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LUCKNOW, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2020; PAGES 14 ₹3

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SUNNY IS
BACK IN
WORK MODE
12 VIVACITY

Bihar results proof of sabka saath: PM

Modi says it is endorsement of agenda of all-round development, hits out at family-run parties, says Bihar has chosen 'vikas raaj' over 'goonda raaj'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid chant of “*Modi hai to mumkin hai*,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hailed the BJP's victory in Bihar Assembly polls as the country's endorsement of the agenda of all-round development and hit out at the family-run parties.

Addressing party workers at a felicitation function after the BJP's victory in Bihar elections and various bypolls, he asserted that the only mantra for his party's victory was “sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas”.

Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP Nadda and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari were also present on the occasion.

In addition to thanking thousands of “committed” workers of the party, the PM repeatedly thanked and praised party president JP Nadda for the Bihar victory and gave him a standing ovation, exhorting the gathering to join him in chanting, “Nadda ji tum aage badho, hum tumhare sath hai.”

The PM hit out at family-run parties saying they are the biggest threat to the democracy and rued that even a national party had fallen prey to it.

Modi said the poll results in Bihar and other by-elections across the country have made it clear that people will now support only those who work honestly for development. “People have decided that development alone will be basis of national politics in 21st century,” he said.

In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP returned to govern with greater numbers than what is got in 2014. In Bihar too, the BJP was the only party which saw a growth in seats while contesting a fourth consecutive term with our partners. In Gujarat too, the BJP has been in power since the '90s, yet even in the latest by-elections too, we won comprehensively... It shows that people are seeing who is working for them,” he added.

The Prime Minister said the BJP is the only party which truly has a national connect with the people of India. “From just two MPs and two rooms, the BJP today is there in every corner of India,” he said.

“I don't just want to thank the people for supporting us, but for participating in the democratic process. For com-

ing out and doing their bit. The elections that happen in India are unparalleled in the entire world,” he added.

Turning his attention to West Bengal, he raised the issue of alleged political murders targeting saffron party members.

“People in some parts of the country think that they will realise their goals by murdering BJP workers. They should see the writing on the wall,” Modi said, without naming any party.

Lauding the people of the country for reposing their faith in the BJP, the Prime Minister also thanked and praised the Election Commission, security forces and administration for peaceful and successful conduct of elections.

These poll results have

broadened the outcome of Lok Sabha elections, the Prime Minister said referring to BJP's success in polls and bypolls across the country.

“BJP is the only national party in which poor, dalits, deprived see their representation; only BJP understands need of every section, region. The poll results have endorsed the way we have tackled Covid-19 pandemic,” he said.

Modi also said that women across the country are the “silent voters” which support the BJP across all rural and urban regions.

Amid a festival-like atmosphere with the crowd chanting *Modi hai to mumkin hai* (Modi can make it possible), BJP president JP Nadda earlier said at the event that people of Bihar have put their stamp of approval on Modi's work to deal with Covid-19 and help poor during pandemic.

He also said Bihar has chosen “vikas raaj” over “goonda raaj”, “DBT raaj” over “loot raaj” and LED over lantern.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to party workers at BJP HQ, a day after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) garnered majority in the Bihar Assembly polls, in New Delhi on Wednesday

India, China mull LAC cool-off plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The six-month-long tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) may ease with India and China likely to agree to withdraw their tanks and heavy guns and thin out troops in a phased manner from the stand-off sites.

These agreements may come about in the ninth round of Corps Commander-level talks in the next few days, sources said here on Wednesday. If everything goes well, the gradual disengagement may commence from mid next month, they added.

Army Chief General MM Naravane had hinted on Tuesday that “We are hopeful 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.

Naravane said the senior military commanders of India and China are “ironing out the modalities” of how to proceed ahead.

“We had the 8th round of talks on November 6 between the highest military commanders on both sides. They are ironing out the modalities of how to proceed ahead within the overarching guidelines which had been communication post the interactions and the meetings between the respective Ministers (defence and foreign),” the Army chief had said.

In this backdrop, sources said India and China may agree to a three-step process on disengagement of troops and withdrawal of weaponry from all major friction points in a time-bound manner.

Continued on Page 11

Amid celebration, Nitish's silence baffling

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

There has been little celebration in the Janata Dal(U) camp in Bihar and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has not even reacted to the poll result even as “Big Brother” BJP has kept reaffirming he will continue to be Chief Minister.

Nitish's silence is baffling. It was expected that having survived a bitterly fought elections where the pollsters had written him off, Kumar's party will have reason to celebrate Dipawali in advance. But during the last 48 hours, the Chief Minister has confined himself to his I, Anne Marg residence and not even done the formality of thanking the voters.

Sources said Nitish has called a meeting of all his candidates — both winners and losers — at 3.30 pm on Thursday at his residence. The CM will take feedback from them about the reasons for the party's dismal show and then may speak out on the poll result.

A JD(U) leader explained Nitish's silence saying all these years he dictated the terms to

the BJP, but now that the saffron party is doing a favour by offering him the chair of the Chief Minister, Nitish has reasons to be cautious. After all, the BJP will now seek a pro-



portionate share in the Cabinet and would like to have greater say in the Government. “This is not a welcome situation for someone like Nitish Kumar,” the JD(U) leader said, adding, “What's there to celebrate for us.”

The JD(U) rank and file is also very disappointed with the BJP top leadership for allowing Chirag Paswan to remain within the NDA at the national level when he went out to sabotage Nitish Kumar's prospect in the polls and threatened to send

him to jail in corruption cases.

Those who know Nitish Kumar understand that he is unlikely to forgive Chirag and would mount pressure on the BJP to throw him out of the NDA.

With a wafer thin majority of three seats on his side and his party reduced to 43 seats — 30 seats less than the B JP — Nitish does not seem to be in any hurry to reveal his mind even though several top BJP leaders have met him during the last two days.

On Wednesday, both BJP State chief Sanjay Jaiswal and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi asserted that Nitish Kumar will continue to head the NDA Government in Bihar and the gap between the number of seats of BJP and JD(U) will have no impact on the ruling alliance dynamics in the State.

“Certainly, 100%,” Jaiswal told PTI when asked whether Kumar will remain the Chief Minister.

“We are allies and equals. We have to run Bihar collectively,” he said.

“Winning the fourth term

is always a great task for anybody. We have won that. This proves everything was fine. It is very rare that you win a fourth term in continuity. We have done this and it settles everything,” Jaiswal said.

Echoing similar views, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said, “Nitishji will remain Chief Minister as it was our commitment. There is no confusion on this.”

“Not all parties win an equal number of seats. Who won how many seats is irrelevant, people voted for the NDA. BJP played a role in JD(U)'s victory and JD(U) played a role in BJP's victory. JD(U), BJP, VIP and HAM worked together, then we registered this victory,” Sushil Modi was quoted as saying by ANI.

If Nitish continues as Chief Minister, he would be sworn in for the seventh time into the position. However, the relationship between the BJP and JD(U) is expected to be different, as the BJP will be the senior partner in the alliance.

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Many escaped defeat by skin of their teeth

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a see-saw battle, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) managed to win 125 seats — three more than it needed to breach the majority mark of 122 in the 243-member Bihar Assembly, but in nearly two dozen constituencies the victory margin was wafer thin.

Of them, the margin of victory in seven seats was less than 500 votes and four seats have victory margin less than 1,000. The JD(U) has won the Hilsa Assembly seat just by 12 votes. In Barbigah, JD(U) candidate Sudarshan Kumar defeated Congress' Gajanan Shahi by just 113 votes.

JD(U)'s Krishnamurari Sharan, alias Prem Mukhiya, has polled 61,848 votes, while his nearest Atri Muni, alias Shakti Singh Yadav, of the RJD has got 61,836 votes in Hilsa. As per the poll panel data, JD(U)'s Krishnamurari Sharan has got 232 postal votes and the RJD's Shakti Singh Yadav 233.

Ramgarh, Matihani, Barbigah, Bhoirey, Bachwara and Dehri Assembly seats where victory came after a really close fight and victory margin was less than 500 votes. In Barbigah, JD(U) candidate Sudarshan Kumar defeated Congress' Gajanan Shahi by just 113 votes. In Ramgarh, victory margin was a mere 189 votes. In Matihani, Raj Kumar Singh of LJP defeated Narendra Kumar Singh of JD(U) by just a 333 votes. Bhoirey victory margin was a mere 462. The RJD's Fatehbahadur trumped the BJP's Satya Narayan in Dehri by a mere 464 votes.

Besides, Bakhri, Chakai, Kurhani and Parbatta seats where the margin of victory was less than 1,000. CPI candidate Suryakant Paswan has defeated BJP's Ramashankar Paswan by a margin of 777 votes. Chakai seat won by independent candidate Sumit Kumar Singh by a margin of 581 votes by defeating RJD's Savitri Devi.

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Online films, shows now within I&B Ministry ambit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has brought online mediums, including films and news portals, under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The I&B Ministry will also regulate online audio-visual programmes and current affairs content, according to the amendment order signed by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday. As per this order digital content providers such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and Hotstar will now be regulated by the I&B Ministry.

While the Press Council of India (PCI) looks after the print media, the television news channels come under News Broadcasters Association (NBA). The Advertising Standards Council of India is for regulating the content of the advertisements and Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) monitors films, but there is at present no law or autonomous body Governing digital content or Over-the-top (OTT) platforms and the Government was facing questions from courts on many petitions.

The Supreme Court



recently sought the Centre's response on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) for regulating OTT platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video by an autonomous body. The PIL stated that digital content on these platforms is made available to the public at large without any filter or screening and the Government has sought time to reply in this case.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian had issued notices to the Central Government, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) and Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). None of the OTT/streaming platforms, including Netflix, Amazon Prime, Zee5, and Hotstar, have signed the self-

regulation provided by the I&B Ministry since February 2020, the petition challenging the contents of the OTT platforms said.

Anticipating Government's intervention, in January 2019, eight video streaming services introduced a self-regulatory code that laid down a set of guiding principles for content on these platforms. Government did not support this in court. Now after the new order, the I&B Ministry got the regulatory power.

The notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat has amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 by inserting two new entries — 22A and 22B — to the Second Schedule of the Rules.

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Sputnik V 92% effective against coronavirus, claims Russia

PTI ■ MOSCOW

Russia's Sputnik V vaccine has shown 92 per cent efficacy in preventing Covid-19, according to interim trial results announced by the country's health ministry on Wednesday.

The announcement follows results unveiled earlier this week by vaccine developers Pfizer and BioNTech, who said their vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective at preventing Covid-19.

The calculation is based on the 20 confirmed Covid-19 cases split between vaccinated individuals and those who received the placebo, said Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF).

The efficacy of the vaccine, developed by the Gamalaya Centre, was demonstrated on the basis of a first interim analysis obtained 21 days after the first injection.

There were no unexpected adverse events during the trials. Monitoring of the participants is ongoing, the ministry said.

The interim research data of Sputnik V has not been published or peer-reviewed yet.

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Ban on Chhath at public places, river banks in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has instructed officials to ensure that Chhath Puja this year is not performed at public places, river banks and temples in Delhi, citing the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in the national Capital.

An order issued by Chief Secretary and DDMA executive committee chairman Vijay Dev on Tuesday issued directions to all DMs and DCPs for strict compliance and to encourage people to celebrate Chhath at their homes during the pandemic.

It also directed the DMs and DCPs to hold meetings with religious and community leaders as well as Chhath Puja Samitis before the festival to get their cooperation to maintain law and order and harmony, and to sensitise the public on the compliance of guidelines and instructions to combat Covid-19.

The situation of Covid-19 in Delhi was reviewed and it had been observed that there is a persistent rise in Covid-19 cases in NCT of Delhi in the

recent period, the order stated.

“Considering this, it has been decided that Chhath Pooja celebrations in the month of November 2020 may not be allowed in public places and people may be advised to celebrate the festival at their home only,” it said.

Delhi BJP leader and former minister in the city Government Kapil Mishra questioned the order and claimed it was issued as the AAP Government failed to make adequate preparations for Chhath Puja.

“This order banning Chhath Puja in Delhi will not be obeyed Arvind Kejriwal ji. Delhi Government, which was the first to open liquor shops in the country, cannot issue an order to stop Chhath Puja.

“The AP government banned Chhath Puja as it could not prepare for it. Chhath Puja will be performed,” Mishra said in a Hindi tweet.

The Chhath Puja is celebrated in Delhi in a big way by the natives of Bihar and eastern UP. The two-day festival falling on November 20-21, involves worship of the Sun God at a water body like a river, pond,

Delhi's air improves to 'very poor' as wind blows away pollutants



New Delhi: After remaining in the “severe” zone for six days on the trot, Delhi's air quality improved slightly on Wednesday as a change in the wind direction reduced the contribution of stubble burning to the pollution, though it was still in the “very poor” category. The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 344.

The 24-hour average AQI was 476 on Tuesday. An AQI between 201 and 300 is considered “poor”, 301-400 “very poor” and 401-500 “severe”, while the AQI above 500 falls in the severe plus category.

Delhi had witnessed six consecutive “severe” air quality days till Tuesday. It had

recorded seven such days in November last year.

The neighbouring cities of Faridabad (327), Ghaziabad (360), Noida (309), Greater Noida (340), and Gurgaon (288), which fall in the National Capital Region (NCR), also recorded their AQI in “poor” and “very poor” categories on Wednesday.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) ordered the closure of hot mix plants and stone crushers in Delhi-NCR till November 17 in view of a likely increase in pollution levels during the coming days, when a number of festivals will be celebrated.

Continued on Page 11

CM stresses on social distancing at markets

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Keeping in view the upcoming festivals, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the officials to pay special attention to COVID-19 and ensure social distancing at all public places and markets and also see that the people follow the protection protocol in letter and spirit.

The chief minister, who was presiding over an Unlock review meeting at his official residence here, also said that the people should be made aware of Covid protection protocol through various media. He said public address systems should also be used at public places to spread awareness about social distancing.

Directing officials to operate the integrated command centres more actively in all the districts, the chief minister said that contact tracing of people coming from other bordering states should be done intensively.

He also asked the officials to spread more awareness about the e-

Sanjeevani OPD app so that more and more people were benefited by it.

It may be mentioned here that two lakh people in the state have so far received online medical consultation through the e-Sanjeevani app and UP ranks second amongst the states using this OPD app.

Directing officials to make all preparations for organising the Chief Minister Arogya Mela after Deepawali, the chief minister said that rapid antigen tests should also be conducted there.

Instructing officials to ensure that the farmers got maximum benefits of the maximum support price (MSP), Yogi Adityanath said that paddy should be purchased with complete transparency at the paddy purchase centres.

The chief minister also asked the officials to make adequate arrangements at the cow shelters and to ensure that the caretakers remained there in the night. He stressed on making all arrangements to save cows from cold.

CM directs PSU banks to organise loan melas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the public sector undertaking (PSU) banks to organise loan melas in all districts and disburse admissible loans to eligible persons under the different schemes of the government.

The chief minister also asked the banks to set district-wise and branch-wise targets for disbursing loan to the beneficiaries under different schemes.

Yogi Adityanath said under the Stand-up India scheme, each branch of the PSU bank should provide loans to at least one woman from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and two women entrepreneurs. He said this would benefit 36,000 women entrepreneurs.

A government spokesman said here on Wednesday that since May 14 this year, the PSU banks had provided credit of Rs 18,330 crore to 6.24 lakh micro, small and medium units in the state.

He said under the Atmanirbhar package, the banks had provided loans of Rs 10,847 crore to 4.37 lakh MSME units already in operation. He added that so far banks had provided financial assistance of Rs 29,000 crore to MSME units in the state.

The spokesman said the Central government had communicated to the UP government that all the MSME units were eligible for loan under the emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) provided they fulfilled the required minimum conditions. He said as per the Centre's guidelines of ECLGS and Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, all persons were eligible for obtaining loan, working capital for setting up MSME unit and employment creation. Meanwhile, UP Chief Secretary RK Tiwari on Wednesday reviewed the progress of the Mission Rojgar being implemented by the state Labour department.

The chief secretary directed all the departments to draw employment plans and the district magistrates to also draw plan for their respective districts.

He asked the Training and Employment department to secure and update the data on employment and also develop a portal and an app to upload all relevant information about employment on them.

Tiwari said each department would nominate a nodal officer in each body like directorate, corporation and commission under their administrative control. The nodal officer will upload departmental schemes on employment on the portal of Mission Rojgar.



सूचना

मैंने अपने पुत्र निवेश गुप्ता व उसकी पत्नी श्रीमती शिवानी गुप्ता से संबंध विच्छेद करके अपनी बल-अवल सम्पत्ति से बेखुल कर दिया है। इनके द्वारा किये गये किसी कृत्य व लेन-देन से मेरा एवं मेरे परिवार का कोई वास्ता व सहोकार नहीं होगा। दिनेश कुमार गुप्ता पुत्र श्री राम कुमार गुप्ता, 30/302, आवास विकास, हनुमान, नोबल, कानपुर।

आवश्यकता

आवश्यकता
श्री मन्मूलाल कन्या
महाविद्यालय हंसपुर कानपुर
को प्राचार्य एवं सहायक आचार्यों की स्नातक-स्तर पर कला संकाय में गृह विज्ञान, भूगोल, समाजशास्त्र, विज्ञान संकाय, रसायन-विज्ञान, जन्तु विज्ञान, गणित एवं वाणिज्य संकाय, बी-काम एवं परास्नातक स्तर पर अंग्रेजी-साहित्य शिक्षाशास्त्र विषय के शैक्षिक योग्यता एवं वेतनमान-विश्वविद्यालय एवं उत्तर प्रदेश शासन स्ववित्त पोषित नियमानुसार मान्य-
प्रबंधक मो 9559888999

Computers in Sanskrit schools

LUCKNOW (PNS): With the aim to modernise Sanskrit schools, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to impart computer education to the students studying there. Computers have been installed by the Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Sansthan in some Sanskrit schools and the remaining schools will also get computers this year, an official said. Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Sansthan Chairman Acharya Dr Vachaspati Mishra said here on Wednesday that the upgradation of Sanskrit schools was one of the priorities of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "This decision will expose students to the modern world. Besides learning Sanskrit, they would also be imparted computer education," he said.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Possession Notice

For Immovable Property

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.**

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/ Guarantor Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of Immovable Property	Outstanding Amount(Rs.)
BRANCH: Kutchery Road Gonda			
1.	Borrower:- (1) M/s Tripathi Enterprises Address- Veerpur Katra, Colonelganj, Gonda-271502. Through its Properitor- Shailesh Tripathi S/o Shri Ramjeet Tripathi. Address - Jalali Shah Road, Janaki Nagar, Gonda-271001. Guarantor:- Akhilesh Tripathi S/o Ramjeet Tripathi. Date of Demand Notice: 31.08.2020 Date of Possession Notice: 10.11.2020	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot situated at Plot No. 306, situated at Veerpur Katra Pargana Pahadapur, Tehsil- Colonelganj District- Gonda (UP) in the name of Shailesh Tripathi S/o Ramjeet Tripathi. Total Area: 4305 Sq. Ft. Bounded (As per sale deed): East: Chak of Aziz, West: Chak of Rajendra, North: Chak of Chandra Prakash, South: Chak Marg.	Rs. 9,30,744.91 + interest plus other charges thereon w.e.f. 31.08.2020
Date: 12.11.2020, Place: Gonda		Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda	

STATE BANK OF INDIA

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property under Rule 8(1))

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank Of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 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. The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's/Guarantors/Legal heirs 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 said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rule on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrower's/Guarantors/Legal heirs in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to be deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India for the amounts and interest thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantors/Legal heirs attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. **Detail of Property where possession had been taken are as follows:-**

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee/A/c No.	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged	Total Amt. o/s [as per Notice u/s 13(2)]	Date of Demand Notice [Date of Possession]
Branch: Nawabganj, Gonda				
1.	Borrower: M/s Maha Laxmi Traders, Prop. Mrs. Gudiya W/o Shiv Kumar Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mrs. Anjali Gupta W/o Sanjay Kumar Gupta R/o Naya Bazar, Nawabganj, Tehsil Tarabganj, Dist. Gonda-271303 A/c No. 37230848444	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Situated at Vill - Padav Nawabganj, Pargana Nawabganj, Tehsil Tarabganj, Dist. Gonda, Gata No. 1645/2 Min Area 9x64.7F = 582.3 sq.ft. Sale Deed 18.08.2017 Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 4331, Page No. 367-424 Serial 4815, Within the registration sub-district Gonda and district Gonda. Boundaries: (As per title deed): North-Talab, South-Nawabganj Gonda Marg (NH), East-House & Plot Mangala Devi & Sujeet Kumar, West-House Shri Vijaya Pandey	Rs. 10,48,112.00 as on 28.08.2019 + Interest thereon	25.09.2019 10.11.2020
Branch: Datauli, Gonda				
2.	Borrower: M/s Krishna Medical Store, Prop. Krishna Gopal S/o Bhikhilal Add. Vill. Adheinpur, Post Rehra Bazar, Tehsil-Utraula, Dist. Balrampur-271306 Guarantor/Mortgagor: Ram Bihari Gupta S/o Bhikhi Lal Gupta A/c No. 34591765746	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Situated at Vill - Rehra Bazar (Adheinpur), Pargana Sadullahnagar, Tehsil Utraula, Plot No. 575 Min. Area 0.045 Hec. Distt. Balrampur, Sale Deed 25.05.2011 Book No. 01, Khand No. 3112, Page No. 171-186 Serial 3585, Within the registration sub-district Utraula and district Balrampur. Boundaries: (As per title deed):- North-Land of Bhikhilal & Smt. Ram Kumari, South-Araji of Mukir, East- Land of Jokhu & Bhikhilal, West-Araji of Mukir Boundaries: (As per site):- North-Bhikhilal & Smt. Ram Kumari, South- Dayawati, East- Jokhu etc., West-Dayawati	Rs. 4,68,276.56 as on 30.06.2020 + Interest thereon	30.06.2020 10.11.2020
Date: 12.11.2020		Place: Gonda		Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

मिशन रोजगार

युवाओं के साथ योगी सरकार

निष्पक्ष एवं पारदर्शी भर्ती प्रक्रिया के अन्तर्गत

उत्तर प्रदेश लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा

सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग के नवचयनित

1438 जूनियर इंजीनियर्स

को

नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण

एवं

पदस्थापना तथा संवाद

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गुरिमामयी उपस्थिति

डॉ. महेन्द्र सिंह

मंत्री, जल शक्ति, उत्तर प्रदेश

बलदेव सिंह ओलख

राज्यमंत्री, जल शक्ति

उत्तर प्रदेश

विजय कश्यप

राज्यमंत्री, राजस्व एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण

उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 12 नवम्बर, 2020 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:45 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

लखनऊ के अतिरिक्त अन्य जनपदों के NIC में उपस्थित नवचयनित जूनियर इंजीनियर्स को जनप्रतिनिधियों/जिलाधिकारियों के माध्यम से नियुक्ति पत्र वितरित किये जायेंगे।

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

36% women among total number of Covid patients detected so far

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Thirty-six per cent of the people having tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow so far are women. The proportion of women testing Covid positive has remained nearly the same since the infection erupted in March. According to a senior official at the CMO office, a total of 23,930 women, 42,022 men and six transgender have tested positive for coronavirus in Lucknow till now. This month, 982 women and 1,618 men have tested positive so far. In September, 34.9 per cent of the patients were women.

According to health officials, 8,000-9,000 tests are being conducted per day. On why the number of new patients is coming down even as people are moving around in market areas and crowded places carrying two hoots for precautions, an official said it is because the health department has adopted a scientific approach in carrying out the tests.

