seemed to have achieved part of his objective. The result suits the BJP, which, for the first time, has won more seats than the JD(U) in a series of Assembly polls the two parties fought together. Kumar is no more the “elder brother” in Bihar and the BJP is now in a position to dictate terms to him in a big way.

After being relegated to third position in the seat tally if Kumar accepted the BJP offer to retain his chair, he will have to remain forever indebted to the saffron party and make a huge compromise with his self esteem. After all, what moral right he will have to claim the chair of the CM when the two parties contested equal number of seats, and he is way behind the other partner.

The BJP’s larger presence in the Assembly is sure to find reflection in the Cabinet formation. Kumar will have to let go of several key portfolios and also content with far less number of Ministries.

On the other hand, the BJP has everything to gain. The party retains the politically crucial State, cut downs to size an ally which came in the way its expansion in the State and also opposed several of its Hindutava agenda. The BJP also had little say in the matter of transfer and posting as well as administration.

The BJP will certainly extract its pound of flesh

if it allowed Kumar to remain in the driver’s seat. It will try to have greater say in policy formulations and try to expand its base taking advantage of a situation where it is seen as the true winner of the battle of Bihar.

The result came as a big blow for RJD’s bigwigs Siddiqui and Lalu’s aide Bhola Yadav. They lost to their BJP rivals on Keoti and Hayaghat seats respectively in Darbhanga district.

Siddiqui lost to BJP’s Murari Mohan Jha while Bhola, always seen standing behind the RJD supremo, was defeated by BJP’s Ramchandra Prasad on Hayaghat Assembly seat.

Elsewhere in the Darbhanga district, BJP’s Sanjay Saraogi defeated his nearest RJD rival Amar Nath Gami on Darbhanga town seat by over 10,000 votes. Saraogi (50) had won the seat in the 2015 Assembly election too with a margin of 7,460 votes.

In Darbhanga rural constituency, RJD’s Lalit Yadav defeated Faraz Fatmi of JD(U).

In Alinagar, BJP’s NDA ally Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) candidate Misri Lal Yadav humbled RJD’s Binod Mishra.

From Bahadurpur seat, Minister in Kumar Cabinet Madan Sahni of JD(U) trounced his nearest RJD rival R K Chaudhary.

BJP’s sitting legislator Jivesh Kumar defeated Congress Maksur Ansari on Jale constituency.

JD(U)’s Shashi Bhushan Hazari won from Kusheshwar Asthan constituency.

Tejashwi, the Mahagathbandhan’s chief ministerial candidate is leading in Raghopur, the seat he is seeking to retain, and so is his elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav in Hasanpur. NDA ally and HAM leader Jitan Ram Manjhi is also leading after trailing for a while in Imamganj. Another NDA partner Mukesh Sahni of the Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) is also leading in Simri Bakhtiyarpur.

A host of Bihar Ministers including Nand Kishore Yadav, Brijendra Prasad Yadav and Binod Narayan Jha are leading but Shailesh Kumar was trailing. Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav of Jan Adhikar Party, a multiple term Lok Sabha member, was trailing from his pocket borough Madhepura. Luv Sinha, the Congress nominee for Bankipur seat in Patna and son of actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha was also trailing.

The HAM and VIP, the other two allies of the NDA, won three and five seats respectively.

BJP SWEEPS...

The BJP won Mandhata, Suwasra and Badnagar while its candidates led at 15 others. Narayan Patel, Hardeep Singh Dang and Rajyawardhan Singh Dattigaon won at these seats respectively. Praburam Chaudhary of BJP also won from Sanchi in Raisen

despite stiff internal resistance within BJP. Meanwhile Congress could only maintain lead at eight seats while BSP candidate was in the lead at Morena seat.

As soon as the counting began on Tuesday morning, the BJP candidates raced away with lead on Congress rivals and as the time progressed the BJP’s win margin only swelled further.

Even as Congress party seniors like Digvijay Singh and PC Sharma reposed faith on EVM votes to gain recovery, the BJP kept mounting its lead. In no time, the BJP workers had gathered at party head office at Bhopal and started celebrations with drums, danced and distributed sweets.

Elated party workers called it an ‘early Diwali’ for them. With a broad smile, State head VD Sharma too had joined in with a drum. Terming this win historic, Sharma greeted PM Narendra Modi, party president Amit Shah and working president JP Nadda. “Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh had engaged in corruption and looted the State and also challenged BJP workers with unlawful action on them and these workers have replied to this today.”

The public has shown that it was Kamal Nath who was a traitor as he run the Government at the behest of Digvijaya Singh, added Sharma.

Public seems committed for development and welfare and it is evident the voters have decided to hand us the responsibility, tweeted CM Chouhan who enjoyed sweets with party seniors at BJP office in Bhopal.

MPCC chief Kamal Nath, who had worshipped lord Hanuman before coming to PCC office on Tuesday morning, quietly accepted defeat. “Whatever is the public mandate is paramount for us. We will accept the result,” said Nath before leaving for his residence from PCC office even as the counting was underway.

Jyotiraditya Scindia aides, including Pradyumn Singh Tomar, Imati Devi and Munnalal Goyal, all led from Gwalior, Dabra and Gwalior East seats. However Scindia loyalist ministers - Girraj Danditiya, Aidal Singh Kansana were trailing.

His loyalist Jaipal Jajji was also trailing from Ashoknagar seat against Asha Dohare of Congress party. Barring a few, several of his loyalists were leading.

BSP had fielded candidates on all the seats but could only reach close to winning only one, Morena, where party’s Ramprakash Rajoria was leading with over 10,000 votes till reports last came in.

Close fight was visible in seats like Bhandar, Agar, Mahgaon, Ashoknagar, Ambah and others where BJP and Congress candidates are taking turns to gain lead. The lead has constantly remained under 1000 on these seats. The BJP required only eight seats to gain majority on its own and it seems winning way more than what was required.

Apart from performing mundane tasks, AI has the ability to accelerate all industries in multiple ways. DR SUKHVINDER SINGH DARI tells you how it can benefit lawyers and the legal system

WORK INTELLIGENTLY



When we think of Artificial Intelligence, robots scurrying around performing tasks is a common mental image. However, AI has made its foray into our everyday lives years ago and we are constantly using it to perform daily tasks. Be it telling the Google Assistant to set a reminder, asking Siri to call your family or instructing Alexa to play a certain song, these are all examples of artificial intelligence.

Apart from performing mundane tasks, AI has the ability to accelerate all industries in multiple ways and yet, law may not be amongst the first few that come to mind. That's mostly because the legal system in India is still fairly traditional and labour intensive. However, artificial intelligence has gnawed its way in and today, top lawyers are recognising the importance of it in increasing productivity and efficiency.

One would wonder how AI can help lawyers but when you delve deep, it has the potential to open up a world of opportunities freeing lawyers of many tasks and thereby,

time. Let's go over a few areas in which artificial intelligence can be a big boon to the Indian legal system.

Research

One of the most time-consuming and laborious tasks of a lawyer is research. It requires a keen eye and immense patience as one goes over pages and pages of similar material searching for the right data. With AI at their disposal, research can be made more efficient and accurate while reducing the time consumption. Artificial intelligence can sift through a whole lot of data to provide you the relevant rules and laws within seconds.

Big Data Analytics

With technology like machine learning taking over the world, it is now much easier to dig into a mine of information, study it and predict possible outcomes. Premonition AI, Lex Machina, etc., are examples of tools that can provide insights into the working of judges, litigators and lawyers. This can cut down on the inefficiencies of litigation massively as well.

One of the most time-consuming and laborious tasks of a lawyer is research. It requires a keen eye and immense patience as one goes over pages and pages of similar material. With AI at their disposal, research can be more efficient and accurate in a shorter timespan

Due Diligence

Due Diligence is a critical part of the legal processes. It involves taking utmost care of every clause, every step and every point in an agreement or contract before signing it. As would be assumed, it is very important and hence, even the slightest human error can lead to big consequences. With AI, it is easier to eliminate the possibility of error while accelerating the speed of the action.

Review of Contracts

iManage RAVN and KIRA Systems are popular AI tools that companies nationally and internationally use to review contracts. They help in examining data, predicting possible challenges, investigating and abridging documents and improving overall efficiency. Companies like Deloitte use these tools to go through all their contracts.

Lawyer Chatbots

There are a lot of questions that people have with reference to laws and regulations. Not always can they connect to a lawyer to clarify them. Artificial intelligence solves this

problem with panache. Easy lawyer bots that have all the information they need for common queries can help clients serve themselves online. From preparing invoices, sharing different laws to predicting outcomes and forming agreements, there's a lot that these chatbots do. Some examples of AI bots are ROSS, Automio, DoNotPay, BillyBot, etc.

India is still discovering the magic of artificial intelligence in the legal system. It can significantly impact outcome and efficiency if incorporated into everyday tasks, giving lawyers more flexibility for every case. While it is more expensive, it provides a plethora of benefits that more than justify the cost.

For the legal industry to function at its optimum, a large part of the monotonous tasks will have to be automated using artificial intelligence. It is not the future, it is here and it is in the present. All we've got to do is embrace it.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Education does not mean teaching people what they do not know. It means teaching them to behave as they do not behave.

— John Ruskin

E-charity event by Manav Sthali

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Manav Sthali School, R-Block, New Rajendra Nagar, under the able guidance of Mamta V Bhatnagar — Director & Founder Principal Manav Sthali School, has been sensitizing its students to serve humanity selflessly and be compassionate & empathetic towards the needy & underprivileged. Taking the effort of our social service welfare programmes forward, we all have come together this Diwali with our E-initiative to wish good health and happiness to all during the testing times of pandemic.

The Manav Sthalians, in addition to the e-programme have also contributed generously online for the first of its kind E-Charity event 'United Colours of Humanity' done by the school held on November 8, 2020 and raised amount for

Gurunanak Sukhshala — Old Age Home and SOS Children's villages India — Orphanage to ensure a happier and bright Diwali for them.

This programme initiated and co-ordinated by Dipti A Bhatnagar virtually with the support of staff and students, is a sincere endeavour by the students to contribute to the noble cause. The amount that was collected through sale of E-Ticket is to be donated to the above mentioned Old Age Home and Orphanage.

The e-programme began with *Ganesh Vandana* and entertained everyone with Solo and Group songs in English and Hindi. Mamta V Bhatnagar in her message urged the children to uphold their values and ideals be truly sensitive towards humanity, be compassionate and empathetic and always stand up for the people in need.

Winter fiesta for kids

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the current environment, when kids are compelled to stay indoors and there has been an increased demand for ways to keep them safely engaged, this Diwali, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) is delighted to bring creativity into your homes with Winter Fiesta. This year, a virtual version will be accessible to both kids & parents across India as it is slated to reach out to a much larger universe with a lineup of unique art and culture experiences.

Indeed, staying true to one of the key objectives of bringing people together, the workshops are slated to be held from November 16 to November 20, 2020. In order to register, you can visit www.bookmyshow.com or www.ncpamumbai.com or write an email at winterfiesta@ncpamumbai.com

Commenting on Winter Fiesta, Bruce Guthrie, Head of Theatre and Films, The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) said: "Going virtual is the need of the hour. Today everyone is consuming information and entertainment virtually and kids are no exception to this. It has been NCPA's constant endeavor to curate world class arts and culture experiences for the younger generation and hence, we decided to introduce Winter Fiesta in a virtual format given the current situation. The five-day long festival will act as a catalyst in providing both, the kids and youth, a unique and vibrant opportunity to learn, play, and be active while staying at home."

Aimed at broadening creative minds, this festival will empower both the youth and kids by inspiring their imaginations through exciting workshops held by renowned experts.

For a luxurious experience

While luxury education might be a relatively novel concept in the Indian educational space, it has perpetually proven relevance. PRANAV RAJ AGGARWAL tells you what the future holds for the industry

Luxury brands today are focused L-obsessed, some headhunters and luxury insiders say — on building personal, emotional relationships with clients. And to deliver on that strategy, many have created jobs with titles like chief consumer officer, chief experience officer, and chief digital and client officer. Such consumer-centric positions have been around for years in industries like banking and hospitality but they only recently started popping up in the luxury sector.

Luxury and fashion brands are finally starting to concentrate on what customers expect from them. And the new focus is, a radical change from their previous top-down view of the world. The aim is not a one-shot sale but to make the customer feel that he or she is part of the maison, and that they get a personalised service both online and offline and that there is no point of friction between the two.

With this shift, luxury education institutions are innovating their curriculums, to prepare their students to spear-head the luxury market in the new normal. Part of these innovations include the advent of relevant online courses, webinars led by industry experts, and panels surfaces



for students and professionals. Industry leaders, experts, and brand owners are increasingly interacting with and mentoring young minds.