"We have been conducting tests in all the places being thronged by people. We have tested rickshaw-pullers, autorickshaw drivers etc and gone on a testing spree in shopping malls, other shops, beauty parlours and salons, as it is also important to cover these areas since these places can prove to be hotbeds of coronavirus," he said. He pointed out that coronavirus has been contained effectively through testing and surveillance.

294 more test positive



Lucknow (PNS): A day after less than 200 new Covid patients were detected, 294 more tested positive in Lucknow on Wednesday while 272 recovered.

The new patients included 28 from Gomtinagar, 26 from Ashiyana, 23 from Rae Bareilly road, 22 from Alambagh, 15 from Chowk, 13 from Mahanagar, 12 each from Hazratganj & Thakurganj, 11 from Vikasnagar and 10 each from Cantt, Jankipuram & Talkatora. There were no deaths in Lucknow on Wednesday. Health officials said the number of patients who have completed home isolation is 47,351 while those still under home isolation are

1,807. As many as 7,738 samples were collected under contact surveillance and tracing while 116 patients were allotted hospitals on Wednesday. Across the state, 1,911 persons tested positive for coronavirus, including 136 in Ghaziabad, 157 in Meerut and 76 in Kanpur, taking the UP tally to 5,03,159. There were 20 deaths in the state, including five in Kanpur, two each in Meerut & Etawah, and one each in Varanasi, Gautambuddh Nagar, Aligarh, Shahjahanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Azamgarh, Mathura, Gonda, Hapur, Firozabad & Jalaun, taking the toll to 7,281. Besides, 2,112 patients recovered, taking the recovery figures to 4,73,316.

Director of SGPGI Dr RK Dhiman said less women than men have tested positive because they are not venturing out as much. "Men are more

exposed in comparison to women and currently when it has been specifically stressed that one should step out only if necessary, most of the women

are likely to stay indoors," he said.

About the course which the coronavirus disease is likely to take in the coming days, he said there could well be a second wave but it would be less intense. "The predominant mechanism through which the infection is spreading now is aerosol and the secondary mechanism of the spread is through the touching of surfaces. When there is thick fog, aerosol will continue to remain in the air for a longer time and since the virus is trapped in this, it will also continue to be present for a longer period of time. If you do not maintain social distancing in these conditions, the chances of inhaling the aerosol increase," he pointed out.

The SGPGI director said that in the coming days, both fog and pollution would increase during and after Diwali.

"Second and third waves have struck many countries and cases have also increased in Delhi, Maharashtra and Kerala. There is a chance that the number of cases will increase but not as much as in the first wave," he said.

Dr Dhiman said those who have already tested positive will be resistant to some extent. "Even though studies suggest that antibodies are not totally protective, they will be protective to some extent. However, many of those who have not been exposed so far are likely to catch the infection," he said.

2 of a family injured in groups clash

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A group clash in Mohanlalganj gave Lucknow police a tough task to handle on Tuesday night. The police registered a cross-FIR as both the parties failed to strike a compromise. Three persons suffered injuries and they were admitted to hospital.

As per reports, Vanshi Lal of Parwar West had an old enmity with Mahipal Rawat of the same village and Mahipal had given a complaint against his rival. Both the parties came face to face on the issue and indulged in a verbal spat.

Vanshi Lal alleged that Mahipal, his wife Sunita and their supporters Ram Pal and Karan stormed his house carrying weapons and sticks and attacked his wife Ramkali, son Sarvesh and his wife without any provocation. "They threatened to kill us if we did not take back the complaint lodged against them," he alleged. He said the victims suffered grievous injuries and were hospitalised. Contrary to his allegations, Mahipal alleged that Sarvesh and his supporters attacked him and his family after they stormed his house on Tuesday night. The police said Mahipal and his family members did not suffer injuries while Vanshi Lal's family members suffered injuries and a case was registered accordingly.

दिवाली भी, दूरी भी

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Oppn complacency led to their debacle in bypolls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The complacency of the opposition parties that the "anger of the people towards the government" would automatically transfer into votes for them, led to their debacle in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly bye-elections in which the Bharatiya Janata Party won six out of the seven seats despite the opposition dubbing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's style of governance as anti-people.

The Samajwadi Party was confident that it would win at least three seats and therefore its president, Akhilesh Yadav, preferred to monitor the party's campaign from his office while Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati entrusted her lieutenant Satish Chandra Mishra the task to monitor the campaign.

In sharp contrast, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led the BJP campaign in which he was assisted by his deputies and ministers. The striking point in the bypoll results is the margins of victory which is a testimony to the fact that the opposition has been summarily rejected by the electorate.

THE STRIKING POINT IN THE BYPOLL RESULTS IS THE MARGINS OF VICTORY WHICH IS A TESTIMONY TO THE FACT THAT THE OPPOSITION HAS BEEN SUMMARILY REJECTED BY THE ELECTORATE

The Congress could manage the second position on only two seats, Bangarmau and Ghatampur, where the BJP won by 31,000 and 24,000 votes respectively. On the other seats, the Congress presence was negligible. The BSP also could not perform as per its expectations and was second at Bulandshahr where the BJP won comfortably by over 23,000 votes.

The biggest disappointment, perhaps, was the performance of the SP. It came second on only two seats,

Deoria and the Naugawan Sadat, which were won by the BJP by margins of 20,000 and 16,000 votes, respectively.

The SP may have won the Malhani seat but it was with a low margin of about 4,500 votes.

Even the vote percentage in the by-elections proved that the voters did not show any interest in the SP, the Congress and the BSP. While the BJP got more than 40 percent votes in Bangarmau, the SP could manage to get only 20 percent votes, Congress 22 percent and BSP 10 percent. Similarly, in Bulandshahr, the BJP got 40 percent votes while the BSP got 33 percent and the Congress could manage barely 5 percent votes.

In Deoria, while the BJP got more than 40 percent votes, the SP could manage only 28 percent votes. In Ghatampur, the BJP received 39 percent votes followed by Congress (23 percent), BSP (21 percent) and SP (14 percent).

In Tundla, the BJP got 40 percent votes followed by SP (30 percent) with BSP at the third place with 22 percent votes.

UPCC chief satisfied with bypoll results

Lucknow (PNS): The bypolls to seven UP Assembly seats, dubbed as a semi-final before the 2022 polls in Uttar Pradesh, are over and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has won six of these seats showing its supremacy but still the UP Congress president is happy with his party's performance.

UP Congress, which failed to open its account in the by-

elections and its vote share also declined, still claims that its performance has been better than that of the Samajwadi Party. Now, after the bypoll results, the Congress has accepted its defeat while saying that it will do better in 2022. The party, despite not winning a single seat, stood at second position in Bangarmau and Ghatampur assembly constituencies.

UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu told reporters here on Wednesday, "This is democracy, we respect the people's mandate. But we gave a very good fight. Our vote percentage has increased considerably. We ranked second on two seats and at number three on one seat. Our performance has been better than that of Samajwadi Party, called the main opposition party in the state as it has 45 MLAs and it was in power from 2012 to 2017." Lallu said this proved that Congress was the main opposition in UP. Lallu claimed that the party had fought for the people from Assembly to the roads on issues that concerned youth, Dalit and backward classes, law and order, women safety

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Bharatiya Hind Party (name of the party). The officer of the party is located at 90 Iswari Dayal Building Arya Samaj Road, Ganeshganj, Lucknow 226018 (U.P.). (give full address). This Party has submitted application of the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 28A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:

President : Durga Shankar Bajpai, 90 Iswari Dayal Building Arya Samaj Road, Ganeshganj, Lucknow 226018 (U.P.) Mob. 9721454646

General Secretary : Ram Bhoor Singh, 246 Saraswati Vihar Rohta Road, Meerut (U.P.) Mob. 9706167998

Treasurer : Prem Prakash Gupta, E2 53 Shradhdhapuri-02 Bypass Meerut (U.P.) Mob. 9412200298

If any one has any objection to the registration of Bharatiya Hind Party (name of the proposed Party) they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

E-AUCTION NOTICE

(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Bank Of Baroda
Branch :- Kutchehary Road,
125-a, Khajan Villa, Opp. City Kotwali,
Kutchehary Road,
Distt:- Gonda, Mob.: 9554968221

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: 02.12.2020 , 02:00 AM to 6:00 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
1.	Borrower: Jagannath Saini S/o Badri Prasad Address: Vill Bajpayee Purwa, khargupur, Gonda 271001 Guarantor: Geeta Saini W/o Jagannath Saini Address: Vill Bajpayee Purwa, khargupur, Gonda 271001 Demand Date : 03.06.2017 Possession Date : 16.08.2017 Outstanding Amount : Rs.9,77,701.50 + interest thereon & other charges w.e.f. 01-04-2018 (minus amount if any paid after the demand Notice and Possession Notice)	All part and parcel of the property consisting of plot no. 1073 situated at Mauja Gird Gonda Nagariya Pargana Tahsil and District Gonda in the name of Geeta Saini W/o Jagannath Saini. Total Area 116.20 sq. mt. Bounded as under: East: House of Maya Shukla, West: House of Sudhir Kant Shukla North: 10 ft. Kachcha Rasta South: House of Ram Kumar	Reserve Price Rs. 9,45,900/- (EM) Bid Increase Rs.94,590/- Amount Rs.10,000/-	12.11.2020 to 01.12.2020 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 12.11.2020 to 01.12.2020 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. 9554968221

Date: 12.11.2020 :

Place: Gonda

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

आयुर्वेद के जनक

श्री भगवान धन्वन्तरि जी

की जयंती

के अवसर पर राजभवन परिसर, लखनऊ में मूर्ति का अनावरण

आनंदीबेन पटेल
राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

द्वारा गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

डॉ. धरम सिंह सैनी
राज्यमंत्री, आयुष विभाग (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं औषधि प्रशासन (एम.ओ.एस.), उत्तर प्रदेश


डॉ. नीलकंठ तिवारी
राज्यमंत्री, पर्यटन, संस्कृति एवं धर्मार्थ कार्य (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) प्रोटोकाल (एम.ओ.एस.), उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 12 नवम्बर 2020 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान : राजभवन, लखनऊ

अन्य कार्यक्रम

■ राजकीय पाण्डुलिपि पुस्तकालय, प्रयागराज द्वारा आयुर्वेद की पाण्डुलिपियों पर आधारित प्रदर्शनी ■ आयुर्वेद की पुस्तकों की प्रदर्शनी

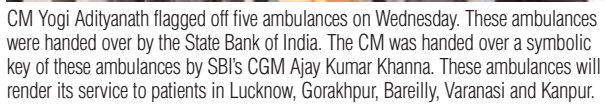
संस्कृति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

	U.P. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd, Obra-Sonebhadra
E-Tender Notice	
<p>1. Tender No: T-57/SEC-MC-ICMD-II/2020-21 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "work of construction of BCU permanent roof in switch yard BTPS". E-tender has been uploaded on 29.10.2020 on http://etenderup.nic.in Estimated cost of work is Rs. 22,65,167.00 only, E.M.D. cost Rs. 45,500.00 Tender Cost Rs.590.00 Last date of submission 19.11.2020 at 18.00 Hrs SE-CMC-I</p>	<p>2. Tender No: T-09/SE-HQ/OTPS/FF&SD/2020-21 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Annual breakdown maintenance of fire Hydrant system of OTPS, OBRA". E-tender has been uploaded on 26.10.2020 on http://etenderup.nic.in Estimated cost of work is Rs. 7,09,839.00 only, E.M.D. cost Rs. 14,000.00 Tender Cost Rs.590.00 Last date of submission 21.11.2020 at 18.00 Hrs. SE(HQ)</p>
<p>3. Tender No: T-12/SE-II/BMD-I/BTPS/2020-21 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "work of Insulation & Refractory during O/H of Unit 11 BTPS, OBRA". E-tender has been uploaded on 04.11.2020 on http://etenderup.nic.in Estimated cost of work is Rs. 6,90,000.00 only, time period 30 days E.M.D. cost Rs. 13,800.00 Tender Cost Rs.590.00 Last date of submission 19.11.2020 at 18.00 Hrs.</p>	<p>4. Tender No: T-18/SE-II/BMD-I/BTPS/2020-21 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "work of HP/LP Valve during O/H of Unit 11 BTPS, OBRA". E-tender has been uploaded on 04.11.2020 on http://etenderup.nic.in Estimated cost of work is Rs. 6,91,000.00 only, time period 30 days E.M.D. cost Rs. 13,800.00 Tender Cost Rs.590.00 Last date of submission 19.11.2020 at 18.00 Hrs. SE-II</p>
<p>5. Tender No: T-22/O&MMC-V/TMD/BTPS/2020-21 online e-Bids are invited for the work of "Operation and maintenance of EOT crane of 2x200MW & CW pump house, OBRA". E-tender has been uploaded on 31.10.2020 on http://etenderup.nic.in Estimated cost of work is Rs. 67,900.00 only, time period 12 months E.M.D. cost Rs. 13,500.00 Tender Cost Rs.1180.00 Last date of submission 01.12.2020 at 18.00 Hrs. SE-V</p>	<p>Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Concerned superintending engineer has right to cancel any or all e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time</p> <p>No. 214 Date 11.11.2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"</p>

maintaining normal body weight and avoiding tobacco use are ways to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Medical treatment of diabetes for control of blood sugar and lipid levels is imperative to prevent ocular complications.

In Lalitpur, women farmers were urged to stop the practice of burning stubble in fields. The department has been regularly cautioning farmers against burning stubble that adds to the air pollution level. Such awareness meets are being held in all the districts. In Kushinagar, women were informed about commercial layer farming, the official said.

This is the eighth year in a row when widows symbolically participated in the celebration of the Festival of Lights. Thousands of widows, mostly from West Bengal, have been living in Vrindavan for decades and they are not allowed to take part in rituals at their homes. To bring some happiness in the lives of these widows and to counter the tradition of widowhood, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh Movement, came up with the unique idea to organise Diwali for the widows.

[illegible]

The officer said the STF traced the real Swati Tewari in Gorakhpur where she is working as a government teacher. The cops tried to nab Sneha Lata but she left Sitapur soon after her husband was arrested. She is absconding. Another fake teacher from Barabanki working as Swati Tewari has been arrested while those working in Deoria have been suspended and all efforts are being made to arrest them. Separate cases have been registered in this regard against the above accused by the STF.

The UPERC has also reduced the RCDC fee on smart meters to be paid by the consumers to just Rs 50 against the earlier fee of Rs 600. The smart meter RCDC fee will be Rs 50 up to 4 KVA and Rs 100 from 5 KVA and above.

The first phase of the five-day camp organised by UP Housing and Development Board will conclude on Thursday. It was disclosed in an official press release on Wednesday. The aim of holding the series of camps is to sell the flats in Vrindavan housing projects (Aravalli, Kailash, Himalayas and Everest enclaves) besides Mandakani, Bhagirath, Alaknanda, Gangotri and Nadini apartments of Awadh Vihar Yojana. The final round will start from November 17 and conclude on November 21.

Terms & Conditions: - (1) The auction sale will be "online e-auction" bidding through website <https://www.ucobank.co.in>, <https://ibapi.in> on 15.12.2020 between 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. with unlimited Extensions of 10 Minutes each. (2) Last date for submission of online bids is 13.12.2020. (3) Earnest Money Deposit EMD shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT Fund Transfer to Credit of Account Number 14200210001233, Authorised Officer, UCO Bank, Lucknow, IFSC Code No. UCBA0001420. (4) The intending purchaser can inspect the property on 11.12.2020 at 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by contacting the concerned branch. (5) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount (including the earnest money) already paid, immediately on closure of the E-Auction Sale proceedings on the same day of the Sale in the same mode as stipulated in clause 3 above. The balance 75% of the purchase price shall have to be paid within 15 days of acceptance/confirmation of sale conveyed to them. The bid increment value will be Rs.20,000 and in multiples thereof. (6) The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Bid(s)/Offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the Auction Sale without assigning any reason thereof. (7) The aforesaid property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned. (8) In default of payment of balance amount of 75% of the bid amount within the stipulated period, i.e. 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, the deposit amount (25% of bid amount inclusive of EMD) shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold. (9) Intending bidders are advised to conduct search in Revenue / SRO records to satisfy title, identity, extent, dimensions, survey number, door number, boundaries or encumbrances in regard to the property proposed to be sold. (10) This Publication is only an abridged form of notice, bidders are advised to go through the website: <https://www.ucobank.co.in>, <https://ibapi.in> for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in e-auction sale proceeding. (for any property related query may contact Authorised Officer, Uco Bank, Lucknow- 0522 - 4937677, 8100026161, zolucknow.rec@ucobank.co.in, during office hours of all working days (I) The Bank has designated its Branch Office at Gauriganj, Amethi, IT College & Zonal office Lucknow as facilitation center to help intending bidders in putting the bid on line.*****)

<p>(FOR DETAILED TERM AND CONDITION PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE www.bankeauctionwizard.com)</p> <p>This Notice is also to be treated as 30 days statutory sale notice to borrower and Guarantor (L/Rs) Under Rule 8(6) Security Interest (Enforcement), Rules 2002.</p>		
Date: 12.11.2020	Place: Lucknow	Authorised Officer, UCO Bank, Lucknow Zonal Office

57 COVID-19 patients found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 57 new COVID-19 patients have been detected in the district on Wednesday, increasing the total number of cases to 17,633. The day gave a relief, once again, as there was no casualty and death toll remained at 282. During the day, the follow-up negative reports included 73 and all of them have been recovered from home isolation, increasing the number to 13,794. 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 16,627, leaving 724 active cases.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amit Pathak and other senior police officers inspected the security arrangements at Dashaswamdh and



SSP Amit Pathak inspecting security arrangements for festival at Annapurna Mandir in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

Vishwanath Gali area in view of famous darshan of Golden Idol of Goddess Annapurna at Annapurna Mandir near Kashi Vishwanath temple on the auspicious occasion of

Dhanteras on Thursday. It is expected that heavy rush of devotees would reach there to seek the blessings of Goddess Annapurna. The same would continue

next day and it would also mark the start of five days festival there which would continue till Annakoot Mahotsav, falling next day after Deepawali.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh has informed that in the first report of the day, 32 positive patients were found out of 2,317 reports received. Till then, the total test reports received were 3,59,603 and the results of 4,662 are awaited. Out of them, 3,41,995 were negative while 17,608 positive. The total number of samples collected was 3,78,685. With the addition of six new red zones, the total number of hotspots has increased to 2,379 including 193 red zones.

Three green zones have been converted into red zones again. There are 2,186 green zones with eight new ones.

77 more test positive in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Corona infected patients were more on Tuesday than Monday. The Covid report of 77 people came positive in 24 hours. At the same time, 68 people became infection-free. It is a matter of relief that no corona infected died on the same day.

Now only the district has only 823 active patients. According to CMO Dr GS Bajpai, a total of 24,703 people have been infected with corona so far in the district. At the same time 23,556 people have also become healthy. He said that no infected died on Tuesday, but so far 324 people have died during treatment.

CMO Dr Bajpai said that



samples were taken for Covid test of 5,782 people. In which 77 people have reported positive. A total of 80 patients are

admitted to SRN Hospital, 47 to Beli Hospital and 20 infected patients to United Medicity. On Tuesday, 14 people were

discharged from Covid hospitals. At the same time, 54 people completed Home Isolation. In this way, a total of 68 people beat corona.

The shopping mall staff, customers and security personnel once again conducted a Covid test on Wednesday to prevent corona infection and measure infection rates. On Tuesday, Covid test was conducted in the firecracker market, pottery shops and temporary markets adorned for Deepawali. CMO Dr Bajpai has appealed to the people to stop being hesitant and get relaxed by conducting a Covid test, it is not necessary that every person who goes for a Covid test comes positive in its reports.

Sitting MLC files nomination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Sitting MLC and leader of Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shikshak Parishad (UPMSS) Chet Narayan Singh filed his nomination papers for the election from Varanasi Teacher seat in which the teachers of eight districts of the region would cast votes. He along with his supporters reached the Divisional Commissioner Office premises and then filed his nomination along with his proposals including Dr Charudutt Tripathi, Wahiyullah Shahidi, Narsingh and Bahadur Singh. The last date of filing nomination papers is November 12.



Sitting MLC Chet Narayan Singh going to file nomination for Teacher seat in Varanasi on Wednesday

Pioneer

During the day no candidate has filed his/ her paper for the Varanasi Graduate seat. Earlier, a day ago, six candidates had filed papers for Varanasi Graduate seat while four for Varanasi Teacher constituency and so far as many as nine candidates had filed papers for Graduate seat while five for Teacher seat. During the day elaborate security arrangements were made in the premises and during the filing of paper by sitting MLC, Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) and District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma was also present. During the day, as many as 12 persons purchased papers for Teacher seat while 28 for the Graduate constituency.

Curb on firecrackers till Nov 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In view of instructions of the State government to comply with the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma said that as the status of Air Quality Index (AQI) of Varanasi district has been found in the category of 'Very Poor', the sale and use of firecrackers will be banned completely till November 30 midnight. The order is already in force since November 9 midnight.

DM has suspended all the licenses to sell fireworks in the district with immediate effect. He has also instructed that the use of fireworks by those who have already purchased the same, will also be completely banned and directed the ADM (City), SDMs, COs and police stations to strictly follow this order in their respective areas and to make the public aware towards the order. The imposition of this order indicates that the local residents can not

only use the firecrackers during Deepawali but also in all the forthcoming festivals like Dalla Chhath and Dev Deepawali when the locals use huge quantities of such firecrackers.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr VB Singh cautioned that the use of any fireworks after applying sanitiser on hands may prove very fatal as sanitiser is highly inflammable containing upto 70 per cent alcohol. Senior physician of Shree Shiv

Prasad Gupta (SSPG) Divisional Hospital Dr AK Singh also cautioned all the locals to remain alert and safe during the forthcoming festivals, saying that if anyone wants to offer Aarti of God, lights a candle or lamp and uses fire in the kitchen, one should avoid using sanitiser which is highly inflammable. He also advised the women to wear loose clothes while working in the kitchens and take care of saris, dupattas and scarfs.

BHU to be reopened in phases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A high-level meeting was held at Central Office in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Prof Rakesh Bhatnagar here on Tuesday to discuss about the possibilities of reopening of the university since the lockdown was imposed in the country in view to prevent spread of global coronavirus pandemic. It was agreed in the meeting that BHU should be reopened in a phased manner in view of the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) regarding the reopening of universities and colleges.

The meeting has also decided that the committees will be formed at the universi-

ty, faculty, department and hostel levels to formulate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and monitor their compliance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 global pandemic and ensure the safety of students. The university will be reopened in a phased manner based on the recommendations of these committees. The concerned departments have been directed to complete the sanitation and cleanliness work of the hostels which have been closed for a long time.

The directors of institutes and deans of faculties have been asked to ensure that the ongoing study process through the online medium should continue smoothly and in this regard, departments can make their requirements known to the university administration. The meeting was also attend-

ed by Rector Prof VK Shukla, Registrar Dr Neeraj Tripathi, Dean of Students Welfare Prof MK. Singh, Chief Proctor Prof OP Rai, directors of institutes, deans of faculties, heads of departments, hostel administrators and other university officials were present.

Earlier, Legal Aid and Services Clinic (LASC), Faculty of Law, BHU celebrated National Legal and Services Day-2020 on Monday. On the occasion, online quiz and debate competitions were organised in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Varanasi. The topic of the debate was whether virtual courts are effective in providing justice to the marginalised class during the pandemic. The participants put forward their views for and against the motion.