Broadly, this is how online luxury education is going to be reimagined:

Innovation in luxury programmes: The most prime job in the fashion luxury goods industry is to motivate, create desire, and build trust through various channels in merchandising, marketing and communication in order to meet the expectations of a luxury brand's vision and strategy. Through Brand partnerships, integration of modules to propagate case-study based education, guest lectures led by industrialists and experts, online luxury

programs will strive to make students highly employable.

Sector-specific courses: By imparting knowledge about different sectors within the luxury scenario, courses will ensure that students are prepared to distinguish and make informed decisions.

Subscription-based learning: Subscription based colleges will reinvent the way students pay for higher education. Instead of committing to a long-term enrollment, they will have the option to subscribe to a college, pay monthly fee, and create an assortment of courses they would like to focus on.

While 'Luxury education' might be a relatively novel concept in the Indian educational space, it has per-

petually proven relevance. From programmes that educate students in the Foundations of Luxury, Marketing & Management, Luxury Business Strategy to industry experts teaching Luxury Global Trends, Luxury Retail & Digital operations, and Finance and Luxury Sales, the future of Luxury education is being progressively digitalised.

Newer entrants in the Indian luxury space have not just steered stimulation but have also given rise to a surprising demand for professionals that are well-versed with the values and principles of the luxury sector.

With the outbreak of Covid-19, the future of the Indian luxury market was, and continues to be a blurry debate. According to the recent report by Bain & Company, global luxury sales could drop up to 35% by the end of 2020.

Brands are experimenting, and they will hire experimentalists. People who aren't afraid to reinvent, upskill and stay relevant. Every step taken towards the renovation of luxury education will be an attempt to create students that become great employees, brand owners and innovators.

The writer is Executive Director — International School of Design

Teachers of tomorrow

With education going online, the role of teachers is also going to take a drastic change, says MINAL ANAND

Teachers are the role model for every student irrespective of their age, culture, and tradition. The role of a teacher is to shape the minds of the younger generation. This shaping will be on positive lines, development of a scientific and humanistic attitude and temper, self-discipline. This means that the role of the teacher is to act as an agent for change within the classroom. The recognition of this is the key in relation to global learning.

In the 21st century classroom, teachers are facilitators of student learning and creators of productive classroom environments, in which students can develop the skills they might need at present or in the future. In today's teaching procedure discussion, problem-solving, seminar, workshop, project, etc. are involved. Based on child-centric education, the teacher has to pay attention to the demand of the students.

Teachers should play the role of a leader who will lead the team to have the goal. They should assist, inspire, and encourage the learners whenever they feel so from the teacher. The pandemic has disrupted the education system very badly, and adapting to



the changes has been one of the most important factors especially for the teachers.

With education going online, the role of teachers is also going to take a drastic change. With a more integrated technology classroom, the teachers no longer decide what is happening in class in terms of control over the information and thus lose their monopoly of authority they have over the class, students, and most importantly on the flow of information. The teacher's role changes into a manager, collaborator, assessor, and mentor. But he/she still remains a subject specialist with that of a manager.

The future role of teachers would change in different ways,

not just in terms of teaching. The changes include transforming in the relationship with pupils, alteration in the task to of the facilitators and executors who support learning in totality, change in the content and scope of teaching, and finally changing locus of control, from teacher to learner.

Teachers of tomorrow require a fresh advancement to their career and an innovative idea of what it means to teach and what it means to learn. The 'new' teacher requires to adopt an approach that is fairly broad, to seek out, to instigate, sustain and aid learning, and finally to create an atmosphere favourable to learning. Teachers set the tone of their classrooms, build a warm environment, mentor and nurture students, become role models, and listen and look for signs of trouble.

For a while now, teacher's around the world have been talking about the need to rethink how we educate future generations. This might just be the disruption that the education sector needed to get us all to rethink how we educate, and question what we need to teach and what we are preparing our students for.

The writer is Founder, CEO Guruq

Flightrule Aviation team up with Nordian

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Flightrule Aviation Services LLP, a technology-led aviation training solutions provider in India, today announced its partnership with Nordian Aviation Training Systems, one of Europe's leading provider of teaching aids and training systems for airlines, to provide aviation career aspirants with world-class training material and e-learning solutions. For the first time in India, a student can read material developed for airline pilots on their mobile, tablet, or laptop.

Speaking about the partnership, Capt Rahul Monga, CEO & Chief Instructor, Flightrule Aviation Services said: "Aviation training in India suffers from lack of qual-

ity, standardisation, and regulation. Our goal is to fill in the existing gap of the shortage of pilots in the country and enhance the quality of education provided to prepare students for their careers in aviation. Imparting students with structured knowledge will make them well adept with the ground training as well as flying training and also help them clear necessary examinations by the DGCA. We are excited to partner with Nordian Aviation Services which will enable us to provide the finest ground training in the world."

Together with Nordian, Flightrule provides students with a world standard course content with two seamlessly integrated systems: a learning management system and an evaluation & reporting system.

TurboHire raises \$1 million in Seed Fund

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Hyderabad-based Augmented Intelligence driven recruitment platform TurboHire has raised \$1 million in seed funding with a series of institutional and individual investors investing in the promising startup.

Turbohire was founded in 2018 when a group of former IITians and NITians quit their respective jobs at Microsoft, Google, and ISB and came together to create a new Augmented Intelligence-based platform to dramatically change how organisations make hiring deci-

sions.

At a time when Artificial Intelligence is driving revolutionary changes in almost all sectors, this globally relevant Human-Machine collaborative approach to recruitment has been found to be at least 60 per cent more effective in making better and faster hiring decisions. The COVID 19 crisis has further highlighted the demand for automated AI-based process enhancing tools in recruitment as a huge surplus workforce has led to an increase in the volume of candidates for recruiters.

The investment round is led by

Pentathlon Ventures. The other participants include Kia Ora Ventures as well as individual investors Monish Darda, Sanjay Balram and Prabir Jha among others. While Darda is the co-founder of Icertis, one of India's first b2b SaaS unicorns, Balram is co-founder of GAVS Technologies, Jha is a prominent strategic HR leader and founder of Prabir Jha People Advisory.

The seed capital of \$1 million will be utilised for taking TurboHire to global markets, improving the value proposition by building an ecosystem, and deepening the intelligence with automated interviews.