DLSA Secretary Sudha Singh was the judge for the events. She appreciated and encouraged the participants, and said legal aid for the needy is a necessity. The pandemic has made us realise the challenges and we have taken the first steps towards a long road. She also added that the virtual courts are facing various challenges and they need infrastructural developments to function properly.

The students of the Law Faculty participated in both the events with zeal and enthusiasm.

The events were organised under the guidance of Executive Director, LASC, Prof Shailendra Kumar Gupta. Ritwik, Amit, Dhairya, Divyam, Shashank and Shail helped in organisation of the events.

BJP continues celebration on Bihar win

VARANASI (PNS): For the second continuous day Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers celebrated the victory of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar Assembly elections here on Wednesday. They also expressed their happiness over the thumping performance of BJP in all the assembly bypolls in UP, MP and Gujarat. Just a day ago, a section of BJP workers came forward to celebrate the victory even when the final tally of Bihar election could not come and NDA was just taking a lead. However, on Wednesday after the announcement of final tally in which the NDA has secured an absolute majority, the official celebration was organised at the party's regional office at Gulab Bagh in which scores of women workers were also seen dancing.



They also distributed sweets among the party workers.

Many party workers were also carrying the pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others. The celebration was participated by several senior party leaders and office-

bearers of various women and youth organisations.

They said 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 performed superbly well helping Bihar march towards development.

Meanwhile, national president of BJP Janjati Morcha and MP Samir Oraon offered prayer at Kashi Vishwanath temple and expressed his thanks to the Almighty for his blessings to the party so it had performed superbly well in Bihar Assembly elections. He also offered rudrabhishek which was conducted by priest Pt Srikant Mishra. He was accompanied by national secretary of the wing Deepak Gond, regional secretary Indu Bhushan Singh, Raju Gond, Rinku Bharti and Radhye Shyam Gond. Later, Samir Oraon left for Vindhyachal to offer prayer at Maa Vindhyavasini Devi temple.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

During the weekly meeting with DRMs and PHODs of North Central Railway, General Manager Rajiv Chaudhry advised DRM Prayagraj and HQ officials to start detailed preparations for Magh Mela 2021. He further advised that an exclusive meeting covering all items for safe and efficient handling of pilgrims during next Magh Mela should be held within a week time.

It is to be noted that the Magh Mela 2021 is scheduled to be organised from January to March next year and

Railways the national transporter will be required to play the most important and crucial role in safe and efficient transport of pilgrims. Besides regular preparedness for Magh Mela, this year preparations by North Central Railway will also include safe handling of passengers in accordance to COVID-19 guidelines.

With infrastructure built for Kumbh-2019 and those added in last two years in and around Prayagraj, Railways is well equipped on this front to handle mela traffic on peak days.

Further North Central Railway has also upgraded COVID-19 related infrastructure and facilities at Prayagraj Jn. and other stations which will help in safe handling of mela traffic following physical distancing, screening, hand hygiene and other norms for rail travel during COVID-19. Besides this, adequate experience has been gathered by Prayagraj division during efficient handling of Shramik and other special trains which will come handy during transport of pilgrims during peak Mela days.

Of total 183 terminating

Shramik specials handled by North Central Railway, Prayagraj Jn. alone handled 67 terminating Shramik specials. With highest handling of Shramik specials, special trains, festival specials etc. adequate experience to handle passenger rush during COVID-19 times is available with officers and staff of Prayagraj division which will be blended with rich experience of handling Magh Mela and Kumbh Mela traffic and best possible plan for safe, smooth and efficient journey experience for pilgrims shall be operationalised.

Cops's minor daughter shoots at brother

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Minor daughter of a police inspector shot at his brother in late evening hours on Tuesday in Chak Raghunath locality, under the Naiini police station. The injured brother was rushed to hospital immediately, and he is stated to be serious. The family members planted a story of loot, but after preliminary investigations she accepted the crime, but the reason behind this incident could not come to the fore.

Family of Sabhajit Singh, a police inspector posted at Azamgarh, lived here in Naiini. His wife was watering the plants on the roof top when the incident took place. Three gun shots were heard by the mother Subhadra Devi and the neighbours who reached the spot within no time. What they saw was the son of the inspector 16 year-old Amarendra Singh was lying in a pool of blood. He had sustained one gun shot in his chest, while two in stomach.

The family members planted a story that some miscreants had entered the house scaling the boundary wall and had injured Amarendra to escape with gold ornaments. The police enquiries found the role of the minor daughter of

the inspector Shailaja to be suspicious as she could not answer a good number of questions. Later the police recovered the pistol from the residence itself and found that the ornaments were intact. However the reason behind this shoot out, that too by a minor girl, could not be revealed by the police.

N A T I O N A L EDUCATION DAY CELEBRATED: The National Education Day was celebrated at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad at Jhalwa campus here on Wednesday.

Addressing a webinar, Prof P Nagabhushan, Director, IIIT-A said that education had become one of the essential things in any one's life. It is necessary to create an awareness of people's responsibilities and willing to contribute to the growth of the nation and as well as well being of society. The development and growth of a country depends on the citizens of that country. If the people of the country are literate and educated, the state will progress.

Prof Krishna Mishra, IIIT-A spoke on 'Significance of Education and its Impact on the Society'. Skand Shukla, Assistant Director, Primary

Education Directorate of Education, UP delivered lecture on 'Various Aspect of Primary, Secondary and Higher Education'.

Dr Shirshu Verma, Registrar in his welcome address said that Azad strongly advocated for the education of women. He emphasised the importance of imparting instruction in modern sciences and knowledge. He also said that no programme of national education can be appropriate if it does not give full consideration to the education and advancement of one-half of the society – that is the women.

Dr VK Chaurasia, Associate Dean (SA), IIIT-A said that Azad was responsible for shaping the modern education system of the country. The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission were established under his tenure as the education minister.

WEBINAR ON TEACHING TECHNIQUE HELD: State Institute of Educational Management And Training (SIEMAT) Prayagraj organised a two-day webinar on "Effective and Efficient Teaching Technique" on November 10 and 11, 2020.

This webinar was organised to enhance the quality of education in the State and render quality education to children, for that the role of teacher in teaching learning process becomes very important.

The prime job of a teacher is to impart efficient and effective teaching. An effective teacher must hold the complete knowledge of concern subject, be polite, free from egoism, great will power to teach, unbiased child assessment and be regular. He/she should alert as well as aware of contemporary teaching learning material also.

The objective of the webinar was to understand teaching learning technique, assessment mechanism for all-round development of child, to build child-centric teaching learning environment, to develop understanding of inclusive education and develop professionalism. Well known experts and state education officers have joined the event to address the participants.

The webinar was organised under the patronage of Vijay Kiran Anand (IAS), DG School Education. The concept and framework of the event is design under the leadership of Sanjay Sinha Director, SIEMAT.



Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar carried out inspection at UHM Hospital.

Pioneer

DC inspects UHMH OPD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Divisional Commissioner Raj Shekhar carried out an inspection of UHM Hospital to assess the arrangements in OPD for the patients and also the management at the Flu OPD and Covid facility on Tuesday.

He was accompanied by the chief medical officer and the chief medical superintendent.

In view of the present scenario of increasing seasonal diseases like common cold and chest infection because of high pollution level and related issues, the divisional commissioner directed the CMO and

the CMS to strengthen the strength of doctors, paramedics, diagnostics and essential medicines in all hospitals, community health centres and primary health centres in the district so that the seasonal diseases could be handled effectively.

The divisional commissioner was informed by the CMO and the CMS that around 1,000 patients were coming to the OPDs every day. They said all arrangements had been made in the Flu OPD and around 13-14 cases were coming every day and they were being treated after Covid test.

The divisional commis-

sioner interacted with some patients and their attendants and they expressed their satisfaction with cleanliness and availability of doctors and medicines.

The CMS said that around 300-400 pathological tests were done every day and the report was given the same day or latest by the next day morning.

When asked about the availability of essential medicines, the CMS said that all necessary drugs and life saving medicines were available in sufficient quantities and there was no problem of any kind as of now.

The CMS said that as of now, the only major hurdle or

pending issue was the availability of CT Scan machine in UHM Hospital.

He said the old machine was condemned and the new machine was requested from the DG Health but it had not made provided till date.

The divisional commissioner assured the CMS that he would write a letter to DG Health the government for immediate procurement of the new CT scan machine for UHM Hospital.

He asked the hospital authorities to continuously make announcements through public address system about the Covid protocol and preventive measures.

80 more test positive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

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

Chief Medical Officer Dr Anil K Mishra said that 80 more people had tested positive for coronavirus infection between Tuesday evening and Wednesday evening taking the tally of confirmed cases to 28,664 cases. He said that 4 cases were discharged from hospital and cured figure stood at 7706.

He said no COVID-19 death in the city was reported till Tuesday evening keeping the death toll to 746 which includes the death of an 87 years old man at SGPGI on November 9 updated on portal now.

The CMO said at present 817 active cases were undergoing treatment. Dr Mishra said 4057 samples were sent for testing in the city.

BSA inaugurates Edufest-2020

KANPUR (PNS): Unnao's Basic Shiksha Adhikari Pradip Kumar Pandey inaugurated the Edufest-2020 organised at the a primary school in Devarakalan, Sikanderpur Sarosi (Unnao) on Wednesday.

Senior teacher Prashant Bajpai welcomed the chief guest who later visited all the rooms where exhibits of science experiments and crafts were displayed. He also inspected the projector room, sports room and library. The key attractions were the Rangoli and science models on pollution, volcano, state capitals and kinds of mud that were prepared by the children. He also praised the embroidery work of children and appreciated the conduct of assignment-based learning programme in the school.

Block Education Officer Ashish Chauhan and school teachers Prashant Bajpai, Shikha Misra, Deepti Gupta, Alka Shukla, Alka Bajpai, Divyanshi Shukla and Tripti Misra were present. Senior teacher Prashant Bajpai said the Edufest 2020 would conclude on Thursday.

Youth killed

KANPUR (PNS): A 36-year-old youth was brutally killed in Bithoor police station area on Tuesday night. The assailants badly smashed the head of the youth with a brick to conceal his identity. The bearded victim was wearing a blue jeans and green, brown and red coloured sweater. Some villagers passing through the Shivdeepnagar road on Mandhana-Ganga Barrage highway saw the body on Wednesday morning and informed the police control room about it.

FIRE

Goods and property worth lakhs of rupees were gutted in a fire which broke out in a closed refined oil factory in Rania industrial estate under Sachendi police station on Wednesday morning. Electric short-circuit is believed to have sparked the fire. Ajay Agarwal of Kanpur owns a refined oil manufacturing unit in Rania. It was lying closed for the past four months and some repair work was going on in the factory these days. On Wednesday morning, when the labourers were busy doing their work, a fire broke out in the factory due to electric short-circuit.

Three arrested for kidnapping

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUN



Police arrested three accused in connection with the kidnapping of a woman and her two children. SP Yashveer Singh said that police had arrested Shubham, Govind Baheliya and Hari Om Mishra in this connection. He said that they had received an application from Jitendra Singh on November 9 in which he had stated that his wife and kids had been kidnapped and he had received a phone from the kidnappers demanding a ransom of ₹20 lakh. Thereafter an FIR under Section 364-A of the IPC had been lodged against the accused. Besides immediately teams were constituted under the guidance of CO Jalaun Vijay Anand

comprising SOG, surveillance cell and Sirsa Kalar police station. The team immediately swung into action and arrested the accused. He said that accused kept the woman and her two children in their village Godah in Sitapur district. Meanwhile IG range Subhash Baghel has announced that a reward of ₹50,000 will be given to the team which made

the arrest. The team which made the arrest comprised incharge Sirsa Kalar police station, Ashok Kumar Verma, S-Is Ajay Kumar Singh, Chandan Pandey, Ramchandra Verma and Dileep Verma besides Nitu Kumar, Ashwini Pratap, Vinay Pratap, Niranjana Singh, Gaurav Bajpai, Jagdish Chandra, Karamveer Singh, Rohit Singh, Saurabh Dubey, Ajay Kumar, Umesh Kumar and Vijay Pratap.

Gkp-Aishbagh intercity spl to run from tomorrow

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers will run the 05069/05070 Gorakhpur-Aishbagh-Gorakhpur Intercity Express special train from November 13 till the next order. It will be run daily from November 13 from Aishbagh and from November 14 from Gorakhpur till the next order. All coaches in them will be of reserved category and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 05070 Aishbagh-Gorakhpur Intercity Express special train will leave Aishbagh at 16:25 hrs, Badshahnagar at 16:55 hrs, Barabanki at 17:32 hrs, Gonda at 19:00 hrs, Balrampur at 19:44 hrs, Tulsipur 20:20 hrs, Pachperwa 20:41 hrs, Badhni at 21:09 hrs, Shohratgarh at 21:34 hrs, Naugarh at 21:53 hrs, Anandnagar at 22:37 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 22:35 hrs. The 05069 Gorakhpur-Aishbagh Intercity Express special train will leave Gorakhpur at 03:45 hrs, Anandnagar at 04:32 hrs, Naugarh at 05:08 hrs, Shohratgarh at 05:26 hrs, Barhni at 05:48 hrs, Pachperwa at 06:02 hrs, Tulsipur at 06:23 hrs, Balrampur at 06:56 hrs, Gonda at 07:52 hrs, Barabanki at 09:25 hrs, Badshahnagar at 10:07 hrs and reach Aishbagh at 10:40 hrs. A total of 17 coaches, including two coaches of generator-cum-luggage vans, four of general second class and two of AC third class.

COMPETITIONS

ORGANISED: Under the aegis of the Rajbhasha department of NER the NER Zonal Noting and Drafting Competition-2020 and Zonal Railway Hindi Debate Competition-2020 were organised at Multidisciplinary System Training Centre (MSTC) on Tuesday. In the Zonal Railway Hindi Debate Competition-2020 two topics were given to the participants (i) Difficulties in administrative work due to Covid-19 (ii) Work in Hindi in e-office difficult/easy. The jury of this competition included Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer (DyCVO)/Traffic JP Singh and Assistant Commercial Manager (ACM)/Computer, Rajshikhar Mishra. Under the direction of NER's Chief Rajbhasha Officer and Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) Arvind Kumar Pandey both these competitions were held under the supervision of Rajbhasha Officer/Headquarters Mo. Arshad Mirza. Both these competitions were organised keeping in mind the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, including maintaining physical distancing. The contestants who had secured first place in both these competitions will get an opportunity to participate in

the forthcoming all-India level competition to be organised by the Railway Board.

'MERI SAHELI' CAMPAIGN:

Transporting passengers in a safe and secure manner to their respective destinations is the highest priority of railway administration. For the safety of women passengers in trains under the 'Meri Saheli' campaign dedicated efforts are being made nationwide. In the trains originating from NER and at other major stations for the safety of women passengers, especially those travelling alone, 'Meri Saheli' campaign was started from October 20. Under it at major stations a team of women members of RPF contact female passengers travelling in train, especially the ones doing so alone, and gave an assurance to them that they are completely safe during the journey. The purpose of the campaign is to create a sense of security among women travellers so that they could feel safe till they reached their destination. Besides for solving any security-related problems during the journey they are being made aware about the helpline No 182 through cards/pamphlets. Moreover the details of women passengers are entered in Google Sheets at the starting station according to which they are contacted during the journey and then made aware of the security helpline. CPRO PK Singh said that from October 20 to November 8 in 596 trains as many as 661 women RPF personnel attended, 3,689 female passengers. On NER in the year 2020-21 till November 8 on security helpline No 182 as many as 121 security-related cases were received and were disposed of by taking prompt action.

Lalimli workers stage demonstration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of Lalimli workers staged a massive demonstration in protest against non-payment of 28 months' salary, bonus and leave encashment here on Wednesday.

They took out a procession from the Lalimli main gate up to the Labour Gate. They threatened to block the road if the factory management and district administration failed to settle their demands.

The workers were even ready to go to jail for their agitation. They demanded disbursement of their salary



before Diwali. Prominent workers who

took part in the demonstration included Ajay Singh, Rashid Ali, Raju Thakur, Vidya Sagar Shukla, Manoj Kumar, Sriram and Hira Singh.

The employees trade union leaders said that due to the efforts of BJP MP Satyadeo Pachauri, they had received salary for only nine months during Holi and thereafter nothing was paid to them.

They said despite Diwali was around the corner, the workers were even unable to manage two square meals for their families.

Customers throng Shri Jugal Kishore Jewellers showroom

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

There is much enthusiasm among the customers thronging into the new showroom of Shri Jugal Kishore Jewellers.

Its director Pankaj Rastogi said the reason for customers' attraction to the Shri Jugal Kishore Jewellers showroom was that apart from bringing a change in its products with time, the 11th generation of the firm had been able to meet the requirement of jewellery of their choice as per to latest and new designs since 1857.

He said earning faith of the customers was the utmost pri-



ority of the firm. Rastogi said it was their faith which enabled him to present a wide range of gold and diamond jewellery in the renovated showroom.

At the same time, he said, proper attention was given on the security, health and facili-

ties of the customers. Rastogi said the firm had always accorded priority to quality, innovation, exclusive designs and transparency in jewellery trade which earned them the faith of their customers.

He said diamond jewellery was the prime choice of customers these days because being light in weight and attractive in designs, these could easily be used on all occasions.

However, he said, for the traditional look, gold jewellery was also required and Shri Jugal Kishore Jewellers was also fulfilling the requirements of traditional gold jewellery for its customers.

Conference on Covid pandemic and its aftermath concludes

KANPUR (PNS): The three-day international conference on 'pandemic and its aftermath', organised by the chemistry department of Christ Church College, Kanpur, in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Biomedical Sciences concluded on Tuesday.

Convenor Dr Anindita Bhattacharya, from the Christ Church College chemistry department, said the conference brought academicians, researchers, industrialists and representatives from pharmaceutical companies on one e-platform for effective deliberations on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors and ways to overcome these unforeseen hurdles of life.

The final day of the conference began with talks by speakers from the industrial

and corporate world.

The technical session-VI was dedicated to the industrial and corporate arena. The speakers were Kaushik Chakraborty, director, human resources, Savills, United Kingdom; Jaya Kapoor, IHM, Ahmedabad, and Sumana Chatterjee, delivery manager, Microsoft. They talked about the effects of the pandemic on human resources, hospitality industry and the software and information technology (IT) sector. The day had a special session dedicated to health sciences, chaired by Dr Anindita Bhattacharya. The session opened with a very informative talk by Prof Hari S. Sharma from University Medical College, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He elaborated on the effects of COVID-19 on patients with chronic lung dis-

eases.

He was followed by Prof Eliza Chakraborty from MIET, Meerut and Dr Sanjay K Banerjee, from NIPER, Guwahati, Assam. Dr. Chakraborty spoke about the future of stem cell technology and tissue engineering. Dr. Banerjee explained how an active metabolite of garlic was beneficial for cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure.

This session dealt with various aspects of human health and the major concerns related to it. The section chairpersons were Dr Alka Tangri and Dr Anindita Bhattacharya. The section rapporteurs were Dr Meet Kamal and Dr Niranjana Swaroop.

In the valedictory session, the report was read out by Dr Anindita Bhattacharya. Principal of the college, Dr

Joseph Daniel, gave his valuable inputs on the proceedings of the session.

Guest of honour Prof Ripu Daman Singh, regional higher education officer, Kanpur, praised the college for organising such an informative international conference with speakers from all over the world.

He said that such conferences would add to the understanding of the challenges faced in the current scenario and how best to deal with them. Chief guest Dr. Ajay Taneja, professor and head of Dr BR Ambedkar University, Agra, congratulated the organising team for the successful completion of the international conference. He also hoped that the three-day conference would help the delegates gain something which they could

research on for the benefit of society at large. He also delivered an informative talk on the effect of the pandemic lockdown on environment and sustainable development.

Dr Hari S Sharma from the department of pathology, Institute of Cardiovascular Research, University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Dr Abbas Ali Mahdi from KGMU, Lucknow, were the special guests.

The concluding remarks were given by Dr Sudhir Gupta, head of Christ Church College chemistry department. The vote of thanks was proposed by organising secretary Dr. Meet Kamal from the chemistry department. The valedictory session was compered by Dr Vibha Dikshit from the political science department of Christ Church College.

Webinar on GI in carpet sector

PNS ■ VARANASI

In order to educate member exporters and spread awareness among them about benefits after becoming an authorised GI user, detailed procedure for becoming an authorised user of GI etc, the Carpet Export Promotion Council organised a webinar on 'Geographical Indications (GI) in carpet sector'. Its Chairman, Siddh Nath Singh, members COA, Umesh Kumar Gupta, Husain Jafar Husaini, Shree Ram Maurya, and its Executive Director, Sanjay Kumar, were present on the occasion. Deputy Registrar of GI Chinnaraja G Naidu and senior examiner of GI from GI Registry, Government of India, Chennai, PK Bhairappanavar, were there to educate the members on GI. Siddh Nath Singh said that these days most of the people are selling machine-made carpets in the name of handmade ones and to create awareness among consumers in international markets Council is going to launch awareness campaign and was hopeful that GI will play an important role. He thanked Naidu and Prashanth for sparing their time to participate in the webinar. Sanjay Kumar informed about

the seven products already registered under GI and about the 10 identified by the Council for registering under GI. He said PM's special focus was on registration of Indian products under GI and PMO is regularly monitoring it. The Government of India is going to announce special incentive for exporters/GI users, he said. In the coming days the Council is going to organise a national-level symposium and a special virtual exhibition only for GI users, he added. Chinnaraja G Naidu thanked Chairman and ED-Secretary for organising the programme and briefed the members about the importance of GI and its impact on economy. GI preserved and protected our traditional heritage, he said. PK Bhairappanavar informed that GI Registry is a quasi-judicial authority and made a detailed presentation on concept of GI, Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, how GI Act operates in India. As per the Act, GI refers to any indication that identifies the goods as originating from a particular place, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristics of the goods is essentially attributable to its geographical origin. He

informed the members about who can apply for registration under GI, how to apply for it, who can be an applicant, registration process and procedure, its benefit etc. He clarified the queries and doubts of members. Naidu and Prashanth assured full support to the Council right from drafting of application to grant of registration certificate. Siddh Nath Singh said Council will facilitate and provide assistance to members from Delhi, Bhadohi and Srinagar office for their GI authorised user applications. He said after normalcy Council will organise a camp in Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Srinagar, Agra and other carpet belts. He added that a seminar will be organised in carpet belt on GI wherein GI Registry officials will participate. Umesh Kumar Gupta thanked the Chairman and members for their participation and Naidu and Prashanth for educating members about GI in such a simple way and for clearing their doubts. He thanked Sanjay Kumar and CEPC officials for conducting the webinar in a professional manner and expressed the hope that it will be beneficial for the Indian handmade carpet industry.

Pfizer Covid vaccines' delivery difficult in India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the Government has indicated that it is open to dialogue with Pfizer Inc so that its coronavirus vaccine can be made available for use in the country, health experts have pointed out that it will not be an easy affair.

They said that the vaccine candidate which has 90 per cent effectiveness against Covid-19 will be expensive and difficult to deliver in India, particularly in rural areas where deep-freeze storage and transportation networks needed for the vaccine are almost nil.

On Tuesday, Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE had shown 'extraordinarily' early results from final stage trials, raising much hopes, which were though short-lived, after

experts explained that it will need a complex and costly system of deep-freeze airport warehouses, refrigerated vehicles and inoculation points for distribution across India.

After they reach vaccination centers, the shots must be thawed from -70 degrees Celsius and injected within five days, if not they go bad, said the experts.

Delhi-based AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria was skeptical on the availability of the Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine as he said that the data released by the company is very encouraging but it should be looked very carefully.