TSWY opens first pre-school in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Shri Ram Wonder Years (TSWY) opens its first pre-school in Delhi building on the legacy of The Shri Ram School, in academic collaboration with Shri Educare Limited. TSWY is known for value-based education and teaching methodology with a child centric approach to teaching and learning.

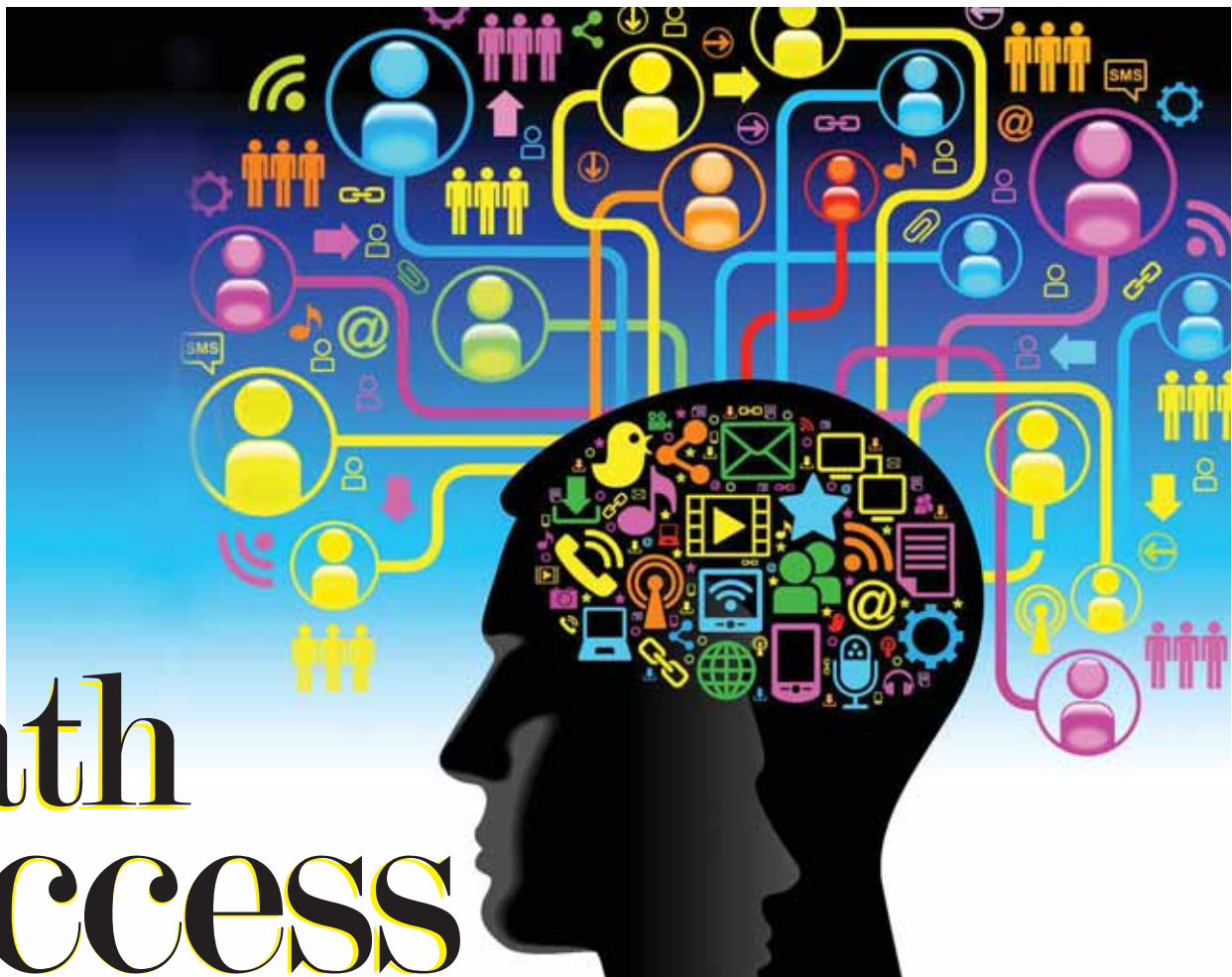
The decision to open TSWY at Rohini was based on the rising aspirations of the parent community of Rohini, Pitampura, Paschim Vihar,

Shalimar Bagh and Punjabi Bagh to get access to top quality preschool and school education for their children.

TSWY ensures a safe, warm, happy and ever evolving environment for learners. With this underlying mission, the preschool facilitates an ongoing process of growth in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment, where each child is valued for his or her individuality and uniqueness. TSWY believes in a strong partnership between the parent, child and the school.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to adapt to the new normal which means choosing courses that are relevant. GAGAN ARORA shares tips on what programme to pursue

On path of success



The COVID-19 pandemic is a paradigm of humans learning to adapt new ways of life and change nature of day to day operations. The way online space has taken over academic and non-academic learning, business operations, exchange of information, there is no going back for most.

E-learning has effectively blended institutional learning as well as professional upskilling, while maintaining a nuanced approach for all. The openness of individuals and corporates to understand and analyse the impact of edTech has broadened the scope for the industry.

While the platforms have a gush of courses, selecting the right fit can be challenging. With the help of this checklist, you will be able to set yourself on the path of a successful online learning experience. Assess and opt for an online course that elevates your growth trajectory. Finding a course that meets all expectations can be a tedious process, hence it is important to filter your criteria. Individuals should determine the reason for choosing a particular course, i.e., to become employable,

to crack a competitive exam or just a new hobby.

This will ensure that the time and amount spent is adequately used. Whereas, corporates and entrepreneurs should evaluate who needs the course and why, for example, a marketing team might need a training for digital marketing while leadership might need Resilience training.

Think about why do you need a certain course and how will it strike your growth ambit in the short or long run.

Accreditation is like a protective layer for your online course and can help you mark a difference between good and brilliant coaches and platform. Identify your skill gap and look for a skill set that will enhance your capability and augment your operations.

Picking up non-academical course help in adding an edge to overall persona, hence select a platform that offer course by certified coaches. The course must offer valuable course material, interactive classes and a more trusted experience with personalised attention.

While browsing the e-learning platform, keep an eye on

Picking up a non-academical course helps in having an edge. Hence, select a platform that offer course by certified coaches. The course must offer valuable course material, interactive classes and experience with personalised attention

course variety and its pedagogy. It is ideal to enroll into non-traditional courses like Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Machine Learning alongside leadership, soft skills. While researching, look for platforms that offer live courses with expert coaches instead of just pre-recorded lectures. Live courses amplify learning and ensures effective engagement between the learner and the coach.