"Whatever vaccines they are making have potential of giving immunogenicity and protection as far as COVID-19 is concern," he said.

"The challenge with the vaccines is that, how long the immunity lasts and how much protective value that it gives as far as individuals are concerns," Dr Guleria added. He said that other challenge with the Pfizer vaccine is that the vaccine should be kept at a very low temperature which is not practical for rural parts of the country and tough to maintain the cold chain.

CMC Vellore scientist Dr Gagandeep Kang echoed similar sentiments. She said Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine is an mRNA vaccine which is going to be very expensive for India.

"...Currently, we have no system in this country to be able to deliver a minus 70 degree Celsius vaccine," Gagandeep Kang was quoted as saying by the report.

Senior scholar at Johns Hopkins Center, Amesh Adalja gave similar opinion pointing out that the cold chain is going to be one of the most challenging aspects of the delivery of this coronavirus vaccination.

"This will be a challenge in all settings because hospitals even in big cities do not have storage facilities for a vaccine at that ultra-low temperature," he added.

Covid caseload drops to 5 lakh, 106-day low

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when many countries are witnessing a surge in their Covid-19 caseload, India on Wednesday registered a drop in the infections that went below the 5-lakh mark for the first time after 106 days.

The 4,94,657 active cases are in contrast to the 6,07,384 in August and 10,09,976 in mid-September.

However, in a review meeting, Union Health Minister Dr Harshivardhan took serious note of a spike in deaths in Maharashtra, Goa and North eastern States like Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura, calling it a matter of concern.

With 44,281 new infections reported in the past 24 hours, India's total cases have surged to 86,36,012 as on Wednesday.

Highlighting the State specific areas of concern that would require focussed attention, the Union Health Minister noted that although the active cases have come down in Maharashtra, it continues to have a large active caseload, with a high Case Fatality Rate (2.6 per cent) which increases to 3.5 per cent in and around Mumbai.

BIHAR POLLS:

Many political heirs apparent fail to carry forward legacies

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In times of an intense debate on nepotism, some political dynasties succeeded in carrying forward their legacies but many heirs apparent failed in the recently concluded Bihar Assembly polls.

Senior politician Sharad Yadav's daughter Subhasini Raj Rao, Shatrughan Sinha's son Luv Sinha, senior RJD leader Prabhunath Singh's son Randhir Kumar Singh, Mandal Commission report's author B P Mandal's grandson Nikhil Mandel and former union minister Ram Laxman Singh Yadav's son Jayvardhan Yadav are among those political dynasties who could not win and failed to carry forward their fathers' legacies.

The issue of dynasty politics has been a subject of intense political debate, with representatives of each party accusing leaders of other parties of promoting their kin.

Subhasini Raj Rao who contested from Bihariganj seat falling under the Madhepura Lok Sabha, which is considered a stronghold of his father, could not win the seat. She had contested on a Congress ticket. Subhasini lost to seasoned politician and sitting MLA Neerajan Mehta of Nitish Kumar's JD(U) by 18711 votes.

Luv Sinha, son of actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha, who was contesting on a Congress ticket from Bankipur seat of Patna lost to BJP's Nitin Nabin by 38965 votes. In Chapra, senior RJD leader Prabhunath Singh's son Randhir Kumar Singh failed to win against sitting MLA Dr C N Gupta (BJP) by a margin of 7,222 votes.

JD(U)'s Nikhil Mandel, grandson of Mandal Commission report's author B P Mandal, lost to Chandrasekhar of the RJD on the Madhepura seat by a mar-

gin of over 15000 votes.

Among other notable losers are -- Chandrika Roy, son of former chief minister Daroga Prasad Rai, from Parsa. Roy, also the father Tej Pratap Yadav's estranged wife Aishwarya, had switched over to the JD(U) from the RJD has lost by a margin of 16947 votes against Chhotelal Rai who moved to Lalu Prasad's party leaving Nitish Kumar's just before the assembly polls.

In Jokihat seat in Araria district, sons of former union minister Mohammad Taslimuddin, were pitted against each other. Younger brother Mohammad Shah Nawaz, who contested on Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM party, defeated his brother Sarfaraz Alam of the RJD, by over 7,000 votes.

Sadhu Yadav, brother-in-law of Lalu Prasad Yadav, who had contested on Mayawati's BSP ticket, lost to Subhas Singh of the BJP by 36,641 votes from Gopalganj seat.

Jayvardhan Yadav, grandson of former union minister Ram Laxman Singh Yadav, who had crossed over to the JD(U) from the RJD, also lost to Sandeep Saurabh of CPI-ML in Paliganj seat by a margin of 30,928 votes. Hindustani Awam Morch president Jitan Ram Manjhi won the Imamganj seat, but his son-in-law Devendra Kumar lost to

163 winning candidates face criminal charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 163 winning candidates of the total 243 in the Bihar Assembly polls, results of which were declared on Wednesday, have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Of them 123 (51 per cent) have declared serious cases including cases related to murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and crimes against women. Besides, 194 candidates are croupies.

According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report, 19 winning candidates have declared cases related to murder while 31 have declared

cases of attempt to murder against themselves. RJD is top in the list of winning candidates having criminal cases, followed by BJP and Janata Dal (United).

This time, the ADR had analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 241 of the 243 victorious candidates. The ADR did not say anything on such details of remaining winners. The results of the three-phase elections were declared on Wednesday early morning after counting that went on for over 20 hours.

Out of the 123 winners, 19 have murder cases, 31 attempt to murder and eight crimes against women against their names.

those who have succeeded to carry forward their fathers' legacy. Among the other victorious candidates are Sanjiv Chaurasia (Digha), son of Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad, Sudhakar Singh (Ramgarh), son of state RJD president Jagdanand Singh and Alok Mehta, son of late RJD leader Tulsi Das Mehta.

Preservation of life more important amid Covid pandemic: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court refused on Wednesday to interfere with the Calcutta High Court order banning the use and sale of firecrackers in West Bengal on Kali Puja to curb air pollution, saying preservation of life was more important amid the coronavirus pandemic.

A vacation bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee said

though festivals were important, but "life itself has been in imperil" amid the pandemic. The bench said the high court knew the local condition better and it should be allowed to do the needful.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by one Gautam Roy and the Burrabazaar Fireworks Dealers Association challenging the high court order of last Thursday banning the use and sale of firecrackers dur-

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by one Gautam Roy and the Burrabazaar Fireworks Dealers Association

ing upcoming festivals, including Kali Puja and Chhath Puja, to curb pollution. Kali Puja will be cele-

brated on Saturday.

"We are all battling for life in this situation and all of us have elderly people in our home," it observed. "We are in a situation where at this time, preservation of life is more important and the high court knows what is required at the ground level."

It said the high court had taken care of the interest of citizens, especially senior citizens who may have comorbidities.

Suburban train services resume in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Suburban train services resumed on Wednesday in Eastern and South Eastern Railways from Sealdah and Howrah after about eight months gap with the stations witnessing massive crowd build up despite the authorities maintained a strict vigil to ensure pandemic protocol.

The train services resumed after repeated protests at various suburban stations by angry commuters who complained of lack of transport facility to reach Kolkata.

Though the EMU (local) trains were not fully crowded as is witnessed during normal situations Railways authorities said expected more passengers in the coming days.

"We ran 696 trains today and will be running about 85 percent of our full running capacity during the office time," a senior official in the Eastern Railways said even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee requested the Railway authorities to increase the number of trains so as to avoid crowding of the compartments.

The Railways after a series of meetings with the State Government resumed local train services on Wednesday with alternate seating arrangements in coaches with every other seat being cross-marked in order to ensure for physical distance among passengers.

This apart spot markings were made outside the ticket counters in order to ensure social distancing, Railway author-

ities said adding the passengers were being checked with thermal screening and were being given sanitizers before entering the platform.

Passengers coming from the suburban centres looked happier with the running of the trains even as those coming from Sonarpur in South Sealdah division said how "we had shell out more than Rs 200 per day to visit our offices 50 km away from Baruipur as we had to avail of different modes of transport from buses, to auto rickshaws to share taxis... but once the trains have started we will be able to reach our offices for Rs 50 only."

Meanwhile in a related development Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday announced that there would be no selection tests for Class X and XII board examinations this year.

The decision will be relevant to the students of West Bengal Secondary and West Bengal Higher Secondary Education Board.

Earlier, the CBSE had postponed the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) (which will now be held on January 31, 2021) due to the corona pandemic.

The Chief Minister also announced the filling of 16,000 vacant government posts apart from creating three police battalions in the State. The three battalions will be christened Coochbehar-Narayani Sena as per the wishes of the local Rajbanshi population, Gorkha Battalion and Jangal Mahal battalion with 1000 personnel each.

Gujarat to reopen schools, colleges from Nov 23

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat government on Wednesday decided to reopen high and higher secondary schools and colleges in the state from November 23 subject to adherence of Covid-19 guidelines.

However, there has been no decision on reopening of primary schools. The government said it will analyse the feedback on implementation of Wednesday's decision and then decide.

Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama said: "A Cabinet meeting chaired by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Wednesday decided to reopen schools and colleges in the state. Before that, I held discussions with my department officials, education experts, academics and other stakeholders on continuation of studies.

"The Cabinet decided that after Diwali, from November 23, all high and higher secondary schools, colleges and universities will hold teaching in their respective premises. For this, they shall strictly follow the Standard Operating Protocol of the central government."

"In the first stage, in colleges and universities, classes for postgraduate, medical and paramedical students will be resumed. Moreover, classes of only final-year students of undergraduate courses will be resumed. In engineering streams also, classes of final-year students will resume. Similarly, ITIs and polytechnics will be reopened. The present system of providing online education will also have to be continued by various institutes in the state," added Chudasama.

The Minister said that the decision was applicable to all schools and colleges in the state -- government, grant in aid, self-financed, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and all schools under Social Justice and Empowerment Department. For the remaining schools, the government will decide later.

The Minister said that though attendance by students will not be mandatory, schools and colleges will have to obtain written consents from parents on a form provided by the government.

AIANS

VP calls for change in lifestyle to make water conservation way of life

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Underlining that water is a finite resource, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday called for a change in lifestyle and make water conservation a way of life.

He said reduced use of water also results in less use of energy required for pumping and supplying water to homes, offices and farming activities. In effect, it will also help in reducing pollution, he noted.

"Unless we reduce the wastage of water and take up saving and conservation of water on a war footing, there is a danger of potable water becoming a scarce resource in the future," Naidu said.

With the rising population, he said, urbanisation, industrialisation and expanding agricultural activities, the water requirement will continue to increase.

"The key message that needs to be taken to people again and again is this:

the water that is available is finite. It is not unlimited. It is the responsibility of each and every citizen to save water and use it judiciously. The need of the hour is to change our lifestyles and make water conservation a way of life," Naidu said.

The vice president was speaking at the National Water Awards to honour the excellence in water management and conservation across the nation. Tamil Nadu bagged the 'Best State' award, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Practises like micro-irrigation, drip and sprinkler systems have to be promoted in a big way for efficient use of water for agriculture, he said.

"Reduce, reuse and recycle must be the watchwords if we have to handover a sustainable and liveable planet to the future generations," he said.

Naidu pointed out that watershed development is another area that can spur local economic development.

New 'hidden' gene in Covid-19 virus identified

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers have identified a new "hidden" gene in SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19, that may have contributed to its unique biology and pandemic potential. In a virus that only has about 15 genes in total, knowing more about this and other overlapping genes — or 'genes within genes' — could have a significant impact on how we combat the virus.

"Overlapping genes may be one of an arsenal of ways in which coronaviruses have evolved to replicate efficiently, thwart host immunity, or get themselves transmitted," said lead author Chase Nelson, a postdoctoral researcher at Academia Sinica in Taiwan and a visiting scientist at the American Museum of Natural History.

"Knowing that overlapping genes exist and how they function may reveal new avenues for coronavirus control, for example through antiviral

drugs."

The research team identified ORF3d, a new overlapping gene in SARS-CoV-2 that has the potential to encode a protein that is longer than expected by chance alone, according to the study published in the journal eLife.

They found that this gene is also present in a previously discovered pangolin coronavirus, perhaps reflecting repeated loss or gain of this gene during the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses.

In addition, ORF3d has been independently identified and shown to elicit a strong antibody response in Covid-19 patients, demonstrating that the new gene's protein is manufactured during human infection.

"We don't yet know its function or if there's clinical significance," Nelson said.

"But we predict this gene is relatively unlikely to be detected by a T-cell response, in contrast to the antibody response.

And maybe that has something to do with how the gene was able to arise."

Overlapping genes are hard to spot, and most scientific computer programmes are not designed to find them. However, they are common in viruses.

This is partly because RNA viruses have a high mutation rate, so they tend to keep their gene count low to prevent a large number of mutations.

As a result, viruses have evolved a sort of data compression system in which one letter in its genome can contribute to two or even three different genes.

"Missing overlapping genes puts us in peril of overlooking important aspects of viral biology," said Nelson.

"In terms of genome size, SARS-CoV-2 and its relatives are among the longest RNA viruses that exist. They are thus perhaps more prone to 'genomic trickery' than other RNA viruses."

Swapna Suresh's statement shakes Kerala Government

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Scams associated with the SLIFE Mission and Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-Fone), the two flag ship mega infrastructure projects of the ruling Left Democratic Front Government in the State turned worse with Swapna Suresh, the third accused in the gold smuggling case telling the Enforcement Directorate officials that all illegal transactions and deals involving these programmes were carried out with the full knowledge of the Chief Minister's Office.

Ramesh Chennithala, Kerala's Leader of the Opposition, alleged on Wednesday that the Chief Minister's Office has become the epicentre of corruption, smuggling and anti-national activities. Reacting to the report submitted by the ED in the court on Wednesday, he

alleged that he State administration is under the control of a cabal consisting of corrupt officials, party leaders and smugglers.

In a report submitted to the court on Wednesday seeking an extension of the custody of M Sivasankar, the former principal secretary to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the ED told the court that the bureaucrat refused to answer the questions posed to him by the investigation team. Since Sivasankar was not cooperating with the ED, the agency took into custody Swapna Suresh with the concurrence of the court and she was interrogated.

Swapna, who had close liaison with Sivasankar told the ED officials that the former principal secretary was privy to all illegal and underhand dealings associated with the LIFE Mission and K-Fone projects. The Rs one crore seized from

a ban locker in her name was the bribe amount meant for Sivasankar from one of the beneficiaries of the LIFE Mission project, Swapna reportedly told the ED team. She also disclosed that she too had certain roles in the award of contracts and business associated with these projects.

In yet another setback to the CPI(M), Bineesh Kosiye, son of party secretary Kodiye Balakrishnan, who was arrested by the ED in connection with money laundering and financing of narcotics trade was sent to judicial custody for 14 days on Wednesday by a court in Bangalore. Bineesh's custody period under the ED got over on Wednesday. Though the ED did not ask for extending his custody period, the agency opposed granting of bail to him on the ground that he wielded massive political and official influence.

Kerala CM, Kodiye using party as shield for all corrupt deals: Cong

AIANS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Launching an attack against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and CPI-M state Secretary Kodiye Balakrishnan, Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said on Wednesday that both these leaders are now caught neck-deep in numerous scams and are using the CPI-M as a

shield.

An affidavit filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a court containing the statement of the prime accused in the gold smuggling case, Swapna Suresh, stated for the first time on Wednesday that the former Secretary to Vijayan - M. Sivasankar - and his 'team' in the office of the CM knew about all the deals, including the gold smuggling

case.

This was filed by the financial probe agency after the court extended the ED custody of senior IAS officer Sivasankar, which ended on Wednesday, by one more day.

Chennithala said that never before did the party or any other state government reach the position where the present leadership has reached.

Single party rule

With the BJP wresting many seats from the Congress and reducing even regional parties to irrelevance, can federalism hold out?



Is the BJP well on its way to becoming the grand ruling party and the Congress the grand old — obsolescent would be more apt — party? Bihar may have just been the microcosm for the rest of India as the byelection results have largely borne out the two trends it has thrown up. First is the continued popularity and acceptability of Prime Minister Narendra Modi despite the bad year of the pandemic. People still believe he can deliver despite the lockdown-induced reverse migration, the sharp economic downturn and a moderate relief package that was mostly credit-based. The common voter has clearly responded to short-term stress alleviation

measures like the welfarist doles of foodgrains and some direct cash transfers as symptomatic of the Government's larger concern and action. Of course, one doesn't expect the Modi aura to diminish within a year of a mammoth Lok Sabha victory but the pandemic threw an unprecedented challenge and if he has emerged relatively unscathed through troubled times, then he is expected to hold on to his leadership stock, no matter how flawed the pandemic management may seem. And through his repeated national address on each crisis and *Mann ki Baat* broadcasts, he has convinced ordinary voters that he was doing his best and was purposive enough about the responsibility they had given him despite his helplessness with resources. He has got the benefit of doubt. COVID is his booster shot considering the BJP lost Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi before it. The Congress, in comparison, hardly seems a catalytic converter of serious issues, ranting rather than presenting a better alternative that makes sense to the voter. Second, Modi's persona is heaving down on the bread and butter agenda, making it look immaterial or secondary to the larger scheme of nationalism, which has been dressed up with Hindutva. In his election speeches, rarely did Modi mention joblessness, education or a national rebuild programme except the old tropes of Ram temple, Pulwama and guiltless majoritarianism. Local issues are always more real and Modi's monolithic swamping of regional parties and allies seems to have supplanted them with demagoguery and bombast, one that made Bihar voters forget the promises that he did not keep from 2015. Young Tejashwi Yadav may have been a generational disruptor, forcing Modi to confront economic realities of the State and holding him to account on performance rather than shaming, but without the power of governance, one wonders how feisty federal leaders will be, given the trampling narrative that is being played out across the country. Can federalism hold itself up to the BJP's centripetal force in State after State, almost making development hostage to the Central party's largesse and grace and the vote a transaction of mutual benefits rather than a democratic process? Yes there is defiance but that is an abstraction, not as palpable as the numbers needed on the board. And the BJP has clearly mastered arithmetic, ensuring all its voters turn out, deploying Modi as its magic wand in the last rounds of the campaign.

The BJP won 41 of the 59 seats across 11 States, including Madhya Pradesh (MP), where it stamped its rule, picking up 19 of the 28 seats. Contrast this with the one-time national party, the Congress, which had sitting MLAs in more than 40 seats but won 12 seats while two seats were won by the BJD. One seat each was won by the Samajwadi Party (SP), the JMM and the NDDP and two went to Independents. The BJP wrested eight seats from the Congress in Gujarat, four seats in Manipur and retained its six constituencies in Uttar Pradesh (UP). It won two seats in Karnataka and one in Telangana. In Gujarat, the Congress, which had fought the BJP creditably in the last Assembly election and could have actually consolidated itself as a credible Opposition, instead lost MLAs to its rival. It paid a heavy price as five of those who won were once its own. This despite making Patidar leader Hardik Patel the State working president over senior claimants. This senior clout vs junior aspiration cost the Congress its Government in MP. And the byelection there, primarily necessitated by Jyotiraditya Scindia's exit with his loyalist MLAs, only proved why festering wounds can only bleed the party further. The bypolls became a prestige issue for Jyotiraditya with 16 seats in the Gwalior belt. First, he had to prove to the Congress that he commanded the ground on his personal merit and not because of the party or former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. Second, he had to convince the BJP that he deserved a place in the hierarchy of its State leaders. With his efforts, he won nine seats in his bastion as the BJP ended up getting more seats than it needed to stay in power comfortably. In Karnataka, the BJP wrested Sira and Rajarajeshwarinagar from the Janata Dal (Secular) and Congress respectively. The two-time Congress legislator, whose resignation had necessitated the byelection in RR Nagar, polled more votes as the BJP candidate. The BJP even opened its account in Sira, considered part of the Vokkaliga heartland, which, given that JD(S) leader HD Deve Gowda belongs to the same caste and the Congress has a sizeable voteshare, should have voted predictably. As for UP, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav may dream of a regime change in 2022 but can he afford to be unrealistic winning just one seat now? The Congress is now sadly a vote-cutter than a vote-getter and better rebuild its organisational matrix than chase verdicts. As for federal parties, they need to nurture even their known constituents, focus on State concerns and be as aggressive as Tejashwi has been in Bihar. They can be the only wall against the BJP's wanton march.

Let Virat do his thing

There is nothing wrong with the Indian cricket team captain wanting to be beside his wife when she delivers their baby



Paternity leave is a serious issue even if we do not think of it much in India. In many developed nations, working men are given time off, time that is often mandated by law to be with their new-born children and share parenting responsibilities. This is where India's patriarchal society actually counts against men as culturally they are not expected to be part of the child-rearing process as much as their Western counterparts. So much so that the concept of paternity leave is considered alien in all but a few Indian companies. Indeed even the Indian subsidiaries of many multinationals find extended paternity leave difficult to comprehend. And

it is even tougher for many professionals. We even have women going back to work days after giving birth, let alone men.

Yes, many Indians do not have the luxury of taking maternity or paternity leave but in case they can afford that privilege, why do we bemoan it? So what if Anushka Sharma's husband happens to be the Indian cricket team captain and will leave a tour halfway to be with her when she delivers their child. Virat Kohli has achieved huge milestones in his career and owes nobody, other than his family, anything. Those who have come out and questioned his professionalism and patriotism are talking nonsense. We do not talk like this of other athletes, even cricketers, in developed countries. Yes, it is apparent that Sharma and Kohli can afford the best help money can buy but why shouldn't the two of them be together when they do the single most important thing that a man and woman do together, that is bringing a new life into this world? Kohli is assured of his talent and his place in the Indian team. However, if afterwards, he wants to quit the sport to be with his child, so what? He is unlikely to do that but we have to all grow up and understand that fathers have to play a bigger role in the child-rearing process. Maybe Kohli doing what he is doing will inspire other men to stand up and be a stakeholder in their child's development. Sharing the first few months of a new-born's life may not be remembered by the child when he/she grows up but will definitely be cherished by the father and mother for the rest of their lives. So let Virat do his thing.



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

River Cauvery, the lifeline of Tamil Nadu, flows quietly nowadays. The political waters in the State, too, resemble the flow of Cauvery, though the former may not be as pure and serene as the sacred river. There are many undercurrents and swirls beneath the calm that can even take a wild tusker down to the river bed.

Uncertainty is the hallmark of Tamil Nadu's political landscape as this article is being written. The main characters in the State's vast electoral arena are, as usual, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). These two Dravidian majors have so far played the lead roles while national parties like the Indian National Congress and the BJP along with other fringe parties, have been mere sidekicks.

The Congress, which ruled the State uninterrupted till 1967, is a pale shadow of what it was in the 1960s because both the DMK and the AIADMK have sucked the entire blood out of India's grand old party. It is left with more leaders than the cadre, according to political chroniclers like N Kalyanasundaram, a close associate of the legendary K Kamaraj.

The DMK has been out of power in the State since a political tsunami by the name of J Jayalalithaa, who obliterated the party in the two Assembly elections held in 2011 and 2016 and also in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. But Jayalalithaa, who single-handedly took on all her political rivals, including M Karunanidhi of the DMK, is not around to lead the AIADMK. After her untimely death on December 5, 2016, the AIADMK has started disintegrating faster than expected. The powerful faction led by VK Sasikala, Jayalalithaa's closest aide till she breathed her last, has come out of the AIADMK and formed a new entity by the name of Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), claiming to be the true inheritor of *Puratchi Thalaivi's* legacy. The factions led by Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami (EPS) and deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS) are at each other's throat. There is no dearth of group wars in the AIADMK as another faction led by D Jayakumar, former Speaker, is also in the fray to usurp the party's leadership.

The AIADMK had an electoral



alliance with the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Both EPS and OPS would not like to remember that experience because they violated the cardinal rule set by Jayalalithaa that there should not be any kind of alliance with the BJP. The Hindutva party, which contested as a junior partner, drew a blank while the AIADMK had to be content with just one seat. The other alliance partners, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Puthiya Tamilagam (PT), too ended up as also-rans.

This time the AIADMK is likely to keep the BJP out from its electoral strategy because it is afraid of losing the minority votes. The Muslims in Tamil Nadu are upset over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as well as the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution. The tightening of the Foreign Currency Regulation Act and Foreign Exchange Management Act have throttled the revenue sources of the churches and this has affected many major initiatives like the anti-nuclear reactor agitation at Kudankulam and the evangelisation drive.

Except in the 1998 Lok Sabha election, the AIADMK-BJP alliance has been a total failure in Tamil Nadu. Though pro-DMK political commentators push the theory that the EPS Government is surviving because of the tacit support of the BJP, there are no visible signs of any deals between these two parties. During the 2019 seat allocation discussions, all that the BJP could get from the AIADMK were five seats. The

attitude of the AIADMK leaders towards the saffron brigade was "take it or leave it". The BJP did not get any seats during the biennial Rajya Sabha election from the AIADMK. EPS played his cards well and managed to get whatever he had asked from the Centre.

When he was sworn in as the Chief Minister in February 2017 with the blessings of Sasikala, who had to surrender at the Parappana Agrahara Prison following the Supreme Court's order upholding the sentence in a disproportionate asset case, Tamil Nadu was agog with apprehension about the longevity of the Government. Opposition leader MK Stalin repeatedly said that the EPS Government was in ICU and hooked on to the life support system provided by the BJP. But EPS slowly and steadily took control of the situation despite the wafer-thin majority in the House.

He survived many anxious moments when 18 MLAs, owing allegiance to Sasikala, withdrew their support to him but they were disqualified by the Speaker. The byelection necessitated by their disqualification saw the AIADMK managing to win nine seats though the DMK wrested the remaining nine. The AIADMK further consolidated its position in the House by wresting two more seats from the DMK and the Congress. But that is of academic interest only.

The AIADMK is, indeed, unlikely to repeat its performances in the 2011 and 2016 Assembly elections and the 2014 Lok Sabha polls anymore because of the absence of a charismatic leader like Jayalalithaa. The internal struggle in the party would

add to the woes of EPS.

Besides, there is an anti-incumbency sentiment which has been fuelled by a section of the media. Though there are charges of corruption against the Government, nothing has been proved till date. Except for the rioting at Thoothukudi, demanding the closure of the Sterlite Copper Plant, which resulted in 15 people losing their lives in police firing, there were no major incidents in the sphere of law and order. The Government has to convince the people about the number of new jobs it has created during the last five years and also the steps it has taken to revive the micro, small and medium industries, which were shut down as a result of the 2018 floods in Chennai as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The DMK, too, is not in a comfortable position due to internal squabbles in the party, though it has an advantage of heading a secular front. The general allegation is that the party is being controlled by Stalin's wife Durga, son Udhayanidhi and son-in-law Sabari. The latter is credited with rebooting and rebranding Stalin, who has started sporting a new hairstyle and wardrobe in synchronisation with the changing times. For Stalin, it is a do or die battle because age is not on his side. At 68, he is the oldest chief ministerial candidate in the fray and would be Tamil Nadu's Joe Biden if he wrests power. M Karunanidhi, his late father, became the Chief Minister at the age of 45 while his *bete noire* MG Ramachandran was sworn in at the age of 60. Jayalalithaa became the Chief Minister for the first

time while she was just 43.

The allocation of seats to allies would be a major hurdle for Stalin in the run-up to the election. Though the alliance partners are yet to be finalised, it is almost sure that the DMK-led front would comprise the Congress, the Communists, the Muslim League and the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi. A question being asked is whether PMK, the Vanniyar dominated party, and Makkal Needhi Maiaam, the outfit launched by Kamal Haasan, would cast their lot with the DMK. Dr S Ramadoss, founder of the PMK, has only one mission in his life, to make his son Anbumani the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. And film actor Haasan has already declared that he would be the chief ministerial candidate of the party. On the other side, we have Vijayakanth, founder of the DMDK, who too has the same ambition.

There are only 234 seats at stake in Tamil Nadu. DMK would certainly pocket at least 130 seats because Stalin prefers to form a Government of his own and does not like to share power. Even in 2006, when the party won just 96 seats, M Karunanidhi kept the alliance partners at bay and ruled the State for five years with outside support extended by the allies. The Congress, the Muslim League, the VCK and the Communists are sure to ask their pound of flesh this time. So, Stalin is left with the task of winning 91 per cent of the seats to be contested by the DMK for realising his dream of becoming the Chief Minister.

The question that remains unanswered is Rajinikanth and his much talked about spiritual politics. Time is too short for Rajinikanth to emulate what NT Rama Rao did in Andhra Pradesh in 1982 by launching the Telugu Desam Party. The actor himself is on record stating that his doctors have advised him against heavy work and also to be careful about the pandemic. Rajinikanth has undergone a kidney transplant and at 70, is unlikely to gamble with his life. Moreover, he is more about hype and politics is cricket to him.

As things stand today, Tamil Nadu faces the prospect of a fractured Assembly and discussions are taking place about the kind of permutations and combinations the alliance Government would have after the election. It is too early to predict more than this as the political line-up is yet to be decided. The election is still five months away and even five days are too long a period in politics. Meanwhile, quiet flows the Cauvery.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

SOUNDBITE

I called on member States to reiterate their commitment to fair allocation of a COVID-19 vaccine. We mustn't leave any country behind in the response.



WHO Director-General
—Tedros A Ghebreyesus

The remarkable performance of RJD to emerge as the single largest party in Bihar inspires confidence in our democracy.



DMK chief
—MK Stalin

We fought together with RJD and Left parties. We helped each other but were unable to reach at magical figure of 122. So, we are not satisfied with the numbers.



Bihar Congress chief
—Madan Mohan Jha

These next few months will be important for me and I hope I can prove my mettle ahead of the Olympic Games. It is not easy going about a set routine and living in a bio-bubble.



Hockey player
—Gurjant Singh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congress blunder

Sir — The *Mahagathbandhan* or the grand alliance gave the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a tough competition in the Bihar Assembly election and managed to win 110 seats. However, one cannot overlook the fact that it is because of the debacle of the Congress party that it lost a good opportunity to form the Government. Against the 70 seats allotted to the grand old party, it was able to win only 19, thereby spoiling the alliance's chances of victory. The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) must be regretting its decision to accommodate the Congress with such a huge number of seats.

The results of the Bihar election should be an eye-opener to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which also lost a fair chance of winning the 2016 Assembly elections mainly due to the abysmal performance of its ally, the Congress. The party managed to win only eight constituencies against a bulk of 41 seats it had demanded. The DMK missed the magic number of 117 by just 19 in the said election. The southern party has a very fair chance of winning the Assembly elections in 2021.

What Tejashwi needs to do now

Much against the predictions made in the exit polls, the Nitish Kumar-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has been able to retain power in the Bihar Assembly election. Despite the distress caused by the lockdown, which led to hundreds of thousands of the State's migrants returning home, there is a fundamental trust that a large segment of the citizens has in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Make no mistake, if Modi had not been the face of the alliance, it would have been difficult for the NDA to retain its base. The fact that the BJP has emerged as the senior partner in Bihar, and has also won the majority of the bypolls across the country, indicates that the voters aren't holding the party responsible for the economic and humanitarian disaster caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) may have failed to oust the NDA but Tejashwi Yadav ran an energetic campaign focused on "economic justice" and emerged a key leader in his own right. The fact that the promise of Government jobs became an agenda of competitive



politics is a reflection of how the youth are seeking reforms that can generate employment. While this triggered disillusionment and voters wanted change, the nature of change was equally important. And this is where Tejashwi failed. Unconvinced about the nature of change, voters stuck to the status quo.

N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Delhi COVID scare

Sir — On November 10, Delhi recorded 7,830 fresh Coronavirus cases, the highest single-day spike till date, taking the infection tally in the national Capital to over 4.5 lakh with 83 fatalities, pushing the number of deaths to 7,143. The State Government should re-impose partial lockdowns in the city by

Delhi COVID scare

closing religious institutions, cinema halls, restaurants and other such places. With Diwali just around the corner, super-spreading events with attendees not adhering to COVID protocols must be prevented. Following Mumbai's system of complete lockdown on Sundays, the national Capital, too, needs to work out a similar model. There should be a complete

lockdown on weekends from 10 pm on Friday till 6 am on Monday.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal
Chandni Chowk

IPL 2020 ends

Sir — The Indian Premier League ended on a high note with Mumbai Indians winning the tournament. It is truly commendable how the Board of Control for Cricket in India and Emirates Cricket Board along with other stakeholders were able to pull off such an event during the ongoing pandemic. With strict COVID protocols in place and all the eight teams being kept in strict, bio-secure "bubbles" since landing in the UAE, the organisers made sure that the players and everyone else involved were safe. And though the stadiums were empty without spectators, the game didn't lose its vigour and excitement as millions of people followed it from the safety of their homes. It demonstrated how sport can survive in the new normal.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A renewed focus on HR

'Talentship' is the term coined for decision science on staff talent resources. It is to HR what finance is to accounting and what marketing is to sales



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Human Resource (HR) management is considered secondary to finance and marketing. Corporate leaders do not spare as much time for talent management as they do for investment allocation, customer service, marketing, product line and technology. Hence, the HR function is limited to delivery of programmes like skill development, incentives, hiring, learning, development and so on. This limits its scope exponentially. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a paradigm shift to enhance the function of HR managers to include decision-making about talent, as one cannot emphasise enough the importance of relevant human capital for the success of any organisation. Current business trends like globalisation, adoption of digital technology, labour scarcity, mergers and acquisitions, expanding and scaling down simultaneously and the changing demographic profile of workers make this transformation vital.

Even when it performs well, traditional HR function falls short of expectations. Unlike finance, operation and marketing, there appears to be no clear distinction between strategic and tactical HR. While strategic HR is more of a vision to be considered the best employer in the industry, tactical HR concerns the daily operations of managing employee benefit programmes and various rules and regulations. There are several areas that are left unanswered in traditional HR, like a thin plausible association between the core business principle and the talent management process. Employee management goals are mostly general in nature, such as headcount, labour costs, standard HR programmes and so on. These have no correlation with competitive success and shareholder value.

Although sizeable investments are done in HR management techniques, like balanced scorecards, analytics and so on to enhance staff capabilities, they rarely play a significant role in mergers and acquisitions and new market entries. They also provide insufficient understanding of a company's competitive advantage developed through engaged employees. HR programmes are more like "one-size-fits all." For instance, in marketing, it cannot be suggested that all products should have the same number of hours of advertising. Because, how can that be? Some may require it more than others. However, this way of functioning is prevalent in HR, that is, "50 hours of quality training" can be a standard statement for all workers. This type of training is less precise and may not be fully effective. Hence, traditional HR functions do not help leaders make better decisions about those resources to drive organisational effectiveness.

Where does the solution lie? Many researchers believe that the key is better metrics. As discussed above, HR measurements are limited to Return on Investments of programmes, balanced scorecards and improvement in Six-Sigma scores. Metrics like HR accounting, quality, branding and balanced scorecards are, no doubt, useful systems, if applied correctly, but they rarely address the fundamental challenge of improving talent decisions. However, according to the Corporate Leadership Council (2001), the two most significant and crucial areas of HR measurement, that is to augment decisions about human capital and associate HR to strategy, are seldom taken care of. Decision science has long been used in marketing, finance and operations and can be extended to HR functions too. It helps by providing a valid, dependable and steady framework that boosts the decision-making capability at all levels. Similar to finance and marketing function, HR helps in another critical aspect — talent. For organisations to achieve success, effective and professional decision-making is required in finance, marketing and talent markets.

"Talentship" is the term coined for decision science on staff talent resources. In fact, "talentship" is to HR what finance is to accounting, and what marketing is to sales. It is believed that from the point of view of HR, organisational success can be improved by enhancing the decisions on talent resources. As this concept of talentship evolves, success will come to companies not because of HR practices but due to the improved decision-making quality about talent resources throughout the firm. Similar to the finance and marketing department, talent decisions exist at various levels within a firm, with supervisors and managers deciding about the available staff and their personal talent. To gain any say in influential and strategic business planning processes, HR should focus more on a unique approach, focussed on talent, with a perspective of improving decisions and not just a process of implementing decisions. Every firm must make the "talentship" decision science workable by creating tools that facilitate decision-makers to make the right choices and develop interlinkages with strategic success. Without a proper framework, it is easy to get lost in myriad information and opinions and lose sight of the key issues, and therefore, the strategic vision.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)

ON JANUARY 20, WE'LL HAVE A TRANSITION, WHETHER IT'S TO A TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OR ONE LED BY FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT BIDEN.
—US SECRETARY OF STATE
MIKE POMPEO

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



SECRETARY POMPEO SHOULDN'T PLAY ALONG WITH BASELESS AND DANGEROUS ATTACKS ON THE LEGITIMACY OF LAST WEEK'S ELECTION.
—CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ELIOT ENGEL

A wake-up call

The UP bypoll results have sent a message loud and clear to Opposition leaders. They need to revisit their election strategy and stitch up a mass connect



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

In an informal chat in April, the Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav told this reporter that his party would win 350 seats in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh (UP) Assembly elections. "Anger is brewing among the masses against the Yogi Adityanath Government. They have made up their mind to oust the BJP Government in UP. We only need to channelise that anger to the polling booths and we will succeed," he had said gleefully. Theoretically he might be right but politics is all about sending the correct message across. This requires political leaders to shun their air-conditioned comfort and slog it out in the heat and dust on the ground, shoulder-to-shoulder with party workers. What happened in the recently-concluded byelections in UP clearly shows Akhilesh's disconnect with ground reality.

There is no doubt that people are angry with BJP Governments — both at the Centre and in the State — for various reasons, right from the poor law and order situation to the increase in economic woes. But the bypoll result shows that the BJP was able to placate that anger and convince voters that it was the only party which could work for the betterment of the masses. On the other hand, the Opposition failed to channelise that anger into votes.

The bypolls were necessitated by the deaths of sitting MLAs in Bulandshahr, Deoria, Malhahi, Naugaon Sadat and Ghatampur. The Tundla seat fell vacant after its MLA, SP 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. The results show that the SP bagged just one seat, Malhahi, out of the seven it contested, by a margin of just over 3,000 votes, while the BJP retained six seats. As per the Election Commission figures, the BJP got a vote share of 36.7 per cent, followed by 23.6 per cent by the SP, 19 per cent by the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), 7.5 per cent by the Congress and 11.4 per cent by others.

Seven is a minuscule number when you compare it with the total strength of the UP Assembly which stands at 403. But the number is enough to gauge the mood of the voters, particularly when the election was held in the backdrop of the Hathras incident where a Dalit girl was gang-raped and beaten up, leading to her death after a prolonged struggle for life in hospital. The incident raised a hue and cry across the country and was equated to the Nirbhaya case in Delhi. The Opposition even demanded imposition of President's Rule in UP, saying the law and order situation in the State was at its nadir and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had lost the moral right to rule.

Besides, the Opposition built a narrative of the Thakur Chief Minister being anti-Brahmin after the incident in Kanpur Dehat where ganglord Vikas Dubey gunned down eight policemen and was later killed in a police encounter while in transit from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh to Kanpur. The election in Deoria, in eastern UP, where all the parties had fielded Brahmin candidates, carried the tag of "a contest for Brahmin samman (pride)." It was said that a loss in Deoria would prove the anti-Brahmin



THE STYLE OF CAMPAIGNING BY POLITICAL PARTIES REFLECTS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE LEADERS. YOGI ADITYANATH LED THE CAMPAIGN BY ADDRESSING PUBLIC MEETINGS IN ALL THE ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES. THE NARRATIVE OF THE BYPOLL WAS VERY SIMPLE AND HE ONLY CONCENTRATED ON THE WORK HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DONE IN THE LAST THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS. OPPOSITION LEADERS DID NOT HIT THE GROUND



credentials of the UP Government.

Then there was the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the reverse migration of labourers from the cities to their native villages in UP and Bihar. This, and the rise in prices of essential commodities in the recent past, also added to the woes of the ruling party. In this scenario, the BJP's loss in the byelections would have lent credence to the Opposition's allegations that the popularity of the saffron party was on the wane. But that did not occur.

So what happened? Many factors could have led to the victory of the BJP in the byelections. One of them could be the BSP entering the fray and forcing a four-cornered contest, fragmenting the negative vote. The BSP did not have anything to lose in this bypoll as the party had not won a single seat in these seven constituencies in the 2017 Assembly elections. At that time it got 23.62 per cent votes and this time, it got just about 19 per cent votes. Though there has been a dip in the percentage, by and large the party has been able to retain its core vote-bank of Dalits. In western UP, Muslims, too, voted in favour of Mayawati in patches despite her suicidal statement about a secret deal with the BJP to ensure the SP's defeat in the UP Legislative Council elections.

But the biggest sufferer is the SP, despite clocking 23 per cent votes. Though it won Malhahi in Jaunpur, it came second in the three seats of Naugaon Sadat (Amroha), Tundla (Firozabad) and Deoria. Shockingly, the party was pushed to third position in Bangarmau (Unnao) and fourth place in the Ghatampur (Kanpur) seat.

Just a few days before polling, the SP had roped in former Congress MP from Unnao, Annu Tandon, but this failed to give the party an impetus in Bangarmau. In the 2017 Assembly elections, the SP had got 25.27 per cent votes in these six seats. So its voteshare declined by around two per cent in this bypoll.

The SP had left the seventh seat of Bulandshahr for its ally, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), which could manage only 7,286 votes. In the 2017 Assembly elections, the party had got over 17,000 votes from this constituency but in the byelections, both the RLD and the SP failed to transfer their votes. The Congress, on the other hand, did comparatively better than the main Opposition parties like the SP and the BSP. The party contested six seats and got only 7.5 per cent votes but in three constituencies, the Congress did better than the SP. In Bangarmau and Ghatampur, it was in second position while in Bulandshahr it was in third place where the alliance partners RLD and SP came in fourth.

So the big question is if complacency cost the Opposition parties dear. The answer could be found in a comparison of the election strategy of the BJP with that of the Congress, the SP and the BSP. Aware that it was facing an anti-incumbency factor, the BJP did not leave anything to chance. In the saffron party, Yogi Adityanath took the lead and campaigned in all the seven constituencies. Eight Ministers were made in-charge of seven constituencies and other Ministers and senior party leaders were asked to carry out intensive election campaigns where they talked

about the policies of the Central and State governments and how they had benefited the poor.

In comparison, Akhilesh and Mayawati did not address a single meeting, perhaps because they feared the Coronavirus outbreak. In Mayawati's absence, Satish Chandra Mishra, who is the BSP's Brahmin face, led the party's campaign. In the grand old party, only State Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu addressed some meetings while senior leaders in Delhi "operated" through tweets and statements.

The style of campaigning of political parties reflects the seriousness of the leaders in the elections. Yogi led the campaign by addressing public meetings in all the Assembly constituencies. The narrative of the bypoll was very simple and Yogi only concentrated on the work his Government had done in the last three-and-a-half years. The election results have put a stamp of approval on the development-oriented approach of his Government.

The UP byelection results have sent a message loud and clear to the Opposition. Its constituents need to revisit their election strategy. Senior SP, BSP and Congress leaders need to come out of their comfort zone and toil with party workers in the field. This will not only invigorate their cadres but also make these leaders understand the ground realities. If they fail to redesign their strategy, it would be next to impossible for them to arrest the BJP's surge in UP in the 2022 elections. The time is now, for them to learn some lessons in politics.

(The writer is Executive Director, News, Lucknow)

A flawed system that needs to change

Taking the votes on party lines for granted, the rationale of having an Electoral College inspires little confidence as it has become antiquarian and pointless



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

When Americans cast their ballot for the President on November 3, they weren't voting directly for Joe Biden or the incumbent, President Donald Trump, but rather for their State's electors. In the US, a candidate becomes President by securing the most "electoral" votes rather than by winning a majority of the national popular vote. Electors generally cast their vote for the winner of the popular vote in their respective States. They are slated to meet on December 14 and the winner must get a minimum of 270 votes.

In case no one receives the minimum prescribed votes, the House of Representatives elects the President and the Senate elects the Vice-President. The Electoral College and its procedure was established by

Article II of the US Constitution and the 12th and the 23rd Constitution Amendments. Though Joe Biden has clearly won and is now the President-elect, the outgoing President has put unsubstantiated charges of electoral fraud and embroiled the process in court cases. Trump's campaign on November 9 filed a lawsuit in a Pennsylvania federal court, seeking to block State officials from certifying Biden's victory there.

In any case, the declaration of formal victory will have to wait as the 538 members of the Electoral College will cast their votes on December 14 and the votes will be counted and certified by the Congress in a joint sitting to be held on January 6, 2021 in a session presided over by the Vice-President. The President-elect will be sworn in on January 20, 2021.

The question that agitates the people across the world is why the founding fathers of the US enshrined such a complex electoral system in the Constitution. There are many presidential electoral systems to choose from. For instance, in India — a parliamentary system — the President is elected by an Electoral College comprising the elected mem-

bers of both the Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States. In France, the President is elected by popular votes based on the two-round election system since 1965, if no candidate wins a majority of the votes in the first round. Many other countries, like Brazil, Bulgaria, Iran, Poland, Russia, Turkey and so on, have the two-round system or second ballot/runoff ballot, if no candidate receives the stipulated number of votes in the first round, Sri Lanka has a variant of the contingent vote system to elect the President. If no candidate receives an overall majority of first preference votes on the first count, then all, but the two leading candidates, are eliminated and their votes redistributed to help determine a winner in a second and final round.

However, the US Presidential electoral system is an amalgamation of popular election — that is popular votes and indirect election — comprising the Electoral College. Alexander Hamilton, one of the main architects of the US Constitution, wrote in *The Federalist Papers* about the key advantages of the Electoral College, "The electors

come directly from the people and for that purpose only, and for that time only. This avoided a party-run legislature or a permanent body that could be influenced by foreign interests before each election." The makers of the Constitution believed that since the election would take place among all the States, so no corruption in any State could taint "the great body of the people" in their selection. It was also felt that the "electors" meeting in the State capitals would be able to have information unavailable to the general public." Besides, it was argued that "since no federal officerholder could be an elector, none of the electors would be beholden to any presidential candidate."

Another consideration was that the decision to elect the President by the members of the Electoral College would be made without "tumult and disorder", as it would be a broad-based one, made simultaneously in various locales where the decision-makers could deliberate reasonably, without threat or intimidation. "If the Electoral College did not achieve a decisive majority, then the House of Representatives was to choose the president..." The Constitution makers were apprehensive about some-

body unqualified but with a talent for "low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity" attaining high office, and, therefore, conscientiously struck a novel compromise between the two systems. However, in actual practice, the process of forming the Electoral College has little significance as the voters choose the presidential candidate and his running mate and the winner takes all the votes assigned to a particular State, regardless of any narrow gap in the popular votes secured.

For instance, the State of Georgia is allocated 16 members in the Electoral College. As per the last count (final count awaited), Joe Biden secured 49.5, Trump 49.2 and Jo Jorgensen 1.2 per cent votes. If after the final count, Biden retains the lead, there will be no proportional distribution of the votes secured and all the 16 members thus elected will be of the Democratic candidate led by Joe Biden, giving credence to the dictum the "winner takes it all."