Coaches are the backbone of any e-learning platform, therefore seek for coaches who are experts in the domain and whose insight is not only academic but offer comprehensive insight. The online platforms foster independent learning. Online platform should be able to design a course journey for the learner. Considering factors like user interface, course accessibility post completion, course availability in low internet bandwidth, etc. are imperative as it defines your learning experience. To ensure effective learning for corporates, platform should be able to customize the course in accordance to the organization.

The emergence of multiple industry players has enabled learners

to identify and distinguish platforms in accordance with quality and price. Learners should calculate the ROI by determining the type of course.

For example, due to increased demand, digital marketing courses have suddenly surged prices, however, explore platforms that offer the same course at competitive prices. Very often there are hidden costs embedded into the format of a course, hence one must read reviews and do a diligent research before investing.

Often online learning platforms overpass the approximately 15% of the billion population in the world, this population is specially-abled who need certain dedicated coaches and platforms for better future.

Talented individuals with certain disability are masters of multiple traditional and non-traditional subjects. Find platforms that cater to varied audience to experience holistic learning.

An excellent e-learning course is an eminent opportunity to be in control of your destiny. Choose wisely and soar.

The writer is CEO & Strategic Growth Leader, Vertex Global Services

‘Agri sector offers plethora of options’

The agriculture sector is undergoing change due to innovation and the Government is taking steps to boost investments in this field. This has opened doors to youth looking for opportunities, says PREET SINGH SANDHU

India is the second-largest agricultural land in the world. However, there are some other uncontrolled factors on which the agricultural sector depends to a great extent. They are weather conditions, market fluctuations, and topographical conditions, which simply cannot be ignored. Therefore, there is a dire need to elevate the agriculture sector through modern advancements. Agro start-ups are primarily for the agriculture sector and its related fields. The cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet-of-Things (IoT), and Drones, Robotics helping farmers to improve their productions and reduce the adverse outcomes occur due to any uninvited natural condition.

According to a research, every ninth agrotech start-up in the world is originating from India. Technology-based companies are coming up with new business models. The agriculture sector is growing at an average rate of 25 per cent. The Government has formulated a policy to encourage start-ups in the agricultural sector and to enhance the income of farmers by providing employment opportunities to the youth. The Ministry of Agriculture is providing financial assistance to the startups under the Innovation and Agripreneurship component of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

There are many start-ups providing services related to infestation prediction, weather forecasts, water availability, auto sprinkling systems, which also helps in testing the soil. Many financial institutions have also come forward to solve the debt problems of farmers. Agri-tech startups are helping farmers get better prices for their produce, providing better distribution system and increasing their income by reducing middlemen.

In addition to nearly a hundred institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), more than 650 agricultural science centers and various state agricultural universities are engaged in the development of these technologies. There are opportunities at different levels in agribusiness, i.e., there is ocean of opportunities for the youth interested in finance, technology and non-technical fields.



Preet Singh Sandhu
CEO, Farmers City

SKILLS NEEDED

- Interest in agriculture and various prepared food products
- Willingness to work in established processing units in rural areas
- Monitoring of demand and supply of agro products in the international market
- Ability to convince large farmers for contract farming
- Reasonable thinking and leadership ability
- Communication skills
- Must have patience and ability to work as a team

ELIGIBILITY

The company has to be registered as a Private Limited Company or a Partnership firm or a Limited Liability Partnership. The startups or business must not be older than five years and the annual turnover of the startup should be up to ₹25 crore. The company will come under the scope of start-up if the start-up or business is involved in developing a new product or service. But, if there is any kind of modification in a product, then it will be necessary to see whether the customer is getting the benefit of it.

India's IP-driven incubation lab, BridgeLabz recently surveyed its more than 1,000 alumni. The online survey theme *Challenges faced by engineers working from home* aimed to understand the relation, if any, between the number of problems and the working experience of the employees.

The respondents possessed different levels of working experience in the categories of less than one year, a professional experience between one-two years, and more than five years, representing 47%, 49%, and 4 % of the sample group respectively.

The survey asked if employees find WFH more challenging than working from

an office. Irrespective of their professional experience, a majority of respondents across all groups agree being more comfortable with teleworking. While 64% find it easier to work remotely, only 36% of respondents said otherwise.

Trying to balance work at home emerged as the most popular answer when probed about how they are trying to cope up with work from home. Out of the total, 58% of the employees are simultaneously taking part in household chores to strike a healthy work-life balance to deal with the ongoing remote work effectively. 22% of respondents connect with peers, while the remaining 20% take regular breaks to relax. The survey further revealed that

MIND IT



extended working hours are the biggest obstacle for 37% of the workforce during teleworking. It is followed by frequently occurring technical errors and glitches (29%).

It is worth noting that employees with more than five years of working experience overall faced more (40%) technical issues as compared to their counterparts. This may be attributed to an irrelevant skillset or lack of upskilling opportunities over the years that could have widened the skill gap for those job roles. Colleagues (20%) and

lack of concentration (13%) were some of the other challenges reported by the employees.

Speaking on the survey findings, Narayan Mahadevan, Founder, BridgeLabz said, "The survey speaks out and loud about the issues faced by the global workforce today. What makes it more interesting is that even coders with half a decade worth work experience are struggling with technical issues in the absence of relevant skillset and upskilling opportunities."

It is opposed to the general belief that people with non-tech backgrounds are the only one who faces challenges with technology or the digital ecosystem. It

shows that the skill gap also tends to grow as you grow in your professional capacity. So undoubtedly, continuous learning and upskilling is the need of the hour for all, no matter what industry or domain you belong to." The latest survey aligns with the brand's commitment to addressing the skill gap of engineers, thereby increasing their employability pool. BridgeLabz conducts time-relevant surveys on its platform to get insights into the minds of the engineering workforce and the biggest challenges faced by them. Based on the results, it actively works towards addressing those issues through its flagship 'Maker Program' or by introducing other in-demand skills in its tailored curriculum.



The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for its international-UG merit scholarships in 2021.

The scholarships are competitive awards worth 50% of the tuition fee for an undergraduate degree programme starting in autumn 2021. The scholarship is available for new international students who meet the eligibility criteria. You must hold an offer to study at the university before you apply for this scholarship.

Scholarship results will be announced by 16:00 (UK time) on Friday 11 June 2021. **Eligibility:** Your programme must be scheduled to commence at the University of Sheffield in autumn 2021.