The States of Maine and Nebraska are two exceptions where, instead of a winner-takes-it-all system, the vote goes through what's known as the "Congressional district method." This system — used in

Maine since 1972 and in Nebraska since 1992 — allocates two electoral votes to the Statewide winner but allows each Congressional district to award one electoral vote to the popular vote winner in its locality. In Maine, this means that two out of four electoral votes can go to someone other than the Statewide winner; in Nebraska, three out of five electoral votes remain in play.

The members of the Electoral College, with rare inconsequential exceptions, do not disregard the popular vote by casting their vote for someone other than the party candidate. They hold, generally, a leadership position in their party or are trusted party loyalists who will uphold their pledge. A majority of the States have their own laws against faithless electors. Taking the votes on party lines for granted, the rationale of having an Electoral College inspires little confidence as it has become antiquarian and pointless.

Insofar as the federal character of the votes is concerned, that is guaranteed by the number of seats allocated to each of the States and territories, including District Columbia, for the presidential election, based on the twin principles of federalism and

population. This is reflected in the composition of the Senate, which has 100 members, two from each State regardless of its size and population and the House of Representatives, comprising 435 members, elected by each of the States and territories. California sends 53 members and smaller States like Delaware have one member.

In 2000, Democrat Al Gore received 50,999,897 votes; Republican George Bush received 50,456,002. In the Electoral College count, however, Bush, who tallied 271 electors to Gore's 266, became the President. In 2016, Hillary Clinton received 65,853,514 votes to Donald Trump's 62,984,828, but Trump got 304 electoral votes and Hillary Clinton 227.

The Electoral College system distorts the campaign as candidates give extra consideration to swing States, often compromising governance, and give over-representation to smaller States. Moreover, till the final count by the Congress, there is a long, eerie silence and speculation about a possible tie. But perhaps the people of the US are happy and content with this.

(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha)

Sensex rallies 316 pts to finish at fresh peak; Nifty crosses 12,700

Mumbai:Rallying for the eighth consecutive session, equity benchmark Sensex surged 316.02 points to close at a fresh lifetime high on Wednesday, tracking globally positive cues from large markets and strong foreign fund inflows.

After touching its all-time peak of 43,708.47 during the session, the 30-share BSE index settled 316.02 points or 0.73 per cent higher at 43,593.67.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty touched a fresh intra-day high of 12,769.75. It finished 118.05 points or 0.93 per cent up at its closing record of 12,749.15.

Tata Steel was the top gainer among the Sensex constituents, surging around 8 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, ITC, Infosys, Sun Pharma, Kotak Bank, ONGC and UltraTech Cement.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Reliance Industries, Titan, Asian Paints and HDFC Bank were in the red.

Domestic markets

remained upbeat and extended gain for the eighth consecutive day as positive sentiments among investors following clarity of coronavirus vaccine by BioNTech-Pfizer and strong 2Q corporate earnings persist, said Arjun Yash Mahajan Head Institutional Business at Reliance Securities.

"While market witnessed some amount of volatility today led by profit booking in some of the heavyweights, a sharp rebound in pharma, metals, IT and auto stocks supported market rally," he added.

Additionally, NDA's win in Bihar assembly elections bode well for domestic equities, he noted.

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

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note in early deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 3.12 per cent higher at USD 44.98 per barrel.

PTI

Rupee slumps 18 paise against US dollar to 74.36

Mumbai: The rupee declined by 18 paise to close at 74.36 against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking a strengthening American currency in the overseas market and higher crude prices.

However, a strong rally in domestic equities and unabated foreign fund inflows restricted the slide of the domestic unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a weak note at 74.24 and swung between the day's high of 74.18 and a low of 74.50 to the US dollar.

The rupee finally settled at 74.36 against the greenback, down 18 paise over its previous close.

The rupee had ended at 74.18 on Tuesday.

PTI

India has shifted from tax terrorism to tax transparency, says Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday underscored tax reforms of the past six years to say India has moved from tax terrorism to tax transparency.

Speaking at the inauguration of an office-cum-residential complex of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal at Cuttack, Modi highlighted the reduction in the corporate tax rate, simplified rate structure for individual taxpayers, faceless appeals and quick refunds.

"Tax terrorism was a common refrain during past governments. The nation has left that behind and moved towards tax transparency," he said.

"The change from tax terrorism to tax transparency has happened because we have propagated the concept of reform, perform and transform," he emphasised.

The Prime Minister further said not much happened post Independence to change the exploited and exploiter relation between the taxpayer and tax collector.

But now change is happening, he said and went on to cite measures like faceless appeals, quick refunds and dispute resolution mechanism.

"We are reforming rules and procedures and using tech-

nology," he said, adding the tax administration is being transformed.

India, he said, is among the select few nations which have codified rights and responsibilities of taxpayers. "This is an important step in restoring trust and transparency between taxpayer and tax collector."

Stating that wealth creators should be honoured, he said easing their problems will help in growth of the economy.

Acceptance of as many as 99.75 per cent of the tax returns without a doubt is a step towards trusting the taxpayer, he added.

PTI

Cabinet approves revamped VGF scheme with outlay of ₹8,100 cr

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday approved the revamped viability gap funding (VGF) scheme envisaging a total outlay of Rs 8,100 crore for encouraging investment in social as well as economic infrastructure projects. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation and revamping of the scheme for financial support to public-private partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure VGF scheme till 2024-25.

Information and

Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters here.

The revamped scheme will provide financial support to PPP projects in the infrastructure sector spread over a period of five years ending 2024-25.

Of the total amount of Rs 8,100 crore, Rs 6,000 crore has been earmarked for PPP projects in the economic infrastructure segment and remaining Rs 2,100 crore for social infrastructure projects, said an official release after the Cabinet meeting.

The earlier VGF scheme was limited to projects concerning economic infrastructure. The revamped VGF scheme will attract more PPP projects and facilitate private investment in the social sectors (health, education, waste water, solid waste management and water supply, among others).

Creation of new hospitals and schools will create many opportunities to boost employment generation, according to an official release.

PTI

12 major States may have to cut capex by ₹ 2.5-2.7 trillion in FY2021: Icra

Mumbai:Twelve major state governments including Maharashtra, Punjab and Gujarat may have to go for an aggregate cut of Rs 2.5-2.7 trillion in their budgeted capital spending in the current fiscal to make up for shortfall in revenue due to COVID-19 pandemic, rating agency Icra said in a report.

The other states include Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

"Twelve major

state governments may have to undertake an aggregate cut of Rs 2.5-2.7 trillion in their budgeted capital spending in FY2021, on account of the pandemic-induced strain to their revenue receipts," Icra said. It has projected the aggregate debt of these 12 states to deteriorate sharply to 28.9 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in FY2021 from 21.9 per cent of GSDP in FY2019, and an estimated 22.3 per cent of GSDP in FY2020.

Textile industry thanks PM for output linked incentive scheme

Coimbatore: Indian Textpreneurs Federation (ITF) on Wednesday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introduction of the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 10 key sectors, including textile products.

The scheme would enhance manufacturing capabilities and exports under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan for a period of five years. Under the scheme, Rs 10,683 crore have been allocated for textile products—man-made Fibre (MMF) segment and technical textiles. ITF convenor

Prabhu Dhamodharan said the scheme would help the apparel sector build the much-needed scale and bring specialisation as a strategy to garner focus on top MMF products which are in great demand globally.

MMF apparels is a Rs 3-lakh crore market in the US alone, he said in a press release.

The industry is confident of the Indian apparel sector using the opportunity to build capabilities in MMF sector to achieve double-digit growth in exports, he said.

NIFTY 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY50	12,680.60	12,769.75	12,571.10	12,749.15	118.05	
HINDALCO	192.5	208.25	192.1	207.3	14.95	
TATASTEEL	441.9	477.35	439.6	476	34.1	
DREDDY	47,300	49,199.90	46,911.00	48,980.00	200	
AXISBANK	579.85	611.15	576.4	606.65	23.05	
BAJAJFINSV	6,690.00	6,977.75	6,586.15	6,949.00	261.35	
ITC	179.6	185.9	178.6	185.2	6.85	
EICHERMOT	23,248.5	23,330.00	23,217.00	23,200.00	85.15	
HEROMOTOCO	2,980.00	3,075.00	2,953.20	3,060.00	108.75	
TATAMOTORS	146.5	151.5	145.65	151.1	5.1	
CIPILA	727	745.5	718.6	741.5	24.2	
GAIL	91.2	94.4	90.5	93.1	2.9	
SUNPHARMA	495	508.35	492	506.25	15.35	
INFY	1,096.00	1,126.35	1,087.00	1,123.50	32.45	
KOTAKBANK	1,774.00	1,818.45	1,760.00	1,804.95	52	
BPCL	382.8	398.4	381.6	394	11.2	
ULTRACEMCO	4,731.40	4,855.95	4,724.35	4,855.00	135.45	
DIVISLAB	3,300.00	3,372.20	3,282.05	3,335.00	89.6	
JSWSTEEL	336	344.75	332	343.95	9.15	
ONGC	714.5	72.7	70.55	72.65	1.9	
BIHARTIARTIL	467.95	481.35	464.05	475.5	11.1	
LT	10,400.00	10,628.00	10,212.5	10,567.00	23	
M&M	625	644.65	622.15	633.7	13.75	
GRASIM	792	808.6	790	807	17.5	
HCLFCLIFE	616.95	626.8	614.25	622.9	13.25	
POWERGRID	183.9	191	183.9	189.9	4	
HCLITECH	813	829	805.35	827	17.3	
HDFC	2,279.00	2,337.00	2,273.00	2,318.00	45.9	
NTPC	92	93.5	91.7	93.2	1.7	
TECHM	820	840.65	812.45	836.2	14.9	
BAJFINANCE	4,211.00	4,429.55	4,133.95	4,275.80	67.05	
TCS	2,667.95	2,692.80	2,643.40	2,687.50	37.9	
ADANIAPORTS	366.75	372.45	365.25	371.75	5	
SBILIFE	833	847	831.6	840	10.6	
WIPRO	344.5	347.75	341.5	346.6	4.3	
ICICIBANK	484.75	490.55	472.1	489.8	5.95	
SBIN	232.75	239.35	227.75	234.5	2.8	
COALINDIA	126	126.2	123.55	126.05	1.25	
MARUTI	6,859.00	6,904.00	6,753.10	6,855.00	61.55	
UPL	429	442.95	429	436.5	3.7	
SHRECEM	22,813.00	23,320.00	22,430.00	22,941.05	178.25	
IOC	84.25	85.1	83.15	84.9	0.65	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3,617.00	3,940.00	2,986.55	3,016.40	18.9	
NENTLEIND	10,670.00	16,820.05	16,475.00	16,690.15	85.4	
HINDUNILVR	2,136.00	2,138.60	2,104.60	2,135.00	-1.6	
HDFCBANK	1,399.90	1,414.80	1,370.50	1,390.15	-3.5	
BRITANNIA	3,509.00	3,541.60	3,430.55	3,492.00	-16.35	
ASIANPAINT	2,205.00	2,223.00	2,157.30	2,178.00	-21.75	
TIITAN	1,319.00	1,318.70	1,263.70	1,279.25	-26.15	
RELIANCE	2,089.00	2,095.00	1,978.10	1,999.80	-84.75	
INDUSINDBK	839	839.05	752.5	791.25	-43.95	

NIFTY NEXT 50						
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	
NIFTY NEXT 50	28,663.15	28,905.35	28,522.00	28,879.80	332.35	
AUOPHARMA	768	815	766.15	814.45	53.4	
IGL	424.9	450.5	423.95	448.75	25.6	
LUPIN	870	913.4	865	907	48.3	
BAJAJHLDNG	2,549.00	2,731.00	2,540.00	2,665.00	141.75	
ADANIGREEN	868	897.55	865.1	897.55	42.7	
TORNTPHARM	2,442.00	2,575.00	2,435.75	2,536.15	104.45	
AMBUJACEM	251.5	260.9	251.5	260	10.1	
HINDZINC	217.75	225.5	216.5	225.05	7.8	
MOTHERSUMI	127.45	132.4	126.9	131.7	4.3	
CONCOR	388.8	408	386.6	400.2	12.1	
BIOCAN	410	420.5	406.25	416.25	10.1	
BOSCHLTD	11,899.90	12,447.95	11,464.5	12,266.00	265.9	
COLPAL	1,475.00	1,502.45	1,464.75	1,500.00	32.5	
ICICIPRULI	424.4	440.45	423.25	429.75	8.3	
GODREJCP	678	690.6	676.2	689.2	12.2	
MARICO	371.3	376.65	364.3	376.1	6.6	
CADILAH	414.9	419	411.1	415.95	6.55	
DMART	2,373.90	2,403.00	2,361.00	2,398.00	35.6	
ADANITRANS	315.2	324.5	311.3	319.55	4.75	
PFC	98.15	99.45	97.2	99.2	1.25	
TATACONSUM	499.5	504.9	495	504.55	6.15	
DLF	179.5	183.8	177.3	182.6	2.1	
SIEMENS	1,361.15	1,383.85	1,353.25	1,372.30	14.65	
BERGEPAINT	644	651.5	638	648.05	6.75	
HINDPETRO	213	217.4	209.1	216.6	2.1	
ACC	1,666.00	1,679.90	1,648.10	1,675.25	15.95	
PEL	1,392.70	1,414.55	1,381.30	1,394.00	12.25	
PETRONET	239.15	245	239.15	241.2	2.1	
GICRE	123.35	125.1	122.7	123.7	0.85	
MCDOWELL-N	568.7	571.4	553.6	567.4	3.45	
INFRATEL	178.4	179.6	175.4	177.85	0.85	
OFSS	3,083.40	3,091.80	3,053.00	3,080.00	11.7	
NAUKRI	3,460.00	3,588.95	3,450.20	3,550.00	13.3	
ICICIGI	1,274.40	1,281.95	1,241.40	1,264.00	-5.25	
INDIGO	1,612.05	1,632.00	1,595.60	1,620.00	-7.55	
PIDILITIND	1,578.00	1,594.55	1,541.90	1,564.85	-8.85	
DABUR	516.8	519.25	505.6	510.25	-3	
ABBOTINDIA	15,555.00	15,648.90	15,365.00	15,409.95	-94.6	
BANDHANBNK	348.8	351.85	331.8	342.45	-2.5	
HDFCAMC	2,450.05	2,496.75	2,411.50	2,430.00	-17.75	
PNB	29.8	30.3	28.85	29.35	-0.25	
UTI	3,053.90	3,105.00	2,990.00	2,990.30	-33.5	
LBI	1,053.95	1,055.95	1,035.00	1,041.00	-12.95	
ALKEM	2,730.00	2,739.20	2,641.05	2,686.15	-36.05	
MUTHOOTFIN	1,214.90	1,214.90	1,161.00	1,167.95	-17.2	
PGHH	11,493.00	11,493.00	10,650.00	11,100.00	-218.6	
KANKBARODA	48.3	48.9	46.7	47.1	-1.1	
HAVELLS	842.9	842.9	806	815.3	-26.35	
NMDC	92.45	92.45	88.2	90.8	-3.2	
SBICARD	840	842	801.1	805.4	-34.3	

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP
ICICIGI	1268.4	1278.2	1242	1265.45
BAJFINANCE	4210	4429.55	4133.5	4269
RELIANCE	2092	2095.35	1979	1996.9
INDUSINDBK	842	842	752.5	788.15
KOTAKBANK	1776.8	1817.8	1759.55	1807.4
ICICIBANK	484.5	490.5	472.25	486.5
TATAMOTORS	146	151.4	145.75	150.95
SBIN	232.9	239.3	227.85	234.2
ITC	179.6	185.75	178.55	185.25
AXISBANK	583.5	611	576.8	608.5
TATASTEEL	442	477.15	439.55	474.5
HDFCBANK	1400	1415	1370.55	1389.7
DREDDY	4760	4918.5	4691.5	4886.85
CIPLA	725	745.3	719	742.4
HDFC	2284	2337.2	2273.35	2324.2
INFY	1098	1125.75	1087.6	1122.85
HEROMOTOCO	2975.85	3075	2958.65	3059.9
NTPC	92	93.5	91.7	92.95
BAJAJFINSV	6701	6981.1	6582.25	6950.0
TC	2645.3	2691.85	2644.25	2688.55
LT	1038	1062.95	1021.4	1059.45
LUPIN	863	913.35	863	911
BHARTIARTL	468.7	481.15	464.2	478.35
HCITECH	810	829	805.25	826.05
APOLPHARMA	763.55	814.65	763.55	811.05
IBULHIS	6880	6903.2	6755.2	6855.6
MARUTHUGFIN	158.15	165.25	157.25	159.5
MOTHERSUMI	121.4	132.35	126.9	131.3
HINDUNILVR	2131	2138	2105	2131.1
LAURUSLABS	251	285	251	282.1
IDEA	8.5	8.64	8.4	8.48
CENTURYPLY	186.1	189.45	183.4	184.8
MMFIN	144.65	151.6	140.85	142.95
HINDALCO	192.55	208	192.45	204.15
DABUR	515.25	519.3	505.5	510.5
ASHOKLEY	90	91.45	88.6	89.2
BPCIL	382.8	398.3	382.1	393.95
SKRTRANSFIN	858.75	890	847.55	883.6
SUNPHARMA	494	508.15	491.3	506.1
IGL	424.05	450	424	448.95
PAHAL	91.4	94.4	90.5	92.95
DIVISLAB	3299	3370.8	3282.7	3352.2
KAPATPOWER*	257	260.5	251	255
DLF	179.15	183.85	177.15	182.95
MUTHOOTFIN	1214	1214	1141.15	1166.95
TATAPOWER	57.65	58.5	56.7	57.55
RBLBANK	211.05	213.55	200.65	205.55
SANOHI	8100.65	8183.25	7991.25	8007.4
APOLLOHOSP	2099	2206.95	2052.8	2194.7
LICHSGFIN	323.15	326.7	315.05	323.85
BHARATFORG	520	530.45	494.7	499.8
BANDHANBNK	348	351.7	331.75	339.35
MM	622	644.45	622	633.25
ANSAPINANT	2200	2232.6	2158	2181.1
IPCALAB	2098	2143.8	2007.35	2035.45
BALKRISIND	1478	1574.15	1478	1512.05
SBICARD	840	841.85	801	805.55
BHEL	48.2	29.25	27.7	27.95
CADILAHIC	218.85	418.85	411.15	416.15
JSWSTEEL	334.95	344.6	332.15	342.65
INDIGO	1609	1630.8	1595	1619.9
BANKBARODA	48.45	48.9	46.65	47.15
NESTLEIND	16750	16807.9	16458.7	16699.45
HDFCLIFE	616	626.5	614.25	623.35
BRITANNIA	3501	3541	3455.5	3492.3
3MINDIA	20500	20500	19913.55	20203.45
NMDC	92.5	92.5	88.25	90.7
EICHERMOT	2235	2335	2223.6	2327.65
FEDERALBNK	59	59.4	56.5	57.45
IDFCFIRSTB	34.3	34.5	32.75	33.3
VEDL	99.75	102.15	98.55	101.95
ULTRACEMCO	4727	4854	4726.25	4823.95
BIOCAN	408.15	420.2	406.6	417.25
ITI	3050	3102.9	2900	2978.5
ZEEL	195.45	200.25	193.4	195.35
AFPL	2655.55	2872.5	2653.35	2844.95
TORNTPHARM	2480	2574	2438.25	2558.15
DMART	2360	2400	2360	2397.05
JINDALSTEL	210	220	210	219.3
TECHM	822.3	840	813.6	837.6
TITAN	1305	1318.4	1263.35	1274.65
HLNFOOD	2230.3	2339.65	2228.85	2330.4
HINDPETRO	214.45	217.4	209	214.35
GLENNMARK	476	484.3	472.55	480.65
PFIZER	5149.95	5250	5100	5202.85
BATAINDIA	1335	1363.9	1309	1327.5
ESCORTS	1306.25	1372.6	1306.25	1367.1
ICILPROPI	423	440	423	428.8
MRF	69680	70476	68027.2	68574.95
KLG	855	874.4	855	871.7
TATACONSUM	500.85	505	491.15	503.35
SBILIFE	837	846.75	835.25	839.3
TRENT	722.5	779	692	699.75
ADANIGREEN	865.55	896.35	865.55	896.35
TATAMTRDVR	57.7	61.4	57.7	61
PEL	1369	1414	1369	1394.83
MANAPPURAM	157.7	160.2	155.4	158.35
SAIL	38	39.85	38	39.65
UPL	430	442.8	430	435.5
GODRE/PROP	955	994.9	955	991.99
HAVELLS	840.15	842	805.8	814.5
GRASIM	789.65	808	789.6	803.15
ONGC	71.5	72.7	70.6	72.3
CANBK	96.5	97.7	93.3	94.95
BOSCHLTD	11950	12445	11728.6	12237.4
AMBUJACEM	2552	260.7	251.8	259.95
APOLLOTYRE	165	165.05	159	161.1
L&T*H	70	70.95	68	68.65

TRUMP'S DEFEAT

Refusal an embarrassment: Biden

Washington: Donald Trump not conceding defeat in the US election is "an embarrassment" and that "will not help the President's legacy," President-elect Joe Biden has said, asserting that his transition plans have remained unaffected and he has started talking to world leaders.

Trump has declined to concede the closely-fought November 3 presidential race to Democrat Biden and is mounting legal fights in several 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-elect was asked by a reporter on Tuesday what he thought of President Trump's refusal to acknowledge defeat.

"I just think it's an embarrassment, quite frankly," Biden



referring to inauguration day.

"Between now and then my hope and expectation is that the American people do know and do understand that there has been a transition. Even among Republicans...Who voted for the president, I understand the sense of loss. I get that," he said.

Biden hoped that those who voted for him and those for Trump would come together.

"I think they're ready to unite and I believe we can pull the country out of this bitter politics that we've seen for the last five, six and seven years," he said.

The President-elect said that he has already begun the transition. "We are well underway. The ability for the administration in any way by failure to recognise our win does not change the dynamic at all in what we're able to do," he said, noting that a day earlier he has announced his COVID-19 advisory board. **PTI**

Some dramatic moves on immigration are expected in the early days of the Biden administration. Joe Biden will likely use executive orders to reverse some of President Donald Trump's most controversial actions, rolling back moves that were a central feature of his administration and important to his base.

The Biden administration plans to restore protection for people brought to the US illegally as minors and stop using Pentagon funds to build a border wall.

Biden unveiled a detailed, highly ambitious plan on immigration, but it will take time to undo many actions taken by Trump. The incoming president will also likely face a divided Congress, making it difficult to enact any kind of sweeping, comprehensive

Joe Biden has won the election decisively: Kamala

Washington: Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has said that Americans have made a clear choice in favour of Joe Biden, who won decisively against incumbent President Donald Trump with more votes than ever cast in the country's history.

President-elect Biden received more than 76.4 million votes and so far, has 279 of the 538 electoral college votes, according to The New York Times.

Outgoing President Trump received 71.7 million votes and 214 electoral college votes. Counting of votes for 45 electoral college votes are still going

on. To win the race for the White House, a candidate needs at least 270 electoral college votes.

Trump, 74, has refused to concede the election, while the mainstream US media has declared 77-year-old Democratic presidential candidate Biden as the winner, who is now the President-elect.

In the US electoral system, traditionally it is the major media networks which declare the winner while certified election results are declared weeks later. This is unlike in India, where the Election Commission is the only authority to declare the winner of an election. **PTI**

Hong Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers resign en masse

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers have resigned en masse following a move by the city's government to disqualify four pro-democracy legislators.

The pro-democracy camp announced their decision in a news conference Wednesday, hours after the Hong Kong government said it would be disqualifying four pro-democracy legislators — Alvin Yeung, Dennis Kwok, Kwok Ka-ki and Kenneth Leung — from the legislature.

The disqualifications came after China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, which held meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, passed a resolution stating that those who support Hong Kong's independence or refuse to acknowledge China's sovereignty over the city, as well as commit acts that threaten national security or ask external forces to interfere in the city's affairs, should be disqualified.

"Today we will resign from our positions, because our partners, our colleagues have been disqualified by the central government's ruthless move," Wu Chi-wai, convener of the pro-democracy camp, said at



Hong Kong's pro-democracy legislators pose for a photo before a press conference at the Legislative Council in Hong Kong on Wednesday

the news conference.

"Although we are facing a lot of difficulties in the coming future for the fight of democracy, but we will never, never give up," he said.

Wu said that the pro-democracy legislators will hand in their resignation letters on Thursday. During the news conference, pro-democracy lawmakers chanted "Hong Kong add oil, together we stand" while holding hands.

Earlier in the year, the four now-disqualified pro-democracy lawmakers were barred from running for legislative

elections originally scheduled for September, prior to the government stating that it would postpone the elections by a year due to the coronavirus situation. The four lawmakers later remained in their posts following the postponement.

The elections postponement was criticised by the pro-democracy camp as an attempt to block them from taking a majority of seats in the legislature, after they had held an unofficial pro-democracy primary participated in by over 600,000 voters to decide which candidates to field. **AP**

Trump loyalists get top Pentagon jobs after Esper firing



Washington: A day after President Donald Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper, three staunch loyalists to the president were named to top defense jobs. Among them was a former Fox News commentator who failed to get through Senate confirmation because of offensive remarks he made, including about Islam.

The abrupt changes sent reverberations through the Pentagon as nervous civilian and military personnel waited for the next shoe to drop. And they fuelled worries of a wider effort to drum out anyone considered not loyal enough to Trump. **AP**

Some big, early shifts on immigration expected under Biden

changes to the nation's immigration system.

Restricting immigration was a signature issue for Trump, who infamously called Mexicans rapists as he pledged to build border wall in launching his campaign. His administration banned travellers from some predominantly Muslim countries as one of its first acts, took many steps to limit legal immigration and cut the number of refugees allowed in the country by 80 per cent.

Biden has said "immigration is central to who we are as a nation," noting that most Americans can trace their ancestry to immigrants, but it isn't a core issue. It's not even mentioned on his transition website's top priorities: COVID-19, economic recovery, racial justice and climate change. **AP**

Nairobi: Up to 200,000 refugees could pour into Sudan while fleeing the deadly conflict in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, officials say, while the first details are emerging of largely cut-off civilians under growing strain.

Long lines have appeared outside bread shops in the Tigray region, and supply-laden trucks are stranded at its borders, the United Nations humanitarian chief in the country told The Associated Press in an interview.

"We want to have humanitarian access as soon as possible," Sajjad Mohammad Sajid said. "Fuel and food are needed urgently." Up to 2 million people in Tigray have a "very, very difficult time," he

Sudan braces for up to 200,000 fleeing Ethiopia fighting

said late Tuesday, including hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

Communications remain almost completely severed with the Tigray region a week after Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced a military offensive in response to an alleged attack by regional forces.

He insists there will be no negotiations with a regional government he considers illegal until its ruling "clique" is arrested and its well-stocked arsenal is destroyed.

The standoff leaves nearly 900 aid workers in the Tigray region from the UN and other groups struggling to contact the outside world with pleas for help. **AP**

Lahore: Pakistan's Opposition leader and PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif and his son Hamza were indicted in a money laundering case by an accountability court here on Wednesday.

The country's anti-graft body, National Accountability Bureau (NAB), framed the charges against Shahbaz, who is the younger brother of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif, and Opposition leader in Punjab Assembly Hamza in the accountability court of Judge

Shahbaz Sharif, his son indicted in money laundering case

Jawadul Hasan.

Both the father and son have denied the charges and pleaded for innocence.

Shahbaz told the court that his political opponents, referring Prime Minister Imran Khan, had instituted false cases against him and his family members.

"I had saved only Rupees 81 billion from the Lahore metro train project and in 10 years as chief minister of Punjab I saved trillions of rupees in different development projects. If a single rupee corruption is proved

against me even after my death, take me out of the grave and hang me," he said.

He said the NAB was being used for political engineering against the Opposition.

"NAB has yet to bring forth any evidence against me and my family members," Shahbaz said and informed the court that he had severe backache, but the jail authorities ignored this and brought him to the court in an armoured car. **PTI**

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INDIA, CHINA...

However, they said these were proposals and no agreement has been inked so far.

The broad contours of the proposal include removal of armoured personnel carriers within one day of inking an agreement, withdrawal of troops from specific areas on the north and south banks of the Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh and carrying out verification of the disengagement process by both the sides, they said.

The specific proposals for the disengagement and restoration of the status quo ante as existed in April were finalised during the eighth round of high-level military talks, they said.

As a first step, both sides will remove their tanks, artillery guns, armoured vehicles and large equipment from the friction points along the LAC to their rear bases within three days from inking the agreement.

The second step entails the Chinese army will go back to Finger 8 areas from their current position of Finger 4 on the north bank of Pangong lake while the Indian troops would position themselves close to the Dhan Singh Thapa post, sources said. The mountain spurs in the area are referred to as Fingers. It was broadly agreed to withdraw around 30 per cent of the troops every day for three days, they said.

In the third step, it was agreed to complete the disengagement process in areas along the southern bank of Pangong lake like Rezang La, Mukhpari and Magar hill.

The Indian troops occupied a number of strategic heights in the Mukhpari, Rezang La and Magar hill areas around the southern bank of the Pangong lake, after the PLA soldiers attempted to intimidate them in the area on the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

In the final phase of the disengagement process, both sides will carry out a detailed verification process following which normal patrolling is expected to resume.

More than one lakh troops from both the sides are now deployed on the 1,700 km long LAC in Eastern Ladakh. In fact, both the armies are also digging in for a long winter deployment as the multiple round of talks at the military and diplomatic levels have failed so far.

Also, China cannot be trusted as it happened in June when after agreeing to pull back from the stand-off sites they did not honour the commitment. It led to a bloody brawl in the Galwan valley on June 15 leaving 20 Indian army personnel including the commanding officer dead.

After the last round of military talks, both sides described the negotiations as candid, in-depth and constructive. They said it was agreed to earnestly implement

the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and ensure that the frontline troops exercise restraint and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation.

At the seventh round of talks too, both sides had agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement "as early as possible".

Following the sixth round of military talks, the two sides announced a slew of decisions including not to send more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

The sixth round of talks took place days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi reached a five-point agreement to resolve the row at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave.

The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

SPUTNIK V 92% EFFECTIVE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS, CLAIMS RUSSIA

Currently, 40,000 volunteers are taking part in Phase III of Sputnik V clinical trials, out of which over 20,000 have been vaccinated with the first dose of the vaccine and more than 16,000 with both the first and second doses of the vaccine. "The publication of the interim results of the post-registration clinical trials that convincingly demonstrate Sputnik V vaccine's efficacy gives way to mass vaccination in Russia against COVID-19 in the coming weeks," Alexander Gintsburg, director of the Gamaleya Center said in a statement.

"Thanks to the production scale up at new manufacturing sites, Sputnik V vaccine will soon be available for a wider population.

This will break the current trend and lead to an eventual decrease in COVID-19 infection rates, first in Russia, then globally," Gintsburg said.

Eleanor Riley, Professor of Immunology and Infectious Disease, University of Edinburgh in the UK said while the results are encouraging.

"I worry that these data have been rushed out on the back of the Pfizer/BioNtech announcement earlier in the week."

"The Sputnik data are based on only 20 cases of COVID-19 in the trial participants, compared to more than 90 cases in the earlier trial. This is not a competition," he said.

"We need all trials to be a carried out to the highest possible standards and it is particularly important that the pre-set criteria for unblinding the trial data are adhered to avoid cherry picking the data," Riley said, adding anything less than this risks a public loss of trust in all vaccines, which would be a disaster.

Currently, Sputnik V Phase III clinical trials are approved and are under-going in Belarus, UAE, Venezuela and other countries, as well as Phase II-III in India. The Sputnik V vaccine is based on a human adenoviral vector platform that had proven safe and effective with no long-term side effects in more than 250 clinical trials globally conducted during the past two decades, the ministry said.

The Russian vaccine uses two different human adenoviral vectors that enable to provide strong and long-term immune response after the second injection. **PTI**

ONLINE FILMS, SHOWS NOW WITHIN I&B MINISTRY AMBIT

"The two new entries are as follows: 1. Films and Audio Visual programmes made available by online content providers. 2. News and Current Affairs on online platforms," said the Order.

The Central Government had recently told the Supreme Court that digital media is "uncontrolled" and needs to be regulated. I&B Ministry had told the apex court that any endeavour to regulate media has to begin with digital media. This stance was taken by the Centre during the hearing of a case concerning Sudarshan TV's controversial "UPSC Jihad" programme in which the court was contemplating framing of guidelines to regulate television channels.

DELHI'S AIR...

It also asked the governments of Punjab and Haryana to take immediate stringent actions to curb stubble burning and authorities in Delhi-NCR to strictly check biomass burning.

The levels of PM2.5 — which is about three percent the diameter of a human hair and can lead to premature deaths from heart and lung diseases — was 177 microgram per cubic meter (µg/m3) at 5 pm, below the emergency threshold of 300 µg/m3.

The safe limit is 60 µg/m3.

On Tuesday, PM2.5 levels had soared to 528 µg/m3 in the afternoon.

PM10 level stood at 343 µg/m3 at 5 pm. It had peaked at 685 µg/m3 on Tuesday, according to CPCB data. PM10 levels below 100 µg/m3 are considered safe in India and 500 µg/m3 is the emergency threshold.

According to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the air quality is considered in the "severe plus" or "emergency" category if PM2.5 and PM10 levels persist above 300 µg/m3 and 500 µg/m3 for more than 48 hours.

GRAP recommends measures such as a ban on construction activities, entry of trucks and car rationing scheme in such a scenario.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas on Tuesday tasked the CPCB with operationalising and monitoring GRAP measures till a mechanism is set up by the newly-constituted panel.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the change in transport level wind direction has led to a significant decrease in stubble burning-related intrusion in spite of high fire counts. The farm fire count in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and neighbouring areas was 2,422 on Tuesday and the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 accumulation is almost negligible -- 3 per cent — on Wednesday due to unfavourable transport-level winds, it said.

"Deterioration (in air quality) is expected on Friday towards the higher end of the 'very poor' category," it said.

An official of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the predominant wind direction is east-northeasterly, which is not favorable for the transport of pollutants from farm fires in Punjab and Haryana.

The city recorded a minimum temperature of 11.4 degrees Celsius on Wednesday morning. Calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants close to the ground, while favourable wind speed helps in their dispersion.

The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said, "The change in wind direction and wind speed has positively impacted air quality. It is likely to remain in the upper end of the 'very poor' category on Thursday and deteriorate marginally on Friday."

Delhi's ventilation index -- a product of mixing depth and average wind speed -- is likely to be around 12,500 m2/s on Wednesday, favorable for dispersion of pollutants.

Mixing depth is the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended in the air. It reduces on cold days with calm wind speed. The ventilation index lower than 6000 m2/s with an average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. **PTI**

AMID...

The BJP will certainly extract its pound of flesh if it allowed Nitish 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.

Meanwhile, to a question on the massive damage Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party inflicted on the NDA, especially the JD(U)'s prospects, he said that the LJP also hurt the BJP in a number of seats.

If the LJP was not there, the BJP would have defeated RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in Raghopur constituency, Jaiswal claimed.

To a question on whether LJP will now have any place in the ruling alliance, he said it is for the BJP Parliamentary Board, the apex decision-making body of the saffron party, to decide on that.

He, though, added that the NDA means the BJP, JD(U), Vikassheel Insaan Party and Jitan Ram Manjhi-led HAM(S) in Bihar.

The BJP had the best strike rate among all parties in the fray as it won 73 of the 110 seats it contests. Allies VIP and HAM(S) won four seats each.

MANY ESCAPED DEFEAT BY SKIN OF THEIR TEETH

In Kurhani, Anil Kumar Sahni of RJD defeated Kedar Prasad Gupta of the BJP by 712 votes while CPI candidate SuryaKant Paswan defeated Ramashankar Paswan of BJP by 777 votes in Bakhari.

In Siwan, RJD's Awadh Bihari Choudhary has defeated BJP candidate OP Yadav by a margin of 1,973 votes and Simri Bakhtiyarpur seat was won by RJD candidate Yusuf Salahuddin by a margin of 1759 votes. He has defeated Mukesh Sahni of Vikassheel Insaan Party. Ashok Choudhary of JD(U) has defeated Umesh Ram of the Congress by 1,537 votes in Sakra.

Pratima Kumari of the Congress won Rajapakar seat by a margin of 1,796 votes. He defeated Mahendra Ram of JD(U). Gaytri Devi of the BJP has defeated Ritu Kumar of RJD by a margin of 1,569 votes in Parihar.

In Munger, BJP's Pranav Kumar has defeated Avinash Vidyarthi of the RJD by a margin of 1,244. In Maharajganj, the victory margin was 1,976 while in Mahishi, it was a mere 1,630. The victory margin in Kishanganj was just 1,381 where the Congress candidate defeated BJP's Sweety Singh. In Jhajha, the victory margin was 1,679 votes. In Kalyanpur, it was 1,193. It was 1,113 in Bhagalpur.

4,907 Covid cases, 125 deaths as Maharashtra sees spike

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a spurt in Covid-19 infections and fatalities, Maharashtra on Wednesday logged 4,907 fresh infections and 125 deaths in various parts of the state.

A day after the infections dipped to 3791 and deaths dropped to 110, there was some upward movement in theGO Covid-19 graph in the state where the infections dropped by 1216 and deaths went down by 15.

With fresh 4907 infections, the total number of infected cases jumped from 17,26,926 to 17,31,833. Similarly, with 125 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths in the state rose from 45,435 to 45,560.

As 9,1,64 more people were discharged from various hospitals the number of people discharged from the hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 15,97,255. The recovery rate in the state rose from 91.96 per cent to 92.23 per cent.

Of the 125 deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for a maximum of 22 deaths, followed by 17 deaths in Thane, 16 in Pune, 9 in Satara, 8 in Solapur, 7 each in Aurangabad, Nanded and Nagpur, 6 in Ahmednagar, 5 in Nashik, 4 in Osmanabad, 2 each in Beed, Buldhana and Chandrapur and one death each in Palghar, Raigad, Dhule, Jalgaon, Sangli, Jalna, Washim, Wardha, Bhandara and Gondia. In addition, one person from outside Maharashtra died in the state.

With 22 deaths, the Covid-19 climbed from 10,484 to 10,506, while the infected cases shot up by 1,069 fresh patients to trigger a jump in the total number of infections from 265,679 to 266,748.

Meanwhile, the number of "active cases" in the state came down one lakh mark as the total cases dropped from 92,461 to 88,070. The fatality rate in the state stood at 2.63 per cent.

Currently, 9,41,118 people are in home quarantine while 6,551 people are in institutional quarantine.

Pune district, which continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra, saw the total number of cases increase from 3,39,450 to 3,40,023, while the total number of deaths in Pune increased from 7086 to 7102.

Thane district remained in the third spot --after Pune and Mumbai — after the total number of infections rose from 2,28,538 to 2,29,097, while the pandemic toll climbed from 5319 to 5336.

Meanwhile, out of 96,003,328 samples sent to laboratories, 17,31,833 have tested positive (18.04 per cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday.

Trend Slazer

'Bollywood glamour back in my life'

Actor **SUNNY LEONE** is happy to be back in the world of glitz and glamour as she resumes work.

She shared a picture on Instagram where she is seen posing in front of the camera, dressed in a sparkly outfit.

"Work mode. Bollywood glamour is back in my life," she captioned the image.

Recently, Sunny found a way to stay safe during her shoots without ruining her make-up amid the pandemic. In an Instagram image she posted, she is seen wearing a transparent face mask.



'I have been living out of my suitcase for months now and I will be doing so in the coming months too. Honestly, I'm not complaining because I have been fortunate enough to be working even in the midst of a pandemic. I haven't met my parents and sister in ages and I have been living in a hotel room for months but that's the new normal for us actors.'

—Vaani Kapoor

A few days after releasing a gritty teaser with **TIGER SHROFF's** silhouette against a dystopian setting, Pooja Entertainment & Good Co. have unveiled the intriguing poster of their forthcoming action thriller *Ganapath*.

The poster features the film's star in a grungy, raw avatar, oozing his trademark charisma against a blurred cityscape hemmed in with barbed wire, while a cloud of smoke lingers in the air.

The makers have hinted at an action packed, multi-part film franchise that will match and rival the standards set by Hollywood's genre defining action films.



What kept Nick busy during lockdown

Pop star **NICK JONAS** loved spending lockdown with wife, actor **Priyanka Chopra**, and the outcome is it has led them to starting a family business.

Nick also gushed about his infant niece Willa Jonas, daughter of Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas, who was born in July.

Now, Nick has shared that he has finally met little Willa and is in love with her. "I have (met her). It's, you know, Joe and Sophie's thing to speak about or not but she's the best,"



Kaftan or caftan isn't only a new wardrobe essential but also the most relaxed silhouette, and stylists are all in for this look. Fashion icons are sporting the timeless maxi-design, making the netizens dream of a proper bohemian look. From Christina Hendricks to Jennifer Lopez and Kareena Kapoor Khan, sweatpants are being ditched over paisley printed kaftans. However, the question is — what has brought this comfy, Persian classic back in vogue? Well, going by the popular notion — kaftans are timeless. Here are a few reasons why they epitomise an absolute chic and gracious look.

COMFORT LEVEL

Kaftans have regularly been associated and produced with a one-size-fits-all (free-size) fitting, given its comfort attribute. However, this doesn't consider the positivity of portraying a woman's guise. In the interest of accentuating women's shape, fitted kaftans, ranging from small to 3XL, are now

Hello, Bohemian season!

Here are a few reasons why kaftans can still create an absolute chic and timeless look for style mavens. By TEAM VIVA



being introduced. These fitted silhouette kaftans provide the right style image without compromising on its appeal for comfort.

Stylists are simply sauntering sporting the comfortable kaftan, with a pair of white sneakers. Well, if it's not the fitted one, or too oversized or flowy, one can opt to tie a full-sleeved cape around the waist to flaunt your curve.

FASHIONABLE FABRICS

A variety of prints that are a perfect match for the type of kaftan being created makes all the difference, which is why, this summer, sweatsuits were certainly replaced by comfort kaftans at home during the lockdown. With a

plethora of styles and prints to choose from, the kaftan stays modern, classy, glamorous as well as trendy. The Kaftan Company's, as it highlights, in-house digital prints showcase a range of beautiful and inimitable prints that add uniqueness and exclusivity to each and every kaftan.

ALWAYS IN VOGUE

While tracing the history, as per Niloo Paydar, curator of textile and fashion arts at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the term, Kaftan, is Persian and translates to a battle garment worn by soldiers. However, it is believed that the garment has been considered wearable and special beyond the

battlefield. Owing to its simple structure, it was worn by everyone from the peasant to the upper class. And much like then, even today, it allows for embellishments and adornments depending on one's means.

Following this global fashion calendar, the kaftans easily set the trend through their vibrant digital prints and timelessness.

EVOLVES WITH EVERY CHANGE

No matter their deep-rooted style history, kaftans continue to change with the times. Well, we certainly remember how the style has been adopted into a symbol of the bohemian elite that trickled down to mainstream fashion in the 1970s. Each time, they come with newer embellishments and diverse patterns, offering a more feminine silhouette. Now, as before, these drapery dresses appeal to diverse audiences, from starlets on the red carpet to diplomats at State Dinners to summer music festival-goers.

WATCH YOUR BACK



Presenter **STEVE BACKSHALL** shares his experience of meeting fierce wild elephants and killer beasts in his mission to find the world's deadliest animals for the show *Deadly 60, Series 4*. By TEAM VIVA

In the show *Deadly 60, Series 4*, explorer Steve Backshall comes face to face with lethal beauties and killer beasts in his mission to find the world's deadliest animals. He meets fierce forest elephants in the wilds of Gabon, searches Bali for the elusive sunfish and experiences the ferocity of the South African serval. The series also looks at the perilous future facing some of these deadly animals and reveals the work being done by wildlife conservationists to protect them. With stunning footage and fascinating facts, it brings you close with some of the world's most fearsome creatures. Just don't forget to watch your back. Excerpts:



Were there any creatures that you found unappealing?

The flesh-eating cockroaches and venomous centipedes in the Gomantong cave in Borneo were pretty unsavoury. They turn the floor of the cave, which is itself the world's largest pile of bird and bat poo, into a seething mass of invertebrate horror! It's a pretty creepy place but I still found the animals more fascinating than repulsive.

With just 60 creatures to narrow down from millions around the world, what criteria did you use when selecting the animals for the list?

For me, it's about animals that are the absolute best at what they do — being sublime predators within their world. Every creature right from ants to elephants was considered. The list itself is mine and entirely subjective. Many of our *Deadly 60* stars were essential creatures we set out to find, others were ones we happened upon on during wild searches and just had to include. There's no way we could have come up with an exhaustive list in the time we had, and there are still so many more animals that are worthy of inclusion.

You seemed to break your back last year in a climbing accident. Did it affect your confidence in climbing?

Climbing is never going to be 100 per cent safe but the one



I do while working is under much stricter guidelines than the climbing I do in my spare time. The accident could never have happened whilst I was at work because I wouldn't have been pushing the envelope as seriously as I was. That said, I am very lucky to be alive and walking, and will probably never get my confidence back to where it was before my fall — Although I am

already back climbing again.

You have a successful career in TV and writing, travelling the world — doing exactly what you love. Did you always harbour dreams of a life of adventure?

I had never dreamed all this as a kid. I wanted to be a ranger in an African safari park, an explorer, then a writer. They

all seemed like impossible dreams back then and I can remember the face of my school's career teacher now as he suggested I should be a fireman. Somehow, I seem to have managed something even more extraordinary. I'd love to catch up with that careers adviser now.

(The show premieres on November 16 at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)



Defining new realities

Actor **TAHIR RAJ BHASIN**, who has been prepping with **TAAPSEE PANNU** for their romantic film *Loop Lapeta*, feels that Zoom readings can never replace on-set interactions

Actor Tahir Raj Bhasin is thrilled to be starting his next *Loop Lapeta* next month. The actor has been paired opposite actor Taapsee Pannu and it promises a fresh chemistry on screen. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Tahir has been rehearsing over video calling platforms. The actor opens up about how it can never replace the face-to-face preparation meetings that actors have been doing for ages.

Tahir says, "I'm so excited that we're finally going on floor with *Loop Lapeta*. It's a romantic heist with a twist and will be super fun to do. During the lockdown, I was sure I wanted to remain in touch with the material and so the production would send me evolving drafts of the script. Aakash Bhatia, the director and I would exchange references over WhatsApp and zoom. When we finally met for our first face to face reading, the connect we formed over the lockdown had paid off since it didn't feel like we were starting from square one."

Ask him if it is more challenging for actors to get into character because one would primarily be doing readings over video calling platforms these days and he says, "Zoom readings were a bridge to stay connected to your work. In no way can they replace being in the room feeding off your co-actors energy but they helped me remain connected to the pre-production process of the film. Our director is an advertising whizz and being in the first real world reading with him, enhanced the experiencing of understanding the character since he ran us through the milieu of the world we will be creating."