You must receive an offer for a course studied in full at the University of Sheffield. All undergraduate degree courses are eligible with the exceptions of Medicine (A100/A101) and Dentistry (A200).

For tuition fee purposes you must be self-funded and eligible to pay the overseas tuition fee. You must not be a sponsored student.

For further terms and conditions please visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international/fees-and-funding/scholarships/undergraduate/>

[ate/international-undergraduate-merit-scholarship](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/international-undergraduate-merit-scholarship).

Application deadline: The deadline for scholarship applications is 13:00 (UK time) on Monday 17 May 2021.

The Faculty of Engineering, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is offering a number of scholarships for postgraduate taught programmes. All self-funded, international (non-EU) fee-paying offer holders with strong academic qualifications are encouraged to apply. You must hold an offer to a full-time degree programme starting in January 2021 before your scholarship application will be considered.

Value: Up to £ 3, 150 **Eligibility:** Applicants should normally have a 2:1 (or equivalent) in their undergraduate degree. For further information- <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-withus/scholarships/engineeringscholarships/engineeringinternational/scholarships/>.

The Faculty of Engineering is also offering an Engineering International Travel Bursary of £1,000 for new international students to support them with the cost of travelling to Glasgow during the 2020/21 session. Visit <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-withus/scholarships/engineeringscholarships/engineeringinternational/travelbursary>. **Application deadline:** It is January 18, 2021.

UI/UX DESIGN AT TRIPUPP HR

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5964610
Deadline: November 19, 2020

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT (BIOLOGY) AT DOUBTNUT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5964614
Deadline: November 18, 2020

STRATEGY CONSULTING AT BOSTON ANALYTICS

Location: Delhi, Gurugram
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5964621
Application deadline: November 19, 2020

VIDEO EDITING AT EXCEL RANGE MEDIA

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5964616
Application deadline: November 19, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT PROMOTEDIGITALLY

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5964617
Application deadline: November 16, 2020

VIDEO ANCHORING AND INTERVIEWING AT QUADB

Location: Chandigarh
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5964618
Application deadline: November 18, 2020

MARKETING AT BYJU'S THE LEARNING APP

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/5964619
Application deadline: November 17, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

‘Increase your chances of being noticed’

Applying for an international internship has several advantages and get you the much needed head start, says SOM SHARMA

An internship plays a vital role in expanding skills and provide a student to imbibe the professional understanding while working at an international organisation.

Post COVID-19 interns will get an advantage of getting employment due to hands-on experience in pandemic situations across the world and they are open to spreading their wings to handle any new policies to address the industry. There are various benefits.

Make your CV stand out: Gaining professional experience in another country clearly distinguishes you from the rest in an increasingly competitive global labour market. Doing one or more abroad internships is an excellent way to shine up your resume and make you stand out when the top jobs are distributed and also provide you with the necessary experience and prove that you possess key skills.

Only a small number of students and graduates are opting to undertake an internship

abroad. It demonstrates confidence, initiative, and interpersonal skills. These are all important attributes any potential future employer will be looking for in any career field.

Choose a diverse range of fields: In whatever field you are interested in there are an immense number of internship placements waiting. The sheer amount and diversity of internship opportunities around the world should be a huge influencer in your decision to intern abroad. There are a ton of internship and placement providers that are ready and willing to help match with the perfect internship abroad in any country and organisation. Whatever field you choose, a luxury that can't be enjoyed very frequently at home.

Higher chances of placement: The abroad internship in any country across the world like US, UK, Canada, Singapore, France and UAE every year invite international students for summer internship, live project and virtual internship during their study or post bachelor programs on paid basis.

The writer is Director, Edu Brain Group

IN BRIEF

ULTRASONIC WAVE-BASED TEMPERATURE SENSORS

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers have developed a disruptive sensor technology to greatly increase the efficiency of industrial ovens in fertiliser, petrochemical, chemical and manufacturing sectors.

Called µTMapS or multi-point Temperature Measurement Sensor, it provides automated and intelligent measurements that can replace existing heat process control systems that cause expensive forced shutdowns and early retirement of components well before its designed life.

Elaborating on this technology, Prof. Krishnan Balasubramaniam, Institute Professor, and Head, Centre for Non-destructive Evaluation, IIT Madras, said: "Any industry that uses a lot of heat to process materials such as metals or polymers has to ensure that the entire furnace has a uniform temperature across the board. This is critical to reducing defective products. However, existing technologies for this purpose have a lot of gaps and our Research Team at Centre for Non-destructive Evaluation set out to address these gaps."

The Sanskriti University welcomed a new batch of students of 2020 in their respective programmes offered. With the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the whole world, the university embraced the new normal by hosting its orientation programme virtually this year. Students and their

parents were introduced to the university and were made familiar with the policies, procedures, resources and facilities, the rules and regulations, and opportunities. Amit Nevatia, Education Program-lead Amazon Internet Services said: "There is a mass migration to the cloud in terms of information,

events, even examinations and assessments which are conducted online. All the institutes are shifting to online. More and more organisations are adopting voice as their medium to communicate. The same technology is being used in education; it is going to become more prevalent in future and also beneficial for special students."

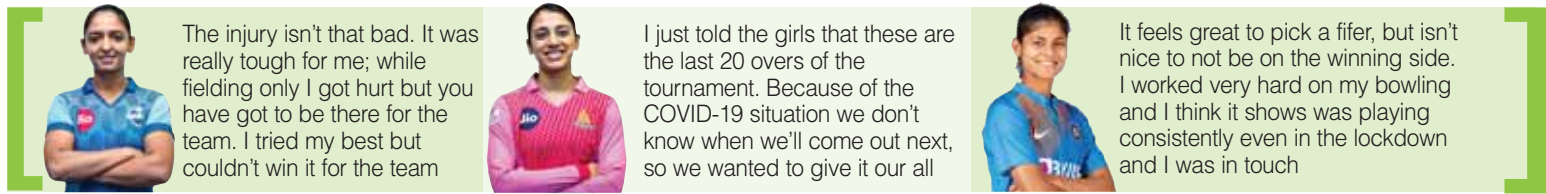
Mumbai which is 1.5 hours away from the school. The school is India's first music training and educational institution. The university offers relevant and quality education and engages in detailed research in engineering, business, law, science, and liberal arts.

Together, they will be committed to nurturing holistic, socially responsible, highly skilled and employable professionals who make a positive difference in the world.