Tahir's film is all about the chemistry of the lead pair. In a non-proximate world of rehearsals, he opens up about how Taapsee and he are prepping to deliver this knock out chemistry on screen.

"A lot of the chemistry one sees on screen comes from how one plays off the other actor. Having Taapsee as a co-star elevates this process and I'm certain will lead to the chemistry. I'm looking forward to be pairing up for a romantic lead opposite her. Keeping in mind all safety protocols, we've started our face to face readings this week. It's great to meet the people you will be working with outside of the windows of Zoom. Coming together with ideas about the script and workshoping them is half the fun of making a film," informs Tahir.



BAGHEL CREATES 23 NEW TEHSILS

The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, inaugurated 23 new tehsils in the state. On the occasion, he said that formation of these new tehsils would improve revenue administration in the state and would also accelerate the development work. The common people would be able to access administration facilities more conveniently. Besides, farmers and beneficiaries of public welfare schemes would be able to avail better services. At this inaugural programme, Baghel approved construction of official buildings for 23 new tehsils and four old tehsils. He also announced sanction of one vehicle for each of these districts.

He has sanctioned ₹19 crore 20 lakh for construction of official buildings for 27 new-formed tehsils and ₹1 crore 75

lakh for vehicles for these tehsil offices. Each of the office would be constructed at the cost of ₹71.12 lakh and ₹6.50 lakh would be sanctioned to each office for purchasing the vehicle.

These 23 new tehsils have been formed for convenience of common people in the 15 districts of the state. These include formation of Kharora and Gobra Navapara in Raipur district, Bhakhar in Dhamtari district, Bori and Bhilai in Durg district, Gandai in Rajnandgaon district, Arjunda tehsil in Balod district, Sakri, Ratanpur and Belgahna tehsils in Bilaspur district, Lalpur thana tehsil in Mungeli district, Saragaon, Bamhndih and Baradwar tehsils in Janjgir-Champa district, Darri and Hardibazar tehsils in Korba district, Darima in Sarguja district,

Ramchandrapur and Samri in Balrampur-Ramanujganj district, Kolhari tehsil in Koriya district, Latori tehsil in Surajpur district, Sanna in Jashpur district and Gaadiras in Sukma district.

The inaugural programme was attended by Vidhan Sabha Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant, Health Minister TS Singhdeo, Revenue Minister Jaisingh Agrawal, Industry Minister Kawasi Lakhma, MP Jyotsana Mahant, MLAs — Mohan Markam, Dhanendra Sahu, Purushottam Kanwar, Rashmi Singh, Anita Sharma, chairman of Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Girish Dewangan, State Food and Civil Supply Corporation Ramgopal Agrawal, Advisor Duo to Chief Minister Rajesh Tiwari and Vinod Verma. Baghel said in his address

that after formation of the new government, new district Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi and 25 new tehsils were announced on August 15, 2019. On February 10, 2020 Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district was made and development works worth ₹500 crores were sanctioned. These works accelerated the development of this district. Out of 25 new tehsils announced before, 23 tehsils were inaugurated. He congratulated the people of these newly-formed tehsils. Extending hearty Diwali greetings to people of the state, he said that this time, COVID-19 pandemic has overshadowed our festivals. Hence, we should take all the precautions to avoid infection, while celebrating our festivals enthusiastically.

The CM has requested the people of the state to purchase

diyas, idols and materials used in puja from local vendors and craftsmen. He appealed them to buy goods and food items manufactured by the self-help groups as this would empower the economy of the state. He told that the all kinds of market charges have been waived off for the traditional vendors. District Administration and Municipal Corporation have been directed to make seating arrangements for vendors near stadium, market and grounds owned by municipal body/government.

It is noteworthy that as per the vision of Baghel, state government has fulfilled the long-pending public demand of reorganising tehsils. Formation of these new tehsils would make it easier for villagers and farmers to get their revenue affairs redressed.

AN ODE TO ART

The Hunar Haat was inaugurated by the Ministry of Union Minority Affairs at Delhi Haat, Pitampura, after seven months of lockdown



The Hunar Haat was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Ministry of Union Minority Affairs, at Delhi Haat, Pitampura, yesterday, along with Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (I/C) and Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju. The fair will go on till November 22.

Naqvi said that the magnificent indigenous products of master artisans at the haat are Local Pride and Global Praise. He added that the haat is becoming an effective platform to strengthen the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' plan and the 'Vocal for Local' by promoting and encouraging indigenous products of master artisans and craftsmen.

Naqvi said that lakhs of master artisans and craftsmen from across the country are happy and excited that the Hunar Haat has been organised again after a gap of about seven months due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

He pointed out that the indigenous exquisite products made from *maati* (clay), metal and *machiya* (wooden and jute products) are the major attraction at the fair. Rare exquisite products made from clay, different metals and wooden products, things made from cane-bamboo, mesmerising pottery work, etc, are available for display and sale here.

The haat's products are now available online also at <http://hunarhaat.org>. The Union Minority Affairs Ministry is registering these artisans and their indigenous products on 'GeM' (Government e-Marketplace) for the trade to work digitally, too.

Naqvi said that every corner of the country has a traditional and ancestral legacy of indigenous products. This legacy, which was on the verge of extinction, has got a boost after Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised on 'Swadeshi'. The Indian indigenous industry has got tremendous boost after PM Modi advocated the need for 'Vocal for Local'. The artisans involved in making these indigenous products are also being extended help through various institutions for attractive packaging of Swadeshi products.

Naqvi said, "Every corner of the country is endowed with diversity of indigenous products made with wood, brass, bamboo, glass, cloth, paper, clay etc. Hunar Haat is an enormous platform providing the market and opportunities to master artisans who prepare these indigenous, exquisite handmade products. Focus this time will be on use of technology and innovation and also towards manufacturing quality products that meet global standards."



More than 100 stalls have been set up at the Haat. Dry flowers from Assam; *Pochampally Ikkat* from Andhra Pradesh; *Munga Silk*, Madhubani painting and artificial jewellery from Bihar; wooden lacquerware toys from Karnataka; toys from Manipur; wooden and glass toys from Uttar Pradesh; calligraphy paintings from Delhi; hand-block print from Goa; *Ajrakh* from Gujarat; Pashmina from Jammu-Kashmir; Tassar silk and cane-bamboo products from Jharkhand; herbal products, Bagh print, Batik from Madhya Pradesh; cane and bamboo products from Maharashtra, handloom textiles from Nagaland, toys of different states made from clay, metal, etc, are available for display and sale at the fair. Besides, people will also be able to enjoy traditional delicacies from Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir, Delhi, Haryana, etc. Different cultural programmes will be presented everyday by renowned artists, which will also be a major attraction.

Naqvi said that the Haat, which has provided employment opportunities to more than five lakh Indian artisans, craftsmen, culinary experts and other people associated with them in the last five years, has become popular among the people. The Haat provides market to artisans and craftsmen from remote areas of the country, and has now become a credible brand of rare, indigenous handmade products.

In the coming days, the Hunar Haat will be organised in Jaipur, Chandigarh, Indore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, India Gate, New Delhi, Ranchi, Kota and Surat or Ahmedabad.

Social distancing and other guidelines owing to COVID-19 are being strictly followed. Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs P K Das and other senior officials of the Ministry were also present at the inauguration.

New integrated terminal building at Agartala airport



The only airport of Tripura, Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport, Agartala, is soon going to have a new integrated terminal building. As the existing terminal building was saturated and there was no further scope of expansion, the Airports Authority of India has undertaken the work at an estimated cost of ₹438 crore.

With built up area of 30,000 sqm, the new terminal building will be equipped with 20 check-in counters, four passenger boarding bridges, conveyor belts and passenger-friendly modern facilities and amenities. The terminal has been designed to process 1,000 domestic and 200 international passengers during peak hours, making the annual handling capacity of 3.0 million passengers.

The development work also includes construction of the apron having capacity to park six aircrafts at a time.

The terminal building of the airport will depict local art and heritage through its architecture. The design manifests sweeping roof profile that envelopes the entire airport terminal spanning across 30,000 sqm and procures its form from the hilly terrain of the state of Tripura. The objective was to create an overall free flowing terminal which is simple and easy to construct, while being a perfect mix of ecological infrastructure, art and building technology. Advanced Intelligent Building Management Systems have also been used to optimise the consumption of energy.

The planning approach for the terminal is based on airport procedure and passenger flow, integrated with landscaping and retail to increase user experience and at the same time ease the movement in the building. Bamboo is used as a widespread local material in the state for construction whereas tribal art work and crafts are included to promote cultural tourism. The art and craft work is displayed all over the terminal in form of sculptures, *jaali* work, furniture and murals.

Jaalis are an eminent functional design feature, which can be seen in traditional households as well as in royal forts and palaces. It restricts excessive solar radiation and permits optimum

daylight to increase internal efficiency. Along with their use, skylights have also been introduced in the design to maximise the natural daylight within the building.

Further, bamboo architecture is represented in the façade of the terminal building by way of a floral *jaali* pattern depicting the forests and greens of the region, placed equidistant from each other. Depiction of local motifs in metal cladding will create vibrancy while showing the glimpse of the local art to the passengers.

More than 90 per cent of the project work is completed and new building of AAI's Agartala airport is scheduled to be ready by the beginning of next year — 2021.

Customised health insurance for Freepay's members

Freepaycard, online prepaid card trading platforms, will now offer coverage under a customised health insurance scheme for its existing members. This scheme has been underwritten and serviced by Care Health Insurance.

On this development, Richard Andrew, founding managing director and CEO, Freepaycard India Pvt Ltd said, "In view of the changing attitude towards preventive healthcare, ensuring the COVID outbreak, we are convinced that affordable health/medical insurance is the need of the hour. That said, this association is a humble endeavour towards our members, facilitating access to affordable healthcare schemes."

The scheme will offer three different types of solutions — a 7-in-1 vector borne disease cover, hospicash health insurance cover and a personal accident cover. These have features such as short initial wait-period of just 15 days, direct cashless claim settlement, upto two per cent sum insured for room rent and much more.

Anuj Gulati, founding managing director and CEO, Care Health Insurance, said, "The present situation has resulted in increased awareness towards health insurance, which is now seen as a necessity instead of just a 'good-to-have' option. We are pleased to associate with Freepaycard in this initiative of extending health coverage to their members backed by technology-driven processes and quality servicing."



NHPC successfully restored 100 MW UNIT#2 of its 300 MW Chamera-II Power Station located in Chamda district, Himachal Pradesh. It has successfully synchronised with the Northern Grid. Final tests and synchronisation activities were successfully carried out in-house by the team of NHPC engineers. Unit#1 of Chamera-II Power Station was already successfully synchronised and with the restoration of Unit#2, all the three units (3X100 MW) are now available for generating the power. Unit#1 and Unit#2 of Chamera-II Power Station were under outage due to fire incidents in which stators of both the units were damaged. The restoration work was a herculean task as it involved integrating new components into around 17 years old units. NHPC through its in-house competencies accomplished the task despite various odds and once again proved its worth in the area of testing and commissioning of Hydropower Units.

Awas Adhikar Yojna (PM-UDAY) scheme was launched to confer ownership rights to residents of 1,731 unauthorised colonies. Approximately 3,51,191 persons have registered, 42,167 applications have been filed and 2,193 ownership rights have been conferred to the residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi till now.

In order to reach out the residents/beneficiaries of this PM-UDAY scheme, an awareness programme for the counsellors of North Delhi Municipal Corporation was conducted at Civic Center. The programme was attended by Jai Prakash, Mayor of NDMC and councillors. Everybody was informed about the process of registration, filing application, its processing under PM-UDAY and the benefits that the residents of the unauthorised colonies will get after the conferment of ownership rights. Similar such workshops are scheduled for South MCD and East MCD.

IN SHORT

Ashutosh Gangal, GM of Northern Railway, inspected the Delhi Jn. railway station today. He was accompanied by SC Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Delhi and senior officers of Northern Railway headquarters. He inspected the circulating area, FOBs, platforms and the passenger amenities at the railway station. Gangal was briefed by DRM regarding the arrangements for crowd management in view of the forthcoming festivals. He instructed that cleanliness at station premises must be maintained at any cost. He said that importance should be laid on crowd management.



Virendra Nath Datt, C&MD, NFL, exchanging the MoU documents for the year 2020-21 with Chhabilendra Roul, Secretary (Fertilizers). Under the MoU, NFL has set a target to achieve higher market share in 2020-21. Dharam Pal, Addl. Secretary (Fertilizers) and YP Bhola, Director (Finance), NFL, are also present on the occasion.



To make Uttar Pradesh's largest Nandi Park *Gaushala*, near Hindon River, the Municipal Corporation has started making eco-friendly lamps, idol of lord ganesha, *laxmiji* and other decorative items under the *karnadheni avatar* campaign. All the items will be ready by Diwali. Municipal Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar said that this is the first cow shed where the project to prepare lamps and other goods from cow dung has been started. While unemployed people have got employment in this project, it will also help in reducing pollution. "The special thing about cow dung is that as long as the flame keeps burning in the lamp, the smoke will not rise and the cow dung will not burn," he added. The preparations are being done to install these products in the municipal campus for selling.

Execution was perfect from all bowlers: Rohit

PTI ■ DUBAI

His fluent half century made the chase look effortless in the IPL final but Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said it was his bowlers who set up the crushing win over Delhi Capitals, which fetched an unprecedented fifth title for the side.

"We got a wicket on the first ball and we got a couple more after that. We just wanted to keep the pressure, the execution was perfect from all the bowlers," Rohit said at the post-match press conference.

"We knew Stoinis and Dhawan are Delhi's key batters, so we wanted to bowl our key bowlers at them, getting early wickets was the key, we wanted to take early wickets, when you have the best new ball bowler in your squad, why not go with that?" he said.

Rohit applauded each and every bowler for his contribution in the team's success throughout the tournament. Boult (25) and Jasprit Bumrah (27) were at their lethal best the entire season.

"Boult has been fantastic for us this season and so has Bumrah. They are the ones who kept us in the game throughout. (James) Pattinson, (Nathan) Coulter-Nile, (Rahul) Chahar, and Krunal Pandya also did their job."

Coulter-Nile was brilliant during the slog overs on Tuesday. He got rid of Rishabh Pant at a crucial juncture and also sent back Axar Patel, crushing Delhi's hopes of posting an imposing total on the board.

The captain, who missed a few games due to a hamstring injury, led the chase with a master-class.

Asked if it was his strategy to attack off-spinner R Ashwin, Rohit

said, "There was no strategy as such. I just wanted to be positive in my thought process."

"Ashwin is their key bowler and I just wanted to put pressure on their key bowler. He is a quality bowler, it came off."

"When you are chasing a target like that, you want to get off to a good start, you want to make sure there is no pressure at the back end, we just wanted to capitalise on the first three-four overs," he explained.

Young batsman Ishan Kishan (516 runs) and Suryakumar Yadav (480

runs) scored heavily in MI's winning campaign. Rohit praised both of them heartily.

"Surya and Kishan have been superb with the bat, we saw the results on the ground, they played with a lot of freedom, they are very talented in shot-making."

"It was important for us to give them freedom, the owners also gave them real confidence to go

out there and express themselves."

The organisers pulled off a successful league amid a raging COVID-19 pandemic and MI skipper was pleased with the way it went off.

"Firstly we are very happy to be on the ground, everyone did a good job to get the tournament going, the safety of players was taken care of. I would like to congratulate all the franchises as well regarding

no hiccups in terms of the bio-bubble created, all franchises were very disciplined in order to make IPL this year a huge success."

"I hope this championship we have won is something that brings joy to people back home," he signed off.

'I don't run behind my players with stick in hand'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Rohit Sharma believes that his style of leadership is not a dictatorial one, which is precisely the reason behind Mumbai Indians' stupendous success in the Indian Premier League.

A peerless Rohit led from the front in defending champions Mumbai Indians' demolition of Delhi Capitals in the summit clash of the short-form extravaganza here Tuesday, giving them an unprecedented fifth title.

"I'm not someone who'll run with a stick behind someone. The only way you can do it is by giving them confidence. So you have to strike that right balance," Rohit said.

The humble leader remembered the backroom staff and praised them for the work that goes behind the scene.

"We couldn't have asked for anything more, right on the money from ball one and we never looked back. I think a lot of credit goes to the people who worked behind the scenes - often they go unnoticed."

"Our work started long before the IPL started, and we wanted to make sure we filled the gaps in previous seasons," Rohit added.

Skipper Rohit 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.

Rohit regretted the run out of the in-form Suryakumar Yadav who was looking in good nick.

"The kind of form he was in, I should have sacrificed my wicket for Surya. But throughout the tournament he has played some incredible shots."

The entire tournament was played behind closed doors in the UAE amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't have the fans at the stadium. We missed playing at the Wankhede and hopefully we can get back there next year," Rohit said.

Thanks to pandemic, the lucrative event was held without its customary glitz and glamour.



I should've sacrificed my wicket for Surya: Rohit

PTI ■ DUBAI

"I should have sacrificed my wicket for him," said Rohit Sharma as he regretted rising batsman Suryakumar Yadav's dismissal in the IPL final while attempting an improbable single that was actually called by the Mumbai Indians skipper. "The kind of form he was in, I should have sacrificed my wicket for Surya. But throughout the tournament he has played some incredible shots," Rohit said.

Yadav said he didn't mind the sacrifice as he knew the skipper would lead the team through.

He said no to the run when Rohit called for it in the 11th over but crossed over nonetheless when he realised that the captain would be dismissed if he didn't.

"...He was batting really well. Most importantly, he's been anchoring well since the first game. I don't mind sacrificing for him at all," he said.

Pollard leaves Bravo behind after winning 15th T20 trophy

Indians' win in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020. On Tuesday evening, the Rohit Sharma-led side won their fifth IPL trophy as they defeated Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the summit clash. "Dwayne Bravo you are behind me now (about number of T20 titles), I have to say that on camera," Pollard said.

Pollard now has 15 T20 titles, five of which has come for him while playing for the Mumbai-based franchise. Bravo, on the other hand, has 14.

Pollard also said that the title win meant a lot to him and also

termed Mumbai Indians as the best T20 team in the world at the moment.

"It's a great feeling, means a lot. Fifth trophy...Have been here for 11 years. We have a quiet celebration. The amount of trophies, the amount of talent that's there, you can say MI is the best T20 team going around," he said.

Apart from Mumbai Indians, no other franchise has won so many titles in IPL's 13-year history; the second most successful team is Chennai Super Kings, who have won the title three times.



It'll be India's loss if Ro doesn't captain India: Gambhir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir and England's Michael Vaughan have called for Rohit Sharma's elevation to India's T20 captaincy with the former national team opener going to the extent of saying that it would be a "shame" if the star batsman does not get the role.

Rohit led Mumbai Indians to a fifth IPL title on Tuesday, impressing not just with a graceful half century but also shrewd captaincy. He is currently the national vice-captain for the white-ball formats.

"If Rohit Sharma doesn't become India's captain, it's their loss, not Rohit's," Gambhir told ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out programme.

"Yes, a captain is only as good as his team and I completely agree with that, but what are the parameters to judge a captain on who is good and who isn't? The parameters

and benchmark should be the same. Rohit has led his team (MI) to five IPL titles."

MI won an unprecedented fifth IPL title by beating Delhi Capitals by five wickets in Dubai on Tuesday night.

"We keep saying MS Dhoni is India's most successful captain. Why? Because he has won two World Cups and three IPLs," Gambhir said.

"Rohit has won five IPL titles, he is the most successful captain in the history of the tournament. Going forward, it'll be a shame if he doesn't get India's white-ball or just T20 captaincy."

"Because he can't do much more than this. He can only help the team he captains to victories. So if he doesn't become India's regular white-ball captain, it will be their loss," he added.

Gambhir had earlier said that Virat Kohli should be made accountable for Royal Challengers Bangalore's failure



to make the IPL finals in 13 efforts, eight out of which were under Kohli's leadership.

But the cricketer-turned-politician clarified that he never meant Kohli's captaincy is "poor", instead he only suggested that split captaincy model is the need of the hour.

"They can also consider split-captaincy. No one is poor. Rohit has shown in white-ball cricket how big the difference is between his and Virat's captaincy. One player had led his team to five titles, the other hasn't won yet," said Gambhir, who led Kolkata Knight Riders to two IPL titles.

"I'm not saying this because Kohli is a poor captain. But he has received the same platform that Rohit has, so you have to judge both of them on the same parameters."

"Both have been captains in the IPL for the same length of time. I feel Rohit stands out as a leader."

It was mentally tough in bio-bubble: Ganguly

PTI ■ DUBAI

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday acknowledged that it was mentally tough for players to be in the just-concluded Indian Premier League's bio-bubble and thanked them for showing resolve to make the tournament a success.

The IPL came to an end on Tuesday with Mumbai Indians beating Delhi Capitals

by five wickets here for a record fifth title. The tournament was held at three venues in the UAE sans crowds due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"@bcc. Along with the office bearers I personally thank all the players of each IPL team, for going thru the tough bio bubble to make this tournament possible. It was tough mentally, and our commitment makes indian cricket what it is @JayShah

@ThakurArunS," Ganguly tweeted.

The event is usually held in April-May each year but had to be postponed after COVID-19 cases shot up in India. Following months of deliberation, it was shifted to the UAE venues of Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi and was conducted in a bio-secure environment. BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal echoed Ganguly's sentiment and

hoped that the world's biggest T20 event will return to its full glory next year. "Congrats to Team IPL under the dynamic leadership of @SGanguly99 & @JayShah for organising the most successful #Dream11IPL under such challenging times."

A big thanks to all the cricket fans for their love and support. We truly missed u. Hopefully the roar will be back in IPL2021," Dhumal tweeted.

No place for Malik, Amir in NZ bound squad

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistani selectors on Wednesday dropped veteran all-rounder Shoaib Malik and pacer Muhammad Amir from a 35-member squad for the upcoming New Zealand tour.

The Pakistan Cricket Board announced a combined squad, which includes players for the senior team and the Shaheen's side. It did not specify which player belongs to which squad.

Pakistan play three T20Is on December 18, 20 and 22 before their ICC World Test Championship fixtures to be held in Mount Maunganui and

Christchurch from December 26-30 and January 3-7 respectively. The scheduled of the Shaheens is yet to be confirmed by New Zealand Cricket though it is expected to be played concurrently. The squad will depart for New Zealand on November 23.

Babar Azam has already been announced Pakistan captain in all formats. His vice-captain in Tests will be Mohammad Rizwan in the tour which will be staged in a bio-secure environment in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PCB said both 38-year-old Malik and 28-year-old Amir were left out as the "selectors

prefer youth" over them.

The dropping of former captain Malik, who now plays only T20 cricket, could mean that the selectors don't have him in mind for next year's T20 World Cup in India. He played in the T20I series against England in September but was not in the Pakistan T20I team in the just concluded home series against Zimbabwe.

Left-arm pacer Amir was also not considered for the recent home white ball series against Zimbabwe. He last played a Test in January 2019. He, however, played in the T20 International series against England in August-September

this year. Another senior player Asad Shafiq, who has played 77 Tests, was left out "due to lack of form."

Uncapped Amad Butt, Danish Aziz, Imran Butt and Rohail Nazir were named, as also Abdullah Shafique and Usman Qadir in the squad which has an average age is 27.4.

"... Test players not involved in the T20Is in the first half of the series against New Zealand will be available for selection for Shaheens (Pakistan A), who are expected to be playing four-day matches against New Zealand A during that period," the PCB said.

विश्व निमोनिया दिवस

12 नवम्बर 2020

चैन की सांस लेगा बचपन

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