ON-CAMPUS MUSIC DEGREE PROGRAMME

The True School of Music has partnered with Vijaybhoomi University to launch an on-campus music degree programme.

While admissions open in November, the courses on campus will commence in April 2021. Students may opt for 36 months degrees programmes in music production, performance, sound engineering or Hindustani playback. Accommodation facilities are available and students may choose to stay on or around the campus or even in Navi



The injury isn't that bad. It was really tough for me; while fielding only I got hurt but you have got to be there for the team. I tried my best but couldn't win it for the team

I just told the girls that these are the last 20 overs of the tournament. Because of the COVID-19 situation we don't know when we'll come out next, so we wanted to give it our all

It feels great to pick a fiver, but isn't nice to not be on the winning side. I worked very hard on my bowling and I think it shows was playing consistently even in the lockdown and I was in touch

Mumbai Indians stay champs

Five IPL titles certain to make Rohit the undisputed 'Numero Uno' player-cum-leader in the IPL Universe.

PTI ■ DUBAI

A peerless Rohit Sharma led defending champions Mumbai Indians to an unparalleled fifth IPL title here on Tuesday, dismantling Delhi Capitals in the summit clash with his famously elegant batting and tactical shrewdness.

If last year's one-run win over Chennai Super Kings was an absolute cliffhanger, Rohit's aristocratic 68 off 51 balls made it an anti-climax with Mumbai Indians chasing the target of 157 in 18.4 overs with five wickets in hand.

"We know it's a difficult time, everyone is stuck at home. We're lucky that we could come to work and entertain people watching at home," said MI's star pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who went wicket-less on Tuesday but snared 27 overall this season.

Five IPL titles are certain to make Rohit the undisputed 'Numero Uno' player-cum-leader in the IPL Universe. Little wonder, he was picked the Gamechanger of the match for his half century and outstanding captaincy.

This edition was made more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic and the bio-bubbles that players had to endure.

He has played way better knocks than this in the past and will play a few more special ones in the future.

But he might never play a more significant one considering the little whirlpool of controversy that his "once damaged and now on the mend hamstring" created.

The 'Hit-Man' has given an altogether new meaning to what has one known till now about crushing pain barriers.

A hamstring injury can be very painful but the manner in which India's regular white-ball skipper exploded inside the 'Ring of Fire' at the Dubai International Stadium, he was fighting a battle of his own.

The cover drive was about his class, the whiplash behind square was his swagger and the so very familiar "Rohit Sharma pull shot"



was an assurance to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly that "All Is Well".

And to prove a point, he fetched those doubles, tap and run singles including a misjudged one that saw Suryakumar Yadav (19) sacrificing his wicket for his skipper and rightly so.

The carrom ball bowled by Ashwin was deposited to point fence with a cracking square cut and the straight six off leg spinner Praveen Dubey was 'Boss Man' written all over it. There has never been an edition where a

team has looked in a different league compared to seven others.

As Rohit had said earlier, it's not rocket science but investing in pure match-winners that has given Mumbai Indians such a menacing look.

Rome wasn't built in a day and neither a champion outfit that has now won five titles out of the six finals it has played.

If Jasprit Bumrah wreaked havoc in the Qualifier one, Trent Boult (3/30) decided that

final was his turn to inflict the damage and he did it with a first ball beauty that Marcus Stoinis will remember for years to come. Boult deservedly picked up the Man of the Match honours. Nathan Coulter-Nile looked like a weak-link but got the dangerous Rishabh Pant (56 off 38 balls) at the nick of time to put the brakes.

Rohit's batting only finished what looked inevitable but it was his captaincy that set it up.

Only 45 runs conceded in the last five overs during the DC innings was a game-changer as Shreyas Iyer (65 off 50 balls) literally struggled during the end overs.

That was the time when save for Bumrah (0/28 in 4 overs), Boult and Coulter-Nile took the pace off the deliveries with slow bouncers and cutters making it difficult to hit.

And the decision to have off-spinner Jayant Yadav replace leg-spinner Rahul Chahar also proved to be a success.

Jayant, a former India player, did what was required. Bowled an off-break inducing an in-form Shikhar Dhawan (15) to go for a hook against the turn and get bowled.

At 22 for 3, Delhi were going for another capitulation before Iyer and Pant steadied the ship with a 96-run stand that had some great shots in it.

But in the end, it will be a mere footnote on a day that belonged to one and only 'Captain Marvel' Rohit Sharma.



KXIP likely to stick with KL-Kumble combo

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kings XI Punjab are likely to continue with the captain and coach combine of K L Rahul and Anil Kumble even after finishing sixth in a closely-contested 2020 Indian Premier League.

A team source told PTI that the owners want Rahul and Kumble take the team forward in the 2021 edition, scheduled in less than six months.

Rahul, who captained the team for the first team this season, had another stellar season with the bat, amassing 670 runs at an average of 55.83. It was Kumble's first season with the franchise.

KXIP, who have never had a settled unit, have finally found a core group of players around whom a team can be built.

That group includes Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Nicholas Pooran, Mohammad Shami, Chris Gayle and youngsters like Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh.

The management wants to plug the gaps in the middle order and bowling department, which has been an issue for a number of years.

"The owners are happy with captain and coach. Rahul was exceptional with the bat and team scripted a remarkable comeback in the second half of the season. Had that short run not being called in the first game (against DC), the team

would have been in play-offs.

"The good thing is a core group has been identified. Gaps need to be plugged in the middle-order where the team needs a power hitter and also a world class fast bowler to support Shami," the source said.

After losing the six out of their first seven games, KXIP won five in a row to find themselves in contention for a play-off spot but lost their last league game against CSK to bow out of the competition. The last time KXIP made the play-offs was in 2014.

Maxwell, Cottrell likely to be released

KXIP had paid big money for the likes of Glenn Maxwell (10.75 crore) and Sheldon Cottrell (8.5 crore) but both did not do much to write to home about, especially the Australian who made 108 runs in 13 games at 15.42. The team had bought back Maxwell after letting him go following the 2017 season.

"Their performance was not on expected lines and it will be tough to continue with them," the source added.

A call on their future will be taken at the team's review meeting.

A lot also depends on the size of the auction ahead of the 2021 edition if it is held at all. If not a mega auction, KXIP would like to have a mini auction where they can solidify their middle-order and death bowling.

Khatun's spell won the game: Mandhana

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Trailblazers' skipper Smriti Mandhana says she always believed in her team's potent spin attack to defend a low total in the Women's T20 Challenge final, which her side won by 16 runs against Supernovas here.

Despite a fiery start, Trailblazers could post only a modest 118 for eight on Monday but Mandhana said she knew the slow nature of the surface would help her side.

"It was an amazing performance. We tried to get to 130-140 but somewhere we lost track. Wicket was tough to bat so I knew any total around 120 would be a fighting total. We have good spin attack and I was really positive from first ball," said a beaming Mandhana at the post match press conference.

Off-spinner Salma Khatun took three wickets in the penultimate over, dismissing rival skipper Harmanpreet Kaur in the process and Mandhana acknowledged her effort.

"She was brilliant. Those spells win you matches. She is an experienced campaigner. I just told her to believe in herself and she delivered. Her spell was the winning spell," she said.

Thai cricketer Natthakan Chantham impressed one and all with her agility on the field and it wasn't a surprise that Mandhana picked her for special praise.

Chantham was a live-wire on the field. The boundary she saved with her

acrobatic effort was a good advertisement for women's cricket. She also took a stunning catch in the cover region.

"There were 2-3 brilliant fielding efforts, especially Chantham. I have not seen a girl field like that."

Mandhana herself was played a key role in her side's total as she stroked her way to a brilliant 68.

Talking about her own innings, the captain said she was in good rhythm and all she needed was to find the gaps.

"I was timing the ball well (even) in the last match but unfortunately I was finding the fielders but today it was a conscious effort to hit the ball in the gaps. That was the only thing I was thinking."

Playing cricket after a long seven-month gap obviously made the players happy, she said.

"We were looking to play and meet everyone. We did not meet for 7 months, that is very rare. Last six months were tough for whole world. It was worth to come and play. I thank BCCI for organising this. Hopefully we (will) keep playing, it keeps us happy," she said.

Supernovas' senior player Shashikala Siriwardene also thanked the BCCI for conducting the event in challenging times and said the tournament was a great platform for the youngsters. "We can play and watch in bio bubble, they have planned it, so I thank BCCI. We have to do some sacrifice due to COVID-19. Girls will be motivated to come to sport and it impacts women's cricket."

Kohli's absence from Tests was expected: Hockley

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley is not surprised by Virat Kohli's withdrawal from three Test matches here as he prepares for fatherhood in January, taking solace from the fact that the superstar will be there for a major part of the eagerly-awaited showdown across formats.

Kohli and his actor wife Anushka Sharma are expecting their first child in January. The BCCI has granted Kohli a paternity leave and he will return to India after the opening Test, scheduled from December 17 in Adelaide.

Hockley, who is CA's interim chief executive, said that Kohli missing a major part of the Test series was expected but he is glad that the stylish batter will be available for three T20 Internationals and as many ODIs starting November 27.

"When they announced their pregnancy earlier, I think it was



always on the cards," Hockley told Sydney radio station SEN. "We're thrilled Virat is coming

out for three ODIs, three T20s, the first ever day-night Test against India and we have to respect the fact

he wants to be there for the birth of his first child."

"Clearly, (he is) one of the game's absolute superstars. We're looking forward to seeing him here for seven out of the 10 matches," he said.

Hockley said both teams have enough stars to ensure that cricket fans will be hooked to the series. "You've got a good number of players from both sides who played the last series in Australia which India won. There'll be a huge amount to play for ... It will be fascinating series."

Hockley said it looks highly unlikely that Kohli could get back to Australia to play the latter part of the series.

"I think it's pretty challenged (for him to return). Obviously a mandatory 14-day quarantine period," he said.

"Logistically it's very much more complicated and being brutal it's much harder than normal."



Pak whitewash Zimbabwe

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Pakistan thumped Zimbabwe by eight wickets in Elton Chigumbura's farewell international match and swept the Twenty20 series 3-0 on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old Chigumbura received a guard of honor from the Pakistan players when he came out to bat for the last time. The veteran Zimbabwe batsman lasted four balls before he was caught behind for just 2 runs in a below-par total of 129-9.

Legspinner Usman Qadir stunted Zimbabwe hopes of a challenging total by taking 4-

13 and finishing his debut T20 series with eight wickets.

Pakistan raced to 130-2 in only 15.2 overs against a listless Zimbabwe bowling attack.

Abdullah Shafiq, promoted on debut as an opener ahead of captain Babar Azam, went 41 not out, and Khushdil Shah, playing in his fourth T20, smashed 30 not out off 15 balls with three fours and three sixes.

Zimbabwe captain Chamu Chibhabha achieved his top score in the series of 31, but his teammates were outfoxed by Qadir's googlies and sharp legspin.

Babar replaces Azhar as Test captain

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday sacked Azhar Ali as captain of the Test team, replacing the experienced player with white-ball skipper Babar Azam ahead of the upcoming tour of New Zealand.

PCB confirmed the development in a statement.

Babar, 26, is now Pakistan captain across all three formats and his first assignment will be the ICC World Test Championship fixtures against New Zealand, which will be played in Mount Maunganui and Christchurch from December 26-30 and January 3-7.

Azhar has been replaced despite PCB in May backing him as Test captain for the entire 2020-21 international season.

Azhar, 35 and Pakistan's most experienced Test player in the current side with 81 appearances, has always been seen as the fall-guy in Pakistan cricket and he was informed about the PCB's decision after meeting with chairman Ehsan Mani on Tuesday in Lahore. Azhar also led Pakistan in

Babar, 26, is now Pakistan captain across all three formats and his first assignment will be the ICC World Test Championship fixtures against New Zealand



ODIs from 2015-2017 before deciding to step down due to poor results.

His removal came after he was appointed as Test captain last year and Babar captain in white

Amazon Prime bags India right for NZ cricket

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Amazon Prime Video on Tuesday announced its debut into live sports in India by acquiring the India territory rights for the New Zealand Cricket through 2025-2026.

With this announcement, Amazon Prime Video becomes the first Indian streaming service to secure exclusive live cricket rights from a major cricketing board.

The multi-year deal between Amazon and the New Zealand Cricket Board will give Prime Video the right to stream all international cricket matches to be played in New Zealand for both men's and women's cricket, across ODI, T20 and Tests formats starting late 2021.

The deal also includes Team India's tour of New Zealand in early 2022, and a second tour, the dates for which will be announced later. The rights for 2020-2021 season starting later this month is intended to be syndicated by Amazon.

Gaurav Gandhi, Director & Country General Manager, Amazon Prime Video said the team is looking forward to bringing India's favourite game to the streamer.